The Career Astrologer

The Venus Cycle

and

Jupiter in Sagittarius + Nodes in Can/Cap

V27 03 SEPTEMBER EQUINOX 2018

The Organization for Professional Astrology

OPA’s Quarterly Magazine
Welcome!

Greetings OPA, and welcome to our next Retrograde season!

Following our tempestuous Mars infused (northern) Summer season, we are now initiated into the intimate and intensely magnetic scents of the black rose, Venus in Scorpio. We shall be laid bare on her bed of thorns in a game of Truth or Dare. Simultaneous to Venus’s dance, we experience the ingresses of Jupiter into Sagittarius and the Nodal Axis into Cancer/Capricorn. Lucky OPA, we have truly gifted astrologers who have shared abundant and juicy insights in a series of articles published in this edition. Enjoy!

With great anticipation, OPA is also at the gates of our upcoming event I-ASTROLOGER which will take place in Tucson, Arizona from October 4 to 10, 2018 – our event is nearly sold out! But this is not our only pride, I-ASTROLOGER represents a major milestone for the community of astrologers—for the first time, a whole event is dedicated to the development of our profession and to providing a support system for those who are called to become practicing astrologers.

Our Mental Focus:
• Astrology is a sustainable profession.
• Astrology can be a first-choice profession, accessible to all ages, not only a retirement plan.
• Astrologers are needed more than ever in our world in transition.
• Astrologers must be adequately trained to offer competent service.
• Every astrologer should have a basic background in astronomy.
• Branding and marketing serve the greater cause of sharing the Astrology gospel.

The Astrology community must continue to work together in inclusive ways, unifying traditional and modern approaches to our craft.

20 Astrologers are aiming at the scholarship grants for THE MOST PROMISING ASTROLOGER(S)

We are delighted to see such ambition and creativity, and were truly pleased by the submissions! A panel of judges will assess submittals based on terms such as: originality, quality of content, or motivation. Most importantly, judges will also provide guidance for applicants to better focus and take their work to the next level.

Whether you are with us in Tucson or not, tune in with us and celebrate the growth of our profession.

Maurice Fernandez
President, OPA
VENUS RETROGRADE IN SCORPIO

- Shadow entry – **September 5** @ 25 Libra
- Retrograde begins – **October 6** @ 11 Scorpio
- Peak Retrograde, Sun inferior Conjunction: **October 25** @ 3 Scorpio
- Turning Direct: **Nov 15** @ 25 Libra
- Leaves shadow period: Dec 17 @ 10 Scorpio

**Activation:**
- Meeting old souls, Re-connecting.
- Exposing the limitations of our current relationships
- Changing our approach to relationships
- Exposing the limitations of our financial management

JUPITER IN SAGITTARIUS

November 8, 2018 to December 2, 2019

- Conjunct the Sun – **November 25** (3 Sagittarius)
- Conjunct Venus – **January 22, 2019** (16 Sag), **November 24** (28 Sag)
- Square to Neptune in Pisces – **January 13** (14 Sag/Pisces), **June 16** (18 Sag/Pisces), **Sept 21** (16 Sag/Pisces)
- Opposition to Mars in Gemini – **May 5, 2019** (23 Sag/Gemini)

**Activation:**
- Return to our natural selves, to nature.
- Freedom from pretense.
- Spirit over matter.
- Expanding our territory, spreading our seeds and wisdom – travel.
- Risk and gamble.
- Racial and religious defensiveness
- Excesses.
- Extreme fluctuation between inflation and deflation – collapse of what is too big or dishonest.
- Fall of giants - part I.
- Fakest news, call for Truth.

NORTH NODE IN CANCER, SOUTH NODE IN CAPRICORN

November 6, 2018 – May 5, 2020 (True Node)

- South Node conjunct Saturn – **April 30** (20 Cap), **July 27**, **2019** (13 Cap)
- South Node conjunct Pluto – **April 4, 2019** (23 Cap)
- North Node conjunct Mars (and opposes Saturn) – **June 12** (17 Cancer)
- Total Lunar Eclipse – January 20, 2019 @ 0 Leo/Aquarius
- Total Solar Eclipse – July 2, 2019 @ 10 Cancer

**Activation**
- Balance between strength and vulnerability, between tough love and cuddly love.
- Return to traditional values, invoking the ancestors.
- Return to feminine power.
- Need to strengthen foundations and reliable structures – Return home.
- Fall of giants - part II.

Planets with extended transit in their own sign 2018-2019

JUPITER IN SAGITTARIUS
SATURN IN CAPRICORN
NEPTUNE IN PISCES

Jupiter in Sagittarius will square Neptune in Pisces.

Jupiter and Saturn in their own sign reflect a strong need for strong leadership and to attain higher levels of mastery. This may be a time for new societal and political development, **paving the way for the time Jupiter and Saturn will conjunct at 0 Aquarius in 2020.**
The Venus Star
A Vibration of Harmony + Beauty

by Arielle Guttman

Every planet in our solar system has a unique orbital cycle and pattern. Whether we observe the number of years of its synodic cycle, the relationship between the specific planet with Sun or Earth, it carries a vibrational frequency and transmits that energy to us in its unique way.

Venus has a particularly beautiful frequency, one that equates with the number 1.618 or PHI. This 1.618 PHI ratio is a regularly occurring aspect in which Venus traces the heavens to create her ‘star’. For mathematicians it is said to be a near perfect value, for economists it represents the Fibonacci sequence of numbers, for artists, architects, designers, it is known as the Golden Mean and for musicians it is the 5.8 ratio (5+8=13) on the musical scale. A formula of harmony, the Golden Mean is said to be the most pleasing relationship in both space and in sound, essentially, a harmony of the spheres. Beauty is something that we are innately attracted to. We want it. We easily fall in love with it and then often want to possess it.

How do we get it? Or do we already have it – and have we simply been searching everywhere for it except inside ourselves?

The ancients knew this long before we had telescopes and computers to reveal this phenomenon. What the ancients knew centuries ago, modern science has only recently learned—that Venus herself orbits in a relationship of beauty.

What is the Venus Star?

Simply stated, it is the relationship between Venus and the Earth (it’s all about the relationship!) and their dance around the Sun. The Star itself is made up of five points and can be measured in numerous ways. Whether it is the Rx positions, the D positions or the cazimi, five sequential passes create the Venus Star. (For the purposes of this article, and in all references in the published material authored by this author, it is the cazimi “the kiss of Venus with the Sun” that is used as the Star Point and the reasons for this are explained fully in the book.)

The Venus pentagram of our birth can reveal much about how Venus unknowingly works behind the scenes in our lives when these points are activated. Similarly, when the transiting Venus Star Point, or VSP, triggers an important natal degree, there is an important message from Venus. The Venus Star and the specific Star Point from our birthdate reveals to us that particular point of harmony, beauty and/or love that resides inside of every one of us. These five points identify our essential talents, our helping hands and our foundational feet in life. These points can be attached to planets in our own charts, or to VSPs and planets in other people’s charts.

The mechanics, synchronization and absolute precision of the Venus Star cycle could fill a volume of books, however, to

The Venus pentagram of our birth can reveal much about how Venus unknowingly works behind the scenes in our lives when these points are activated. Similarly, when the transiting Venus Star Point, or VSP, triggers an important natal degree, there is an important message from Venus.
simplify, we recognize the star itself performs like a perfectly tuned Swiss clock and paints two sets of five star points around a larger pentagram in an eight-year cycle. When it completes these two sets, it continues with two more, and two more—alternating as the cosmic heartbeat of our lives. See diagram on previous page.

When the Earth/Venus kiss happens closest to the Earth and in retrograde motion it produces the Morning Star, or MS. When it occurs in direct motion it produces the Evening Star, or ES.

