Greetings OPA!

Post Eclipse Blessings to OPA peeps and global astrology enthusiasts.

After having explored the dramatic Eclipse alignments and witnessed the intense climate activity that followed in the United States and across the world, we are now getting ready for the next cycles on the astrological horizon. Note that the Eclipse degrees, 15 Aquarius/Leo and 28 Leo will remain potent and we can expect further Eclipse activation/events in the weeks to come.

Our eyes are now on a series of planetary ingresses into Introverted Signs, beginning with Jupiter moving into Scorpio, then Saturn into Capricorn, and in 2018, Uranus moving into Taurus – all joining Neptune already in wet Pisces. No more fire/air extravagance and exuberance, but a more cautious, tamed, and internal earth/water approach. This issue explores the passage of Jupiter into Scorpio with a wealth of truly interesting articles by OPA members. Enjoy!

At OPA, we were excited to have launched our new webinar format, OPA LIVE, where 4 to 6 astrologers discuss Astrology questions and configurations together. The first webinar event was about the upcoming transit of Jupiter in Scorpio and Saturn in Capricorn, and was very well received by the audience. We enjoyed the wealth of diverse perspectives, from personal to mundane, on the subject.

A recording is available to OPA members who missed the live event.

The next OPA LIVE is schedule for December, ahead of the new year.

More new development - OPA will now officially recognize the hard work and important contribution of astrologers through the OPA ORION AWARD – Why Orion? Because this constellation is one of the most fertile nurseries of Stars! This is what OPA is about, birthing astrologers!

THE FIRST AWARD is for Invaluable Service to OPA as an organization – The 2017 nominees are Oner Doser, Maurice Fernandez, Arlan Wise, and Sara Fisk – who each have contributed tremendously to bringing OPA to where it is today!

THE SECOND AWARD is for Outstanding Contribution to Astrology – the 2017 nominees are David Cochrane, Chris McRae, Roy Gillett, and Maurice Fernandez. Though they each deserve a medal, we only have one for each category. The winners will be announced at the 2017 OPA Retreat Banquet in Utah (Oct 21).

In the meantime, sending many blessings across the OPlanet – May Jupiter in Scorpio deepen and enrich our experience and Art of Living and Dying.

Maurice Fernandez
President, OPA
JUPITER IN SCORPIO
OCT 10, 2017 TO NOV 8, 2018
Seeing is Believing – the Ecstasy of Transformation

by Maurice Fernandez

Jupiter in Scorpio is a powerful force that combines expansion with depth, potentially catapulting us to greater dimensions of growth on all levels, material or spiritual.

Yet, to access the promise of wealth, increase, and spiritual ecstasy, Jupiter in Scorpio imposes a challenge: accept the naked, and, often inconvenient, Truth. Scorpio brings doubt to Jupiter’s faith and optimism. Seeing is believing for Jupiter in Scorpio, there is no space for fanciful wishful thinking or blind beliefs. We can expect experiences of disillusionment and deflation of hopes initially, but only for the purpose of eventually creating and seizing incredible opportunities.

Compulsion for Growth – the Church of Mega Success

Nothing stands in the way of Jupiter in Scorpio’s need for MORE, in depth and heights. Will power, determination, and courage to face faceless enemies can create the most incredible breakthroughs. Cravings are deep, we seek the Truth which can be the bitter pill of ecstasy.

Jupiter in Scorpio brings immense power to those who dare cross boundaries and reinvent themselves:
- David Bowie
- Arnold Schwarzenegger
- Britney Spears
- Elvis Presley
- Ronald Reagan
- Aaron Spelling
- Steven Spielberg

Appetite for Destruction – The Dark Alleys to Freedom

The power of destruction is tremendous with Jupiter in Scorpio. We must flirt with the magic of Death to access the freedom of rebirth.
- Dalai Lama
- Elian Gonzales
- Prince William of England
- Camilla Parker Bowles
- River Phoenix

The Art of Living and Dying
JUPITER in Scorpio

in Scorpio
Conspiracy Theories – in search for the True Truth

Trust is a tall order for Jupiter in Scorpio; no stone is left unturned to dig yet deeper in search for what has been concealed and covered under the surface. Paranoia mixes with revelation, delusion with prophecy.

- Julian Assange
- Susan Sarandon
- Alfred Hitchcock
- Mata Hari

Dark and Controversial Prophets – Bad and Banned!

No taboo stands in the path to power or knowledge, even if crossing the line means no return... no return.

- Aleister Crowley
- Ron Hubbard (Scientology Church founder)
- Joseph Mengele
- Luc Jouret (cult leader)
- Henry Kissinger
- Charles Manson
- David Koresh (cult leader)

Sex, Magic, and Kundalini Revelation

From the root, to the crown, and back again, Jupiter in Scorpio’s perilous journey through the occult sets a spiritual activation into motion – a point where no mind can harness the Force unleashed.

EVENTS

Jupiter in Scorpio cycle: 1993-94

- Michael Jackson is accused of sexually molesting 13 year old Jordan Chandler
- A man fires two blank shots at Prince Charles
- Rwanda Genocide between Hutu and Tutsi tribes – 1 million people die
- Nelson Mandela elected President of South Africa – the first black president - marking the end of Apartheid
- Israel and Jordan sign a Peace Treaty
- Deadly Travel incidents
  - Estonia Ferry sinks, killing 852 people
  - USAir crashes in Pittsburg, killing 132 people
  - China Airline crashes, killing 264 people


- Airbus plane crashes in test flight, killing 7 crew members
- NASA loses contact with Magellan spacecraft in Venus’s atmosphere.
- Magazine publishes photos of French President Francois Mitterrand’s secret daughter
- Ronald Reagan reveals he has Alzheimers

- First human face transplant performed
- Mahmoud Ahmadinejad becomes Iran President
- Horizon begins its 9-year journey to Pluto
- Pluto demoted to Dwarf Planet
- North Korea performs its first ever nuclear test
I was born with Jupiter in Scorpio in my ninth house. Through my years of working with this aspect I have found that the traditional terms for this planet, sign and placement are particularly poignant and true. I have seen this aspect manifest in my life through my worldly travels, magical teachings, overwhelmingly frightening shamanic journeys and spiritual, astrological, mystical understandings…to name a few.

When Jupiter rests in his natural home as he does in my natal chart, he desires to inflate and fill that house with all expansive possibilities, both of the real and of the imaginal. He is the planet that desires everything to be bigger, better and brighter. He excels at higher learning and he lusters for growth through pilgrimages across the world. Great teachings find their home in my case in the sign of Scorpio. One could assume that the journey of my life’s learning would embrace all things Scorpio. You could also imagine that with every transit to that placement and with each hard aspect to that point in the horoscope, a new Scorpio themed lesson would manifest. I have chosen to share some key points in my life that were powerful teachings of Jupiter in Scorpio. These key examples are among hundreds of other such lessons I have faced and is an energy that I continue to traverse, transform and master…

As a child with Pisces Rising, I just knew things; I could feel them. Much to the disbelief of my family, when I talked to animals they talked back to me. With Jupiter and Neptune - the co-rulers of my Ascendant - both in Scorpio, I quickly learned to keep such experiences secret. I also learned to keep the secrets of others, holding their information in silence. Neptune was tucked inside my eighth house, Scorpio’s natural house. This was another indicator to me that Scorpio was going to be my teacher.

**Toward the end of Jupiter’s first trip around my horoscope, as it touched my North Node, my best friend was diagnosed with rapid onset lymph cancer. I was just ten years old. Jupiter moved further and transited through my eighth house when my friend died.** At this time, transiting Mercury and transiting Neptune were conjunct my natal Jupiter. Days after her funeral, I awoke suddenly to see her sitting at the end of my bed. She appeared to me just as she had before becoming sick, she was smiling as she told me that she was better now and would see me again. She thanked me for being her best friend. I didn’t tell anyone, because I knew that no one would believe me; but I knew in my bones that she was okay and that I would indeed be seeing her again. I just experienced my first communication with the dead and I was strangely comforted by the experience.

**On Jupiter’s second trip around my horoscope he crossed my Ascendant and made a quincunx to my North Node, where transiting Pluto was sitting close to my eighth house cusp. On that same day, a Yod (Finger of God) formed between Mercury, Chiron and the Moon.** All were transiting through my second house (self-worth). Saturn and Mars were transiting through my fourth house (safe place) pointing directly to my natal Jupiter. This next lesson involved an intense loss of trust, trust in myself and trust in others. It was a lesson that took many years to heal. I was born with a conjunction between Pluto and Venus, an energy best felt through the Persephone archetype/myth. My encounter involved a brutal abduction and loss of innocence which forced upon me a harsh lesson on the importance of using one’s intuition. Despite the fact that the hairs on the back of my neck stood up upon meeting the young man that violated me, I ignored the clear signals that I received to be careful…I was fifteen years old, I spent the years that followed blaming myself for being stupid and I of course, told no one.

**As Jupiter continued its journey around my chart, opposed its natal position and crossed my IC, I started working as a veterinary nurse.** My ability to communicate with animals really helped when it came to the inevitable task of euthanising peoples’ pets, often with the owner present. At times, the animal was unwanted and was not in the right circumstance to be re-housed, or due to illness and pain it was at our discretion to put them to sleep. In the case of greyhounds, this would happen when they were no longer able to run fast enough.

I had learned very early that I could connect with the animals on a soul level and have a telepathic conversation with them. They all seemed to know what was about to happen and that it was not the end, each animal let go and went very peacefully within the reverent space I created. A lot of people only know love through a pet and when that pet is gone they feel grief and loss akin to the loss of their first love, the love they felt from a parent. For some people, the loss of their best animal friend can trigger the buried grief of the loss of a parent, partner or child. I only realised years later that this provided the perfect environment for me to learn grief counselling. I was in a position to sit gently with death and hold the space for another to grieve.

As I experienced **my second Jupiter return** I began my formal studies in Astrology and the Metaphysical.

Jupiter continued around my chart forming a Quincunx to its natal place, also coinciding with my first Saturn return. This time I had a near death experience after the birth of my first child. I was clinically dead and was put through an emergency surgical intervention to save my life. My experience of this time was of meeting with my dead aunt in a beautiful pain free place and having an argument with her about my not wanting to return to my life. The conversation ended with her showing me my body, ghostly white and surrounded by blood, lying in the hospital bed. She pointed out to me how I could save myself by push-
I travelled solo to Tunisia.

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I studied with many teachers, including Caroline Myss, Bill Harris, Eckhart Tolle, Byron Katie, Alberto Villoldo. I undertook the Landmark Education Curriculum and more studies.

When Jupiter crossed into my eighth house and transited my Mercury/Mars conjunction I travelled solo to Tunisia. Transiting Uranus was just one degree from my Ascendant. After more than 20 hours of flying and waiting in airports, I arrived to stay with my Scorpio friend. We had known each other since primary school and she had been really struggling living in this foreign land. Her husband, who was also a Scorpio, had been posted to Tunisia as part of a new Telecommunications package deal for his company.

I stood in the queue to show my passport and visa. This led to some loud discussion behind the counter. As I don’t speak Arabic, I found this confusing. The men were clearly quite angry with me, but I didn’t understand why. They gestured for me to sit on a chair. Three men carrying machine guns and dressed in combat gear arrived through another door. They surrounded me and I was not allowed to move. My bags were thrown on the floor in the baggage area. I was terrified. As my mobile phone wasn’t working, I couldn’t contact my friend. All the other passengers from my plane were processed, and yet I was alone. I was beginning to panic. I had to calm myself. I closed my eyes and did some yoga breathing. When I opened my eyes moments later I saw a woman walk past me. She was dressed in navy aviation overalls, and as she passed me she smiled at me. The word TIME was written on the back of her uniform. So, I looked at my watch. When I went to look back to her, I realised she wasn’t actually there. I surveyed the entire area, but she was nowhere to be seen. Indeed; there was nothing written in English in the general vicinity - no signs, no advertising, nothing. Furthermore; there were no women to be seen. The men with guns chatted amongst themselves, occasionally looking at me with disdain. There had been no woman. I was hallucinating. I was exhausted. I had to think about what I had thought I had just seen. Time was the clue… what is time?... what rules time? Lots of thoughts ran though my head until I came to Saturn. I needed the intervention of a Saturnian person; someone of authority, a man, a boss. I began to laugh out loud. The men with guns now thought I was insane. I closed my eyes again and pictured a scenario that had me drinking a coffee with my friend after being graciously ushered by Saturn through those big swinging doors and past the baggage area. Within five minutes of my visualisation Mr Lemin Moustaffa came striding through the door behind the counter. He put his hand out for me to shake. He introduced himself as the man in charge of airport security and told me that he was at my service. He asked to see my passport, visa and paperwork. I queried the paper work. He pointed to my passport and visa title box. Mrs was printed in both. He then explained that what was missing was a letter of permission to travel alone signed by my husband. I was in shock (Uranus on my Ascendant). Was he kidding? Is there really such a requirement in the year 2005? My mouth opened and I heard myself say: “My husband passed away. I am here to grieve with my friend.” After showing him proof of being a widow everything changed. The men with guns walked back though the door, my bags were retrieved and I was taken very quickly to be united with my friend. She had been very concerned that I had missed my flight and she asked everyone as they came through the double doors whether they had seen me. An Italian woman had told her that her blonde Australian friend had indeed been on the plane and had been detained by security. Mr Moustaffa was happy to leave me in the care of my friend but he let me know that he would need her husband to contact him to arrange a cardo. This meant I was now my friend’s husband’s responsibility. I was now in his care, and he owned me during my stay in Tunis. He would have to pay a bribe (cardo) to Mr Moustaffa for assisting me. Two mobile phones and a free yearly sim plan was the agreed price. I felt like I had been incarcerated, bought and sold, all on my first day in this foreign land. I learned many things from this experience. Be cool in a crisis. Use the practises that you know to help you in fearful situations. Trust in what you know. A sentence I heard Caroline Casey say once, comes to
It was my time to step up. I became a full-time career woman, confidant, therapist, constant companion and nurse. I was now going to watch my love deteriorate in front of my eyes, actually sit with my dying partner and help him cross to the other side with no trauma, a conscious death, a stepping from one reality to another. Our many shared lifetimes had brought us together for the ultimate, intimate, intense exam. My nurse training allowed him to stay at home to die. He passed over in the company of his family and friends with his medicine music playing, and holding his favourite crystal, thus creating a Bardo of bliss. It was a privilege to participate in the process of his passing on the eclipse in March 2016, as Jupiter joined the transiting North Node and squared his nodes and Saturn stationed on his North Node taking him from this form of reality to the next. Neptune crossed my Ascendant for the final time and I learned to let go again.

With Jupiter about to return for the fifth time in this life, I have come to believe that we are all in earth school and have returned here many times to learn countless lessons. Like any school, earth school has a variety of teachers and different campuses; it has different levels of achievement and so many different courses on offer. You can make friends for life in school or you can just take a class or two with some pivotal people who change your life’s path forever. This is how I look at the lives we live here in earth school. That’s my big picture perspective. We incarnate to learn what we have needed to know and we help others do the same. We may take the same class over and over again, but with different teachers, until we really get it. For my part, I clearly wanted to understand all the worlds of Scorpio. This includes the darkness and the lightness of death; the total surrender to sex, the intimacy of truly knowing another and the fear and sorrow of betrayal and brutality. I have experienced these themes in many lives, as well as facing all of them in this one. Each experience for me has been familiar and associated with a strange feeling of having done this before. It included meeting the people who have come into my class room as quickly as they have left, leaving me irrevocably changed in the process.

I leave you with the poem that helped me navigate through the darkest parts of the labyrinth that is Scorpio.

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The Unbroken

There is a brokenness out of which comes the unbroken, a shatteredness out of which blooms the unshatterable. There is a sorrow beyond all grief which leads to joy and a fragility out of whose depths emerges strength. There is a hollow space too vast for words through which we pass with each loss, out of whose darkness we are sanctioned into being. There is a cry deeper than all sound whose serrated edges cut the heart as we break open to the place inside which is unbreakable and whole, while learning to sing.

Rashani Rea

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Calculating the Length of Life

HYLEG and ALCOCODEN

Öner Döşer

In traditional astrology, determining the life force of the native based on the natal chart and calculating the length of life was vital in order to use timing predictive techniques like triplicities, a method which separates lifetime into three parts. Although the techniques which calculate the length of life are not often used in today's astrology, they were developed by the astrologers who wrote in Arabic during the Medieval Astrology period.

Techniques and approaches mentioned in this article also reflect the fundamentals of traditional astrology; they constitute some form of a summary of it.

Ancient astrologers concentrated on death, deformation and unusual births. They often came across the question if an infant will live or not, or how long he will live. Before analyzing a chart, ancient astrologers would make sure whether the native was alive or not. So, they needed to determine the length of time that is promised by the native's chart.

Although the considerations on the length of life between the 2nd century when Ptolemy lived and the 13th century that Bonatti lived were similar, there were also some different approaches and opinions on this issue. Robert Zoller’s Diploma Course in Medieval Astrology and Tools and Techniques of the Medieval Astrologer are the most informative works on this subject. Rather than Ptolemy and Bonatti, I will be quoting from Zoller’s course notes in this article because for me this issue fell into place by the help of his contributions. I am grateful to him for this.

In fact, we should not expect that an astrologer may make an exact calculation for length of life. We may only expect an accuracy of 60%. My experience shows that more parameters should be examined in this calculation. For example, we may reach more accurate results through including Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, which were not used by the ancient astrologers in their calculations. Or we may use the years of planets method or we may consider that the Sun may also add years in addition to the benefics as the Sun represents vitality. On the other hand, we should subtract years in cases of being “combust” or “under Sun beams”.

There are two main terms related with the calculation of length of time: Hyleg and Alcocoden. Hyleg, which is the "Giver of Life", is related to the native’s physical life and health. When afflicted by transit, direction or in a return indicates a threat to the health and life of the native. Alcocoden is known as the "Giver of Years" and used for calculating the length of life. This is the name for the planet in a birth chart that is believed to reveal the number of years a person is destined to live – it must have dignity in the degree of the Hyleg and preferably aspecting it.

Hyleg can be the Sun, the Moon or the Lord of the Geniture (the most powerful planet in the chart as defined by essential and accidental dignity) while it may also be the Part of Fortune or the Ascendant. First, we need to identify the Hyleg, and once we do, we then can determine the Alcocoden. According to the position and the condition of the Alcocoden of the chart, we assign years to it as major, media and minor years (see table below). According to the Alcocoden’s aspects with the malefics and the benefics (or its conjunction with the South Node), we add or subtract years to the year we assigned.

HOW TO IDENTIFY THE HYLEG (GIVER OF LIFE)

There are four potential Hylegs; The Sun, the Moon, the Ascendant, the Part of Fortune plus the rulers of these places.

According to Ptolemy there are five places where the Hyleg may be found. These places are the Ascendant (5 degrees above and 25 degrees below the ASC degree), the 11th house, the 10th house, the 9th house and the 7th house.

We should check if the Sun or the Moon are in these placements to determine if they are the Hyleg.

While determining the Hyleg, we should first consider if the chart is diurnal or nocturnal. The charts where the Sun is above the horizon are diurnal charts and vice versa. Generally, in a diurnal chart we first consider the Sun and then the Moon, and in a nocturnal chart we first consider the Moon and then the Sun. However, as we choose the strongest one, I believe that this order is not that important.

• BY DAY, if the Sun and then the Moon can not be used, then use the planet which has most dignities, or is conjunct the luminaries (Sun or Moon) or the Ascendant prior the birth – we can also use the New Moon that preceded birth.

• BY NIGHT, if the Moon and then the Sun can not be used, then look at the planet having the greatest number of dignities in the sign where the Moon placed, or the degree of the Full Moon prior to birth, or the Part of Fortune. If the luminaries or other significators are not placed in Hyleg places (1st, 11th, 10th, 9th and 7th houses), then we may skip to the Part of Fortune or the degree of the Ascendant.

• If the Moon in the chart is waxing (between New Moon and Full Moon phases), the ASC (The degree of the Ascendant) is determined as the Hyleg.

• If the Moon in the chart is waning (between the Full Moon and New Moon phases), then the Part of Fortune is determined as the Hyleg.

• If the Lord of the Chart or the Almuten of the Chart (Altumem Figuris according to Zoller) is well placed and dignified, then it may be the Hyleg.

There are two main terms related with the calculation of length of time: Hyleg and Alcocoden. Hyleg, which is the "Giver of Years", is related to the native’s physical life and health... Alcocoden is known as the "Giver of Years" and used for calculating the length of life.
Methods suggested by Guido Bonatti on determining the length of life are more consistent than the ones suggested by Ptolemy. Bonatti also pays attention to Prerogative Places like Ptolemy. To be the Hyleg, the Sun and the Moon should be located in the 1st, 11th, 10th, 9th or 7th houses. Bonatti’s methods are more precise. For example, the Sun in the 1st, 11th or 10th house if a diurnal chart, it may be the Hyleg without considering if it is in a masculine or feminine sign. However, when the Sun is in the 7th, 8th or 9th house, it may be the Hyleg only if it is located in a masculine sign but cannot be the Hyleg when it is in a feminine sign. Robert Zoller agrees with Bonatti that the Sun and the Moon should not be identified as the Hyleg when they are in the 8th house because this house has no major aspect with the ASC and as it is not a life giving house. According to Bonatti, neither the Sun nor another planet can be the Hyleg if they are not aspected by their rulers. In order to be the Hyleg, a planet must be aspected or be in conjunction with its dignities. Zoller does not agree with this suggestion and states that a planet may be the Hyleg even if it is not aspected by its rules. However, an aspected planet is always preferred; for example a domicile ruler which makes aspect to the Hyleg is the ideal candidate for being the Alcocoden.

**Bonatti starts looking for the Hyleg first with the Sun in diurnal charts and the Moon in nocturnal charts and prefers Luminaries to the other Hyleg candidates. If none of the luminaries is the Hyleg and the chart belongs to a native who was born in the period of a waxing Moon, then the ASC may be the Hyleg. However, it should be in aspect or in conjunction at least with one of its dignities and should not be afflicted.**

In one is born in the period of a waning Moon, then Part of Fortune may be the Hyleg. However, it should be in aspect or in conjunction at least with one of its dignities. When none of those may be the Hyleg:

- If the chart belongs to a person who was born in a waxing Moon, then the degree of the Prenatal New Moon may be considered as the Hyleg.
- If the chart belongs to a person who was born in a waning Moon, then the Prenatal Full Moon degree may be considered as the Hyleg.