Important to note is that when Venus is retrograde, Venus is not only ending her synodic period of 584 days (1.6 years) but she is also changing phases—from ES to MS or yin (feminine) to yang (masculine). The Maya had a myth about the disappearance of Venus behind the Sun. When in retrograde, Venus faded from view in the night sky after sunset to reappear approximately a week to ten days later in the morning sky before sunrise. While with the Sun and absent from Earth's view, Venus underwent a metamorphosis from her "lover" persona to her "warrior" persona. It is indeed an interesting story to consider, especially for people who are born during the Venus change-over period. This can often indicate gender uncertainty, gender alteration, or change-over period. This can often indicate the reverberating heart-beat in the backdrop of our cosmic planetary rhythm. As we prepare for this October's Scorpio Star Point we can look both to the recent past and future of some other Scorpio VSPs.

Every four years the Scorpio Star Point is the reverberating heart-beat in the backdrop of our cosmic planetary rhythm. As we prepare for this October's Scorpio Star Point we can look both to the recent past and future of some other Scorpio VSPs.

The retrograde of the 2018 Venus cycle, shown here, represents the "hot" area of the horoscope in this cycle, between 25 degrees of Libra to 11 degrees of Scorpio, with particular emphasis given to 3 degrees Scorpio, the new Venus Star Point degree. Note that two signs are being impacted in this cross-over Venus cycle—both Libra and Scorpio.

Consider Venus retrograde as ending a phase of life or relationship cycle, and shifting gears toward a new area. For example, the cycle Venus is ending now began with the Star Point activation in late March 2017 at 5 Degrees of Aries. Aries represents the start of something new, concerns self-interests and possesses the energy to go after what's important. Its two guardian planets are Mars and Pallas Athena, which represent the courage to act—to either fight for or in many cases to defend something sacred to you. Perhaps it's simply to be authentically individual, without pretense.

Scorpio is a sign of feminine power. So now we find ourselves moving into the Scorpio Venus Star in October. We therefore consider what Scorpio wants, and more importantly the relationship between Venus and Scorpio.

Similar to Aries, Scorpio is a Mars-rulled sign while Aries is the day sign (fire/masculine) and Scorpio is the night sign (water/feminine). Scorpio can be the deep treasure or the trash that is buried beneath the surface. Once we begin digging, either could emerge. With Scorpio, Venus may conceal deep secrets and mysteries that she chooses not to reveal casually or publicly. With Scorpio and a retrograde Venus, we may be dancing with ourselves and others through the game of shadows of intimacy, privacy and protection. Contracts we have created with partners which involve financial, sexual or shared possessions (such as children, animals, businesses and property) may be up for re-negotiation and may be initiated, renewed or terminated during this time. Yet most importantly, it might signal an important time to address significant issues in partnerships that have been silenced and need to emerge from the shadows.
**GUTTMAN**

We are in the last decade of a 100-year passage of the Venus Star through the sign Scorpio. Important events of history occur when the Venus Star Point leaves a sign and enters a new one. We can anticipate a shift in the masculine/feminine dynamic during this migration, similar to what we have witnessed during the dramatic gender restructuring that has occurred during these past 90 years of the Scorpio Star Point transit. In other words, women aren't always from Venus and men are not always from Mars. Often, the reverse is true, especially as evidenced during these last 80-90 Aries/Scorpio Star Point periods. It is certain that male and female roles have transformed even for the hetero-sexual population. And now, as we approach the end of Venus’ passage through Scorpio and Aries, the mutation and morphing of genders is no longer limited to one’s emotional and psychological well-being, but is extending to physical realms as well.

**A Table of Venus Star Dates**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Gemini</td>
<td>00° Sc 45' D</td>
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**Resources for further study: Venus cycle and the Venus Star Points**

- To find your Venus Star Point: https://sophiavenus.com/pdf/FindYourVenusStarPoint.pdf
- To read articles featuring the Venus Star Points: https://sophiavenus.com/newsletter-archives/

**When Beauty is more than Skin Deep...**

A note on VENUS RETROGRADE IN SCORPIO

by Anne Sundell

To an astrologer, it might seem obvious that a person reincarnated still has got some unfinished karmic issues. An astrological chart together with the transits of planets, including retrograde planets, can help us identify past life themes and the intricate layers of our karmic lessons. About eight years ago (October 8, 2010), the Goddess Venus stationed retrograde at 13 Scorpio, suggesting we were called into an important period of introspection and re-evaluation of relationships. The retrograde cycle in itself is about 584 days, one year and seven months between the Venus stations. The complete Venus cycle, including 5 retrogrades, takes over an 8-year cycle until it returns close to the original position.

**VENUS RETROGRADE – A Male to Female transformation.**

It’s time again, this autumn of 2018 precisely the 6th of October, Venus will begin her retrograde journey at 11 degrees Scorpio. From her station she will retrograde to meet the Sun at the inferior conjunction at 3 degrees Scorpio on October 25 – she has been up to that point brightly visible after sunset as an evening star. In ancient American history, the Aztecs and Mayans knew about the retrograde Venus period, and this was the time when Venus according to them turned male – between her Stationary retrograde point (when the planet appears to move backwards) 30 degrees ahead of the Sun and the Station direct point, at 30 degrees behind the Sun.

With this transition back and forth from female to male, no wonder, some Venus retrograde individuals feel a bit more androgynous. And speaking of that, only about 7% of people have retrograding Venus in their chart. Venus retrograding for about 40 days might also correspond to the biblical story of Jesus spending forty nights and days in the desert. The Bible tells us that he was tempted by Satan during these times, having to resist the urges of eating when starved, the urge of having it all in a glimpse, and constantly being humiliated by Lucifer. The Venus retrograding period this autumn, might not be that drastic, but there might be some similarities. When Venus, the ruler of sweetness and wealth of life, puts us to the test, we might also be tempted to over-indulge our senses. Venus’ less beautiful traits are often forgotten or overlooked, leading us to believe that her influence is only about beauty and grace,
However when Scorpio is involved there’s always a need to go deeper - to the core. In the myth of Venus Aphrodite, the Goddess also shows traits of jealousy, revengefulness and possessiveness to mention a few. Standing in the shadow of Venus is not “pretty.” To fully understand the retrograde Venus in Scorpio, it might be of interest to look at how she played out in some known persons and astrologers’ lives.

**Famous People with retrograde Venus in Scorpio at birth**

**Taryn Manning**

Taryn became a very popular actress, mostly for her role in Orange is the new Black, where she plays convict Tiffany Dogett as “Pennsatucky.” She has done several other films and is also a vocal artist and designer. Manning grew up in a severely dysfunctional family, where drug addiction and neglect were present daily. Her biological father was not present in her early life. The rootlessness together with her stepfather’s suicide at her age 16, forced her to step up at a young age. She was a survivor. Interestingly the females with Venus retrograde are often viewed as having a rather functional Mars energy, knowing how to proceed in difficult times. There are quite a few indicators of Venus retrograde females living an amazon-like life, but that’s maybe to take it to the extreme. Scorpio is a lot about the extremes of blacks and whites and Manning also admitted that she has a problem with addiction, stating that she’s been in rehabilitation groups, has a sober companion and outlets for support.

“They taught me how to be happy and get through things, I hope I can also do that for other people.” Taryn Manning

To be able to transform oneself, with the help of the Scorpio Phoenix myth, is really a Manning story.

With retrograde Venus, personal difficulties may be present underneath, and because we are talking about Venus in Scorpio, there might also be sexual or psychological problems. In the year 2016 Manning was involved in a legal dispute with a makeup artist that she’s had a rocky history with. The true nature of the relationship is unclear, but she was accused of attacking and threatening her former friend. The friend was accused of stalking Manning. What’s interesting to note, is that in the spring of 2016, both Venus and Mars were retrograde.

The period of the Venus evening star is when Venus turns male, and is also sacrificed to be reborn as female. As transit or as a natal chart placement, the evening star is associated with the androgynous side of the planet, experienced by the person as a form of completeness within the gender polarity.

Perhaps retrograde Venus is the best phase for new relationships. We can experience the purging of old patterns. We may also learn new things or experience changes in the material side of Venus, associated with money, values, the finer arts and pleasures of life.