Generally, the Moon in a masculine sign in a male chart and in feminine sign in a female chart is preferred whereas the Moon in the 3rd house may also be considered as the Hyleg as the Moon rejoices in the 3rd house. (The ‘planetary joys’ are the houses that each planet most enjoys to be in. The Moon, the traditional significator of messages, messengers and writers, rejoices in the 3rd house which naturally governs those issues.)

**HOW TO IDENTIFY ALCOCODEN (GIVER OF YEARS)**

After determining the Hyleg, the second step is to determine the Alcocoden. Alcocoden means “the giver of years”. You must have a Hyleg to have an Alcocoden and Alcocoden is always one of the principal rulers (domicile, exaltation, triplicity, term, face) of Hyleg and preferably they aspect each other.

If Hyleg is not aspected by the Sun, the Moon, Part of Fortune, Ascendant, the Lord of the Geniture, then the planet which is located in the strongest place in terms of quality and quantity (calculation of the dignity of a planet) should be selected as the Alcocoden.

When determining the Alcocoden, a planet which aspects the Hyleg is preferred to a planet which does not aspect it.

![Figure 1: Table - The Years of the Planets](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minor</th>
<th>Media</th>
<th>Major</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SATURN</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>43,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUPITER</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>45,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARS</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>40,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>69,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VENUS</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERCURY</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOON</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>66,5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- in the 11th or the 5th house (Benefic houses),
- Not afflicted by malefic planets,
- Not combust,
- Does not conjunct the South Node,
- It is oriental of the Sun or being in hayz, then we refer to the major years.

**IF THE ALCOCODEN PLANET IS**

- Not dignified
- In the angular or succedent (fixed) houses;
- if it is not afflicted by the malefics, we may give media years even if it has no minor dignities like being oriental or hayz.

**IF THE ALCOCODEN PLANET IS**

- Not dignified
- In one of the cadent (mutable) houses
- Afflicted by the malefics then we may only give minor years.

Robert Zoller modifies these rules and suggests:

- If the Alcocoden is one of its essential dignities and not afflicted by the malefics, major years may be given even if it is located in one of the succedent houses (5th, 11th, 8th or 2nd houses).
- If the Alcocoden is in its essential dignities, not afflicted by the malefics but located in one of the cadent houses (12th, 9th, 6th and 3rd houses), then media years may be given. When the Alcocoden is located in one of the angular houses and not afflicted by the malefics, major years may be given even if it is not dignified.

**ADDING YEARS**

If the Alcocoden aspects the benefics (Jupiter or Venus) with a conjunction, trine or sextile, then the minor years of this benefic and a number of months in addition to this
benefic's media years are added to Alcocoden lifespan.

If this aspected planet is weak or afflicted (retrograde, combust, in cadent house, in hard aspect or conjunction with malefics) and if there is not a strong relation between this benefic and the Alcocoden, then we add months equal to this benefic's minor years to Alcocoden. For example, Jupiter's minor year is 12 years; so we add 12 months to Alcocoden's years; if the benefic in aspect was Venus then its minor year is 8 years and so we would add 8 months to the years of the Alcocoden.

SUBTRACTING YEARS

When the Alcocoden aspects one of the malefics with a conjunction, square, or opposition, then this malefic reduces the years of the Alcocoden by its minor years. Let's assume that Venus is the Alcocoden and giving 82 years. If Venus makes a square, conjunction or opposition with Saturn, which is a malefic, then the minor years of Saturn (30 years) are subtracted from the 82 years given by Venus and so the length of time is reduced to 52 years. However, if this malefic is fortunate and strong, then it reduces the years of Alcocoden by one third of its minor years. For example, Saturn's minor year is 30 years and its one third is 10 years. So, if Saturn is fortunate then we subtract 10 years from the years of Alcocoden.

South Node conjunction with the Alcocoden decreases one fourth of the Alcocoden's years. It means we subtract one fourth of the Alcocoden's minor years.

In addition:
- A square or opposition with the benefics does not add or reduce years.
- A sextile and trine with malefics does not add or reduce years.
- Aspects with Mercury, Sun and Moon do not add or reduce years.
- A conjunction with the North Node does not add years.
- A combust or retrograde Alcocoden does not reduce years.
- An afflicted Hyleg does not reduce years but it may indicate health problems for the native.

EXAMPLE CHART: DIANA PRINCESS OF WALES.

Let's practice what we have learned so far on Princess Diana's chart (at right).

To find the Hyleg in Princess Diana's chart, we should start with the Sun as this is a diurnal chart. The Sun is in the 7th house but in a feminine sign. It is in the 8th sign in Whole Sign system. According to Bonatti, these two factors prevent us to identify the Sun as the Hyleg because Bonatti says that the Sun is not identified as the Hyleg when it is in the 7th, 8th or 9th houses while in a feminine sign. Zoller states that we should not identify the Sun in the 8th house of a Whole Sign chart as the Hyleg as the 8th houses decreases the life force.

Secondly, when we consider the Moon, we see that it cannot be identified as the Hyleg because it is in the 2nd house, which is the 3rd house (sign) in Whole Sign system. Bonatti may identify the Moon in this position as the Hyleg, however, the Moon is in one of the masculine signs (Aquarius) and it is afflicted due to being in conjunction with the South Node. So, we should skip the Moon, too.

Thirdly, we should consider the Part of Fortune as Hyleg since the Moon phase is waning. Now, we will assign points to its rulers and find out their dignities.

FINDING HER ALCOCODEN

Part of Fortune is at 3° Leo in Princess Diana's chart and its dignities are as shown below:
- Domicile Ruler: Sun (+5)
- Exaltation Ruler: N/A
- Triplicity Rulers: Sun (+3), Jupiter (+3), Saturn (+3)
- Term Ruler: Jupiter (+2)
- Face Ruler: Saturn (+1)

According to these figures, the Sun gets the highest point (+8) and it is followed by Jupiter (+5). The Sun does not have any major aspects with the Part of Fortune but Jupiter makes an aspect.
Jupiter, which is the Alcocoden in Princess Diana’s chart, is at 5° Aquarius. At the time of the accident, Uranus was conjunct natal Jupiter at 5° Aquarius when she lost her life.

opposition with it. So, Jupiter is the strongest candidate for being the Alcocoden and it gives us information on the native’s length of life based on its position in the chart.

Jupiter is placed in Aquarius in the 2nd house. Jupiter is one of the triplicity rulers of Aquarius. It is placed in the 2nd house which is a strong place (succedent house). On the other hand, it is retrograde and in conjunction with Saturn. So, it is afflicted, and consequently, we reduce the length of life to be assigned is its media year which is 45.5 years.

The next step is to add or subtract years based on the supports of afflictions that Jupiter receives. Jupiter is in conjunction with Saturn which is located in its domicile, Capricorn. So, it reduces the years of Jupiter (malefics reduce years) but as Saturn is dignified here, we only subtract one third of its minor year which is 45.5−10=35.5 years.

Venus is not in conjunction or in comparable aspect (trine, sextile) with Jupiter. So, it does not add any years. The length of time predicted for Diana is 35.5 years. Princess Diana passed away when she was 36 years old, which matches with our calculation.

Alcocoden is used as a time significator and indicates when the deadline begins in the native’s life. However, we should not expect to determine the exact date for death, even the exact year. However, it is considered that there is less protection for the native beyond the years determined.

Jupiter, which is the Alcocoden in Princess Diana’s chart, is at 5° Aquarius. At the time of the accident, Uranus was conjunct natal Jupiter at 5° Aquarius when she lost her life. She was 36 years old then – which coincides with 1st house profection (Sagittarius in her case) making Jupiter Lord of the Year. Using Profections, Jupiter would indicate the events that the person would experience during that year, and it was transited by Uranus, precipitating an unexpected event.

Princess Diana’s chart. As mentioned above, transit Neptune conjuncted Diana’s natal Saturn at the moment of the accident where she passed away. Under this transit, we can see her transcending to leave this dimension. May she rest in peace!

Notes
1 Tools and Technique of the Medieval Astrologer, Book One Prenatal Concerns and the Calculation of the Length of Life, Robert Zoller, New Library Limited, 2001
2 Robert Zoller, Diploma Course in Medieval Astrology, Lesson Nine, page 15
3 Robert Zoller, Diploma Course in Medieval Astrology, Lesson Nine, page 18
4 Robert Zoller, Diploma Course in Medieval Astrology, Lesson Nine, page 17
5 http://www.skyscript.co.uk/horary1e.html
6 Book One, Prenatal Concerns and the Calculation of the Length of Life, Robert Zoller, New Library Limited, 2001
7 Robert Zoller, Diploma Course in Medieval Astrology, Lesson Ten, page 21
8 Diploma Course in Medieval Astrology, Lesson Ten, page 23

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OPA Turkey on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1628325654151225/
What follows is my view of the way astro-cycles describe karma and how this explains reincarnation. This understanding comes from studies and time spent with Tibetan Lamas. What I learnt, together with using astro-cycles to counsel clients and study history and contemporary world affairs, has helped me transform my own karma. Of course, this is my view. Whatever we tell others or ourselves, in our deepest heart of hearts we know, when the time comes, death is something we will discover on our own. Paradoxically, I have found that by realising this, it is easier to find peace and happiness in life.

The best advice on the way to this discovery comes from people who are courageous, honourable and entirely beyond selfishness in their dealings with others. They know with crystal-clear gentleness and are uncompromisingly compassionate. Every moment of their lives, they face death without flinching; not seeking it, nor seeking to avoid it.

If we lack such clarity in every action in our own lives, we look for substitutes and tell stories about ourselves and others. When our expectations do not work out, our thoughts, words and actions build up patterns of negativity – bad karma. The way such patterns are likely to develop in us can be seen in our birth charts, by weighing the harmonious and stressful aspects and auspicious and inauspicious planetary placements. Seeing these qualities as our final identity, the heart of our ‘redemption’, creates distorted, often negative attitudes about the world and other people. The more these attitudes grow, the more isolated we become, and so the more hopelessly confused in the face of death.

The consequences of bad karma in world affairs

What follows from creating bad karma in social decisions can be seen clearly from the astrology of mundane events. Unwise reactions to the transits can lead to decisions that have horrific effects on millions of people for years into the future. Most historians would agree that the post-World-War-One Versailles peace settlement so humiliated Germany that Nazism and World War Two were inevitable.

Less discussed are the parallel Middle East Mandate arrangements made by the victors following the defeat of the Ottoman Empire. In place of the looser, more tribal system, cultural differences were largely ignored as western style Kingdoms were created. The chart (shown below) for the main 1920 Conference in San Remo, Italy, which established most of these arrangements, clearly shows ill-considered dangerous flaws in this approach.

A haunting near-exact Uranus/Saturn Mutable opposition, dangerously trined/sextiled by Pluto in Cancer, dominates the background. To the fore is the Moon, and then an exact conjunction of Jupiter/Neptune, all in Leo rising and trined by an exact 10th house Mercury/Chiron conjunction in Aries. There could not be a more literal warning from the planets of the superficiality and long-term dangers of any decision [especially royal ones] made at this time.

As we now know, this reorganisation has had dire consequences, leading to coups against the monarchies, dictatorships, rebellion and civil wars in the region. Dangerous violence has spread to the very Western countries, originally mandated to guide the new nation states. Consequential terrorism now threatens the whole world. The astrological signatures of that chart are to be found in many wars and atrocities that came next. Most notably the very degree of the 1920 Jupiter/Neptune conjunction in Leo was there exactly, as these two planets opposed in 2002-03 during the build-up to, and first months of, the Iraq War.
The consequences of bad karma in our individual lives

How often do we see individual clients allowing self-centred motivation and resentment cause problems for themselves and those they love? Consumed with self-importance, we destroy our chances in life and our relationships. Transits to the birth chart can show moments of the greatest danger. The one shown below is the moment of the 21st August Solar Eclipse alongside President Trump’s birth chart. Does the nearness of this eclipse to the fixed star Regulus, so close to his ascendant, explain the intensifying controversy that surrounds him as I write? Most likely, you will read this after 3rd September, when Mars comes to that eclipse point and crosses his ascendant. Will all this, as with Britain’s Margaret Thatcher in 1990, be the cause of his downfall, because he is unwilling to rise above himself and, with compassion, see through others’ eyes?

Using our birth chart to know the nature and timing of difficult transits

This helps us let go of attachment, to understand and be kind to others. This can liberate both them and us from the suffering that clinging causes. The birth chart, with which we start this life, is the residue of all attachments left over from our previous lives.

Consider developments and maturing dispositions of this karma through your preferred progressions and direction system.

‘So, no attachment would mean living beyond astrology (time and space)?’ asks Maurice.

The short answer is ‘yes’, but understanding it fully takes us beyond words, to a place that can only be resolved in meditation. Being beyond time and space is like being an unbelievably advanced astrologer, seeing from many perspectives, but not specifically identifying with any of them. Holding on, at all costs, to a particular relationship causes suffering. By realising this, we leave ourselves the space, not only to see every relationship clearly, but also to enjoy it fully for what it is for the days, months, years, decades, or even life times, it is karmically natural for it to exist.

Now comes the really-strange bit! Mahayana Buddhism considers all beings have lived and been attached to every conceivable life. We have all been mother and child to every person, insect, animal, earth, water and sky spirit in this and many other worlds. The pattern of our current chart may say a lot about the strengths and weakness of recent lives. We need this life to resolve our failures. But to become attached to and obsessed with that previous life as a personal identity leads to the same egocentric suffering as being attached to our current one.

The purpose of our present birth chart

Our present birth chart is best seen as a challenge to welcome and master on the way to liberation from all attachments.

Use the techniques of planetary placement rulers, dispositors, aspect patterns, various zodiacs and house systems to describe birth karma.

Consider life developments and maturing dispositions of this karma through your preferred progressions and direction system.

See the way you prefer to interpret transits as how you understand karmic challenges through life.

Encourage yourself and everyone you advise to transcend negative thoughts, words and deeds. However badly people and life circumstances seem to be treating us, we should see it as something we have created the cause for, at some time in one of our lives.

However, let’s be clear. The suggestion is not to submit weakly, saying ‘it is all my fault’. It may be our fault because we did not confront the previous life’s challenges. Now we can put it right, by addressing the right solution in this life. Of course, the opposite may be so. This may be the life to learn how to yield and be more giving. Our key strength, whatever we do, is to have the right state of mind and so proceed to the right action.

We are witnessing Donald Trump’s way of seeking to succeed by projecting his own faults upon others coming to its nemesis. To continue to do so in the midst of such an astro-challenge will only making matters worse. With good astrological advice and a genuine wish to be the President for the whole nation, the present astro-challenge confronting Donald Trump could be a great blessing. If he wishes people to see his point of view, he must open up to theirs.

Reincarnation

This is a lesson to all of us. Going through life with kind consideration brings peace to
ourselves and the world around us, however difficult the times. In life, there will be many deaths, but also so many, many times the sun will rise, spring will come, the Moon will be new, a new Jupiter/Saturn cycle will begin, and so on… until we stop experiencing regeneration in this physical body and pass on from it.

At death, our state of mind is crucial. Some talk about seeing the whole life going past in a flash. Many religions insist on the importance of absolution. To Buddhists it is the residue of attachment that will determine what remains after the physical body has ceased to live. Maybe this residue will be so strong that it stays as a ghost that is experienced by the living. The Tibetans talk about the Bardo, the intermediate period of up to 49 days between reincarnations. Re-birth may not take that long, but within this time the residue of attachment will be attracted to a point of time and place.

As Jupiter moves into Scorpio, the sign’s Herculean labour offers an invaluable guide of its way towards liberation.

‘In a lair of perpetual night, located amidst the stench of the stagnant quicksand and swamp of Lerna, lived a monstrous nine-headed hydra. Driving it from its lair with fire arrows, Hercules immediately severed one head, only to see two grow in its place. The beast became stronger with every attack. Remembering his teacher’s advice (‘we rise by kneeling’), Hercules knelt and picked up the hydra and held it high above him. The light rays of the sun and the blowing of the wind took away the monster’s power. As it grew weaker, the nine heads drooped, revealing the one head that Hercules could now remove and bury.’

Notes

1 For a full study of this obtain the recording Y851 The Middle East: Past, Present and Future - R Hakan Kirkoglu with Roy Gillett ‘from: https://www.astrologicalassociation.com/shop/recordings/conference2013_recordings.html

2 In trying to explain this, we must see beyond relative existence, but words, by their very nature, are dualistic. So, the explanation is beyond them. I have found meditating on the Tibetan Buddhist Heart Sutra helpful. [http://fpmt.org/wp-content/uploads/sutras/heart_sutra_c5.pdf?x25788]


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A man must dream a long time in order to act with grandeur, and dreaming is nursed in darkness - Jean Genet, natal Jupiter in Scorpio

Introduction

It may seem in recent times that we’ve been plunged into a collective dream - or some may even call it a nightmare - yet rather than awaken from it, the summoning of Jupiter in Scorpio is an invitation to journey still deeper and explore our own hidden truths and lies. As wisdom-seeking Jupiter transits the deceptive territory of Scorpio from October 10, 2017 to November 8, 2018 our own shadow material can act as a catalyst in transcending the frontiers of wisdom.

Jupiter is the visionary planet whose perspective of the future is vast and expands the landscape of possibility. The blind faith and overconfidence of Jupiter may find itself tempered by the brutal realism of Scorpio themes. The Scorpio-Taurus axis is associated with biological survival and resourcefulness suggesting the Jupiter amplification of the relentless, focused pursuit of that which one becomes obsessed by.

Scorpio is the sign of confronting limitations in order to transcend them, transform and grow. Traditionally, it’s the sign of the occult and magic, where a mere mortal can merge with the power of the Gods to gain greater power and control. The French have a saying, “C’est plus fort que moi” translated as “it’s stronger than I am” often used to describe overwhelming emotions such as passion and falling in love. A Scorpionic tendency is to halt before the threshold of total surrender as the polarity of Taurus fears trigger a biological response. However, the influence of Jupiter can eliminate such caution, for better or for worse.

Jupiter symbolizes our experience of consensus reality and the morality that saturates our social nature. Jupiter is natural law, the karma that transcends man made laws and reflects the current state of human evolution. Scorpio is the taboo, that which is often considered immoral yet which natural law dictates is an essential part of the human experience such as sex, obsession, death and destruction.

Robert Mapplethorpe, sublime obsession

Robert Mapplethorpe was an American photographer celebrated for his controversial erotic artworks depicting the BDSM subculture of 1970’s New York City, homoeroticism and a variety of experimental sexually explicit motifs. A provocateur, his artwork doused obscene imagery with elegance. He was the embodiment of the Jupiter in Scorpio archetype as his natal chart reveals a Scorpio rising, Sun conjunct Jupiter in the 1st house of self as well as Mars the traditional ruler of Scorpio also in the 1st. Pluto, the modern ruler of Scorpio, is in Leo in the 10th house of public image, squaring his Sun-Jupiter.

Mapplethorpe’s princely appearance smoldered with an enigmatic sensuality and magnetism. His work could be considered an excellent example of Jupiter in Scorpio as it transcends consensus beliefs on sexuality that’s considered obscene and perverse and elevating it into an artform that is mysterious, sacrosanct and mystical. Mapplethorpe once claimed, “When I have sex with someone I forget who I am. For a minute I even forget I’m human. It’s the same thing when I’m behind...”
a camera. I forget I exist” which speaks to the desire to transcend the self through immersive experience of sexual bonding and creative absorption. The creative processes obsessed him and his singular focus became legendary.

As a young man, he suppressed his emerging homosexuality from his live-in girlfriend, the musician Patti Smith, covertly engaging with men for pleasure or for money. For a time, although Patti suspected he was involved sexually with other men they had an unspoken agreement to not speak of what they did separately but when they were together, they were fully a couple. When eventually his sexual orientation was revealed on the dancefloor by a mutual friend, he confessed the truth of this sexuality to Patti and wept. Such is often the shame surrounding Scorpio secrecy which often involves intense resistance to reveal one’s true self even if the truth is obvious to everyone else.

Jupiter rules Mapplethorpe’s 2nd house, Venus-Mercury and South Node so issues of survival, money, other people’s money are echoed here. His career was launched by the curator and collector Sam Wagstaff who became his champion, benefactor and lifelong partner. The evolutionary intentions of the 8th house North Node of harnessing another’s resources for greater power is expressed here. Tragically, Mapplethorpe succumbed to the AID/HIV virus in 1989 at the age of 42 at his Pluto square as Pluto transited Scorpio and the world experienced the AIDs epidemic on a massive scale. Perhaps Mapplethorpe’s greatest legacy came shortly after his death, when his exhibition “The Perfect Moment” caused controversy involving several American museums and triggering the “culture wars” around public funding for art that was considered obscene and immoral versus First Amendment rights of free speech. Eventually, the arts and free speech won out in what was a paradigm shift for the arts and the American culture at large.

In Conclusion

As Jupiter seeks enlightenment through the profound depths of Scorpio, the desires of deep self have an opportunity to become realized. Jupiter in Scorpio reminds us that forgiveness cannot exist without betrayal, nor compassion without pain, nor sacredness without gravitas. Jupiter in Scorpio is a sacred journey of cultivating faith and finding the wisdom that can only be nurtured in the darkness.

For more on Christina Caudill, visit www.radiantastrology.com

Just Kids (2010), a tender coming of age story of her life with Robert Mapplethorpe, she described their early days as deeply romantic, yet fraught with drama (often over his sexual proclivities) and intensified by poverty. Together they shared a great love for the poetry of Jean Genet, also born under Jupiter in Scorpio, who once wrote, “Anyone who hasn’t experienced the ecstasy of betrayal knows nothing about ecstasy at all.”

Perhaps because her natal Jupiter is trine her Pisces Moon and Neptune is conjunct the Midheaven, the influence of the Pisces archetype is strong in Smith’s persona. Jupiter as the traditional ruler of Pisces bestows it with a spiritual nature, one that extends beyond linear time and amplifies the Scorpionic urge to transcend the veil of life and death. Smith’s memoir of her relationship with Mapplethorpe was written 20 years after his passing yet the deep love they shared comes through vividly as eternal and palpable.

The wisdom of the cycle of life and death can be a gift of Jupiter in Scorpio. In a recent interview Smith revealed that she has lost numerous loved ones, yet feels strongly that each one of them has become part of her. She still speaks with Robert about art and the future and sometimes has a sense of her mother scolding her, or her brother or father walking beside her or of her husband and his love for their children. She says “If we keep ourselves open, they will come. Pasolini said, ‘it isn’t that the dead don’t speak, it’s that we forget how to listen.’”

Patti Smith, Beyond the Veil

Patti Smith on the contrary was not as overtly obsessed with sexuality in the same way as Mapplethorpe was, but nonetheless she possesses an intense magnetism that transcends gender. Hailed as the “poet laureate of punk rock” she was obsessed with - and one could say even possessed by - great poets, especially those deviants aching with introspection such as Arthur Rimbaud, Bob Dylan and Jean Genet, going so far as to purchase Rimbaud’s childhood home in Ardennes, France.

A Sagittarius rising with Jupiter conjunct Venus in Scorpio in the 11th house, Smith’s love for wisdom through art and human bonding runs deep. In her award winning memoir, Patti Smith, December 30, 1946 @ 6:01am, Chicago, IL

Koch Houses

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The Medical Astrological Significance of Jupiter

by Suzy Holbrook

As Jupiter is about to enter the sign of Scorpio, a sign naturally associated with doubt, change, and transforming crises into opportunities, I would like to explore the medical aspects of Jupiter in general, and then reflect upon them in the context of this passage into Scorpio.

As an MD who practices in functional as well as pediatric medicine, I find this subject both interesting and informative for those of us who would like to use astrology as a preventive tool.

Jupiter symbolically represents the liver. Through my practice, I have observed numerous critical liver conditions when Jupiter was angular in the chart of patients. If we add a prominent influence of Scorpio, Pluto, or the 8th house in the chart, whether in direct aspect to Jupiter or just present in the chart, we can expect an intensification of symptoms.

The liver has many functions in the body, but the one I would like to discuss is the liver’s function to detoxify the body through enzymatic transformation. When we discuss enzymes we automatically bring in the Plutonian element. Scorpio/Pluto energy enforces transformation. Those of us with Sun in Scorpio can attest to this force. We wake every morning feeling a limitation in who we are, what we are doing and how we are doing it - just ask any Scorpio! This energetic state of affairs causes a continual incentive for transformation. We want to be MORE, more in line with our Soul’s desire instead of the ego’s desire. My point is that enzymes cause transformation and so are a Plutonian function at the cellular level.

Thus, combinations of Jupiter and Sagittarius, with Scorpio and Pluto are particularly noteworthy in this medical context. This is pertinent to our current times as Jupiter is about to ingress into Scorpio in October for a period of 13 months.

Through discussing the natal chart of three children who faced liver related medical challenges, I hope to illustrate these dynamics and provide some consideration for healing and prevention for both you and your clients.

The connection between the two archetypes of Scorpio and Sagittarius happens naturally in the body because many life-sustaining processes are realized through enzymes (Pluto) transforming molecules in the liver (Jupiter). Through these enzymes, molecules are transformed from toxic compounds into compounds that are not toxic which can then be excreted from the body. This is vital for life. Some processes that require this enzymatic transformation include removal of toxic products like hormones or other cellular wastes that if allowed to accumulate cause cell damage and death.
To give an example, you may have heard about jaundice in a newborn and the fight that ensues in order to make sure that jaundice doesn’t accumulate. The liver is the organ that rids the body of the bilirubin that leads to jaundice. When this detoxification process is not running smoothly it leads to toxic chemicals that, if unchecked, can damage our cells leading to toxicity causing seizures or death.

Using the above archetypes, this issue of toxicity and accelerated need for transformation/purification can be intensified through this time of Jupiter in Scorpio, especially for those of us or our clients who have natal planets in fixed signs forming hard aspects to transiting Jupiter.

I hope to persuade you about the importance of liver protection in the upcoming Jupiter in Scorpio transit by presenting some charts that illustrate that the fusion of the archetypes of Jupiter/Sagittarius and Pluto/Scorpio. I propose these can manifest in the physical body as liver toxicity.

To be clear, though these charts do not themselves have Jupiter in Scorpio, they do have strong angular Jupiter positions combined with a strong presence of Pluto/Scorpio and Sagittarius in the chart.

Of note, I have been in pediatric practice since 1990, 27 years, and have only seen such severe liver damage in the following three children.

**Natal Charts**

**CHART 1 – LIVER TRANSPLANT MALE**

The first chart is a person who, in the first year of his life, required a liver transplant. He suffered from a congenital condition where the liver was not able to remove toxins; the toxic accumulation that followed led to liver damage. He would not have survived if the transplant had not been done.

This chart shows a strong Jupiter in that it conjuncts the angle (Descendant), trines Pluto in Sagittarius and squares Mars in Scorpio, showing repeated Sagittarius/Pluto combinations. The ruler of the South Node carries tremendous weight in the life of an individual and speaks about past life themes brought into the current incarnation. With Jupiter being the ruler of the South Node, placed in the 6th house and conjunct the Descendant angle, we can surmise that confronting serious health issues is not a new challenge for this soul, and that something unresolved in this respect may have triggered such a difficult early life challenge.

In addition, Pluto is widely conjunct the South Node. This adds urgency and a life and death threat to the context.

Mercury, ruler of the North Node, stands retrograde in the 12th house. This may refer to a need to re-live an unresolved situation, and with the Sun conjunct it, perhaps greater determination to succeed may give him greater chances of recovery.

**CHART 2 – TWIN**

The second chart is a twin who, of course, has a very similar chart to his brother (interesting to note Mercury is once again retrograde, conjunct Jupiter). Both suffered from liver damage from extreme prematurity.

**Jupiter is square the Ascendant**, once again showing its strong presence with the angles of the chart, here in the sign of Virgo related to health awareness. **The ruler of both the Ascendant and Jupiter, Mercury, is retrograde in the sign of Virgo (health), and square Pluto.**

The South Node is in Scorpio with the ruler of the South Node, Pluto, in Sagittarius, reiterating the Jupiter/Scorpio link. Of course, the South Node in the 6th house and Jupiter in Virgo also emphasize the health-related manifestation of the condition.

The South Node in the 6th house in Scorpio demonstrates again that the soul has been dealing with health challenges in past lives, and was possibly severely affected (the ruler Pluto, squares the Sun in Virgo, showing anxiety and serious survival concerns). Now, with the North Node in Taurus, a need to regain trust in the greater force of life, and know that they cannot be in control of everything, can serve as a healing approach – overcome the psychosomatic aspect of their condition.
HOLBROOK

CHART 3 – LIVER TRANSPLANT FEMALE

The third chart shows another child who required a liver transplant in the first years of life. She was born with a congenital condition (different than the first chart’s) that led to accumulated toxicity to such an extent that she also required a liver transplant in order to sustain her life.

Jupiter again conjuncts the angles (Ascendant) in Virgo (health concerns), forming a wide square with Pluto in Sagittarius, and again, Pluto rules the South Node, increasing the importance as an indicator of past life evolutionary themes. With Pluto in the 4th house (and Saturn in Cancer) this child is the carrier of the maternal lineage and its karma. Perhaps part of her condition relates to spiritually taking it upon herself to purge this familial karma, as Pisces Sun and Moon can sacrifice themselves for a greater cause. But a more detailed analysis would be required when she turns into an adult to further assess these issues.

Summary

These children enduring massive liver toxicity have strong influences of the archetypes of Jupiter/Sagittarius and Pluto/Scorpio in their chart, particularly Jupiter on the angles.

Looking at these example and combined configurations, I anticipate the transit of Jupiter in Scorpio to pose a risk for liver conditions, as a reflection of our own need to purify and detoxify on an emotional level.

There are different methods to transform and purify on many levels of our life. Practices such as meditation, body work and yoga practice, particularly kundalini yoga, can be helpful to begin with. It all depends however, on personal circumstances. A person may tune into particular rituals for cleansing and purification, whether these involve fire (Jupiter) water (Scorpio) or all the elements.

Consult your health practitioner to see if some supplements would be appropriate for you if you feel that this transit is affecting you. The following ones are commonly used with professional guidance for dosage and use: milk thistle, alpha-lipoic acid, whey protein (if dairy is tolerated), dandelion greens, N-acetyl cysteine, glutathione, and sulfur containing foods (garlic, onions). Consider limiting toxins to the liver, such as alcohol. Simple therapies such as showering cold water to the area of the liver can help minimize toxic accumulation.

Suzy Holbrook holds an MD, practices functional medicine as well as pediatric medicine and is a graduate of both the Jeffrey Wolf Green School of Evolutionary Astrology and Maurice Fernandez's Astrology and the Evolution of Consciousness Professional Program. Please visit her on her website suzyholbrook.com

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

by Arlan Wise

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross had Saturn in Scorpio, retrograde, in the 8th house of her birth chart. Her legacy is remembered for her changing the way we treat those who are dying. She influenced doctors and the families of dying patients to treat them with honesty, caring, and dignity. Her book On Death and Dying is a primer for all who work or volunteer in Hospice.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross was born on July 8, 1926 at 10:45 pm in Zurich, Switzerland. (Chart 1) She was the first of three triplets and weighed 2 pounds at birth. She danced with death right from the beginning. She left home at 18 to study medicine, going against the wishes of her father. She married an American and moved to NYC in 1958. She had two children and four miscarriages. She had a belief in reincarnation and two near death experiences. A workaholic with a photographic memory, she taught and counseled and convinced doctors and family members to see dying as a part of life. She believed that death is a graduation not an ending.

She was born one day before a Solar Eclipse. Her 15-degree Cancer Sun is tightly sandwiched between Pluto and the North Node and this stellium receives a square from Mars. She survived her life almost being eclipsed at birth. Her Sun-Pluto conjunction in Cancer gave her the power to transform herself and others through emotions and caring. She came
to shake up the old system and bring dying patients out of the shadows to be acknowledged as people. Her Moon in Cancer is in the Balsamic phase indicating that she came in with old wisdom. It also gave her the feeling that the old way was better than what she saw happening in the hospitals.

Why do I describe such ‘old-fashioned’ customs? I think they are an indication of our acceptance of a fatal outcome, and they help the dying patient as well as his family to accept the loss of a loved one. If a patient is allowed to terminate his life in the familiar and beloved environment, it requires less adjustment for him.

**Her Ascendant is Pisces.** The rulers are staring at each other in a balancing act in the healing 12th and 6th houses with a wide square to Saturn. Jupiter retrograde in the 12th house must have helped her in her struggle to live during her first few days on earth. Jupiter is also the ruler of her Sagittarius Mid-heaven, describing a career of teaching and writing. His placement in the 12th house corresponds to her career in hospitals.

**Saturn is the ruler of the South Node** and the 11th and 12th house. He is in a grand trine in water with the Cancer stellium and the Ascendant as well as being the handle of her bucket pattern. She expresses her Saturn this way in her book *On Death and Dying*:

*Death is still a fearful, frightening happening, and the fear of death is a universal fear, even if we think we have mastered it on many levels. Her mission was to “change our way of coping and dealing with death and dying and our dying patients.”*

The fact that Saturn is retrograde and connected to her past by ruling the South Node implies that she had done this work before.

when she needed to. Venus, the ruler of her 3rd house, is in Mercury ruled Gemini. She was a prolific writer who wrote more than 20 books on death and dying and taught workshops on the subject. The Cancer Moon disposes Mercury and is in sextile to Chiron in Taurus. She wrote of a practical way to bring healing to patients and their families.

Her seminal book *On Death and Dying* was published in 1969. That year, Saturn was conjunct her natal Chiron and sextile her Moon, transiting Jupiter was opposite natal Chiron, and transiting Chiron was opposite her first house Uranus. The book describes the five stages a patient goes through when he is given the terminal diagnosis: *Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, and Acceptance.* We astrologers can see this as a journey from Neptune, to Mars, Venus, Saturn and back to Neptune.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross died on August 24, 2004 after a serious stroke left her paralyzed. The transiting North Node was conjunct her Chiron, Mars was on her Descendant, and there was a Moon-Pluto conjunction, with Pluto as the ruler of the 8th house in her death chart. Venus was on her Sun.

She was a quiet soul. In the mid-70’s I was at a Ram Dass retreat and he announced that she was also there and that she kept bringing him four-leaf clovers that she found. He felt honored to have her in attendance.

She believed that "we may achieve peace – our own inner peace as well as peace between nations – by facing and accepting the reality of our own death.”

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Using the Death Chart as a Counseling Tool

by Moon Zlotnick

Counseling bereaved people came into my life after the loss of my twin sister, although I’d already encountered death as a teenager. After losing my mother unexpectedly at 17, I went into an untreated depression. In the 60’s very little was known about treating grief, so our entire family suffered in silence. I learned a lot about suffering, loss, grief and loneliness at an early age. Fortunately, I was an identical twin and my sister and I bonded in an even deeper way. Somehow, we pulled each other through the darkness. Two years later at college I met an astrologer and got a reading. It was brilliant. Almost immediately I latched onto astrology as a point of certainty in an uncertain world. Of course, as my study deepened I realized that I would never be able to “know” the future exactly, but by that time I was passionate about astrology and using it to earn a living. As time passed I became a full time professional counseling astrologer and teacher, formed a stable long term relationship with a woman who was later to become my wife, and became a mother of two daughters.

I’d always had a special relationship with the planet Uranus, having an Ascendant in Aquarius. Uranus played an important role with awakening me to my lesbianism and love of astrology in my early 20’s as it squared my natal Venus by transit, and a year later made a conjunction to my natal Mars. Within those couple years Uranus woke me up. A decade later when transiting Uranus made a square to my natal Sun a significant love relationship broke up and I was devastated. I was paying close attention almost two decades later as it came to opposition with my Natal Sun.

The Loss of my Twin Sister

Weeks later, when my identical twin sister called from the hospital to say her doctor admitted her to run some tests, I knew deep in my heart that we were soon to be separated. She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and died five months later. Her loss rocked me to the very core of my being. She’d always been there, from the very beginning, and then she was gone. I didn’t know who I was or how I would survive. Slowly over time, the shattered fragments of my lost self found their way back together, but in a new and different way. A few months after her death, I put the date, time and place into my computer and began to study her death chart. What I learned was phenomenal. She breathed her last breath just as our Second Saturn Return began. Astrology helped me understand the world again. Twelve years (a Jupiter cycle) after her passing I decided to share what I’ve learned about the Death Chart with my clients.

Reading a Death Chart demands a great deal from the astrologer; it demands a certain state of mind as well as a unique skill set. The death chart taught me to learn from my clients rather than think I’m teaching them. It taught me to listen with my heart, not my head; to be present with pain rather than trying to take it away, to stay in the present rather than the future, and to practice the gift of sacred silence. Grief, anger, remorse, self-doubt and hopelessness are a few of the feelings that accompany the death of a loved one. Whether through old age, illness, accident, suicide, or violence, the loss of a loved one is traumatic and life altering whether the death is sudden and unexpected, or long and drawn out.

In these sessions, it’s important to let the client lead and take the time they need.

Moments of silence are to be respected. I will often begin with open ended questions like “what is it that troubles you most about your father’s passing?” Listening and reflecting back what you hear can be very reassuring. Putting names on feelings, “you sound discouraged right now” can give the client a slightly different perspective.

JUPITER in Scorpio

The Art of Living and Dying

E Natal Chart
Mar 15 1970, Fri
8:00 am CST +6:00
Carroll, IL
38°08'52" 90°09'31"
Geocentric
Tropical
Koch
True Node
Grief is a complex and multifaceted process that takes time to resolve. Trouble with sleep, overeating, undereating, drug use, physical symptoms, recklessness, apathy and over-working are some of the most common coping mechanisms. As astrologers, we are not there to make judgements on these behaviors but help the individual to come closer to some degree of acceptance of the death, have a way to express the pain of the loss, learn to live without the loved one and eventually find connection through memories. This is how I managed to make peace with the loss of my twin.

THE DEATH CHART

Just as the Ascendant marks the beginning of life and reveals insights into how an individual will present in the world, so does the Ascendant in the Death Chart describe the circumstances surrounding the moment of death. Using the feedback from 50 clients I’ve come to understand that the Death Chart is also descriptive of the period leading up to the death. Although my study is not extensive, there seems to be a correlation with peaceful deaths and Water signs, Neptune, Jupiter and the Moon; sudden or violent passings like car accidents with fire signs and Mars and Uranus on the Ascendant; long extended illnesses or resisting death with Saturn or Pluto rising; and people dying while family left the room with Air signs.

A CASE STUDY


E is an only child who lost her mom K to ovarian cancer at age 44. After her mom and dad divorced, E and K were very close primarily through E’s adolescence and adulthood. This included her mom living with her, her husband, and young daughter for several years. K was so close with her granddaughter, in retrospect E believed it caused a barrier in their mother/daughter relationship.

E described her mom as very stoic and extremely private when it came to her health. Once K was diagnosed with cancer she became even more “remote.” E visited her mom every day in hospice but was not there when her mom died and was still extremely distressed three years later, internalizing the feeling she’d let her mother down. In E’s chart we see Taurus rising, ruled by a hidden, internalized 12 house Venus. Additionally, on the Ascendant is a Mars/Saturn conjunction in Taurus. The Venus ruled Ascendant suggests E’s need to keep the peace and hold in her feelings of anger and distress. Typically, Mars on the Ascendant is active and forthcoming, but Saturn there would tend to internalize and judge or criticize the reactions of Mars slowing them down and possibly causing frustration and self-doubt. E’s NN is in Pisces along with her Sun and Mercury, giving her an empathetic and highly emotional nature. Life lessons can involve learning to believe in herself and have faith in something greater than the self. Not being present with her mom when she died filled E with self-doubt and was interpreted as a rejection since her mom didn’t ask for her. One month later, E experienced a Solar Eclipse conjunct her Ascendant and Mars conjunct Saturn, further activating this part of her chart.

Looking at the Death Chart, Pisces is rising with Neptune, Mercury, and Chiron close to the Ascendant. Neptune, the ruler of the Ascendant trines Jupiter in Cancer. The emphasis on Water signs along with Neptune suggests the moment of passing was a moment of surrender, a connection with the Transpersonal and Universal, and Chiron suggests movement from illness to a different kind of healing and wholeness. I reassured E that her mother’s need for privacy and tendencies toward stoicism were present in her death as in her life.

The next day I received an email from E. “Yesterday afternoon I felt a new sense of resolution, and I sense that I could “take a break” from feeling sad about my mom’s death. I’ve always known that she would never want me to feel bad, remorseful about choices I made as she was dying, etc. but I haven’t been able to do that very effectively yet. Talking with you gave me a sense of meaning and “meant to be-ness” that I think will give me more peace going forward.”

Using the universal symbols of astrology, we can provide insight and healing to those who are bereaved.

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Turks know how to die. They know it really well. I’m experienced enough to know that a nation who knows how to die cannot be defeated. It’s possible to create armies without any single thing and send them to their death easily. I’m taking advantage of this. The only problem is this: The living memories of Turks! The Turks who defeated any single thing on Earth 300 years ago still remember their heritage and stop us from doing what we really want to do. I sense this fear in every heart. So if we want to defeat Turks, we have to first defeat their history. I understand how Turks ruled over dozens of different nations so easily. They defeat a nation only once, but they transfer the victories they gained to the souls of future generations.

M. Montecuccoli (Austrian commander)

The quotation above speaks of the Scorpio spirit. It is all about winning or losing; success or failure.... These are debatable issues, yet there is a fact that is emphasized about Turks by many of the world leaders and politicians. It is the power of coming together and acting as one in the face of a threat. Being able to sacrifice one’s own life for the sake of one’s patriotism, religion, and ideology speaks of Jupiter and Scorpio. Achieving things that seem not possible with the limited resources at hand, avoiding an invasion through unthinkable tactics, and overcoming poverty, crisis, and fatal situations are all inherent in the nature of Scorpio.

Which one of us can really risk his life for the sake of a value that we deem more worthy than ourselves? Can we explain it in astrological terms? The Austrian Commander Montecuccoli says “Turks know how to die.”

Can we find the necessary signs in Turkey’s chart?

The most remarkable representations in the chart above are Pluto, Mars in the 4th house, and the Scorpio stellium. We know that this land was governed by the Ottoman Empire before the Turkish Republic was founded. The country has achieved “a birth from its ashes” after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. This is directly indicated by Pluto in conjunction to the Ascendant. We may very well explain the statement of the Australian Kumandan “we have to defeat their history,” by Pluto’s placement in the sign of Cancer. Remembering that this struggle has been turned into a victory through military strength, Mars in the 4th house catches our attention.

So, what about the Scorpio Stellium?

There are many things to point out about the Scorpio stellium. Scorpio knows both how to die and survive. Sun, Venus, and Jupiter, known to be benefic planets, along with the Part of Fortune, in Traditional Astrology, are all conjunct in Scorpio, in the 5th house of Turkey’s chart.

This year, Jupiter will transit through Scorpio for the first time in 12 years, and it will pass over these benefic planets in Turkey’s chart. This transit will amplify the most powerful placements in Turkey’s chart. Jupiter is known for the expansion, growth, and magnification it brings to anything it connects with. It magnifies things like a magnifying glass.

The country has gone through many crises, transformations, and cycles of death and rebirth since the time it was founded. These cycles have affected many facets of Turkey’s history on economical, political, diplomatic, and security levels.

Jupiter has great importance in the chart.

- It is the ruler of the MC and the 6th house.
- It is the ruler of the South Node.
Jupiter’s placement in Scorpio indicates the urge to unite under threatening circumstances, which is unique to the character of the Turks.

Plus, Jupiter is the ruler of the 6th house, which expresses that the military character, discipline, and order have been manifested through a Scorpionic nature.

1994 Jupiter Return in Scorpio

Return charts reveal the times when the themes of the particular planet are most emphasized.

In order to understand what happened in the country in 1994, we should remember that 1993 was a year of crises for Turkey. We witnessed the death of many politicians in 1993. The eighth president of the Turkish republic, Turgut Özal, died in 1993. Turkish journalist, researcher, and writer, Uğur Mumcu, was assassinated in his car on the 24th of January in 1993. General Eşref Bitlis and Adnan Kahveci passed away in the same year. There was also the great fire in the Madımak Hotel in Sivas, where 33 intellectuals were killed by a mob who set fire to the hotel intentionally.

There was a great economic crisis in the country that began at the end of 1993 and lasted through 1994. The total capital outflow had reached 4.2 billion Lira, interest rates exceeded 400 percent, the wholesale price index reached 121 percent, and the consumer price index reached 160 percent, all resulting in leaving half a million people unemployed.

Following a year marked by death, assassination, and financial crises in Turkey, 1994 subsequently unfolded with sanctions, legal processes, and an urgent need for solutions. These situations are prone to last in Turkey, and they can be explained by looking at the natality placements in the country’s chart, but they are specifically emphasized in those years that correspond to the Jupiter return chart. We see the Scorpio stellium in the 8th house, its natural house, which doubles the effect of the change and transformation that Scorpio induces. Pluto’s placement here, and the partile square to Mars, have definitely accelerated and magnified the dimensions of the financial crisis.

We should also take notice that the North Node is placed in the 8th house, representing crises as well as transformations.