**Bruno Huber**

The late and well known Swiss astrologer who founded the Swiss Astrological Psychological Institute had Venus retrograding in Scorpio. His life’s work has set the foundation for the Psychological Astrology Association of today, his books Lifeclock and Psychological Astrology have been reprinted over decades. Huber spent his life in Zurich, where he was born and passed. He worked together with Roberto Assagioli assisting him in his work with psychosynthesis.

Huber’s legacy continues, and while visiting the Spanish Huber School in Barcelona last year, discussing with its founder Rosa Sole Gubianes, I learned how much deeper his theories have affected astrology.

For some reason the retrograde Venus personality might be slower with the ego development, having a harder time to assert themselves. For males, there might be a heightened expression of the anima (female quality), and the other way around for females. It’s not a wonder that psychology might be of interest for a person born with retrograde Venus in Scorpio. Huber’s lifelong work with developing Psychological Astrology together with his lifelong partner and wife Louisa Huber, tells a positive Venus retrograde story.
Venus split: Urania and Pandemos

When Venus was born, she was immediately accompanied by Eros and Himeros, meaning love and desire. There’s also been speculations about her being one of two goddesses: Urania and Pandemos. Urania would have been the older and wiser of the two. Urania is one of the nine muses, and is said to show interest in the theoretical arts like astronomy, astrology and mathematics. Urania was the part of Venus associated with socializing and being accepted.

Pandemos, the younger form, was associated with the lower prime instincts such as sex, desire, sensual and physical features. Urania was heaven and Pandemos earth.

Ted Bundy

Using another example of retrograde Venus in Scorpio, Bundy grew up with his grandparents, not knowing about his real parents. They told him that his biological mother was in fact his sister. In the teens he found out the truth which led him to envy his real mother ever after. Erin Sullivan acknowledges in her studies of retrograde Venus males, that the relationship to the mother might have been strong or somehow abusive at times. What’s interesting to note in Bundy’s life story, is that the killings assumed to have started out of a broken relationship. In 1968 after he broke up with a girl that had everything he ever wanted, the truth about his background also came to further light.

It’s believed that this was the time he started to kidnap, rape and kill young women. Bundy, although described by many as a charming and charismatic person, described himself as obsessed with sexual violence. Bundy studied to become a graduate Psychologist and went on to law school. He was clearly smart, but stated that he could not understand the way people interacted socially. He confessed to some murders but until today it’s still not clear how many he actually killed. When Bundy was arrested on August 16, 1975, Venus was retrograding.

“"You feel the last bit of breath leaving their body. You’re looking into their eyes. A person in that situation is God!”
Ted Bundy

Martin Schulman (1977) views the karmic Venus retrograde as an inward turning of the
harmony and beauty principle, and he views the retrograde Venus person like a reactor to life. He sees the retrograde Venus personality, as remarkably different from the person having Venus in direct motion. This personality is more prone to internalizing hurts, working on the issues within, that another may choose to externalize. There’s a certain kind of sensitivity surrounding this person as Venus retrograde creates hurts that need to be worked through. Schulman stresses that the retrograde Venus individual is carrying with him a misunderstanding of love from a past life. A certain rebellion against the existing society norms, and an urge for freedom, might lead them to a search for an Aquarian partner.

Demi Moore
Demi grew up with an absent father and found out about him at age 13 through her own research. Her mother had addiction problems and a long list of troubles with the law. At age 16, Moore moved from home and went to Europe to work as a pinup girl. She was featured in adult magazines before going into acting. In the 80´s she went to rehab for drug addictions, a problem that would return in her later years. In Moore’s chart, retrograde Venus is involved in a grand Cross, highlighting its importance in her life.

Moore puts a lot of energy into her looks and has had several anti-aging procedures, one more extreme than the other. Her latest (3rd) marriage was to the 15 years younger Aquarian, Ashton Kutcher. They separated in 2011. When they broke up in 2010 due to his infidelities, Venus was Retrograde.

“I would say what scares me is that I’m going to ultimately find out at the end of my life that I’m really not lovable, that I’m not worthy of being loved. That there’s something fundamentally wrong with me.” Demi Moore

A few more interesting and talented people with retrograde Venus in Scorpio we can list are Evolutionary astrologer and founder of the Evolutionary School of Astrology Jeffrey Wolf Green, actress and producer Jodie Foster, politician Condoleezza Rice, and Finnish Astrologer Marja-Liisa Niemi Mattila. This autumn we all get a chance to experience Venus’ depths, and maybe get some insights about our deeper hidden selves.

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Anne Sundell currently lives and works in Finland in both national languages, Finnish and Swedish. She loves to lecture and be a part of a person’s learning process, and has been teaching and lecturing around the country since she became a Professional. She is available for readings with clients, work with the local organizations and publishes in a local newspaper.

For the full I-Astrologer program, visit: OPAastrology.org
Like many things in astrology, it is quite profound to do the work, see where she has been, see where she is going next.

The Never-ending cycle
In her never-ending 5 pointed cycle, Venus, who acts somewhat like a Cosmic Bee, is set to pollinate her next star points, her inner & outer conjunctions with the Sun (inner being the retrograde conjunctions with the Sun and the outer being her conjunction to Sun in direct motion, as she travels opposite to Earth). The next 584 day, 19mth, 1.6 year synodic* cycle, Venus' next round of the Sun, begins as the current one ends with the interior retrograde conjunction at 3°06' Scorpio on 26th October, 2018 UTC. She will subsequently conjunct the Sun at 21° Leo on August 14th, 2019, at the direct exterior conjunction, before she swings back close to earth again for the next interior conjunction with the Sun at 14° Gemini on June 4th, 2020, and so it continues every 9.5 months. Each synodic cycle envelops an interior (retrograde) conjunction and an outer (direct) conjunction. It's a star, a pentagon, that shines through the heavens and your own birth chart and gradually progresses in a backward motion.

Venus' dynamic cycles have always been as source of deep fascination to skywatchers of all kinds. Most spectacularly, Venus forms an ongoing 5 star pentacle each time she conjuncts the Sun, whether going direct (exterior conjunction) or retrograde (interior conjunction).

Venus, when viewed with her ongoing star points, is interesting to follow, as she has very distinct macro & micro cycles. This patterning is also perceived as reflecting the cosmic relationship of the Phi ratios and the Fibonacci sequence, mirroring to us the natural cycles of growth and unfoldment through the spirals of creation in our universe.

Here are some key numbers in her cycle:

- In 234 years, Venus completes 4 transits (occultations) to the Sun
- In a 100 years the star points retrogrades through a whole sign.
- In 8 years, Venus return to conjunct the Sun in the same sign,
- In 1.6 years, a Synodic cycle when Venus retrogrades to conjunct the Sun on a star point.
- 9.5 months, Venus will conjunct the Sun on one of her Star points (from retrograde to direct, and so on).

No matter where we look we can see her divine patterns unfolding in our creation story.(1)

To look at the whole Venus cycles through her star Points, we can gain perspective beyond the isolated retrograde process, but to see the bigger picture and how this greater pattern is being created. The living spiral dance she does in our astrology charts is a cosmic ‘fractal coil’. This coil winds and unwinds, connecting, renewing, reviewing our pattern of evolution and progress, setting off new patterns of growth. Imagine our astrology charts being the initial conditions set off by a fractal form, our unique formula or personal fractal mandala. Once in motion, nothing ever stays exactly the same, as new experience, consciousness, information is added, the pattern changes slightly or goes off into new streams, yet the original design, our natal chart, always remains magically held with-in. Now imagine that as your astrological mandala, looping and turning and twisting, yet always recognisable, as your unique astrology chart!

In true Venusian symbolism, she balances, perfects, harmonises and collects that which we are most attracted to. She connects our story in the 5 places, or what I call Star Point Zones in our charts. She oscillates in places over 4, 8,12 and even up to 16 years, to make a point (depending on what orbs one would use) to help show us where things could be better balanced or relinquished.