- RTÜK, Radio and Television Supreme Council, was established and initiated the regulation of broadcasting in 1994.
- The Turkish economy was once again under the command of the IMF on the 17th of May, 1994 after 14 years.
- İstanbul Bilgi University was established, and the newspaper Yeni Yüzyıl was launched.

It is striking that the Part of Fortune is in Leo in the 5th house. The 5th house is related to sports (a reinforcement of the strong Scorpio stellium is in the 5th house in the natal chart).

Halil Mutlu broke the world record 7 times in the World Weightlifting Championship and won 3 gold medals, while Naim Süleymanoğlu broke the world record 5 times, gaining 3 gold
Bird flu had a great impact in the country in the first months of the year. Four people, (three of whom were from the same family), lost their lives to the infection. More than a million poultry animals were slaughtered, and the hunting of wild animals was banned. There were deaths because of an illness called Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever in the rural regions of some cities after the bird flu.

There were deaths because of an illness called Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever in the rural regions of some cities after the bird flu. Mars, the ruling planet of the ASC, is transiting the 12th House and is in conjunction with Sun and Venus. The 12th house represents prisons, spies, criminals, and the secret enemies in the country. There were exceptional incidents of violence in Turkey in 2006.

- The serial murders that took place during Ramadan horrified the community. The serial murderers of Mevlüt Karahan, 30, took their lives. They separated the women from the men, beat them, and killed them.
- A major case of shame and cruelty was revealed when a 1.5 year old girl, who was taken to the hospital because she had been beaten and raped.
- A mentally unstable individual, Fahri Elmas, who had killed his mother and his four siblings 23 years prior, and got out of prison in 1991, committed suicide after murdering his four children and his step-sister in 2006.

2006 Jupiter Return in Scorpio

It is very significant that Jupiter is in the first house. According to mundane astrology, the 1st house speaks of the general wellbeing and state of health of a country.

- A 10-year-old girl’s dead body was found buried in a dump in Konya, and it was later found out that she had been raped before being killed.
- A girl was alleged to have had her feet and arms hammered and her nails pulled out while chained to a bed by her boss before being rescued by the police.
- A 16-year-old girl was put under arrest with her 8 friends on the charge of killing her mother by smothering her with a sheet.
- A police officer was alleged to have had a hysteria attack and killed his wife, son, mother-in-law, and sister-in-law with a gun.

Death, killing, and sex are themes of Scorpio. The placement of Mars, its traditional ruler, in the 12th house explains well why it was so intensely expressing itself.

- Child pornography had become widespread throughout the internet, and increased violence in schools, were prominent issues in 2006. The government took legal measures in an attempt to stop child pornography.
- Saturn in Leo is very striking in the chart, placed here in the 9th house and very close to the MC. The 9th house is associated with religion and places of worship. The MC and Leo indicate superiors; the senior management. Saturn has a square aspect with the ASC, Jupiter, and Mercury.

Some of the headlines related to this placement:

- The priest Andrea Santoro was killed in Trabzon in 2006. He was a missionary priest in the Catholic Santa Maria Church in Trabzon.
- The cartoons of Prophet Muhammad published in a newspaper in Denmark sparked violent reactions in many countries.
- The words of Pope Benedictus 16th about Muhammad and Islam during his visit to Germany was regarded as disrespectful and many claimed it presented Islam as a faith of violence.
- Pope Benedictus 16th visited Turkey at the invitation of President Sezer. He met with the chief missionaries in the Vatican Embassy in Ankara.

2006, marked by the major placement of Scorpio, the sign of death, was a year in which many celebrities from the worlds of art, politics, science, and media lost their lives. The former Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit passed away in 2006.
An Expansion of Opportunities for Transformation

by Margarita Logovatovskaya

U piter is the planet of Great Happiness and represents the vast ocean of opportunities that often brings us positive experiences on a silver platter. But even the so-called kindest planet, when placed in certain positions, can bring changes that plunge us into the abyss of unexpected circumstances.

From October 10th, 2017 to November 8th, 2018, Jupiter will travel through the sign of Scorpio, known for deep transformations and the depth of processes reaching a climax of intensity through dying and subsequent rebirth. The ingress of Jupiter in Scorpio will expand and deepen those themes. This influence contributes to a sharp rise or fall, some may perish, while others be reborn, some may reap a well-deserved reward, while others experience limitations.

For some the upcoming year will be a year of fantastic take-offs and for others a year of losses and major disappointments. Scorpio does not operate in a shallow manner. To be able to accept all the ups and downs of this situation, a strong spirit and even a certain amount of luck is required. Luck likes to smile on the persistent and courageous people who are not afraid to take risks.

During this transit, many hidden secrets may begin to come to surface, exposing hidden truths and conspiracies.

The THEMES THAT MAY BE IMPACTED BY JUPITER'S PASSAGE THROUGH SCORPIO ARE:

- business, financial litigation, law enforcement, taxation, esoteric knowledge, philosophy, spiritual development, education, travel, teachers.

This year will be key for those who are engaged in self-development and immersed in esoteric practices. Jupiter will expand and deepen the boundaries of the acquired knowledge studied during this period, and that will create a strong foundation for the next years.

Throughout the year, Jupiter has a positive sextile angle from the planet Pluto, ruling the sign of Scorpio, so we can expect these transformative experiences to prompt new opportunities. For example, a person may experience a tax audit, but that may prompt positive changes. For those who are engaged on a path of self-awareness, meaningful opportunities for deep internal growth may emerge. Jupiter in Scorpio can bring significant opportunities in this regard.

Jupiter will also have a positive trine to Neptune, possibly bringing many secrets into the open. Secret knowledge may become more accessible and interest in extrasensory capabilities and psychological practices will increase. People may feel inspired to travel to holy places, places of power, and we can expect more journeys through the oceans with cruises. People may find a new spiritual teacher, or become one themselves.

Thus, this 13 months' transit presents an opportunity for both internal and external transformations. We can expect people to take more risks and explore uncharted territories. Jupiter in Scorpio teaches us not to fear loss and trust in the ability to start all over again. From death, comes a rebirth and opportunities for a richer life.

About Margarita Logovatovskaya: My initial education was at the Theological University in Russia, where I was drawn to uncover the secrets of the Universe and the meaning of our existence on Earth. However, not feeling satisfied, I was led to the study of Astrology (during a Saturn transit) which set an important trajectory for the rest of my life. I was trained at the Scientific School of Astrology, and then with my mentor astrologer Dmitry Paramonov. I realized the laws of Heaven are open to everyone, they only need to be conveyed to all and guided by the prompts of the Cosmos in our lives.

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The Art of Living and Dying
in Scorpio
by Çağla Ercanoğlu

What comes to our minds when we think about ballet is Swan Lake, a magical and timeless ballet composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in 1875–76. Before seeing its astrological view, lets remember the romantic tale of this famous ballet.

The story is about the eternal love of Prince Siegfried and Princess Odette. Odette and her friends are turned into swans by the evil Baron. This spell can only be broken if someone who has never loved before falls in love with and promises to marry her. The Prince sees Odette while hunting and it is love at first sight. When he hears her story, he declares his love and promises to marry her.

At a grand reception, the Prince has to announce a bride, but he proposes to the wrong woman because the evil wizard disguises his daughter Odile as Odette. Siegfried realizes his mistake and begs Odette for forgiveness. She forgives him but the vow is broken. They decide to die together and throw themselves into the lake. The spell is broken and the remaining swans turn back into humans. Their love now becomes eternal…

They die, but their love lives forever - living and dying at the same time! This is very like Scorpio representing life, death and rebirth. Mars is the traditional ruler of Scorpio. It shows the courage to die in order to live forever. Pluto, the modern ruler, is the Lord of transformation… White swan Odette and black swan Odile are performed by the same ballerina in the Swan Lake. When I started to study astrology and learn about the benefic and malefic features of the planets, I often thought about Odette and Odile dancing. The queen of swans, the white swan Odette can also represent Jupiter, the Greater Benefic. She has a power to end her life for the sake of all.

Beyond the fantasy, at the current time Jupiter is soon entering Scorpio on October 10th, 2017, and will stay there for nearly 13 months. The greater benefic in a sign famous for its dark side! Jupiter is about learning, knowledge, growth, fruitfullness and optimism. It’s also our belief system. Now Jupiter will be in a fixed water sign demanding a deeper focus on what is really important. Better to accept the endings, leave our dark side, embrace new beginnings and heal ourselves as if dying and living at once.

Not surprisingly, Tchaikovsky’s natal Jupiter is in Scorpio (time of birth is speculative, but puts Jupiter in his 5th house). There is a strong and challenging opposition from his Jupiter to its ruler Mars and the Sun in Taurus, increasing his energy as well as his optimism. There is also a t-square, with Neptune in the apex, in the 8th house (wholesign) emphasizing the matters of life and death in terms of art and creativity. Neptune is in Aquarius reflecting the need for freedom of expression.

Tchaikovsky definitely changed the public perception of the music of ballet.

The ballet Swan Lake was first performed on March 4th, 1877 at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. However, the first performance wasn’t successful. In fact this incredible ballet received the recognition it deserved only after Tchaikovsky’s death. The art of dying and living is again on stage…

Look at the transit chart of the premiere, transiting Saturn and North Node in Pisces conjunct Tchaikovsky’s natal North node. With Saturn, we can experience delays and blocks, and that success can be slow to build up. Today Swan Lake is a widely performed ballet in theaters across the world.

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Interview with Julija Simas

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C*I*A Group: Cosmic Intelligence Agency C*I*A

Tell us what the CIA stands for and its purpose?

Consciousness* Intention *Astrology.
The purpose of the C*I*A has always been to use our name, network, ties and social media to spread astrology far and wide, beyond astrological communities and sun sign columns. Wearing our badge is about being a loud and proud astrologer in the world and the solidarity that comes with being part of the Agency, with other Agents of Change. The name Cosmic Intelligence Agency automatically ignites something to rise above what is happening here on earth, to be more conscious and aware of what is happening and take on more active and responsible roles as agents of change. The C*I*A inspires one to be part of the Agency as part of the collective cosmic mind, invisible yet effective!

• COSMIC – from Cosmos, the universe as an orderly system, a beautiful order, a valued order.
• INTELLIGENCE – the ability to acquire and apply (astrological) knowledge and skills.
• AGENCY – providing a service. AGENT – has an active or efficient cause, is an active principle within the agency: a representative. Origin of Agent : from Latin agent- ‘doing’, from agere.

How did it all start? And when did it start? See CHART 1

It all started with a sign, a light bulb moment. I know it was sometime around the Venus Transit of May/June 2004. Looking back, Saturn was transiting my North Node, Jupiter my Uranus/Pluto and Mercury was rx on my natal Jupiter, with the Venus rx squaring all my Pisces and Virgo planets. I was in the process of finishing my Diploma in formal astrological studies and found myself reading and seeing the words Cosmic Intelligence in many texts. My husband and I used to have an office space with a courtyard out back where we would have lunch, catch some sun or get some space. One day sitting out there I looked up at the wall above - although I've seen this old peeling circular green and white sign there many times, it was then that the light bulb moment happened. This time looking up I noticed the words on the Logo, which read Cocks International Australia. I immediately thought CIA, as the Logo was very similar to the Central Intelligence Agency's logo. I added Cosmic to the words instead and the words Cosmic Intelligence Agency clicked together in my head. I knew straight away I had to do something with that! I kept this name in my head for a year or so before registering the name as a website url. It was the Year of the Wood/Rooster 23/8/2005. I did not elect a time to do this, but had a very strong feeling to register those words as a website on that particular day, and noted the time when I actually did it.

After that I told a few of my astrologer friends here in Melbourne about it, they loved the name and then we started the ball rolling of what the C*I*A could/would be and do. We started with reporting on the moving sky, focused on the equinoxes, solstices and global intentions. We added full moons, new moons, the ingresses of planets and the rest, as more writer Agents came on board. Our first webpage went up in December 2006.

The Cosmic Intelligence Agency (C*I*A) is a network of astrologers living around the world who share a vision of the world soul, the Animus Mundi. Agents of the C*I*A are committed to raising consciousness to the universal energies, the archetypal patterns at play in our everyday world that can be observed in the ceaseless cyclic movements and understanding of the cosmos in which we live.
We joined Facebook in 2007, became known to the wider astro community and the rest is evolving!

What are the benefits for members to join? AS A MEMBER: Learning more astrology with the Agents, lots of great info, including a month ahead webinar, specialist webinars and lessons, receiving discounts to events and supporting the network. Our membership area on the website is now gathering a great selection of video content with much more to come. AS AN AGENT: Being part of the global network and its connections, taking part in our online events and retreats, along with great exposure as a writer or blogger! Knowing that our website contributions are making a difference out there!

You are based in Australia and lead this large community; can you share your experience with the Australian community of Astrology? With all good intentions, we have continued to do our own thing, and are quite a different breed than the local Federation. We found the Saturnian structures here to be too limiting, generally unsupportive and inflexible for the freedom we required to be activated in the world, doing what we wanted to do as astrologers and spend our time on! Primarily, our focus being more about spreading the astrology we knew and liked through the web, internet, social media and beyond the community here, with a broader outreach than what a traditional organization had to offer.

What is the next step for the C*I*A? Continuing with what we have built so far, building on the membership, moving to do more retreats on different continents, with further adventures around the globe and under the stars. Building the tribe. Moving toward possible Non-Profit status and building headquarters one day. Maybe a dream for now, but very possible.

I.D ABOUT YOU

Your family: I was born first generation Australian into a 100% Lithuanian heritage, paternal and maternal. I am one of five and the middle child. I married a Lithuanian man, also 1st generation australian, and we have 3 adult sons.

Religious background and conditioning? I was born into a Roman Catholic family, but with pagan roots, learning to speak and read one of the world’s most ancient languages, Lithuanian. My maternal great-grandmother talked of nature spirits and curses, my grandfather showed us the beauty of the natural world, as we lived not far from a river and the bushland and spent a lot of time there. We grew up within the Lithuanian community, a stronghold and solidarity against the force and threat of the Soviet Union’s repression of our Homeland. My parents and grandparents were key figures in the community in Sydney, Australia as we were growing up. It was all about being Lithuanian and keeping up traditions when we were young, keeping strong together against the extinction of our language and culture. I never thought Lithuania would ever be free again, and looking back during a 2 year Pluto transit to my Neptune in the 12th house, Lithuania became free, and I birthed my first child. From then I knew to never think “never” again, and that positive change is indeed possible. I think this motivation has led me to know that the world can and does change, and that astrology can also come back to be part of our living culture, helping to ignite, inspire and heal the world around us.

Spiritual orientation – Do you follow any specific practice? Nature and the Cosmos

What’s the worst thing and then, the best thing about you? Being a Pisces x 5
You never tried… Heroin or an orgy!
You can’t refuse… A Party!
What is playtime for you? Beach, sun, swimming, bushwalking, exploring, travel, concerts, music, friends, parties, astro research.
Your animal totem? Sting Ray (since visiting Costa Rica in May 2017)
Your superstition? I believe in living and natural magic!
Your Chinese sign and element? Wood, Dragon.
Your favorite place on earth? As I get older, Home (just want it near the beach)
What would you define is an important evolutionary lesson for you in this life? Being motivated from the heart and for service to the greater good, not for power, recognition, money or prestige. Capricorn/Cancer Nodal axis.
Your chart See CHART 2
YOUR PRACTICE

Your Astrology teachers? Brian Clark and Glennys Lawton, at Astrosynthesis

Your Astrology hero? All the many doing inspiring work and spreading the astrological light!

3 favorite Astrology books? Too many to mention but the first would be Mythic Astrology - Arielle Guttman & Kenneth Johnson, and then Cosmos and Psyche - Richard Tarnas. The 3rd is too hard to pick; maybe it’s one I haven’t read yet, or maybe I have to write.

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment to date in your astrology career? Building and managing the C*I*A and the Agents of Chaos as well as seeing the C*I*A having a significant influence over the years in getting good astrology “Out There!” and inspiring many to also do so. Many big non-astrological and consciousness websites now carry astrological articles that are not just Sun Signs. Our influence on Facebook has been significant.

What made it possible for you to become a full-time astrologer? During a Venus retrograde transit in my 2nd house, I purchased a laptop.

What is the great thing and the hard thing about being an astrologer? The amazing people you meet. Making a living!

What inspires you to be an OPA member? Cross-pollination with other international professional astrologers.

Any advice for those who would like to become professional astrologers? Be original and find a specialty. With the rise of astrology and so many of us now doing the same thing, writing on the same events and our common sky, know that the same formula doesn’t work for everyone. Be original as much as you can!.... There are good reasons to have standards and respect our traditions, but no reason we can’t be creative and explore astrology for ourselves and where that may lead us.

Thank you!
Midlife is Not A Crisis: Using Astrology to Thrive in the Second Half of Life
BY VIRGINIA BELL

“Midlife is Not a Crisis: Using Astrology to Thrive in the Second Half of Life” combines an explanation of major astrological aspects such as the Saturn Return, Uranus Opposition, Chiron Return, Second Saturn Return, and Uranus Return with examples of the ways that different people have navigated the challenges and opportunities which presented at these important junctures in their lives. The examples are gleaned from the experiences of the author, Virginia Bell - an astrologer and writer – her friends, and some famous people.

It presents a positive view of aging and the possibility of great fulfillment in one’s later years. Virginia herself made major changes at midlife which included studying and becoming an astrologer. She presents the basics of astrology in one chapter - signs, planets, houses and aspects, so that people who don’t know astrology or are just learning can understand the book.

Some of the stories include Gloria Steinem, Julia Child and Lin-Manuel Miranda, as well as Rabbi Zalman Schacter-Shalomi. Towards the end of the book the charts of Carl Jung and Georgia O’Keeffe are presented with a view of their lives and key times of transformations. She has quotes from well-known astrologers as well as some actresses, poets, and other well-known people.

There is much wisdom to be found in this book and I found it to be fascinating as well as uplifting and inspiring.

Virginia Bell is a full-time astrologer and writer based in New York City. She has been part of Steven Forrest’s Apprenticeship Program since 2000 and has written for astrology columns in magazines and on web sites such as Refinery 29, TV Guide and US Weekly. She currently writes for Welt (a German publication) and Watch (a CBS magazine) and contributes regularly to Huffington Post. She can be reached at citystarny@gmail.com. Her web site is www.virginiabellastrology.com.

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What’s Logical about the Astrological? Quite a Lot!

Twelve logical fallacies every astrologer should know.

by Robert Currey

“There are two ways to be fooled: one is to believe what isn’t true, the other is to refuse to believe what is true.” ~ (Kierkegaard 1847)

To most astrologers, debating astrology seems tiresome or even unwinnable. Perhaps you had an unhappy experience being ridiculed by some know-it-all in the family with slick answers. Don’t give up! The more you debate astrology, the more skillful you become. By reflecting on what you do, you also become a better astrologer. We are all ambassadors for astrology and our image will not improve unless more people understand the rationale behind what we do.

This is not about winning an argument or trying to convert others or to promote astrology as a science. It’s education and all that is required is to take the critic through the logical steps to a point where there is only one rational position: suspend judgment of astrology until they’ve studied the subject and checked the evidence.

The preamble to any discussion will probably start with a bit of popular myth about “the stars”. At this point you should firmly set out your definition of astrology.

If your sceptical enquirer is just following feelings, then that is a personal belief and you can agree to disagree. However, if the critic is claiming that astrology is false on a scientific or logical basis, then let them make their case. You will be surprised to discover that it will be full of wrong assumptions and logical fallacies. The only tenable position for a scientist is one of doubt or agnosticism until proved otherwise.

Here are the top twelve logical fallacies to avoid and to identify:

1. APPEAL TO POPULARITY (argumentum ad populum) assumes that an idea or proposition is true because many people believe that it’s true.

“Astrology has to be true. Look how astrology features in so many magazines around the world.”

But equally “Astrology has to be false because the scientific consensus is that it’s not valid.”

Most scientists are not interested in astrology and have no deep thoughts about the field. Criticism comes from the fringe of science.

Many people believe that lightning doesn’t strike the same place twice. Nevertheless, popularity does not make this belief true. Lightning hits the Empire State Building in New York about 20 times per year.

2. APPEAL TO TRADITION OR APPEAL TO ANTIQUITY (argumentum ad antiquitam) claims that an idea that has been around for a long time is true simply because it has stood the test of time.

“Astrology must be valid as it has survived for over four thousand years.” Again, so has belief in a variety of gods, creationism and even a flat Earth.

3. APPEAL TO NOVELTY (argumentum ad novitatem) asserts that an idea is correct or superior simply because it is new and modern. This is the reverse of the Appeal to Tradition fallacy.

“How can people still follow a primitive belief such as astrology?” Ancient wisdom has often been lost, only to be rediscovered centuries later. The Antikythera Mechanism is a two-thousand-year-old analogue computer from ancient Greece. According to recent research, 3,700 years ago the Babylonians invented a long-hand method of calculating trigonometry that is more precise than those used today (Mansfield 2017). Note, that it was in this same region from around this period that the foundations of astrology were empirically discovered (Curry 2017).

4. APPEAL TO AUTHORITY OR ARGUMENT FROM AUTHORITY (argumentum ad verecundiam) relies on the opinion of a supposedly reputable source to prop up a claim.

“Since Professors Cox and deGrasse Tyson assert that astrology is rubbish, it must be false.” It also happens that these opinionated pop science presenters are clueless when it comes to astrology (see Uninformed Opinion).

Unfortunately, the Press tends to confuse astronomers with astrologers and give them undue weight. But this fallacy is applied both ways. “Astrology preoccupied many of the greatest polymaths in history, Ptolemy, Al Buruni, Copernicus, Dee, Cardano, Galileo, Kepler, Napier, Goethe, Ramanujan, Jung and the greatest novelists Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Rowling.” This means that astrology should be taken seriously, but it doesn’t make it true. Besides, more recent discoveries could have invalidated their views. (see Appeal to Tradition)

5. ARGUMENT FROM IGNORANCE OR APPEAL TO IGNORANCE (argumentum ad ignorantiam) assumes that a lack of proof is sufficient to make a claim true or false.

“Since there is no proof that Pluto impacts life on Earth, it’s impossible.”

Or the counter argument that “Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence” is only viable if you’re refuting an unsupported claim. Neither statement can be a basis to make a claim about astrology. The burden of proof is always on the claimant, whether pro or anti-astrology. In a rational debate, any claim must be supported by empirical evidence, otherwise it remains a belief.
6. UNINFORMED OPINION OR ARGUMENT BY LAZINESS occurs when the arguer hasn’t bothered to learn anything about the topic, but nevertheless has an opinion.

“Astrology is rubbish!” or “Astrology flies in the face of four centuries of evidence, from Galileo to the latest space probe.” (Jones 2011) or “...that’s all rubbish, right, astrology, because the planets are in different places at different times.” (O’Briain 2011)

7. PROOF BY ASSERTION happens when someone declares a “fact” without supporting evidence.

“Astrology violates the laws of science!” Which laws?

“Tests of astrology have shown it to be false!” Obviously, you would need an infinite number of tests to prove a negative. However, I have yet to see a single test that supports this claim. If you challenge a claimant to “put up or shut up” as skeptical magician Randi would say, establish in advance that tests that are based on Sun Signs alone, or a single astrologer or a magic trick don’t count. A quick search will confirm that any tests cited are either flawed in obvious ways or, after review, are shown to support astrology.

But then, we claim “Astrology works!” This is fine for describing the astrologer/client subjective experience, but it does not make our claims objectively valid. A placebo works and is now an accepted tool in medicine. But to show that astrology also works on an objective level, assertion cuts no ice, we need statistical evidence that it works outside the astrologer/client consulting room.

8. FALSE EQUIVALENCE is to compare two different situations or views as if they are the same.

“Astrology is like Racism” (Radford 2011). Some people use astrology to label people as stereotypes based on their signs, when the signs are archetypes and few people conform exactly to type. While this false assumption can lead to well-intended minor misunderstandings, it is not equivalent to racial prejudice and the resulting discrimination. There was no Holocaust or slavery based on zodiac signs. It is wholly inappropriate, not to say distasteful and disrespectful to all, to make this comparison. This example is also an appeal to emotion fallacy, where emotion is used in place of reason to manipulate the argument. A fair equivalence would be to compare astrology with studies of blood group types.

9. A STRAW MAN ARGUMENT misrepresents an opponent’s position. This is done by replacing the opposing argument with a corrupted version. It is then easy to ridicule this much weaker argument and create the illusion of refuting the original position.

“The constellations of the zodiac have moved and so the zodiac is out of alignment and astrologers are in error.” This old hoax has been pushed by people who know better.

Having criticised astrology for years, Richard Dawkins, only attacked the soft target of Sun Sign astrology when given the opportunity by Channel 4 (UK) (Dawkins 2003).

10. PSYCHOGENIC (OR PSYCHOGENETIC) FALLACY is debunking an idea based on its origin and the motivations of the proponent rather than addressing the substance of the argument. This includes ‘Argumentum ad hominem’ which is to attack an opponent’s authority, character or other personal traits to undermine his or her argument.

“We can dismiss his evidence as he’s an astrologer. He must be biased as he makes a living from astrology.” Yet, the best evidence can only come from experts in the field.

Any argument or evidence presented by an astrologer or a debunker should be judged on the merits of the case and supporting evidence not on their affiliation or vested interests. However, if a critic portrays you as being biased, there is no harm in pointing out that he or she is a member of a sceptical group. But it’s still not an argument.

11. SLIPPERY SLOPE OR THE THIN EDGE OF THE WEDGE asserts that a relatively small concession inevitably leads to a significant development that is extreme and unacceptable.

It’s really the job of science to find a mechanism to account for all the evidence. Such a discovery would be a great boost to science, especially astronomy ...

“If we don’t quash Gauquelin’s evidence of an eminence effect, where do we draw the line? Fairies, Unicorns?” (another example of False Equivalence)

When you know that you’re wrong, always be prepared to concede openly and with grace. The case for astrology is robust enough to survive. For example, don’t try to defend all astrological techniques or all astrologers. No doctor would defend all doctors. Hard core critics are often too overwhelmed by cognitive dissonance to admit to being wrong and tend to dig themselves into a hole defending an indefensible position.

12. CIRCULAR ARGUMENT OR CATCH 22 is to start with a false claim then use it in reverse as if to prove it.

“Astrology is pseudoscience, as it is not published in Scientific Journals. Scientific Journals should not publish articles on astrology, as it is a pseudoscience.” In practice, scientific journals refer papers on astrology to astrological journals who publish both positive and negative articles on astrology.

“Astrology could not possibly be the explanation for this effect, as astrology is too implausible.”

Once all the posturing has finished, there are only two issues that need to be addressed.

THE FIRST is how does astrology work in a physical sense? It’s really the job of science to find a mechanism to account for all the evidence. Such a discovery would be a great boost to science, especially astronomy which is often criticised for having little relevance to human lives.

Unless you have studied physics and various possible mechanisms, it is better to concede that we don’t yet know the mechanism. Then, either point in the direction of Percy Seymour’s book: The Scientific Proof of Astrology (1997) or if you subscribe to the Jungian model, explain your belief in synchronicity.

THE SECOND valid logical argument is – what, if any, empirical evidence supports astrology? These days there are a growing number of compelling experiments, but this is beyond the scope of this article.

A final thought is that some astrology critics advocate scientism – the belief that only science can render the truth about
CURREY

**reality.** They sincerely believe that they are defending science and reason. In reality, they are religiously defending their personal beliefs based on prejudice and strong emotions. Most have no respect for the scientific spirit of open enquiry, and if challenged, some become abusive and mocking. Most are not scientists. Nor are they sceptics in the true meaning of the word. The irony is that since you came into astrology by questioning conventional wisdom you are more of a sceptic - you, the astrologer, the critical thinker, who is now defending logic.

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Robert Currey was one of the first astrologers to write astrological software. This led to his business Equinox, which has offices in the UK, USA and Australia. He has a FAS Diploma (London 1985), started the Astrology Shop in central London in 1989, qualified as an Astro*Carto*Graphy Interpreter (San Francisco 1995) and received a lifetime achievement award (Kolkata 2016). Nowadays, he is a consultant, lecturer, author and researcher.  

www.equinoxastrology.com
North And South Hemisphere Controversy

The Tropical Zodiac artificially places the 0 Aries point with the March Equinox, with a common claim that the Zodiac is aligned with the seasons, as Aries represents the budding energy of Spring, Cancer the warmth and nourishment of Summer, Libra the doubt and decay of Autumn, and Capricorn the hardship of Winter. However, this point of view only works in the Northern Hemisphere and is irrelevant in the Southern Hemisphere where March 21 is the beginning of Autumn.

The Natural Seasonal Polarity of the Signs
by Maurice Fernandez

To me, this is the most important revelation: that Tropical Astrology may not be a North seasonal system as many claim it to be. So what is it? Probably one of the most important questions in astrology today.

One thought that comes to mind is that there is a natural polarity in each sign. From the Southern Hemisphere point of view, the Libra Spring relates to the new beginnings through connection, sexuality, or pollution in nature; the Capricorn Summer reflects a Maturation and Ripeness phase when we are ready to harvest the fruits of our labor; the Aries Autumn is when we confront and battle what does not work in our lives; and as such, Defeat and Eliminate what does not serve us anymore; the Cancer Winter, relates to hibernation and the need to withdraw from external activity, preparing, gestating, and nourishing ourselves in preparation for the coming of the birth of Spring.

That is to say that the signs do not conflict with the opposite seasonal factors of North and South Hemispheres, and this is why the zodiac works the same with people born North or South.

Astronomical Support of the Tropical Zodiac
by Gemini Brett

I was once shocked to find no Taurus Planets in the birth chart of a Southern Hemisphere native who I know to be almost as Taurusian as Aphrodite herself. She does have a Second House Moon and Venus at the South Lunar Node, but what I find most intriguing is her significant Stellium in Scorpio. Perhaps what I was truly feeling was the nature of Spring. The Tropical Zodiac is not ‘of the Stars’ (Sidereal), but rather ‘of the Seasons,’ so how can these signs be the same for both hemispheres, despite seasonal opposition? I often describe Scorpio as “that time of year when the branches are bare so the veil is thin because death is in the air,” but this is entirely untrue in the Southern Hemisphere where Scorpio Sun shines on flowers in full bloom. We can attempt to resolve this philosophically by saying Scorpio and Taurus are two sides of one thing (that Autumn is the compliment to Spring), yet there are significant astronomical issues we must address if we wish to defend the universality of the Tropical Zodiac.

Planets rise in the East and set in the West everywhere on Earth, but this motion is left-to-right in the Northern Hemisphere and right-to-left in the Southern Hemisphere. (In this article, “Northern Hemisphere” applies to latitudes north of the Tropic of Cancer and “in the Southern Hemisphere” applies to latitudes south of the Tropic of Capricorn. Between, the Tropics, the sky ‘works’ as it does in the Northern Hemisphere for part of the day and as it does in the Southern Hemisphere for the rest).

The clock was modeled upon the diurnal motion of the Northern Hemisphere.

We can attempt to resolve this philosophically by saying Scorpio and Taurus are two sides of one thing (that Autumn is the compliment to Spring), yet there are significant astronomical issues we must address...

respects for the Southern Hemisphere. March Equinox is considered the resurrection in the Northern Hemisphere because light overcomes night, but the opposite is true in the Southern Hemisphere.

However, North is North everywhere on Earth (except at the South Pole where it is everywhere and at the North Pole where it is nowhere), and I suggest our Tropical Zodiac is a result of Directions, not Seasons. Why do...
BRETT

most modern maps and globes show North as up and South as down? Why is Australia referred to as the land ‘Down Under?’ Is this simply a remnant of systems established in the Northern Hemisphere? Perhaps, but it is also a lead as to why Tropical Signs have the same archetypal essence everywhere on Earth, despite seasonal opposition between the Hemispheres. There is a solid astronomical mechanism that solves the issue. “The Sun in its orbit is traveling away from Sirius and toward the star Vega” (reference: http://earthsky.org/?p=3021) At Earth’s North Pole, Vega never sets and Sirius never rises so our Sun and entire Solar System, including Earth, are literally traveling from the direction we call South towards the direction we call North.

North is North everywhere on Earth (except at the South Pole where it is everywhere and at the North Pole where it is nowhere), and I suggest our Tropical Zodiac is a result of Directions, not Seasons.

Whether a Planet is moving from altitudes below to above the ecliptic (Northern Hemisphere) or from above to below (Southern Hemisphere) at its North Node, it is literally moving towards the Future. December Solstice can be considered as the annual “birth of the Sun” everywhere on Earth because, at that time, Sun begins to move North in Earthly skies and, therefore, Sun’s movement within the Earth’s frame of reference is towards the same direction as the Sun’s constant movement when viewed outside of Earth’s frame of reference. Imagine sitting on a moving train and watching a woman walk back and forth in the aisle. Because you are moving with the train, there’s really no difference in this experience than watching a woman walk back and forth in a room that doesn’t move… unless you look out the window too. You are the Earth, the Woman is the Sun, the Train is our Solar System and knowing that the Solar System is moving towards the direction we call North is like ‘looking’ outside the window.

Reference: http://earthsky.org/?p=3021

See you in Space,
Gemini Brett

As a certifiable StarryTeller, Gemini Brett devotes his now as a living vow to the Marriage of Heaven and Earth. He began his formal study with the Shamanic Astrology Mystery School, but has since synthesized his own terrestrially-tuned celestial stew by integrating ingredients of many astro kung fu’s (from Hellenistic to Evolutionary). Brett’s principal intention is to retrieve the Star Songs we heard in times before the written word. He transmits the mysteries he finds in sacred sites and living sky through a series of embodied exercise he calls Earthstrology, and through the sacred sciences of the Quadrivium: Geometry, Musical Harmony, Astronomy, and Number in Nature. Gemini Brett is best known throughout cosmic circles as an astronomy-for-astrology expert and mystic mythologist, but the truth you’ll find when you get to know this fiery Scorpio is that his techniques are designed to water the heart through re-membering Signs of the Messenger’s Mind. MoreThanAstrology.com

FROM THE RECENT OPA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

“In your experience, have you noticed any differences between charts cast in the northern or southern hemisphere? Most astrologers do not see a difference between the hemispheres, yet the astrology points to different seasons and orientations. What is your opinion on this?”

Naomi Bennett
When I was in Argentina, Chile and South Africa, I asked for timed charts and personality traits. The signs do not reverse themselves. Astronomically, when in the southern hemisphere, when you look at the zodiac constellations on the ecliptic, they still move east to west but the constellations are upside down, not reversed. No change in charts north or south

Pam Crane
There are truths behind all this, and one certainly appears to be that the Tropical

Zodiac 0 Aries point is immutably where the geocentric Sun moves from the Earth’s South to North latitude at the Equator at the start of the Northern Spring.

William Sebrans
I have not noticed a difference in Northern vs. Southern Hemisphere charts and people.

For a few decades, I was in a spiritual group (Gurdjieff) with many people from South America (Argentina, Chile, Brazil) and Australia/NZ, offering me an extended opportunity to spy on Creation’s intent by observing these people with their charts over an extended period of time in many different environments and situations.

Architects, healers, showmen, debaters, the lovesick, craftspeople, visionaries, recluses, and support types, etc… all showed up as their charts tended to indicate, with the caveat that the level of frequency at which the charts manifested varied according to their inner awareness and work. And there seem to be introverted to extroverted expressions of all planetary archetypes, regardless of gender or continent. There are shy, self-sourcing Leos and gregarious Piscens.

So, I never really thought about the question, though perhaps should have. At a certain point, I relaxed the need to find a defining logic in how a mischievous Cosmos operates. Why, for example, Vedic and Western can often get similar results but that Ascendants in Tropical seem to work better than in Vedic, while certain predictive approaches in Vedic seem more precisely accurate.

Still beyond my pay grade, this conundrum, and perhaps always will be, though Gemini Brett proposed something recently regarding the above that has piqued my wearied interest.

As I have heard it said, astrology does not need to be “true” but it works.

Inessa Wuzyk
I dont think there is a big difference. The Sun is in the same sign whether one looks at the sign from the northern or southern hemisphere. There is just the matter of perspective. From one side the sign is upside down. The mind has no trouble flipping a visual image 180 degrees.

So, what I am saying is that the sign is the same thing, just seen from a different perspective; looked at from a different point in space.
There are four areas that every astrologer needs to have a knowledge and expertise in:

1. **Accurate astrological interpretation.**
2. **Proper delivery of the information in a helpful and ethical manner.**
3. **Model Testing** – which is the evaluation of the accuracy of the astrological interpretation using objective research methods.
4. **Marketing and communication methods** (articles, books, publishers, social media, etc.). *There may be a few astrologers who are successful without this 4th area, so it may not be required for everyone, but realistically is helpful to nearly all astrologers.*

Most astrologers and astrology organizations are well aware and active about points 1, 2, 4, but Model Testing is still neglected by most.

**OPA is now taking more pro-active measures to increase awareness about the necessity and value of Model Testing for astrologers.** This will translate into the following measures:

- Publishing articles about Model Testing, as well as research.
- Raising awareness and encouraging astrologers to incorporate Model Testing in their work.
- Encouraging astrologers to purchase software that facilitates Model Testing by offering special deals - see the special deal about Pegasus Research Software offered for OPA members.
- Organizing presentations and events that highlight the practice of Model Testing.

Without Model Testing, astrology will be out of touch with the way things work in the 21st century and this will hinder the progress of our practice and profession. Because Model Testing is generally ignored in astrology, people are correct for viewing astrology primarily as a form of entertainment.

**What is Model Testing**

Model Testing consists of using strategies to confirm that our interpretations and evaluations when analyzing charts are not the fruit of fanciful ideas, but can be better verified. Model Testing brings more objectivity and diminishes subjective bias when making interpretative assumptions in astrology.

How did we conclude that Geminis are curious or that the Moon is exalted in Taurus? Did we just hear it from our teacher or read it in a book, and now take that as face value? Model Testing helps us confirm what we know or gain new insights by using **Control Groups**. This diminishes the use of **Cherry Picking**, which consists of choosing charts (consciously or unconsciously) that will knowingly confirm our cherished theory.

**OPA is grateful to see David Cochrane and Alex Trenoweth contribute two articles about Model Testing that follow this introduction.**

Let us learn and improve our approaches to elevate our use of Astrology …
End of Season for Cherry Picking

by Alex Trenoweth

Sleeping with the Enemy

Like the majority of you who are reading this, I am an astrologer and I love the language of astrology. I don’t need to “prove” astrology. I eat, sleep, and breathe astrology, and I see it working every day. The so-called sceptics of astrology, on the other hand, often proclaim that astrology is a superstition and there is no evidence that astrology works. These sceptics are not just sceptical, they are cynics who denounce astrology without knowing very much about astrology. I find them to be irritating, annoying, and ironically often a bit irrational, even though they claim that I am the one who is irrational.

The language of scientific research is not particularly appealing to me, and I describe my uncomfortable encounters with research and statistics in university in this article. However, I am familiar with terms like “anecdotal evidence”, and that even people in the social sciences use more rigorous ways to determine if an idea works rather than relying only on their personal experiences. I have now found myself conducting research, and I am using the tools that the cynics so loudly proclaim are important. I find that the language of research enhances my intuitive understanding. This research does not dampen my sense of the spiritual and the mystical in astrology. If anything, it enhances it. I also understand how astrology works more clearly. I am using the language of the enemy and it is lovely!

A Personal Story

In this article, I share part of my personal adventure into astrological research, or what many of us prefer to call Model Testing. The word “research” can conjure up images of dry statistics and lifeless investigations into data. I prefer the term “model testing” because it more accurately conveys what the research does: it determines how well our astrological ideas and theories (i.e. models) are working.

I am sharing this personal story and adventure not to draw attention to myself, but rather because I think it is a story that most of us can relate to. Few of us in astrology come to astrology primarily from a background in the hard sciences. Most of us are lovers of stories, of drama, psychology, theatre, myths, mysticism, and the mysteries of life. In addition to being an astrologer, I am a teacher, and I love teaching as much as I love astrology. I have been teaching children in England in the public school system for 18 years. I hope that in sharing my personal narrative you are able to see a bit of yourself in this story, you can feel that we are in a time of rapid change, and that incorporating some of the Information Age tools into our craft need not kill the spirit of what we are doing, but rather it can enhance it.

New Insights into the Lunation Cycle

As we shall see, one area of my research is the lunation cycle. I found that children are more likely to misbehave at the time of the New Moon than at other times in the 29 1/3 day cycle from one New Moon to the next one. This contradicts some expectations that poor behaviour will increase at the Full Moon. Well, this is exactly why I love Model Testing! We learn more about exactly how astrology works, and these discoveries inspire us to think in new creative ways to understand what we have observed.

My Story: An Adventure into Astrology Research

I was eating lunch at my desk (yet again) whilst desperately writing end of term reports for my students. I had been trying to organise, as well as justify, the sudden surge in behaviour reports that had been entered in the system by other teachers.

“Must be a Full Moon,” my colleague “joked” from his side of the office.

This simple comment from a non-astrologer made me stop what I was doing and reach for my ephemeris. No, it wasn’t a Full Moon. It was a New Moon.

Assumptions based on agreed interpretations rather than empirical evidence are known as communal reinforcements. A social phenomenon, communal reinforcement was nicely demonstrated by my colleague, who also succeeded in making fun of astrology in the bargain. As he smirked at my abject ignorance for “believing” that what goes on “up there” could possibly have an effect on what happens “down here”, I suddenly realised I could do a most interesting study on adolescent behaviour and lunar phases. However, I had a very difficult problem: I had too much data and not enough time.

Thinking I could get the IT manager to do what I thought was going to be a fairly straightforward job, I scribbled down some of the dates of the New and Full Moons and shot off an email. My email was answered with a very polite “I’d love to help but I’m trying to complete end of term reports too.”

Although it seemed I was not going to be able to test if there were more reports of poor behaviour during the New Moon or Full Moon, the sudden realisation that data could be my friend instead of my enemy was a true epiphany. For a brief, euphoric moment, I imagined a school that consulted a lunar calendar before allocating break and lunch duties.

Many, many years before, I had been a fresh man psychology student at Western Michigan University. I was pleased to have gotten a place at WMU because it had the reputation of being one of the best psychology institutions in the US, largely due to the influence of Professor Jack Michael. The problem was that Jack Michael was the protégé of B.F. Skinner of behavioural psychology fame. I fully expected to train rats and pigeons as part of my degree. I wasn't ready for the crazy statistical methods I had to learn. Out of frustration, I changed my major and vowed I would never look at another statistic for as long as I lived.

All that said, avoiding statistical data in my teaching career was not going to be possible, and I knew just enough about data handling to cope with the huge amount of information that came my way as Head of Year. I knew who my top achievers were, I knew who the naughtiest children in my year group were (and had their parents’ mobile numbers memorised), and from all that data, I knew who I was going to be able to help, and could make pretty safe guesses as to who was going to have to find a new school before the end of year 9.

It was largely due to my unusual position that I was able to spot patterns in the data.

- Boys received far more reports for bad behaviour than girls.
- 11-13 year-olds receive more reports for bad behaviour than 14-16 year-olds.
- 11-13 year-olds were more likely to be in trouble for disruption.
- 14-16 year-olds were more likely to be in trouble for inadequate work.

From outside reading, I also knew that the brain development in adolescence is far more
important than previously thought, and that the majority of it occurred before the age of 13. I also knew there was a clear gender divide.2

“It’s replicable,” I told my boss during a performance management meeting.

“It’s totally expected,” my boss replied. “Everyone knows the younger ones are more difficult.”

“But the brain dev—” I tried again. “Don’t you have reports to write?”

Knowing full well I couldn’t start talking about Jupiter returns and Saturn oppositions, I left well enough alone and began secretly writing my first astrology book, Growing Pains. But I hadn’t forgotten all that data or the question of whether or not children were more likely to misbehave during the Full Moon. I began collecting data on behaviour reports, and before I knew it, I had an exceptionally large database. But I still had no time to analyse it, or at least that was what I told myself. The truth probably came closer to being afraid that my data would lead to no significant results that could answer my question, let alone be of any use besides satisfying my own sense of curiosity.

I did have what is important for any research paper: a clear idea of what I wanted to study. I had a simple question (Are children more likely to misbehave during the Full or New Moon?) that could be answered from the available data if I could just develop the best methodology to bring out an unbiased answer.

After an awful lot of reading what the sceptics had to say about astrology (Ophiuchus, the twins argument, the lack of mechanism, non-replicable results, Sidereal vs. Tropical, precession, the old midwife vs. Jupiter argument. . .Great Goddess it all gets so repetitively!), I resorted to what I thought was the coup de grâce:

“When don’t you study astrology before letting your bias show, scientists?”

“Because,” scientists collectively answered, “I would no more investigate astrology than I would one of my own farts. Both have about the same substance.”3

Yeah, this is the kind of stuff astrologers are up against. And if you think we aren’t, then I would suggest reading Robert Currey’s fine article on how Wikipedia editors used “guerrilla tactics” to ensure astrology was defined as a “pseudoscience.”4

Despite this bias against astrology, if we’re going to carry astrology with some degree of credibility into the next decade, we need to improve our game by taking a good look at why sceptics are so virulently anti-astrology.