The richness of the Venus star cycle is an integral part of my work and consultations, as I'm always paying attention to the positions of the 5 star points.

The star points move slowly backwards through the zodiac. In about 40 years (5 times 8 years), the star points have moved about 10 degrees, and so on. We can identify the star point zone in our charts by first finding the 5 star points at the time around our birth, ranging from 2 years prior and 2 years after, which would constitute your own Venus star zone. What houses, angles and planets has the Venus star landed on for you over the years?

The Next Venus Star Loop
Scorpio, Leo, Gemini
October 2018 - June 2020
by Julija Simas

VENUS CYCLE
The Current Venus star

Before we move on to explore the upcoming cycle, let’s look back at the past synod. The cycle that is now ending began in Aries in March 2017, it peaked while conjunct Pluto on January 10, 2018 (19 Cap), and now completes in Scorpio on October 26, 2018 (3 Scorpio), 9.5 months later—this time opposing Uranus early Taurus. As we look back at this last 19 month period, we can see a very Martian and Plutonic themed Venus cycle: Mars rules Aries (exalted in Capricorn) and is the traditional ruler of Scorpio. We add to that a conjunction with Pluto in Capricorn in January, and the final stage being in Scorpio. We can reflect on what a significantly activated and transformative year it has been for many of us, both personally and collectively. As we approach the next star point, we can already sense the Scorpionic energy being amplified in the world at large and in our personal lives. These star Points are best looked at somewhat like eclipse points that occur every 9.5 months and as one’s influence dissipates, the flavor of the next point takes hold.

The Fibonacci sequence and Golden ratio is reflected in the Venus cycle holding the 1.6 ratio.

- 1 Earth year 365 days, 1 Venus Cycle 584 = 1.6
- 5 synodic cycles in 8 years. 5/8 = 1.6
- 13 revolutions in 8 years 8/13 = 1.6
(See illustration below.)

As we move toward this Scorpio retrograde point, consider what was happening in October 2014 when Venus made her exterior conjunction to the Sun early Scorpio, (also look back to 2010 when she was last retrograde there as well). Taking into consideration the midpoint in the cycle, we can discover much more about what happens here. The Venus point oscillates from inner and outer conjunctions over the 4 year periods. As it does so we get a different point of view of the same ‘imprint.’ Let this help inform you of what was going on as part of your greater 8 year cycle!

Let’s take a closer look at what this next star loop brings, keeping in mind some personal research from above!

Since Galileo’s discoveries through his telescopes, we know that Venus has phases. Venus waxes and wanes, grows in light, ascends & descends, and disappears into the light of the Sun, twice during her inner and outer conjunctions. For many practising astrologers knowing our Venus phase has become quite significant. This gives more clarity to our particular Venus - not just by sign, house, and aspect but also by phase.

An Astronomical view of one Venus synodic cycle.

By getting to know one Synodic cycle well, we can always adapt this to work out our Venus phases. The various combinations are rather deep but we can group the essence of a Venus phase from a few key points in any given Venus apparition as she is seen as a:

- **Morning star or Evening star**
- **Oriental (rising in the east, before Sun) or Occidental (setting in the west after Sun)**
- **Waxing or Waning**
- **Ascending or Descending**
- **Bright or Dim**
- **High or Low**
- **Fast or Slow** (slow at retrograde- fast at outer conjunction)
- **Stable or Unstable** (stable near max elongation points - farthest from the Sun)
- **Visible or Invisible**
- **In the Underworld or in the Upperworld** (if there is an underworld, there must be an upper world?)
- **Earthly or Heavenly** (after max elongations and moving toward the outer conjunction, I see Venus as heavenly)
- **Aphrodite Pandemos** (Earthly) or **Aphrodite Urania** (Heavenly)
The VENUS CYCLE

In many ancient cultures the Morning and Evening stars of Venus were even given different names and even seen as two quite separate embodiments.
Claim your wings - In our skies now

At the time of this articles publishing, we still have the pleasure of witnessing the brightest phase of this current evening star apparition, which will peak around September 25th at 8° Scorpio, being only 10 days & 2 degrees away from where she will station retrograde.

We begin the next round with the star point of 3° Scorpio, this time opposite Uranus early Taurus. This cycle may be more significant for those who have planets in the early degrees of fixed signs. Mars was also retrograde in early Aquarius during the months of July and August. While opposite Uranus, we are all heading for big changes in particular areas of life. Where may we need to either dive deeper or rather to surface from, as we may have already gone in too deep? As Uranus is always igniting us to change from the norm, here’s our chance to show if we really mean it!

Before the retrograde in Scorpio begins, for as we claim our wings in the depths of Scorpio, we are going to want to fly! Scorpios depth seeking probe, from the darkness, eventually seeks the light.

During this retrograde phase, do some work with the Venus star and the Venus cycle. See how she tells your ongoing story of life, love, and loss. At every key-point, observe what she synthesises from the essence of the 5 months before & the 5 months after each star point. Get into the rhythm, see the patterns and by all means create some new ones.

May the magic be revealed in your exploration!

In every chart I always see five extra points! *****

NOTES AND REFERENCES:

* Synodic meaning meeting place, in this case from one meeting of Earth, Venus, Sun to their next meeting.
** It is interesting to look back at how the Transits of Venus have coincided with major shifts in consciousness throughout the cycles in the past, to envision closer where we are now and the meaning of each loop. The transits we witnessed in our time occurred in Gemini in 2004 and 2012, and had much to do with putting the Venus star back into our astrology!
*** Find Venus Ephemeris at Arielle Guttmann website
https://sophiavenus.com/pdf/FindYourVenusstarPoint.pdf
**** Recommended Reading

Arielle Guttmann - Venus star Rising - SophiaVenusProductions - 2010
Michele Finey - The Sacred Dance of Venus and Mars - Wessex Astrologer 2012
Adam Gainsburg - The Light Of Venus - SoulSign Publishing - 2012

***** Most effective to use in electional astrology as well.

JULIJA SIMAS - Julija is the founder, motivator and designer behind the C*I*A, the Cosmic Intelligence Agency. Completing a Diploma in applied astrology from “Astrosynthesis” - Melbourne, Julija wrote her finishing thesis Astrology and the ANIMA MUNDI in 2005, which inspired her to put her ideas into motion, using astrology for a co-creative purpose and raising consciousness to astrology around the globe.

Julija is a practising astrological consultant, teacher, writer, presenter and retreat organiser for the C*I*A. Julija has lectured at various C*I*A events, local workshops, and retreats online and presented at international conferences UAC 2012, ISAR 2014 and ISAR 2016, Astrology Rising Costa Rica 2017 with much more on the horizon!

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VENUS & VENUS RETROGRADE
"How to Wish upon a Star - for Everything We Hold Dear"

by Jeannie Goldwire

Does Wishing Really Make It So?

There’s a part of us that is filled with child-like wonder. Several Disney movies have tapped into our trusting, wide-eyed believer selves, where anything is possible, you only have to wish for it hard enough!

In the Disney movie, “Pinocchio,” the old puppet-maker Geppetto looks out his window at the “Wishing Star” and makes a fervent wish for his little pine puppet to become a Real Boy. Lo and behold, the wish is granted by the most beauteous Blue Fairy!

As a child, I was deeply touched by the appearance of the Blue Fairy. I think this scene evokes spiritual, even archetypal overtones. After Geppetto’s prayer we see what appears to be a star coming down.

What is it with Venus? For centuries we have gazed and marveled at her radiant light and tracked her precise repeating flower-pattern through the sky. Have we merely projected our own hopes and wishes on a bright light simply because it gives us the feeling of hope? Or is there some actual connection Venus brings to us from her congress with the Sun during each inferior conjunction when she draws closest to Earth?

Let’s take a step back and consider just who Venus is and her function. For the inner bodies, at the middle of it all there’s the Sun - the blazing glory, circumscribed by electric Mercury, next the magnetic Venus.

Being magnetic, Venus attracts. This energy enthralls, and when affected can endow you with these same gifts. Venus also is dual-natured. In some ancient cultures, Venus was seen as Male. For thousands of years, people have looked for her reassuring radiance in the sky. Sometimes she rises before the Sun as the Morning Star, Phosphorus – and she is known by her Warrior aspect (over-the-top Venus; Venus Unleashed!). Other times she is seen in the evening sky, rising after sunset, Evening Star, Hesperus, Lover, going home to rest with those who belong in your heart. Richard Tarnas quotes Sappho in his dedication page of Cosmos and Psyche, “Evening star, you bring all things which the bright dawn has scattered.”

Astrologer Christy Hall, who has developed a very insightful Venus Retrograde workshop, says “Feelings are the Magnets for Venus.” She holds us by our very heartstrings. Venus attracts us and in turn, makes us attractive.

Venus pulls to us what we feel we deserve, or limits us from what we feel we don’t. It is an inside job on our part, yet few people realize that ‘we’ are the ones doing the limiting. Venus deals with what we really value; she’s about our Heart, about its current condition, and about our capacity for true connection. Venus retrograde is the opportunity to become the best self you can be – to develop your own sovereignty – being responsible for, and the ruler of, all you survey. Venus retrograde involves a period of opportunity for developing your self-reliance, which means fending for yourself. You don’t need anyone else’s energy or help to be complete. The goal is for you to work on knowing you are complete unto yourself. This is what you can proudly bring to the table of a new relationship.

DISNEY MIND-MESSING

“When you wish upon a star
Makes no difference who you are
Anything your heart desires
Will come to you

If your heart is in your dreams
No request is too extreme
When you wish upon a star
as dreamers do

When you wish upon a star
Your dream comes true”

Most of us have no idea what we really want. We also don’t know how to wish. If only we did, though, rest assured that Venus is the one we would wish upon.
out of the sky to manifest as the Blue Fairy, breathtaking, and astonishing.

Another Disney scene that lodges deeply into our impressionable minds as children is when the lovable Fairy Godmother transforms Cinderella’s rags into the most exquisite of evening gowns with but a flourish of her wand, chanting, “Bibbidi Bobbidi Boo!” This scene has given little girls the idea that magical transformation is an entitlement, if you’re sweet, good, and pretty enough.

This scene of Cinderella meeting her Prince Charming has kept a lot of little girls from growing up. It goes like this: someday your prince will come, rescue you from your miserable circumstances, and take care of you for happily ever after. The fact is, the Prince likely has his own problems to deal with and he rather wants someone to take care of him, too.

Most of us have no idea what we really want. We also don’t know how to wish. If only we did, though, rest assured that Venus is the one we would wish upon. She has the power and inclination to grant that wish, as well as the righteous opportune timing of when to make that wish (namely, at the inferior conjunction with the Sun during her retrograde cycle every 18 months).

As Venus reaches maximum elongation from the Sun, she holds her mirror up to you. Seeing yourself reflected in her awe-some glowing presence, you may fairly and honestly take stock of your accomplishments thus far. Now you can more clearly see what she sees in you. Hopefully, you are pleased with what you see. Sure, there will always be areas for improvement. This is how you know what to wish for. And you can see how much actual ground you have covered since the last time you approached her for help.

But what do you wish for? This is the big question. What areas of life are under the guardianship of Venus? Only Everything we hold dear: connection, relationships, values, beauty, harmony, love, self-love, money. Venus will match you in attraction; so be attractive to her. No whining. Self-worth is limited only by your owning up to your part and acknowledging your role in this divine play called Life.

Venus’s retrograde cycle is the opportunity for you to add to your self-value. Build your self-esteem, not out of hubris, but in humility, so that you are mirroring all that you hold dear, all that you truly cherish. Love includes self-love; developing a solid, believable sense of worthiness, having strived to do everything in your power to be self-reliant.

Venus is whom we hold in esteem, what we esteem, and also our teacher of self-esteem. Venus will take you as you are. She will match your desire and then urge you to go even further. The bolder, truer, braver, and more authentic you are with her, the more she will deem you and your hopes attractive, matching you step-by-step in your seeking your heart’s desire. She will answer your prayers and grant you Boons. The only thing Venus really wants is Connection. This means true direct unimpeded, completely vulnerable open connection, at your deepest heart level. You approach her to ask for blessings. It’s best to ask not from a mindset of ‘Lack of Love’, but from Abundance of Love.

WHAT DOES THE DOGGY DO ONCE HE CATCHES THE CAR?

Wishes are not freebies. There’s dedicated, devoted, even sacred maintenance necessary in order to cultivate a new improved you. Know that once a wish is made and then granted, there is necessary maintenance required (a job for Saturn). Even though your wishes may be granted, don’t take Venus for granted. There is no success without some degree of focused work, even compulsion. Being a little obsessive compulsive can lead to an accomplished and virtuous life. One of the elements of socialization (a Venus skill) is learning how to make yourself do things you don’t want to do because they need to be done (Saturn discipline). This is one way you go about increasing your self-worth and self-reliance.

Even though your wishes may be granted, don’t take Venus for granted. There is no success without some degree of focused work, even compulsion.

HOW TO WISH UPON A STAR: Venus Retrograde

The Venus retrograde cycle goes from inferior conjunction to inferior conjunction and takes about 18 months. The actual Venus retrograde period is around 40 days from stationing retrograde to stationing direct with shadow periods on each side. There are specific phases with precise dates and prescribed tasks one might optimally activate in each phase.

Finishing up the Last Retrograde Cycle & Preparing for the New Cycle Out with the Old, In with the New

Preparation Phase: August 17, 2018
Maximum Elongation East at 10 Libra 18’
through to Sept. 2, 2018: The Long View.
Big Picture: “This is the ‘You’ you are now.”
Winding down from the last Venus retrograde cycle, Venus reaches maximum elongation (from the Sun) East at 10 Libra 18’ on August 17, 2018. From this date to the second phase Sept. 2, 2018, one can assess the Big Picture, the overview of what you have made of yourself thus far. For these two weeks, Philip Sedgwick says it is good to take a personal inventory of what you have actually accomplished. What are your strengths, skills, abilities, how are you self-sufficient, how and in what areas have you improved? What do you think is missing in your skill-set, your resourcefulness? How do you wish you could be more, do better? What does your Heart long for?

While assessing the pros and cons of yourself, assess your gifts accurately with no false modesty. You are working to build self-reliance. You are wholeheartedly refining yourself to become ‘your best self’. Look at what you can offer others and how you are strong enough to take care of yourself. This way you learn to build up trust in yourself. Doubts and fears have no place here. You are preparing for a Venus upgrade.

At this point, know your goal. Ask yourself what you want to have happen. Think long term and always keep in mind your top priority. Be humble and earnest in your appeal to Venus for this, your new goal. This is primarily How you know and What you know to wish for. Further clarity is revealed in subsequent phases of the Venus retrograde.

- Oct. 5, 2018: Cleaning out the 12th house closet; releasing; aligning.

At this stage, think as if Venus were in her 12th house of her cycle. This is the time to clean, banish clutter, make new space, release what and who no longer serves your new efforts toward authenticity and improvement. Say goodbye to things and people you have outgrown - who are too needy, who aren't rowing their own boat, who are overly dependent on you, maybe even who are psychic vampires who want your good energy.

Let go and remember to bless what no longer brings you joy; recycle it out into the world to the benefit of someone else. There may be an unexpected financial windfalls at this time, but also focus on paying off debts. Get right with the world, get aligned with integrity to the best of your ability. You are preparing and purifying a clean altar space to welcome Venus.

Oracular Phase: Oct. 5, 2018 Venus Stations Retrograde at 10 Scorpio 50’

Venus stays suspended at the same degree Oct. 5-Oct. 11, 2018

I call this the “Venustice” as she stays at the same degree for five or six days, much like the Sun does for three days at its Solstice. And so, make a “study” of Venus. She speaks to us through her omens, synchronicities, relationships, and epiphanies. Listen closely; she will help us. What songs just pop into your head? Look them up, listen to them, she will help us. What songs just pop into your head? Look them up, listen to them, she will help us. What songs just pop into your head? Look them up, listen to them, she will help us. What songs just pop into your head? Look them up, listen to them, she will help us.