Cherry Picking

Cherry picking, and an awful lot of other examples of bias confirmation, is a bit of a problem in the astrological world. The term comes from the notion that a cherry picker would only choose the best, healthiest fruit that would in turn lead an observer to conclude that cherries are exceptionally robust. It’s like when astrologers deliberately choose a chart because it works well with the point they are trying to make. There’s no doubt of good intention, but it doesn’t make for robust research that is going to engage a sceptic on a level beyond running rings around astrologers, who are often seen outside of their own community as people who take advantage of the gullible.

If astrologers are going to claim that there are more computer crashes during periods of retrograde motion of Mercury, a sceptic had better not be able to prove that computers actually crash more often during stations or periods of forward motion. To concentrate only on what fits into a preferred theory is cherry picking. It might make for a compelling performance during an astrology conference lecture but it isn’t going to hold up on a scientific level.

Personal Bias

I used the example of Mercury retrograde because, as it happens, blaming things on Mercury retrograde is one of my biggest pet peeves. Could it be because I have Mercury retrograde nataly and I don’t want to be described as an introvert, or in any of the other negative terms associated with Mercury retrograde?

Sceptics say astrologers are guilty of personal bias because they have vested interests in astrology: we’ve paid for those classes, we stuck our necks out to friends and family to prove how good we are at making predictions (carefully concealing our failures of course), we reject what we don’t like, and we’ve developed our own system of working that only works for us. Which brings me to . . .

Non-Replicable Results

Let’s say an astrologer has made a correct prediction using a secret technique that they are unwilling to disclose so a different astrologer can’t try it out to see if it works. On the surface of this, we can see that the reason why the astrologer has chosen to keep the technique a secret is because they see the astrology market as a competitive one and they don’t want someone else cashing in on their hard work. But to a sceptic, not sharing one’s findings so they can be critically evaluated is a practice of the worst sort. Scientists share their results via “peer review,” which means their work is put to the tests of other scientists. Instead, astrologers tend to publish their findings in an astrology periodical without letting another astrologer test their techniques. What happens is the astrologer in question has all the comfort in exclaiming “well it works for me” if another astrologer questions them. This practice circles back to personal bias and leads to an awful lot of self-congratulation within the astrological community. It also acts as a barrier to the scientific community (who are suspicious of astrologers’ methodologies anyway). Not too different from preaching to the choir, in fact.

Continued Research

Let me be the first one to say that I love studying historical techniques. Historical techniques have incredible informational value, and long may they continue to be resurrected from the shadows of the past. But scientists build upon their techniques so that their results lead to more testing and not only validate previous results but improve upon them, thus leading to further research and new scientific discovery. This is one of the reasons why astrology can be dismissed as “medieval superstition.” It might not be fair, but it’s how a scientist is going to view the situation when an astrologer uses an ancient technique in a modern circumstance.

Lack of Collaboration

A scientist understands that they cannot possibly have the answers to everything. So they reach out to other fields to see what they’ve been doing. In doing this, they continually cross check what they are doing and tighten up the way they are conducting their investigations. Just like astrologers, they probably have blow-outs on social media because someone ridiculed their pet theory, but astrologers never get to see these because we’re too busy clogging everyone’s newsfeed with predictions.

Predictions

Yep, I was there when all those astrologers predicted a win for Hillary Clinton, and I watched the aftermath as all the astrologers who predicted Trump would win rubbed
everyone’s nose in it on social media. A disaster? Or a chance to learn from our mistakes?

Let’s look at coin tossing. How many times would I have to correctly guess the outcome of coin tosses before someone is convinced I have some sort of superhuman predictive skills? Probably a lot fewer than I would have to get right if I said I was using astrology to predict the outcome. We all know that making a prediction is not the same as coin tossing. There are astrological techniques being used. What sceptics almost always point out is that we boast about our accuracies but keep quiet about it when we get our predictions wrong. We’re back to cherry picking results.

The Real Problem?

There are many, many scientific theories that can’t be replicated. We know that scientists get things wrong, too. Look at the disaster (as it were) that was space shuttle Challenger. Consider how many people saw it live on colour television. This awful scientific mistake was there for the world to see. But people didn’t stop believing in science. And science didn’t just give up on space programs. They learned from their mistakes, and they improved on their methods and models of testing. The consequences for getting it wrong in science are far more serious than the blush that comes from the wrong prediction about who will become president.

This thought was my turning point in finding the answer to my question about adolescent behaviour and lunar phases. With all of this in mind, I set out to pre-empt how a sceptic might respond to my paper.

Next steps

My database of behaviour was heaving with over 20,000 entries. I had fields on gender, age (but not date of birth), type of misbehaviour, date of incident, economic status, religion and ethnicity. I was overwhelmed with data and didn’t have a clue as to how I was going to begin to answer the question. Added to this, I was nervous about looking like an idiot in front of my much smarter peers.

I began with a very small sample of data. I had to start somewhere and figured if I had nothing then I could just shut my big mouth about it. I selected 3 lunar months and divided the months into four sections. Then I filtered the data so I could separate the phases of the Moon and record the number of incidents of poor behaviour.

This was the way I divided the lunar month:

- When I manually counted the number of incident sheets, I could easily see there were more incident sheets given during the New Moon phase. That was the moment I knew I had something worth testing.

- It was such a shocking amount of work, I knew I would have to concentrate on the research, and that would mean I would not have the mental energy to carry on teaching adolescents. I decided to take a Sabbatical and apply for research grant from the AFA. To my delight, things fell into place from there.

- Robert Currey was a brilliant help with the statistics, and Dr. Nick Kollerstrom was instrumental in helping me collate the data, as well as assist with the astronomy of the paper.

There was no way I could have done it without either of them.

This was my full methodology:

Data was collected from an educational application called Capita SIMS. All members of staff, irrespective of position, can access this for stored information on all pupils (date of birth, parental contacts, academic progress, attendance, behaviour, achievements, ethnic and religious origins, timetables, etc.). The potential database for this project was massive (over 20,000 entries), so, to make it more manageable, it was reduced to a single academic year (September 2012 - July 2013) of 8,000 entries. A second academic year (September 2009 - July 2010) was added as a means of comparison, as this gave a different cohort of children in the school. The effects would be compared by percentage, and then further results would be assessed through investigating the latitude of the Moon.

The effect of a high latitude Moon was also considered: high node versus low node, i.e. whether syzygy (the generic name for Full and New Moons) was near or far from the Nodal Axis, => high or low lunar latitude. So this investigation has focused on two different lunarto-monthly cycles: Moon phase of 29.5 days (synodic month) and the draconic (nodical) cycle of 27.2 days for Moon to Node (this is not the same as the sidereal orbit-period, despite their period being quite similar).

The celestial latitude of the Moon goes up to five or six degrees north and south of the ecliptic each month, then reaches zero latitude when it crosses over the ecliptic. That happens twice a month, and the Moon is then conjunct one of its nodes, the North Node or the South Node. Note that for the purposes of this study the researcher made no distinction between them, just as the researcher would have made no distinction between north and south celestial latitude. Lunar latitude is totally separate from lunar phase, except that twice yearly they come together in the ‘eclipse seasons’ when eclipses can happen.

The school has a clear behaviour policy with guidelines on what constitutes poor behaviour and how such behaviour should be recorded on the SIMS application. There is no analysis on whether or not the incident sheets are recorded in line with school policy. It is assumed that if the school is using the data, then it must be in line with their own policy.

This data is used by the school to produce reports in order to offer a bespoke education to
all pupils, which is in line with UK government regulations. From the reports, intervention strategies are decided. This can often mean pupils with no academic or behavioural concerns are ignored. For the preliminary research, the reports used were calculated and distributed by a designated information and technology professional, each half term. For the behaviour reports, there was a distinction made between the different types of behaviour, the age, gender of the pupil, and the date the behaviour entry was made by members of staff. The graphs produced were generated by the school but were available to me (and others) as a member of the leadership team. The strength of this data was that personal bias was removed.

The latitude of the Moon had to be added to the data by the astrologer after the preliminary reports had been separated by lunar phases. Again, there is no personal bias in this.

For the data of this project, I created my own data reports for the purpose of examining the number of behaviour sheets recorded for male and female pupils on the new, first quarter, full, and last quarter Moons. For each date, Solar and Lunar celestial longitudes were obtained, and the Sun-Moon angle found, such that New Moon was zero and Full Moon was 180°. Roughly each lunar quarter lasted one week, but it was exactly 90° of the Sun-Moon angle. The syzygy positions (Full and New Moon) were centred on these 90° sectors. The figure shows this. Thus, the Full Moon quadrants spanned 135° to 225° of Sun-Moon angle. One could choose to use a smaller arc e.g., 60° in some future study.

There was no consideration of age or type of behaviour. Only gender and date of issue for the reports were taken into consideration. The numbers of incident sheets were then divided according to dates and calculated to determine at which of the moon phases the behaviour occurred. A noon time was arbitrarily taken for those days on which the demarcation-points fell.

To investigate whether gender could show a correlation between behaviour and lunar phases, the behaviour of boys (who have far higher incidents of poor behaviour overall) and girls was separated.

At the time of data collection, the astrologer was in a position of management in charge of monitoring the behaviour data of one academic year group. Because of this position, the astrologer had access to, and an interest in, the data, outside of astrological interests. It was only after the astrologer had left the post it was realized that there might be enough information to analyse whether or not the phases of the Moon had an effect on behaviour. It must be noted that the data from this school is completely anonymised.

I used a wide range of literature to back up possible reasons for pupils receiving more incident sheets at the New Moon rather than at the Full Moon, and in particular, the New Moon at higher latitudes. I then used the data for a different cohort of pupils and found the results were replicable. I also offered a partial explanation for this result by tying in adolescent circadian cycles with phases of the Moon. Finally, I indicated that there is scope for more research.

I submitted the paper to fulfil my obligations to the AFA, and I also submitted it to another very small astrology newsletter that essentially ignored my research. I waited. Discouraged, I just didn’t think anyone else would take an interest. Eventually, however, I presented my full research at the Kepler Conference in Cape Canaveral earlier this year. I thought that was pretty good going and I didn’t really expect anything more to happen with it.

“My God,” Bill Meridian asked me at the Kepler Conference, “Do you have any idea what you have?”

“As a matter of fact I do,” I told him. “I have a huge database, replicable results, scope for further research and I’ve just had the paper peer-reviewed.”

At this point, I would like to boast that I made Bill Meridian’s jaw drop.

Bill contacted Ronnie Grishman of Dell Horoscope on my behalf and she immediately contacted me to ask about my research.

“I don’t think it’s going to be suitable. It’s ultra-nerdy, packed full of stats and footnotes,” I told her. I couldn’t imagine that a magazine with horoscopes could possibly be interested in my nerdy research. I did one scientific research paper and already I was underestimating the intelligence of astrologers!! As a teacher, my specialty is taking the sting out of complex ideas. Not only was I undermining astrologers, I was undermining my own abilities!

I sent Ronnie my paper in all its finest nerdery and she got back in touch. We met in New York City to discuss how we could make this research more appealing to a broader audience, and it is currently pending publication. I could not have hoped to reach a bigger audience.

The paper will also be published in a different, peer-reviewed format in the Astrological Association’s Correlation. Asking more technically sophisticated colleagues like Peter Marko and Robert Currey for their opinion on my research was a scary thing to do, because I expected my paper to be ripped to shreds. And it was. But guess what? I was able to strengthen my arguments and make my justifications clearer so someone like Geoffrey Dean didn’t get a chance to do the same (and I have been warned that Geoff would be having a go once my paper came out).

I’m thrilled that I can not only fly the flag for serious astronomical research but that I can also support the AFA’s Correlation and all their important historical work, too.

I still envisage a school that consults a lunar calendar before allocating break and lunch duties. I envisage a school that understands that “naughty” children are bored children and therefore need more intellectual stimulation during the New Moon phase (particularly when it is a higher latitude) and during important stages of brain development rather than investing money in intervention during the exam years when they’ve missed the opportunity to make a real difference in a child’s academic progress. But most of all, I envisage a world where astrologers can hold their heads up as keepers of sacred knowledge and rigorous investigators of scientific questions.

I expect I’m going to have a bumpy road in the near future. I know what happened to Michel Gauquelin (not that I’m expecting to have as big an impact as the Gauquelin’s!). But I really hope somewhere, some nerdy, hard-nosed scientist will get a bug up his ass and try to prove me wrong.

These days, thoughts of adding more numbers to my database makes me smile.

References
1. In the UK a “Head of Year” is in charge of the pastoral care of a particular academic year group
3. A real answer to the question of why not study astrology found at: https://forums.digitalspy.com/discussion/1574831/how-can-anyone-take-astrology-seriously/p11

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The Argument That Astrology Does Not Work

The Importance of MODEL TESTING in Astrology

by David Cochrane

One of the biggest criticisms of astrology is simply that astrological ideas are not true. Many people state that astrology is a pseudoscience, a superstition, or that there is no research that supports astrological ideas. There are many ways to respond to this criticism. Addressing this argument communicates some of my deepest thoughts and feelings about astrology.

A Party of Professors

The most recent time that I responded to this criticism of astrology was about a month ago. I was at a small party at the home of my next door neighbor. He is a retired physicist and his wife also has advanced academic degrees. Almost everyone at the party had a PhD. degree. A geneticist with a PhD. from Stanford University asked me what I do. So I told him that I write astrology software, and I repeated, “astrology, not astronomy.” He responded that you can write astrology software without believing in it. I responded, “But I do believe in it.” His response was, “Really?” Several other people listening to our conversation looked at me and waited for my response. There was a pause in the conversations and I had the spotlight. What would I say? What would you say? I describe my response below, but first I will tell you how they responded to my “defense” of astrology. Within about 15 minutes they were enthusiastically asking me about the software, my classes, and my research. Skepticism was quickly replaced with enthusiasm.

Model Building and Model Testing

I explained that people have believed in astrology for thousands of years in most countries, and astrology has taken different forms. There is a staggering number of astrological ideas. It is incredibly more complex than the 12 zodiac signs that they no doubt have heard of.

Then I explained that most of these models are not tested, and they are generally assumed to be superstitions or blind alleys that, like alchemy, have been shown to not work and have been superseded by modern sciences. Almost all of the models related to astrology have never been tested. Notwithstanding, some of the models are giving positive results in our research.

Model Testing

At this point in my conversation at the party you can feel the interest in what I am saying growing. Someone asks, “What kind of research?” I tell them that I have a database of 85,000 birth data and 20,000 of the data have recorded times. We sample the data for the people who have the most Aries or the most Taurus, or other more interesting and sophisticated features, and see if it matches our theories. Now the questions start coming at me in rapid succession. I can feel the excitement, disbelief, and wonder growing.

From here, the conversation progresses to various details about research methods, various kinds of research software, and then off on tangents about the widespread use of astrology in India, etc. My new acquaintances are rapidly becoming friends and they are thrilled at having a door opened and to learn something they had not known about. They respect what I do and I respect and appreciate them for their open minds.

I have had similar experiences at academic conferences that I have attended, where I gave lectures to astronomers and other professionals. One of the prominent key concepts in my response to these questions is Model Building and Model Testing.

What is a Model?

In the 21st century in which we live, the word “model” is used extensively. Whether we engage with people in business, the social sciences, or the hard sciences, the word “model” is ubiquitous. We no longer think of science as discovering a Truth since the modern way of thinking is that we build models and we test them. Any set of ideas that attempts to explain something is a model. Astrological theories are models. The term “model” includes theories, paradigms, causal relationships, and correlations. There are many kinds of models, but what all models have in common is that they explain how something works. Astrology is a model that provides rules for determining likely personality traits and behaviors based on celestial phenomena.

Why Model Testing is Exciting

If there is evidence that a model works, then the model can be used to predict behavior, understand something, and solve problems. It is relatively easy to build models. Testing the model, on the other hand, requires care and attention. Models don’t have to work perfectly to be useful, but need to work a little better than what is expected by chance. If planetary positions have even a mild effect on behavior, then the astrological model can be integrated with other models used to predict what people will purchase, match people for dating services, to see in advance even a mildly greater chance of an accident, and a myriad other applications.

In short, model testing is exciting because positive results from model testing give us the confidence to use our model in practical ways. People in business and in science are always keeping their eye open for improved models and new models. If a model works, we can use it. If a model is not adequately tested, or fails in the tests, we cannot use it. It’s that simple.

The Varieties of Model Testing

Probably you are familiar with the idea of statistical tests to see if there is a relationship between things. You probably have also heard the term “statistically significant”. Just the words “statistics” and “statistical significant” are very uninteresting to most people. Conducting research that strives for statistical significance is one kind of model testing, but in many fields, it is not the most important research method. There are ways to test models that work much better than trying to conduct studies that test for statistical significance. The single most important thing astronomers can do to test a model is to stop cherry picking.

Stop Cherry Picking

Suppose we want to know what Aries means. We wish to confirm whether it is true
that Aries is pioneering and fiery, or whatever we believe that Aries indicates. One of the most exciting ways to find out what Aries means is to select the people from a database who have the most Aries in their charts and see if these people have the traits we expect.

But wait . . . isn’t that what we already do in astrology? No, not quite. Typically what astrologers tend to do is to analyze the charts of famous people, clients, and friends to see if our ideas work with their charts – we discriminate who we want to test to confirm our ideas. The big difference between what we usually do and what I am suggesting is that when we select the people in the database with the most Aries, we have no control over whose charts are going to be part of the research as long as it fits the terms required! For example, if I have selected the people from the database with the most planets in any particular zodiac sign, the database comes up with psychologist Jean Piaget for most Leo and country singer Clint Black for most Aquarius. The selection of charts to work with is not biased by my choice (cherry picked data), but by the references applied to the software.

If you use cherry picked data, then you are still primarily in the Model Building phase and you have not transitioned to the Model Testing phase.

If you use cherry picked data, then you are still primarily in the Model Building phase and you have not transitioned to the Model Testing phase.

You can set up the rules you want for identifying what is the most Aries. You can give greater weight to the Sun, Moon, and Ascendant, and you can include the ruler of the Ascendant. Actually, these details typically make little difference because somebody who has most of their inner planets, including the ruler of the Ascendant, in a particular zodiac sign will come out as one of the people with the most of that zodiac sign.

Because you do not personally select the charts for testing your ideas, we say that the data is not cherry picked. Approaching your research in such a way is regarded by research methods experts as a very good way to test your model because it provides more objective results. If you use cherry picked data, then you are still primarily in the Model Building phase and you have not transitioned to the Model Testing phase.

This is why my professorial friends got very excited and have great appreciation and respect for my work in astrology, just as I appreciate and respect their work in their professions. I am attempting to test the model.

Note that I do not pursue Model Testing because I want to please critics, but because I want to truly figure out how astrology works.

Additionally, sampling people with the most Aries does not in any way limit your creativity or the flexibility with which you interpret the charts. This is a research method that puts no shackles on you in terms of how you interpret the chart, and it enables you to see if your ideas really work.

You can use this research method to learn about almost anything in astrology. For example, I have learned more about what Ceres and Chiron mean by using this research method.

**Crossing the Bridge to Model Testing**

If you would like to transition from Model Building to Model Testing, there are many tools to help you. For example, the **Pegasus Research software** was recently made available by Cosmic Patterns Software.

The Pegasus Research software is the Pegasus program plus an option to have the 85,000 chart data and research features. The 85,000 chart data includes data collected by Michel and Françoise Gauquelin and about 19,000 data that have birth times obtained from a birth certificate or birth record.

I am one of the software developers of this software, but the software would also not be possible without the work of hundreds of other contributors. Just a few of the people whose work is a foundation for the Pegasus Research software are Lois Rodden, Mark McDonough, Richard Smoot, Alois Triendl, Fei Cochran, and Anita Adriano. Anita spent hundreds of hours entering birth data from the comprehensive library of old astrological magazines and journals into the database of 85,000 chart data. Mark, Richard, and Alois built the online AstroDatabank, which is now a wonderful centralized online place for birth data of celebrities to be continuously updated and available free of charge.

**How to Test Models: A Practical Guide**

Given below are some of the most exciting ways to test astrological models. All of these research methods are available in the Pegasus Research software.

1. **INTENSITY SAMPLING WITH ASTROSIGNATURES:** Although “intensity sampling with AstroSignatures” may sound intimidating, an example of this research method is simply analyzing the charts of the people in a database that have the most emphasis of Aries in their charts. This research method is simple, allows you to see if our astrological theories are viable, and challenges the astrologer to use as much creativity and astrological wisdom as possible to determine if the astrological idea is supported by the data.

In Figure 1 is a list of the people who have the most Aries emphasis out of 19,202 chart data and who have a significant amount of online biographical information. This listing is produced by assigning 5 points to the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, and ruler of the Ascendant, 3 points to Mercury, Venus, and Mars, 2 points to Jupiter and Saturn, and 1 point to Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, if they are in the sign of Aries.

- Landru, Henri Désiré, French serial killer of women
- Leopold, Prince, Royalty
- Steel, David, British politician, journalist
- Brown, Ford Maddox, Painter
- Gamble, León, French lawyer and politician
- Cheval, Fredinand, French postman who built "The ideal Palace" in his spare time

![Figure 1. People with the most Aries](image)

2. **SPECIFIC ASTROLOGICAL FACTORS FOR A BEHAVIOR OR TRAIT:** Sometimes we are curious about something very simple and straightforward, like what Sun signs or Moon signs are most common among astrologers. We can use the AstroSignature feature in the Pegasus Research software to do this, and we can also use a convenient simple feature to select zodiac signs, houses, etc.

In Figure 2 is a bar graph of Sun signs for the 657 astrologers. The zodiac signs for Leo and Aquarius are highest. On the other hand, in Figure 3, we see that the Sun signs for 3,646 scientist data collected by the Gauquelin
COCHRANE

shows has Pisces as the most common Sun sign and Sagittarius as the lowest.

Do these results make sense? I think that they do! Earlier in this paper I mentioned that one of the people with the most Leo is psychologist Jean Piaget. It appears that Leo is concerned with individuality, and Leo is not necessarily egotistical, self-centered, or theatrical. Jean Piaget developed theories on how children develop into healthy individuals. Astrologers help people discover and develop their unique individuality.

Also, other research we have conducted strongly suggests that Pisces is not as “spacey” as its reputation.

What is most exciting about these ideas is that they are grounded in observations of data that we have not cherry picked. Also, we are using tools that enable us to visualize and analyze the data in ways that the ancient astrologers could only have dreamed of.