These are the things Venus concerns herself with; look at these areas to come up with your wishes for the next phase:

- Relationships - consider the balance in your relationship with others; is there reciprocity? Does one selfishly take more and the other suffer from lack of support? What about self-relationship? Are you loving and appreciative of yourself? What is your relationship to yourself? When you look in the mirror, are you pleased? Are you kind and compassionate?

- Commitments - do you keep your word? Do you overextend yourself? Do you feel good at heart in each encounter?

- Networks and socializing - are these in alignment with your real goals? Or are you just pleasing others? Are you uncomfortable being alone with yourself?

- Finances - your relationship to money: is it in balance, or is there overspending or a blind spot? Strategizing to manage your money is self-loving, taking care of yourself.

- Excesses - overspending, overeating, binge-watching seasons of TV series; these are things we do to compensate for something else we really don’t want to face.

- Beauty - in general. Appreciation of beautiful things; beauty elevates and blows you away. There are worse things to obsess upon.

- Emotions - these “travelers in the heart,” can be helpful to look at more closely. If you feel frustrated in some area, this tells you it’s something for you to work on to get into better alignment. Look at your vulnerabilities -- at what or who triggers them. Know that you are deserving of peace and happiness. You just have to look for what blocks it and adjust accordingly.

From Oct. 11 - Oct. 26, 2018: Glory and exult in the Rococo of the world! Proclaim yourself a creature of Venus. Do Venus things. Do things to honor Venus: up your game regarding attraction. Look and be lovable. Give gratitude in general: for breath, for sunshine, for water, for stretching, for being alive.

Only buy what makes you look stunning. No shrinking away from the power of beauty; you are a part of it—Beauty—but it is not yours, no more than yellow belongs to the daffodil.

Eat Chocolate. Wear bright lipstick; dress yourself like a gift to “present” to others. Be shamelessly hip. Become less and less inhibited and self-critical. Work at being purposefully superficial, so the outer you invites new shimmering, iridescent vitality to the inner you.

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ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE

The Inferior Conjunction, Venus Cazimi, in the very Heart of the Sun
October 26, 2018 3 Scorpio 06’ 9:16 am CDT

Halfway through the new retrograde cycle
“Seed” Planting in Earnest Ritual, Adoration

Perform your rituals now! The Planting of the Seed for the New Venus Cycle: October 26, 2018 is the inferior conjunction, at 3 Scorpio 06’ at 09:16 am CDT; this is the halfway point of the retrograde period. This is the important beginning of a new Venus cycle. When Venus is Cazimi, in the heart of the Sun—either at inferior or superior conjunction—she loves it! She basks in her adoration of the Sun’s warmth.

Of course, the seeds you are planting are your well-considered wishes. Create your ritual to your liking. A ritual might consist of creating an altar with incense, candle, water, images, jewels, colors, music, chanting, maybe dancing in wild abandon! Create art and/or maybe a sigil signifying this moment and your earnest prayer. Chant an Orphic Hymn to Venus, or maybe an appropriate Sanskrit mantra, whatever feels authentic to you.

Create images of what you want to see manifested. Envision your wishes as if already factually here. Feel the feelings you would naturally be feeling at their actual manifestation. And feel gratitude to Venus. Be certain to feel these feelings because Venus attracts to us what we feel we deserve. You will find these wishes granted in one form or another during the 9 ½ months prior to the Superior Conjunction of Aug. 14.

Have no doubt she sees you, hears you, feels you. She adores your ardor!

Venus Stations Direct Nov. 16, 2018
25 Libra 14’
Recovering lost ground with renewed vigor

During this period, Venus travels from 25 Libra 14’ all the way back to 10 Scorpio 50’, the point from which she started her Retrograde journey on October 5. What was tenuous before is more definite now. Going over the same degrees of the zodiac has served as a rehearsal of sorts.
Dec. 2, 2018, Venus Reappears in the Sky!
Morning Star Venus

She is now Warrior Venus—according to the Babylonians. After her Retrograde journey, she dramatically picks up speed; Venus arises from the underworld—fierce, war-like, & bitchy. Venus is in heat, supercharged, and rampant.

She was invisible for 40 days until she stationed direct. As Inanna, she has been in the Underworld—relinquishing all her powers and raiments, hung on a hook as if dead; but those who love her manage to bring her back to life. As Morning Star, Venus emerges replete with all her powers, in her absolute, undiluted sovereignty.

When you see her first reappear in the sky, beware of liaisons at the time. They will be overmuch, extra, and probably short-lived. Repeat: don’t get into any affairs at this time. This is the beginning of your new self, as well. You have been endowed with Venus’s kiss when you planted your heart’s hopes at the inferior conjunction of Venus with the Sun. Now she has emerged from her underworld journey during her retrograde cycle; now she is in direct motion, speeding through the sky in all her dire beauty and sovereignty— as well as helping transform you to the best you, ruler of all you survey.

Dec. 18, 2018 10 Scorpio 50’
Post-retrograde Shadow period completed. In with the New!

The next 9 1/2 MONTHS, beginning from October 26, 2018 at the Inferior Conjunction of Venus to August 14, 2019 at the next Superior Conjunction of Venus at 21 Leo 11’ 1:08 am CDT is the period of time in which to observe how your wishes unfold. This is the 9½ month pregnant pause (273 days to the next superior conjunction): watch for your wishes to manifest. Give credit and notice. Honor them. Acknowledge them. Make good use of them. Be thankful to Venus for them.

Be sure to journal and record results and nuances, keeping aware of your original wishes and seeing in what way they manifest. During this time you could also think about how to live from a more heart centered focus. Venus loves true intimate connection.

Here’s how we get to the next Retrograde Cycle:

1-6-19: Maximum Elongation W at 28 Scorpio 45’. Between now and the Superior Conjunction next August, observe manifestations of your wishes taking place.

8-14-2019: Superior Conjunction with Sun at 21 Leo 11’. (Venus cazimi again, and invisible to us); soon after she reappears as Evening Star Venus after sunset.

3-24-2020: Maximum Elongation E at 20 Taurus 08’. (Assessment of your Self-Reliance)

5-13-2020: Next Retrograde Station 21 Gemini 50’. (Refine your goals; define your next wishes to include on Venus’s altar at the next inferior conjunction with the Sun).

HOW TO “GROW” YOUR HEART

Never miss an opportunity to do an anonymous good deed.

Living from the heart is much more powerful than living from the brain. Living from the heart includes emotion. The heart also makes meaning for us. The heart is Compassion, Care and Protection. Lead with your heart, not your brain. Let your words resound from this sacred well.

Before you go to sleep, ask Venus to come to you in your dreams and learn what is possible. In these ways you will increase in your Heart’s capacity to expand. Living from heart-to-heart-to-heart; your own Heart, through the Heart of Venus, guided by the Heart of Sun. This may be the only real point of being alive.

AND IN CONCLUSION

And so, wishing is not just a fairy tale. It is a real working process. Growing in your heart’s capacity, using your courage to face the buried scary stuff, to bring it all up into the Light, to love and forgive all of yourself and others, to heal yourself and the collective: that’s the work. That’s the wish. The one wish you can make true with the help of Venus and her immaculate timing.

Venus is the rhythm of the Sun’s heartbeat. She’s immersed fully by the Golden Rays of the Life-Force. And she steps it down for you each retrograde, to your level of ability to receive it; tailored to your Heart’s capacity; you need only be open and willing.

Jeannie Goldwire has been around long enough for one full-degree tick in Precession. An astrology student since age 23, when a village astrologer in India wrote out her horoscope in fountain pen and ink, explaining both her Western and S. Indian charts. A member of the Astrological Society of Austin since 2007; an avid astrology practitioner and passionate enthusiast. “I have so many astrology books and I actually have read and marveled my way through most of them. I have been a long time ‘astrological guide’ but only recently have I decided to become more serious with giving back some of my years of learning.” fullphoenix.com
Opportunity or Deception?