For example, in Figure 4 the angular distance between Mercury and Uranus in the birth charts of 657 astrologers is shown in a line graph. Along the bottom of the graph is the angular distance between Mercury and Uranus. The highest peak in the graph occurs at 33 degrees. In the graph, we have a red arrow pointing to this peak and to the left of the peak you see the number “21” which means that 21 astrologers have this angular distance. At the bottom of the graph we can see that this peak falls between 30 and 36 so it is 33 degrees. In this graph, the angular distances are grouped in 3-degree sections so, in other words, the graph shows the total number of astrologers who Mercury and Uranus separated by an angular distance of 0 to 3 degrees, 3 to 6 degrees, 6 to 9 degrees up to 177 to 180 degrees.

3. EXPLORING DATA WITH BAR CHARTS AND LINE GRAPHS: Experts in data mining sometimes use the phrase “make friends with your data”. Making friends with the data means getting an intuitive feeling for the data by visualizing it. For example, suppose that you suspect that astrologers may have aspects between Mercury and Uranus or that scientists may have aspects between Mercury and Saturn.

Rather than limiting ourselves to seeing if particular aspects occur with particular orbs, we can produce a graph that shows the angular distances between the planets.

We can also see in the graph that only 3 astrologers have a Mercury-Uranus angle between 78 and 81 degrees. One of the peaks is near the trine aspect of 120 degrees. You can study the graph to see other angular distances that are either very high or very low for these astrologers.

Figure 2. Sun signs of 657 astrologers.

Figure 3. Sun signs of 3,646 scientists.
This line graph allows us to visualize how the angular distance between Mercury and Uranus varies for astrologers. We can use our imagination and our astrological knowledge to see if we can make any sense of the results. We can also look at angular distances like 60 degrees and 120 degrees. Being able to see how the Mercury-Uranus angular distance varies for astrologers gives us a lot more information and insight than just seeing if some particular aspect with some particular orb that we guess or assume is important occurs frequently.

Modern researchers call this kind of research “data visualization” and data visualization is considered to be extremely important, especially if there are experts in the field who can analyze this data and come up with creative ideas on why the data is distributed in this way.

Because the total in this graph are totals for each 3 degrees there are a total of 60 values or “sectors” because 3 times 60 = the 180 degrees of possible angular distances. In the software we can easily change the number of sectors and this allows us to visualize the data in different ways and help us make discoveries.

At first, we may not be able to make any sense of this graph of Mercury-Uranus angular distances. However, as we study the graph we may begin to make some interesting observations. For example, I noticed that the Mercury-Uranus angular distances are above average for the three septile aspects: the septile, biseptile, and triseptile aspects.

For most astrologers this observation that septile aspects occur frequently may not be...
interesting, but in my astrological work I place a lot of emphasis on minor aspects and septile aspects. Septile aspects incline to be deep and meditative so these aspects make sense to me for astrologers.

As shown in Figure 5, the 1/7 or septile aspect (51 3/7 degrees), the 2/7 or biseptile aspect (102 6/7 degrees) and the 3/7 or trisep-tile aspect (154 2/7 degrees) occur commonly for astrologers.

From these graphs we see very strong evidence that the only major aspect likely to occur more often in the charts of astrologers is the trine aspect. Septile aspects appear to be important. I have seen long discussions on Facebook among astrologers about what aspects and zodiac signs are likely in the charts of astrologers and other groups of people. With these research tools we are able to answer these questions with much more confidence than we can from endless hours of looking through chart files of clients or trying to remember what we have seen in the charts of astrologers! We are in an Information Age where we can get answers to these questions.

The septile aspects are a family of aspects that are also known as 7th harmonic aspects (dividing the 360 circle into 7, and multiples of this division, such as 51.4 or 102.8, or 154.2 degrees, etc. . . are all part of the 7th harmonic).

The Pegasus Research software allows us to see if this family of septile aspects occurs more often than other families of aspects. In Figure 4 we see a bar chart of how often Mercury and Uranus occur in harmonics 1 to 180 in the charts of astrologers. A technical note for astrologers familiar with harmonic charts is that the orb used in Figure 4 is 16 degrees in the harmonic chart. If you are unfamiliar with harmonic charts, this orb may sound very large but it is reasonable according to most astrologers who use harmonics.

In Figure 6, I have circled in blue the totals for the 7th harmonic and the 15th harmonic aspects (24, 48, 72 degrees, etc . . .). These results confirm what the line graph in Figure 4 also indicated: the septile aspects between Mercury and Uranus are very common for astrologers! Being able to visualize the data in different ways and to confirm what we are seeing is very helpful. We can also see in Figure 6 that 15th harmonic aspects also occur very often in the birth charts of these 657 astrologers.

Now we can do something that is very helpful in our research: we can compare how often these aspects occur relative to how often these aspects occur during the time range in which the astrologers were born. In other words, we can have the software calculate the Mercury-Uranus angle for every day from the birth date of the first-born (oldest) to the last-born (youngest) of these of these 657 astrologers and compare this to the astrologers. This is known as a control group.

A control group is a group of charts that we can compare our findings to in order to see if our findings really are different from what is expected by chance. Mercury and Uranus change speeds. Planets speed up and slow down and even appear to go in retrograde motion. Because of these changing speeds of planets, it is possible that Mercury and Uranus are more often in septile aspect than other aspects by chance. It may be true for everyone, not just astrologers, that septile aspects between Mercury and Uranus are common. One very good way to make a control group is to calculate charts for every day during the duration, that the astrologers were born. This is our control group and we compare the results for astrologers to this control group.

Fortunately, in the Pegasus Research software we can very easily compare the aspects and harmonics to the control group.

To summarize our findings from exploring the data: We have observed that the only major Mercury-Uranus aspect that is most prominent among astrologers is the trine aspect. There is also evidence that minor aspects like septiles (51.5), quintiles (72), and deciles (36) may also occur at a comparatively higher rate.
our personal experiences and opinions to ideas that are strongly based in data that was not cherry picked.

Note that these research findings do not “prove” astrology. In the 21st century the goal in most research is simply to build better models. We are building and testing much better models than has ever been possible in the entire history of astrology, thanks to the marvels of the Information Age. Eventually astrological models may be definitively and unambiguously confirmed, but that is not our immediate concern. To demonstrate beyond any doubt that astrology works, we need to state the specific results that are expected from a research study, obtain those expected results, and repeat the research numerous times. However, in any kind of research, whether it is in medicine, psychology, or any other field, researchers do not jump directly into these kinds of studies. Data visualization with data that is not cherry picked is the kind of research that is highly respected as giving much more important information than the way that we usually confirm ideas in astrology.

AstroSignature for a Behavior or Trait: We can combine our findings into a formula. The word “AstroSignature” just means a combination of astrological factors. For example, we can make an AstroSignature for astrologers that consists of these factors:

- Sun in Leo: 5 points
- Sun in Aquarius: 3 points
- Mercury 7th harmonic Uranus: 10 points
- Mercury 5th harmonic Uranus: 3 points
- Mercury 10th harmonic Uranus: 3 points

This AstroSignature is a guess as to what astrological factors are likely to incline a person to be an astrologer. It is an educated guess rather than a wild guess. Our findings show that Mercury in 7th harmonic aspect to Uranus is common for astrologers and this finding is consistent with ideas in Vibrational Astrology. Agreeing with theory as well as being confirmed by the data gives us some confidence so we give more points to these aspects than to some of the other astrological factors in our AstroSignature.

AstroSignatures can be evaluated with hypothesis tests.

5. HYPOTHESIS TESTS OF ASTROSIGNATURES: The crowning achievement of research is to get positive results in a hypothesis test. A hypothesis test means that we have a specific hypothesis and we test the hypothesis with new data. In a hypothesis test, the theory that was developed with existing data is confirmed with new data. A person who is a cynic regarding astrology can argue against any evidence for astrology except consistently positive results from hypothesis tests. However, our goal in research is to better understand how astrology works, not to convince cynics. Successful results from hypothesis tests are usually achieved only after a great amount of research has been done using the research methods described above.

An example of a hypothesis test is to:

1. Produce Astrology AstroSignature scores for astrologers whose data you have not analyzed before
2. Produce Astrology scores for musicians whose data you have not analyzed before,
3. Mathematically compare the scores for astrologers and musicians to see if the scores for astrologers would not occur by chance.

If the probability of achieving the result is very low and the study is replicated many times, then the findings are considered to give definitive and unambiguous evidence of the validity of the theory. There is no absolutely clear cutoff point for how impressive the results need to be and how often they need to be replicated, but if the probability of obtaining the results is less than 5% and you repeat the study with new data 5 or 6 times with this result, then the results are so impressive that the theory starts becoming accepted as very reliable and trustworthy. Drugs are accepted as safe, and cars and airplanes are considered to be safe with this level of support from research. The point of "feeling safe" depends also on the consequences and how difficult it is to conduct the research. For example, the consequence of being wrong about a component in an airplane being reliable could cost thousands of lives in an airplane crash, so more replications of a study are required in this case than for a situation where an incorrect conclusion would not have such dire consequences.

T-Test

One common mathematical analysis of this kind of data is called a t-test. In the Pegasus Research software, you can follow all of these steps for a hypothesis test without needing to use statistics software or any other software. Even the t-test analysis can be done within the Pegasus Research software. Note that the term “test” is used in different contexts to mean different things. The term “t-test” is a mathematical analysis of the results of a research study to determine how likely it is that the results would be obtained at a random rate. So, the lower the percentage of the result, the more reliable the results would be because it eliminates the notion of “chance” in the results.

Suppose you flip a coin 100 times and it comes up heads 55 times. Is this result different from our expected random probability of getting heads 50 times? Mathematical statistics can answer this question. If the probability of getting heads 55 times is very low, such as 5%, then researchers say the results are impressive because it is very unlikely that this would occur by random chance.

Here is an example of putting these terms together in context: “Sally conducted a hypothesis test that transiting Mars square natal Uranus is common when accidents occur. She ran a t-test on her findings and found that the probability of her findings is less than 5%. This confirms that transiting Mars square natal Uranus does occur more often when accidents occur.”

Comparing AstroSignatures in this way is also sometimes very helpful while you are building an AstroSignature. A distinguishing characteristic of a hypothesis test is that you collect new data and do the analysis on this new data. However, running t-tests on AstroSignatures that you are developing is very helpful to see how well your model is working. If the results of the t-test on your training data are poor, then you know that you need to improve the AstroSignature.

Hypothesis tests can also be conducted on forecasts, as described below.

6. PAIRS ASTROSIGNATURES: Paired charts, such as husband and wife or birth and death, can be analyzed in a similar way as AstroSignatures for individuals.
7. ASTROSIGNATURE FORECASTS: This research feature in the Pegasus Research software is very powerful and flexible. A graph of your forecast is produced and this graph is very helpful for seeing how well your theory works, and to figure out how to improve the formula. In Figure 7 is a graph of an Accident Proneness Forecast AstroSignature for Princess Diana for 3 years. The graph peaks on the date of her fatal accident. Similar graphs can be produced for the day that John Lennon was assassinated and for other accidents.

The AstroSignature Forecast graph not only shows us how well our forecast is working, but it also points out dates when our forecast is wrong. By analyzing transits, progressions, or other forecast methods we are using for these dates when our forecast does not work, we improve our understanding of how to make the forecasts and our forecasts improve.

Modern researchers place a lot of emphasis on data visualization, and this kind of data visualization is extremely helpful. One wonderful feature of AstroSignature Forecasts is that we can create an AstroSignature Forecast, conduct research on it to determine if it is working, and we can produce the forecast for individuals. This is exciting because we can directly apply the results of our research to clients and customers!

Free Online Learning Resources
I am optimistic that astrology is in the early stages of a transformation from a field dominated by Model Building to a field that has a much better balance of Model Building and Model Testing. This transformation moves astrology forward to a new level and also provides the effective response that is needed to the cynics who doubt the validity and usefulness of astrology. Over the past 10 to 20 years several developments are converging to propel astrology forward: (1) Research methods, such as data mining methods, for example are improving, (2) Software to conduct research has improved dramatically, (3) As we conduct research and study research methods, astrologers are becoming more sophisticated in how to conduct research, (4) The combination of large data collections and new research software now makes it possible to conduct research, and (5) Free tutorial videos on how to conduct research and how to use research software are available.

Additional free tutorial videos are available to better understand Model Testing and the results being obtained from Model Testing, and they are being watched by many thousands of people. Tremendous excitement and enthusiasm about Model Testing in astrology is building. Not only astrologers, but also professors, business people, and people in their 20s and early 30s are seeing that astrology is becoming a part of the Information Age. We live in times of enormous change and astrology is about to make its greatest transformation ever. The awareness of the potential of astrology to deliver reliable and useful information is spreading rapidly primarily from the availability of these free tutorial videos. A community of people who are conducting research and sharing the results of their research is building and it is exciting to be a part of it.

References
1. The Pegasus Research software is available from Cosmic Patterns Software. www.AstroSoftware.com
6. Youtube channel for tutorial videos in astrology, including research: youtube.com/c/DavidCochrane100

David Cochrane is the author of two astrology books, a regular lecturer at international astrology conferences, instructor at the Avalon School of Astrology, computer programmer at Cosmic Patterns Software, past President of ISAR, has created over 260 free tutorial videos available at youtube.com, author of numerous articles and research papers, and pioneer in the development of Vibrational Astrology. He has collaborated with dozens of astrologers on astrological software products and research projects. davidc@astrosoftware.com
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On September 22nd the Sun enters the sign of Libra marking the beginning of the fall season in the Northern hemisphere, as the Sun crosses the celestial equator from north to south. This is the second time within the calendar year when day and night are equal in duration. In the Northern Hemisphere, we are preparing for the nights to grow longer and thus darkness to prevail. Thanks to the power of the sunlight we have been given the fruits of nature but also blessed with spiritual growth. Nature is preparing to hibernate and Persephone farewells to her mother - the harvest goddess Demeter and returns to her husband Hades – the underworld god. In the same way, we celebrate the seasonal shift and show our gratefulness for what we have insofar received.

The September Equinox is about preparation and balance. The personality and soul must tune in with each other in order to proceed. The airy element of Libra describes the intellectual human spirit which is preparing itself to gain deeper wisdom.

In the chart of 2017 September Equinox, Venus – ruler of Libra – is placed in Virgo in close sextile to Moon in Scorpio - both planets are in the signs considered to be in their Fall. However, Mercury - Venus' dispositor – is in Virgo in its domicile in tight trine to Moon's dispositor, Pluto. This reflects the power of deeper understanding and the aversion of the evolved soul towards superficiality.

Knowledge will be revealed as this is the necessary weapon to stand the tests and challenges that follow. Dig deep and discover your treasures but also cast off your emotional and behavioral restraints.

Saturn's square to Mercury demands devotion and mental discipline; seriousness and responsibility are required in our efforts in order to find tranquility.

The opposition of Mars in Virgo and Neptune in Pisces can bring delusion or misuse of our personal power but can also compel us to pull our dreams and ideals into practice. The stellium in Virgo describes the need to separate the wheat from the chaff.

The last Jupiter/Uranus opposition of this cycle impels us to liberate. Start from within and ultimately you may apply it as well in all areas of your life such as your relationships and friendships or your profession. See where this opposition lands in your chart to see what needs to be upgraded, broken free, and expanded. Ride this powerful wave wisely.

**Full Moon of October 5th at 12°43 of ♍/★

The challenging Libra-Aries lunation is squared by Pluto in Capricorn, adding emotional intensity because of a need for change in our relations and security concerns. We have to keep the scale in balance which suggests that we must find a middle way to satisfy our needs without...
The rulers of the Full Moon Mars and Venus, are in exact conjunction in Virgo at 19°11’13’, marking the beginning of their two-year cycle (until August 24, 2019). Saturn squares the conjunction, giving a serious tone and a sense of duty. Perhaps this is a time to examine if our relationships are strong enough to continue, and accordingly, what needs to happen for them to solidify. Some may feel unloved or trapped in the routine. Virgo in Virgo expresses herself in a more rational rather than emotional way. Being in mutual reception to Mercury in Libra, there is a tendency to for criticism in an attempt to bring balance and satisfaction. However, this is mostly a projection of our own inner inadequacies, so we’d better search for the real cause of our sense of lack. Be careful, this is a period when relationships can easily come to a breaking point.

JUPITER IN SCORPIO – October 10’17 to November 8’18

A new cosmic chapter opens on October 10th as Jupiter enters in the sign of Scorpio. The planet of justice and of spiritual and physical expansion is descending to the underworld, the residence of Pluto. Jupiter magnifies the qualities of the sign both positive and negative ones, depending on the stage we are in and whether we are in a position to adjust. Although Jupiter is connected to optimism, this transit cannot be compared to a playground; Scorpio is not a light-hearted sign, but generates a pull to explore the hidden aspects of the choices we’ve made and the situations we are currently facing.

Jupiter, the great Teacher will test us. For the next year to come, our emotional and spiritual practice will be under close examination, having the opportunity to change and bring growth. We may need to re-examine our beliefs and confront our teachers. On a personal level, if we refuse to accept our faults or recognize the behavioral patterns leading to false choices, then instead of expansion, we may experience limitation. Scorpio is a relationship sign and while Jupiter in Libra produced the need to interact and unite, in the present placement is about the willingness to take relationships a step deeper. We need to go beyond mere co-existence, to create deeper bonds, intimacy and trust. However, when insecurities emerge, feelings of dominance, suspicion, and jealousy may surface, giving a hard time to ourselves and the ones we love.

Jupiter in Scorpio carries a lot of inner strength and willpower. There are tremendous amounts of passion so each time we set a goal, this energy can help us persist, transform, and endure. Just be aware that in Scorpio, fear, bottled-up feelings and frustrations are also hidden so make sure your primary motives are in integrity.

On October 26th, the Sun conjoins Jupiter at 03°31’, opening the new cycle for development and advancement related to the areas described. Check where this conjunction occurs in your natal chart and this is the area you will get most opportunities for expansion with the help of your willingness and positive attitude, until November 26, 2018.

New Moon of October 19th at 26°35’

The New Moon in Libra brings the need to liberate, be unique and original. There is an urge to make a fresh start but in most cases the primary demand is to be released from emotional burdens and outdated patterns. Our approach tends to be unconventional which may be good once our spirit is in a conscious state of mind or it can be dangerous if one is argumentative only to gain the attention of the others. The trine of Saturn to Uranus is still active and operates as a referee, as it helps us give form to new and radical ideas, bridge traditional with innovative practices or simply improve the older ones.

MARS IN LIBRA - October 22 to December 9

As from October 22nd Mars is found in the home base of his alter-ego Venus, Libra. Mars is not feeling very comfortable in this placement as he is a planet that represents our personal urges and desires, while Libra hints at the need to make compromises for harmony and serenity. For this period of time, our main focus is in the areas of relationships and partnerships. Mars is masculine and assertive so we have to be...
careful about instigating battlefields, especially as we fear making those compromises. Nevertheless, in some occasions we may have to defend ourselves and Mars can now give us the courage to confront those who may undervalue us or even be unfair to us. On the other hand, Mars in Libra gives us the urge to be more sociable and introduce new people in our lives, a fact which can benefit us both personally and professionally.

The most challenging days are around November 19 – Mars/Pluto square at 17°30’ - and December 1st – Mars/Uranus opposition at 25°00’ – so try to choose your battles cautiously and calculate in advance the consequences of your actions.

Full Moon of November 4th at 11°59’ of ♒/M. Jupiter in the equation who is very close to the Sun, there may be a tendency to indulge ourselves or be very optimistic and open to new ideas and relationships. This is a potent configuration that encourages growth and development.

The ruler of the lunation – Venus, is in Libra feeling extremely comfortable as this is her home. In this sign, Venus is reaching out to bring more understanding and fairness between people, encouraging relationships. The exact opposition to Uranus could however not allow compromises since Uranus seeks uniqueness and change. In matters of romance, friendships and professional partnerships try not to jeopardize the stability you already have by risking to try something new. Do not act impulsively. The same stands for your financial affairs; spend tight and if you’re willing to make an investment you should first ask the advice of an expert.

New Moon of November 18 at 26°11’, 19’

This is an extremely powerful New Moon, the energy of which has to be properly handled and channeled. The 26th degree of Scorpio stands opposite the Fixed Star Algol – the Gordon Medusa beheaded by hero Perseus. It is from him that starts the renowned generation of Hercules and now Hercules is ready to redeem for all the sins. Are you willing to set yourself free from negative experiences or will you allow yourself to continue being in emotional pain and difficult situations? The traditional ruler of the lunation – Mars, is in its detriment sign Libra in tight square to the modern ruler Pluto. That’s a tough and simmering energy, asking us to make changes in our lives. Explore where the New Moon and the Mars/Pluto square sit in your chart to assess what areas of your life need a radical change. At worst, there may be a tendency to violence, manipulation and dangerous confrontations if anger, jealousy and inferiority complexes take over. This can be a challenging period for national affairs, especially for countries having sensitive planets close to these degrees such as USA Aquarius Moon 27°10′, North Korea Scorpio ASC at 25°44′ or country leaders such as the Greek prime minister with a Scorpio Moon at 26°06′.

MERCURY RETROGRADE CYCLE – Dec 3 to 23, 2017

Mercury retrograde cycle lasts from December 3rd to December 23rd, from 29°18′ to 13°00′ degree of Sagittarius. His station phase starts on the exact date of the Full Moon at 11°40′ of ☿/x, in which plays a key role as the ruler of the lunation. Mercury is in tight conjunction to Saturn; the luminaries however are in exact square to Neptune who is in turn forms an exact trine Jupiter. This describes a highly spiritual theme during which we are asked to fully consolidate and understand what we have learned, seen, heard, and experienced. Steadfast and dogmatic beliefs must be reconsidered and allow expansion to the limits of our mind and perception. We must have faith and connect with our inner voice and listen. Meditate! Read! Do whatever you feel may bring your spirit closer to comprehension. We also have the chance to re-plan our goals and aspirations. On the other side, we should be extra careful when driving or traveling. Transportation and media may come under the spotlight or problems may emerge such as strikes, scandals and accidents.

MARS IN SCORPIO – December 9 to January 26, 2018

From December 9th Mars enters in Scorpio, a sign in which he shares governance with Pluto. Mars’s transit in Scorpio will promote fellow Scorpio traveller Jupiter’s principles by fighting for personal beliefs, as if it is a matter of life and death. In this placement we may become emotionally driven and most often individuals are not even aware of it. If we combine the Martian flare with the watery element

Mars’s transit in Scorpio will promote ...
... Jupiter’s principles by fighting for personal beliefs, as if it is a matter of life and death.