Jupiter, the planet of opportunities, is about to enter Sagittarius, the sign he rules. We can expect from this transit positive developments, new visions, growth and expansion in the areas of international trade, international relations, foreign travels, higher education, law, ethical and moral values and beliefs.

A planet in its domicile does not only bring opportunities related to its nature but also enhances its shadow. This is valid for all of the planets. In this article, we will have a look at the shadow of Jupiter in Sagittarius particularly as it will square Neptune in Pisces in the course of 2019, an aspect that may indeed enhance challenges and require caution.

Great Expectations and Reality Check

Jupiter squares Neptune, and Saturn in Capricorn

During Jupiter in Sagittarius periods, ideals may be higher and hard to reach, and our targets larger in size, even utopian in nature. Although Saturn is in Capricorn bringing a practical and grounded perspective, the square (by sign) between Neptune in Pisces and Jupiter in Sagittarius, may reflect fanciful goals and ideals that may tend to be too adventurous, too hopeful, or overly optimistic.

Jupiter in Sagittarius reflects a need for novelty as monotony and routine cannot do. It is an influence that reflects a need for excitement to everything we do, to approach daily life in an energetic and enthusiastic way. There is a feeling of continuous change around this time. At worst, this influence
We may get away from the realities and chase after the pie in the sky.

The square between Jupiter in Sagittarius and Neptune in Pisces may keep us away from the reality of daily life and direct us towards making unnecessary expenditures while chasing ideals which may never be realized. Saturn in Capricorn and the eclipses on the Capricorn-Cancer axis will draw our attention to financial issues and urge us to be cautious in our expenses while on the other hand we may be drawn away from mundane realities and chase after the pie in the sky.

Jupiter, which is associated with wealth and wealthy people by the ancient astrologers, is related to great expectations and very high demands. It is related to wholesalers, big businesses, capitalists and capitalism. Jupiter’s character is “always looking for more.”

Jupiter in unfavorable aspects with other planets may bring fanaticism, exaggeration, hypocrisy, narrow-mindedness, impatience and indecisiveness. People may make wrong decisions, get into some unlucky speculations and investments, or experience great losses due to over-reaching attempts and exaggerated risk taking.

Neptune, the planet of dreams and ideals, represents fantasizing about being rich or on the contrary being uninterested in financial requisites. Neptune does not like dealing with difficulties. It is prone to deception and illusion. Neptune is related to bankruptcy. In the exchange markets, Neptune represents companies which produce oil and gas, sea/ocean products and liquors. Conspiracies, deceitful and fraudulent acts, illegal affairs, front companies, downfalls, destruction and chaotic situations are issues related to Neptune.

With the Jupiter-Neptune square, we may see speculations and diversions in the stock exchange market; prices which have been increased by speculation may fall. The Jupiter-Neptune square may create a disintegration in economics. As a result of such inflation and deflation, people may lose their motivation. While running after our ideals represented by Neptune, we may also be drawn into fantasies and be confronted with manipulations in business life.

Fake gurus

Religious issues, beliefs, missionary activities and propaganda are represented by Jupiter’s transit in Sagittarius. With Neptune’s transit in Pisces and the Jupiter-Neptune square, we can expect controversies related to religious beliefs. We may come across fake gurus who will lead many people astray. Jupiter in Sagittarius may be blindly loyal to religious principals or to dogmatic philosophical ideals. He may also display much self-righteousness, become judgmental of others or become arrogant. This is contradictory to Neptune in Pisces, which is open-minded and which has an acquiescent and indulgent nature.

The basic tendency of Jupiter in Sagittarius is to discover new things, have different experiences and to expand towards wider horizons. To achieve these things, we may feel the need for the freedom to express ourselves more openly. Jupiter represents a strong desire for growth and so we may feel very frustrated during this time when we are held back or confronted with limitations.

Jupiter reflects an interest in the integration of things, rather than focusing on the details. The bond which unifies everything is more important than the minutia. Jupiter’s unifying power is also reflected in religious issues. Religion is a system which brings higher awareness to the people, regarding their role in the universe and it guides them to the connectivity of the universe. Judicial systems, which keep the society together and secure justice, are also represented by Jupiter. In the background of all these systems, there is a Jupiterian risk. People may become self-righteous as they assert their opinions with excessive confidence.

Dreams and Realities

If you look at Saturn in Capricorn, Jupiter in Sagittarius, and Neptune in Pisces you see that they are all in their domiciles (in the sign they rule). As a result, they will all tend to manifest their qualities quite strongly. On one side, we have the requisite to be realist (Saturn in Capricorn) and on the other side we have the desire to run after ideals which are difficult to actualize (Jupiter and Neptune in Sagittarius and Pisces). Limitations on one side, and transcendence and desire for freedom on the other side… Heavy responsibility opposed by a desire for leaving it all behind in order to follow one’s dreams… What an interesting period of time we are about to enter. So, what could we do in such a period? Let’s see…
JUPITER IN SAGITTARIUS

DOSER

- Pay attention to escapism! Avoid over-indulging in alcohol or similar addictive substances using the excuse of getting relaxed or escaping from the realities for a while!
- It is a good idea to practice relaxation techniques like meditation, without becoming detached from daily life!
- Avoid highly idealist and utopic idealism; instead focus on how to actualize and put those ideas into a grounded practice. When you feel you are drowning in dreams, step back and put your feet on the ground!
- During this period, we are open to absentmindedness, confusion and instability. It may be that bad decisions are actually better than indecisiveness. Follow your heart and be decisive – Be authentic, even if you make mistakes.
- Do not avoid taking responsibility during this time, however you should not take on too much responsibility.
- Do not withdraw from others, do not isolate yourself. However, stay away from people who make you feel depressed, anxious and guilty.
- Devote more time to charities. Help others, but do not become a victim of over-extending yourself.
- Get advice from wise people! But keep in mind that fake gurus will be on the increase during this period.
- Do not lose your targets and purposes! Do not give up your desires! Keep in mind that those are the things that keep you vital!
- If you cannot cope with the difficulties you face, do not hesitate to ask for help from your loved ones and from professional counselors; this is very natural! Fear and worry are normal human responses to these planetary energies. You do not need to feel ashamed.
- Spend more time with the people who bring you joy and happiness! Get involved in new activities that are beneficial & fun. However, do not overreach!

With love, light and hope!
Oner Doser, AMA, ISAR Cap

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A Magical Mercurial Ingress
Jupiter in Sagittarius, 2018

by Gary P Caton

“Frank Zappa and the Mothers, were at the best place around. But some stupid with a flare gun, burned the place to the ground.”
–Deep Purple, “Smoke on the Water”

n the 125 years of ephemerides at the back of my new book, Hermetica Triptycha: The Mercury Elemental Year, (1) you can find only two instances where Mercury’s inferior conjunction with the Sun happened both in Sagittarius and also conjunct Jupiter. The first occurred on December 12, 1971 –within a week of the incident chronicled in the opening epigraph The next one occurs November 27, 2018. What fiery manifestations can we expect from this rare combination this time around? The cycle of Mercury retrograde through the four elements lasts about six to seven years. The last installation of Mercury retrograde in the fire signs, previous to the current one, happened in 2010-2012. It was kicked off by a retrograde in Sagittarius, during which an obscure Tunisian street merchant practiced self-immolation in protest for having his products confiscated by the police—an event that escalated to mass protest, and eventually started the regional firestorm we called to the Arab Spring. We can see in these two instances that the mutable quality of Sagittarius fits perfectly with the image of a bow, spreading and distributing the fiery energy far and wide—sometimes quite literally. What happens when we add the expansive quality of Jupiter, at home in his own sign? Since Mercury and Jupiter rule opposite signs, many might expect the presence of Mercury in Sagittarius along with Jupiter to add to the volatility already inherent within fire signs. This view is certainly supported by the historical evidence.