NEW MOON 26 SCORPIO
Nov 18, 2017

New Moon - Algol
Mars/Pluto square
of Scorpio we get boiling water and lots of steam looking for a way out to ease off. But has such an enormous power that it can move the mountains. If handled properly we have the opportunity to cope successfully with all the challenges we meet, to demolish the obstacles and achieve our goals. The battle extends to the ground of the personality. This could be the best period to face our fears, free from meaningful attachments and give birth to an awakened self. Power struggles, jealousy and emotional dependencies will bring nothing more than problems and breakups. Economic controversies are possible to arise in both personal and global level.

New Moon December 18th at 26°31’

The New Moon in the 26th degree of Sagittarius along with retrograde Mercury and Venus, escort Saturn to his final steps in this sign. This is preparation for the new era starting two days later when Saturn moves to Capricorn. A reminder of what we’ve been taught, the spiritual journey we took and the experiences we gained are a fundamental asset for our intellectual and belief system. Knowledge is power and the time has come to use it wisely.

SATURN IN CAPRICORN – December 20, 2017 to December 17, 2020

The lord of karma is coming home! On December 20th we welcome Saturn in Capricorn, the sign of his traditional rulership - for esoteric astrology as well. Saturn’s main principle is to build and maintain the order by applying the Law, both on spiritual and material dimensions. Capricorn holds the Gate for the matured souls that consciously participate in the worldly affairs. From now one, we are in the process of maturation through hard work. Don’t worry, we won’t be enslaved. We are asked to be committed and responsible towards ourselves, our goals, are relationships, our lives. Responsibility cannot be a boring duty; this is not a job we take in order to gain respect, or a marriage we do to improve our status. It is about making choices out of respect and cognizance, be humble whenever we give the society our wisdom. Authority will be tested throughout this journey, bringing challenges in the global dominations. The world is preparing itself for enormous changes and refinement so be there as we generate a better place. We will further explore this influence in the next December Solstice edition.

THE OPA CAFÉ

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, October 1, 2017

10 a.m. Pacific time, 6 p.m. UK

The Astrology of Natural Disasters

As the earth seems to experience natural events in greater frequency and intensity, we invite you to join and participate in this informal discussion among us, astrology enthusiasts, to explore the astrological influences triggering these events.

Meet us at the Café on October 1

A link to the webinar will be sent out to the membership the week beforehand.

Bring your ideas, musings, experience and questions.
A Reflection of Life Cycles through the Prenatal Eclipse and the Metonic Cycles

by Gali Sat Puran Livneh

When we look at the known history of astrology, eclipses were always used as a powerful technique for prediction. They were identified as critical times in which things can change dramatically. In modern astrology, we give great importance to the personal conscious process of the person, and yet using the ancient knowledge of eclipses as an important reference.

The prenatal eclipse is the last eclipse, Solar and Lunar (If there was one after the Solar Eclipse) before the time of birth. It may have happened a week or a few months before we were born (eclipses occur roughly every six months). When we analyze the prenatal eclipse, we first want to understand its meaning for the person, as it reflects the soul’s mission to evolve in this life and an indicator of karma. It can be compared to a non-physical subtle body that captures the soul’s records in it.

Subsequently, we need to check if transits and progressions will be activating the degree of the prenatal eclipse and its ruler. In addition, it is also important to look at the Metonic cycles of that eclipse – the Metonic cycle repeats every 19 years, when an Eclipse occurs around the same degree and same date. We can have the Metonic cycle return a few times during our life, varying between 2 to 5 times. For example, the Metonic cycle of the last Solar Eclipse at 28 Leo on August 21, 2017 will occur 19 years from now on August 21, 2036.

The range of influence of the prenatal eclipse Metonic cycle return, and of eclipses in general, can be very wide, even more than one year.

The Metonic cycle Return (prenatal eclipse reoccurrence) can be very significant to the person’s life as a karmic or fated event. Along with other transits and progressions occurring during a Metonic cycle, it can stimulate fated events that can change the person’s life. It can also reflect a shift of consciousness, but what makes it different than other times of deep insights and changes, is that it’s most probably an event that is accentuating our evolutionary direction and karma.

While the prenatal eclipse can be referred to as a fated point in the chart, it doesn’t necessarily mean that it will cause a cataclysm when it is transited. Fated events can also change our lives in a positive way and bring joy and satisfaction, and contribute to our evolution. We can easily recognize that not everything is under our control and that fated events can take us outside our comfort zone. While we may feel overwhelmed when this happens, the events can create something new in our lives or improve existing circumstances. Looking at these times, through the prenatal eclipse, we can get a deeper understanding of what evolutionary work needs to be done in this life.

In the following examples, I will demonstrate how we can work with the prenatal eclipse, solar and lunar, to find important times and opportunities in one’s journey.

Life - Lia

Lia was trying to get pregnant with in vitro fertilization for 3 years. She had two miscarriages in the process, with the first one being around the Nov 22, 2013 Solar Eclipse – it was conjunct her natal Sun, Mercury, Neptune in Scorpio. Mercury is the ruler of her 5th house (associated with children), the South Node and her Prenatal Solar Eclipse at 18 degrees Virgo, on the South Node and conjunct Pluto. With this Prenatal Eclipse, her soul’s intention in this lifetime is to focus on her self-actualization and mode of operation, to make sure that in this incarnation things will work as intended, and to find the balance between what she can do, and what is beyond her control (North Node in Pisces + Mercury and the Sun conjunct Neptune).

There’s a deep need to transform and purify herself, perhaps to repair things that she felt guilty about. In this life, there’s a need to do things differently and be humbler in the process; she might need to lose or give up on something in order to make room for new elements in her life. In Lia’s case, she chose to give up on relationships and devoted herself to the process of getting pregnant.

After 3 years of going through this exhausting and emotionally charged process, she finally got pregnant in 2014 and gave birth in May 2015, four months before a Metonic return that occurred on September 13, 2015, with a solar eclipse in 20 degrees Virgo.

...what makes [the Metonic cycle Return] different than other times of deep insights and changes, is that it’s most probably an event that is accentuating our evolutionary direction and karma.
Here we can see the strong effect of eclipses and how they work, even months before they take place.

Beyond the **prenatal SOLAR eclipse**, the closest eclipse before her birth was actually a **prenatal LUNAR eclipse at 2 degrees Aries**. On March 2015, prior to her giving birth, there was a solar eclipse in 29 Pisces that was conjunct that prenatal lunar eclipse. This example can confirm that the prenatal Lunar eclipse is also important and should be referred to as much as the Solar eclipse.

**Death – Walt Disney**

Walt Disney was an animator, actor and film producer. His Disney movies amusement park and popular children’s characters like Micky Mouse, are well known worldwide.

**Disney’s Prenatal Solar Eclipse is at 20 degrees Scorpio in his natal 2nd house.**

Along with his artistic talents, he was also an entrepreneur and business man who accumulated great wealth and also went through bankruptcies.

In 1928, Disney created the animation of *Oswald the rabbit*, and his work was distributed through universal studios. He wanted to continue developing this series, which was very successful and popular, but Universal studios refused and he had to leave most of his animation work and team behind him. This event coincided with a Metonic return of his **Prenatal Solar Eclipse on November 12, 1928 at 20 degrees Scorpio**.

Disney was a heavy smoker and in 1966 he was diagnosed with lung cancer, leading to having his left lung removed. 10 days after his 65th birthday, on December 15, 1966, his body collapsed and he died. Just a few weeks prior to that, on November 12, 1966, was a Solar Eclipse at 20 degrees Scorpio, again a Metonic cycle return for Disney’s prenatal eclipse.

**Rebirth - Caitlyn Jenner**

Caitlyn Jenner is a well-known trans-gender who was formerly known as Bruce Jenner, the Olympic medalist who won gold medal in Montreal Olympic Games in 1976. In 2015, Jenner, who was participating in the TV show *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* as the Kardashian’s step dad, announced publicly that she transitioned to being a woman named Caitlyn.

**Caitlyn’s prenatal Solar Eclipse is at 28 degrees Libra.** I interpret this placement in Libra as the soul's desire to get to know both sides of any polarity, in this case, both gender polarities. After keeping her secret for most of her life, she finally decided to break free and live as she always wanted, to completely
experience the 'other side,' relinquishing in such a way the need to please others.

In summer 1976 as he participated in the Olympic Games in Montreal, Jenner set a new personal record and won a gold medal, just a few weeks prior to a Metonic return of his prenatal Solar Eclipse which occurred on October 23, 1976 at 29 degrees Libra.

In April 2015, Jenner came out publicly as a transgender woman, a process that took a great deal of time to prepare and process. In April 2014, a year prior to her public announcement, there was a Solar Eclipse at 29 Aries – in direct opposition to her prenatal eclipse, and a lunar eclipse at 25 degrees Libra. In addition, in October 23, 2014 was a solar eclipse at 1 degree Scorpio, conjunct both her Prenatal Eclipse (28 Libra), Ascendant and Sun. A good time to make the transformation, no doubt.

**Games of Throne**

**WILLEM ALEXANDER, KING OF THE NETHERLANDS**

In ancient astrology, eclipses were often related to kings and royalty.

Willem-Alexander, King of the Netherlands was born during an eclipse season, 3 days after a Lunar Eclipse at 4 degrees Scorpio. His Prenatal Solar Eclipse was in Nov 12, 1966 at 19 degrees Scorpio, so both eclipses are important to look at.

In April 30, 2013, he became the King of the Netherlands, replacing his mother, Queen Beatrix. This event also happened in an eclipse season, and a few days before the coronation ceremony took place, on April 25, 2013, was a lunar eclipse at 6 degrees Scorpio – the return of his prenatal Lunar Eclipse. In addition, there was also a Solar Eclipse on Nov 13, 2012, at 22 degrees Scorpio, the Metonic cycle return of his prenatal Solar Eclipse.

**A LOOK INTO THE (POSSIBLE) FUTURE**

As queen Elizabeth II is planning to retire and coronate her son Charles to be the next King of England, I suspect that things might not happen as planned. Charles’s son, Prince William, was born a few hours after a Solar Eclipse at 29 degrees Gemini. This happens to also be his Prenatal Eclipse, since he was born after the eclipse happened that same day.

On June 21, 2020, there’s going to be a Solar Eclipse in 0 degrees Cancer. This is the Metonic cycle eclipse return for William. The Cancer/Capricorn axis is very dominant with the royal family. His wife, Kate was born on a Lunar Eclipse day in Cancer. Their son, Prince
George was born on a Full Moon in Cancer, Queen Elizabeth II was born with the Nodes of the Moon in Capricorn / Cancer and her Prenatal Eclipse is at 23 degrees Capricorn.

Since we know things are going to change in the royal house, the eclipses in 2018 /2019, in the Cancer/Capricorn axis are very significant in describing the events. The Metonic cycle return of Prince William might imply that there's a significant event coming up for him around the years 2019 / 2020.

In addition, Kate, born on the day of a Lunar eclipse at 19 degrees Cancer, will experience the Metonic cycle return of her Prenatal Lunar Eclipse on January 10, 2020, at 20 degrees Cancer. It seems that for both the Duke and the Duchess, the following years are going to carry important and fated events.

Additionally, the year 2020 is when a new Pluto/Saturn conjunction cycle occurs at 22 Capricorn, a cycle that both William and Kate were born under. It is quite plausible that William will ascend the King's throne sooner planned, or otherwise, other significant life changing event will take place.

Recommended Eclipses Ephemeris is in Bernadette Brady's Book: The Eagle and the Lark.

Chart Data
Lia, November 17, 1969, 4:10 pm, Tel Aviv, Israel, AA *

* Walt Disney, December 5, 1901, 00:35 am, Chicago, Illinois, USA, A
* Jenner, Caitlyn, October 28, 1949, 6:16 am, Mount Kisco, NY, USA, AA
* Willem-Alexander, King of the Netherlands, April 27, 1967, 7:57 pm, Utrecht, Netherlands, AA

Bibliography


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Disney
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caitlyn_Jenner

Gali Sat Puran Livneh, ISAR.CAP, is a professional astrologer from Israel. She teaches astrology, offers consultations and lecture in conferences around the world, as well as organizing astrology conferences in Israel. She's ISAR VP in Israel. Gali is also a Kundalini yoga teacher and trainer.

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The Orion Awards will be presented at the Saturday Night Banquet Celebration at OPA Retreat 2017.
Astrology cycles affect all species, not only humans. Enjoy this column where Arlan and friends speak of different experiences relating astrological configuration with animals and pets, including their natal charts, transits, adoption times, and synaesthesies with their owners. OPA loves animals, and they too evolve their consciousness!

If you would like to submit a story about the Astrology of Animals, be sure to have the exact date of birth. If you have the time of birth, please mention the source.

**Intercontinental Cats**

by Maurice Fernandez

I had the privilege to see my cats being born on my bed, as I served both as midwife and astrologer; thus, I had the time of birth precise to the minute. Though there were three births spaced by about half an hour, I use the chart of the middle cat who represents the average.

The cats were born on a pretty tight Cardinal Grand-Cross on the angles of the chart, and Water Grand-trine, both apexing on Jupiter in Cancer on the IC.

The purpose of this column is to check how reliable and accurate are charts of animals. Aside from the characters and personalities, depicted in the chart, we can also track transits and see how this affect the animals. How do the houses work? Is the second house relating to their skills and talents as assets (rather than bank accounts), does the 9th house relate to how they relate to other breeds or species (rather than cultural travels)? It is an interesting research.

Jupiter in Cancer being the double apex in this chart is surely depicting their adorability and the abundance of squeezes and caresses they receive. But then came a real dramatic event that completely changed their lives – I moved from Hawaii to the mainland, and uprooted them from the Tropical jungle to the Arizona desert.

I was quite fascinated to observe that despite many different dates planned, I ended up flying out with them on June 25, 2017. Jupiter was exactly making its first square to itself, and activating the whole Cardinal Grand-Cross (new identity through travel), and Mars was kicking that natal Jupiter, showing the uprooting of their comfy lives.

Can it get more graphic? Uranus (airplanes) is tightly conjunct their Sun/South Node conjunction in Aries, again emphasizing a swift change and celestial adventure.

The long plane and eventful car journey came to conclusion when we made it to our new abode, the Arizonian Catistan, on the next day, June 26 @ 3:45pm, precisely when the transiting Ascendant was conjunct their natal Moon mid Scorpio (trining Mars at 14 Cancer, and Neptune at 14 Pisces) – OM, a water trine again!
You know you’re doing a good job as an astrologer when a client calls to ask about the chart of the puppy he’s fallen in love with. Sam was thinking of buying her from a breeder and wanted to know about her personality and if she was a fit with him. Sam has been a client for over 20 years and he has a good understanding of astrology. It seemed a natural thing to inquire about the astrology of the puppy and discuss it as we did with other relationships of his.

S (October 11, 1968, 8:32 pm, Salem, Ma.) had the birthday, birthplace, and a close time of birth of the litter (December 7, 2013, 4:00 am, Tampa, Fl.). He did buy the puppy and named her Pearl. **She is a Sagittarius with an Aquarius moon.** This was useful information as S had learned through the years that the Moon is an important planet in determining compatibility, especially in a situation where the two live together. S’s Moon is in Gemini in a close trine to Pearl’s.

A Sagittarius dog is a lot of fun and happy to go on many car trips. It is also compatible to Sam’s Libra Sun. A Libra Sun needs a beautiful, elegant pet. **Pearl’s Saturn is conjunct S’s Venus** which speaks to the responsibility that S would take on in caring for her. He is a single man with no children, so Pearl is a new experience in responsibility for someone else, and an ongoing obligation. It also shows that he would love her for a long time. **Pearl’s Sun is close to S’s descendant,** another sign of a good relationship. **Pearl’s Uranus conjuncts S’s North Node,** confirming that she is important in leading him along his path. And, **Pearl’s Moon is at the exact degree of S’s Midheaven.** She changes his public image by giving him a big beautiful dog as a companion. Sam had to work in another country for a while and left Pearl in the care of a friend. I’m sure that Aquarius moon was okay with that even though her Saturn in Scorpio felt the sting of the separation.

**COMPOSITE CHART**

I looked at the composite chart to see what that told us and there is a **Sun-Pluto conjunction** that is exact to degree on Pearl’s Saturn and Sam’s Venus. The composite Moon is opposite Sam’s Sun by degree. The composite chart has Leo rising with Jupiter in Leo on the Ascendant – what fun!

When people want more information about a relationship it is useful to run a chart for the first meeting (February 14, 2014, 10:30 am, Los Angeles, Ca.). Pearl was flown from Florida to Los Angeles and the charts is timed for when S meet her at the Los Angeles airport. **Sam’s Venus is on the Descendant of this chart,** along with Saturn which confirms that this will be a long-term relationship. That is backed up by the **Venus-Pluto conjunction** in the chart. Angular Saturn describes that there could be many separations. It also describes the fact of having a big dog in a small space. It was love at first sight. The first meeting **Saturn falls on Sam’s Neptune** to bring reality to his dream. Owning a dog is work, very different from the idea of owning one.

Sam and Pearl continue to be a loving couple. May they have many happy years together.
I left working in our family business in Grand Bazaar in Istanbul for studying and practicing as a fulltime astrologer. I left my 20 years in trade business to do what I have always wanted to do. I was not a reputable astrologer then. I used to give readings very rarely and teach astrology to friends only. When I left my business to be a fulltime astrologer, I had no guarantee. It was only my inner voice telling I would be a good consultant, a good teacher and a good author. And of course, with the advantage of knowing astrology I was also interpreting my chart. My only income was the rental income of one of the stores my family owned. Of course, it was less than what I earned from trade but I was happy and determined. I studied astrology for days and nights. I remember I used to work for 16 hours a day!

Taking risks!

People I used to know from trade business criticized me as I left Grand Bazaar. It was a trade center where everyone battled to have a store in and to make a good business there but I left there for “being an astrologer.” No one believed in me and asked “What other thing will you do?”

In those years, people did not consider astrology as a profession, especially not in that trade business environment. What I left behind was significant: My family had five stores in Grand Bazaar, a major tourist venue in Istanbul. My grandfather and father employed many people. I was respected by the people there during the twenty years that I worked there.

So, I was not looking for recognition, financial gain, or respect when I decided to be a fulltime astrologer, but to help people and share astrology wisdom. It was a purely idealistic initiative and I took the risk. Of course, I felt some pressure but my wife, family and my closest friends believed in me. Above all, I believed in myself. I was determined to succeed in one way or another.

Of course, there were some times when I thought about returning to trade business. On one of such days, one of my clients, who was very intuitive, told me: “Never think about going back to trade business. You will be very successful in your profession. Be decisive and focus on your target!” After that day, I never thought again about quitting. I focused on my target and the success came.

Articles, books, videos…

I always study by taking notes. I took notes when something came to my mind. I took notes when I read a book. This helped me in writing articles. These articles contributed to getting recognition as an astrologer. I have been writing a weekly column on my web site since 2005 which consists of weekly and daily astrological overview including sign entries, New Moons and Full Moons, and Eclipses. I never skipped writing it; and now I am glad that each week more people are reading my weekly column (this is not a Sun Signs column). You may see me writing in most part of the day as I also have been publishing 22 books since 2006. I also write articles on current astrological issues and make live broadcasts on YouTube which are all offered for free. My target here is to enrich the mainstream. I think, I have been a respected astrologer because people recognize it when you offer them something unrequited.

Beyond Recognition: How others know you

Of course, your attitude while you are writing and speaking always matters. I have been invited to various television shows since 2003 and I received feedback like “you bring respect to astrology.” This kind of feedbacks is really motivating. If you are well-balanced while you are writing and speaking, giving information to the people instead of trying to be popular, willing to add value to astrology and if you are well well-equipped for this, you do not get into unnecessary discussions and gain respect and recognition as long as you do not denigrate others. In my opinion, “how people know you” is more important than just being “known”.

Collaborating, sharing and being a team

I was a basketball player so I believe in working as a member of a team. You cannot be successful alone. You need to collaborate with the others! As an astrology teacher, I had many students and I work with the talented and reliable ones among them. We write articles and books together, we give seminars and we take videos together. When we first started our lessons at Girne American University in 2014, we gave some seminars in the first day. Just 12 people! It was really a big performance. If you want to be successful, you should do somethings together with your students or colleagues. You may also do other things on your own but also get your share from each collective success. However, your priority should be collaborating, sharing and giving service. Then success and recognition come spontaneously.

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Prenatal Lunations & Eclipses
The knowledge derived from prenatal lunation as well as prenatal eclipse charts bring new dimensions to natal analysis. Prenatal lunation charts are strongly related to our life capabilities and they look like the dress of the soul whereas prenatal eclipse charts highlight certain life themes and soul development. In this lecture, we are going to study on practical examples.

Carl Jung: An Astrological Portrait of His Life and Contributions to Psychological Astrology
Considered the founder of Analytical Psychology, Jung pioneered and contributed to the theories of The unconscious and collective consciousness, dream and shadow theories, archetypes and the process of individuation. Jung was not without critics; however, his contributions far exceed the critics. As Astrologers we use many of his concepts in our work. In this presentation we will look at some of these theories in relationship to how they have influenced Astrologers in the way we look at the chart..

2020 - A New Era Begins – Jupiter/Saturn Cycle
Astrologers through the ages have paid special attention to the conjunctions of Saturn and Jupiter every 20 years. William Lilly even wrote about a book about the 1643 conjunction, and what it might foretell. What they found fascinating was that for many years the conjunction would occur in signs of the same element - Fire, Earth, Air, Water, and repeating. When a conjunction occurred in a new element, this signified a new era. We had such a new era start in 1980, with the conjunction in air, after being in earth signs since 1802. The 2000 conjunction was back in earth, but we return to air sign conjunctions in 2020, for the following hundred years or more. So what does all this mean? What defines our most-recent earth sign sequence of conjunctions? And what lies ahead? What does history show us, particularly from 1960 onwards, about what these conjunction cycles might mean? (Australian Time)
OPA, The Organization for Professional Astrology, is dedicated to promoting excellence for astrologers. Incorporated on October 4, 2000 at 1:45 pm EDT in Tallahassee, Florida, OPA provides members with tools to establish or improve their astrological practice. Membership is open to aspiring and current astrologers. Benefits include subscription to the Career Astrologer and E-news, free monthly talks by top notch astrologers and members registration fees at OPA retreats and conferences. Annual dues are $60.00.

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Ahead of the 2017 OPA Retreat, the Faculty has met in Sedona, Arizona for a Peer Group Session work. A very important process to sharpen our skills as astrologers and deepen our bonds as colleagues.

Peach Tree of Astrology Peace

OPA Gals, Arlan, Kay, Anne, Sandra Leigh

Lea and Alex

Oner Doser – Peer Group

Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, AZ