- December 16, 1971 saw Victory Day for Bangladesh in the liberation war, one of the most violent wars of the 20th Century.
- December 18, 1971 saw the Smithsonian Agreement, created by the G-10 to devalue the US dollar, introducing the era of floating currencies, which increases foreign exchange volatility.
- Coincidentally, at the recent Great Lakes Astrology Conference (GLAC), I attended a lecture on introductory financial astrology where Ray Merriman advocated investing in stable foreign currencies because of fears of an upcoming currency crisis and the dollar losing value. (2)

However, this idea of Mercury and Jupiter as opposites is not really supported in mythology, where they are much more cooperative. After all, Mercury was charged with carrying out the commands of Zeus. For this reason, I have suggested that Mercury and Jupiter can be seen to operate as “octaves”, or “higher” and “lower” versions of the same basic note, and along with Pallas Athene and Uranus can be seen to form a kind of “archetypal complex” – being all associated with somewhat unbounded, mental creative principles. (3) On this note, we could expect creative breakthroughs which spread through the collective like wildfire, during Mercury’s stay in Sagittarius with Jupiter. Again, the historical records are in agreement:

- November 15, 1971 saw Intel release the first microprocessor.
- January 4th, 1972 saw the first handheld scientific calculator introduced, and on
- January 5th, 1972 Nixon announces the Space Shuttle program. Thus, for those
Jupiter is actually moving relatively fast here, superior planets being fastest when conjunct the Sun. So, this is a very interesting exchange. It is as if Mercury goes and gathers up the energy of this magical star, turns around and hands it to Jupiter, as they both pass through the heart of the Sun, and then turns again to meet Jupiter in a final pass over the star. What could this mean?

In mythology, the only exchange between Jupiter and Mercury that involves a scorpion does so indirectly. Several myths involve stories where Jupiter and Mercury act or travel together in order to test the hospitality of humankind. In one version, the great hunter Orion was born of one of these adventures. Mercury, Neptune and Jupiter disguised themselves as travelers and went to visit Hyrieus, who was pious and according to custom and divine law treated his guests very generously—roasting an entire bull for them. The Gods then reveal themselves and as reward for this generous hospitality offer to grant Hyrieus a wish. Hyrieus wishes for a son, so the three Gods take the bulls hide and urinate (or ejaculate) on it, and bury it in the earth. They then instruct Hyrieus to dig it up after ten months, whereupon he finds Orion. (4) In alchemy, this scene becomes an allegory for the creation of the filius philosophorum or “philosopher’s child,” which is symbolic of the birth of a higher consciousness. (5)

Orion goes on to become a great hunter, but unfortunately along with his great skill comes great pride or hubris, which for the Greeks is a grave sin, which often does not end well. After Orion boasted that he could kill every living thing, Gaia, the great Earth goddess created a giant scorpion to hunt the hunter. This is said to be why Jupiter arranged the constellations Scorpius and Orion to occupy opposite parts of the heavens, so they chase each other ‘round the heavens in a kind of cosmic balancing dance. It’s difficult to say for sure, but this portrayal of Scorpius could account for one of the...
It appears that the first of these electional opportunities arrives during the week leading up to the Winter Solstice, when Mercury and Jupiter are both dignified and moving into conjunction with the magical star Antares. This star is also said to “grant good memory and intelligence, (and) makes (people) appear wise.” (8) Wednesday December 19 and Thursday December 20 are the planetary days associated with Mercury and Jupiter, respectively. The traditional method is to use the planetary day and hour for the same planet, but my personal opinion is that if the planet of the day is in helpful aspect to another planet, the use of the cooperating planet’s hour can also work. So, one can begin to dial in the electional window to their unique location by using the planetary day and hour of either of these planets, or even a combination (i.e., Mercury day, Jupiter hour or Jupiter day, Mercury hour). (9) From amongst these combinations, choose one which gives the best house placements, particularly one which places Mercury and Jupiter on the angles. For instance, in Washington, D.C. at 10:40 am on Thursday December 20, we have a Jupiter day, and Mercury hour with both planets culminating on the mid-heaven!

References & Recommended Reading:
(2) You can follow Ray Merriman’s free weekly financial column via his website: https://www.mmacycles.com/index.php?route=blog/category&category_id=1
(4) See for instance the Theoi Project http://www.theoi.com/Olympios/HermesFavour.html#Hyrieus
(6) Henry Cornelius Agrippa, Three Books of Occult Philosophy: Bk. II, Chapter 47
(8) Renaissance Astrology gives variant info on these 15 stars https://www.renaissanceastrology.com/hermes-fixedstars.html
(9) If your astrology program does not calculate planetary hours, you can try an online calculator, such as the one here https://www.astrology.com/tr/planetary-hours.asp

Gary P Caton is a transdisciplinary astrologer, initiated by a magnificent dream in 1993. An accomplished writer, teacher, stargazer and astro-photographer, Gary combines the experiential power and dynamic images of the living sky with classic horoscopy and metaphysics, and delivers this alchemical blend through the matrix of bleeding edge modern research and pioneering technique. His first book, Hermetica Triptycha: The Mercury Elemental Year, met with rave reviews and there are two more volumes forthcoming. You can also catch Gary online via the popular Hermetic Astrology Podcast, or on one of his frequent lecture tours, across the US and abroad.
operates also against Saturn, compensating the latter's exclusiveness and crystallizing logic; but even then, Jupiter's action is merely producing the exact reverse of Saturn's operation. He compensates for Saturn. He neutralizes Saturn. Yet his power is always conditioned by his polar opposite, Saturn. The guru's guidance and teaching are conditioned by the pupil's limitations. The former impersonates what the latter fails to see. Likewise, the great Artist or Seer brings to humanity what the humanity lacks.” Dane Rudhyar (Jupiter-Organizer of Functions)

Keeping Rudhyar's perspective in mind, in these critical times, we can initially think that our faith in the spiritual world would be enough for ourselves and humanity. Yet, if we overlook Saturn's side we will not realize the need to take our own responsibility and be more realistic. The material world of Saturn must be balanced by the Spiritual world of Jupiter. As Dane Rudhyar says; Jupiter compensates for Saturn. What we need to do is to unite spirit with matter in these critical times.

Sources:
http://khaldea.com/rudhyar/nmnm/nmnm_jupiter.php

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I mostly imagine Jupiter and Saturn as wise elders of the sky. Even though their styles differ from one another, they both serve the same purpose: wisdom.

Eda Ocak Zakaria
What Gifts will you get from Santa this year?
Tools to specify the results of the upcoming Sagittarius Jupiter transit

by Theodore Naicker

The period of Jupiter through tropical Scorpio has felt as if I’ve placed all of my hopes and skills on trial. The courage of my convictions to steel myself to grow beyond my fears had on some days left me feeling oddly exasperated and yet hopeful. I could imagine a stern and scornful Santa Claus peering over my shoulder every time I dared to voice a wish, deftly pronouncing, “It’s do or die time, my boy! I’m here to help you manifest them all, c’mon step it up!” as he patted my shoulder with some gleeful “encouragement” from the shadows.

While I am thankful for being able to (almost constantly) work on my fears and inhibitions, I look forward to seeing good ol’ Jupiter leave the looming and brooding of Scorpio for some fresh rays of sunshine and adventure in Sagittarius come this November. To celebrate the upliftment of our friend and guide moving into Sagittarius, I write this with a goodly pinch of Jupiterian wisdom, to help unlock the many gifts this beneficial year-long transit can mean for you, your loved ones, and your clients.

I am going to begin with one of my favourite charts – that of Joanne K. Rowling, famous author and creative muse of the Harry Potter series of novels. Her Jupiter transit through Sagittarius is highly fitting, as you will see, it superbly bridges the gap between Scorponic and Sagittarian themes in a way I think would tickle your astrological taste buds.

While her birth data is approximately 9pm; I’ve applied principles in both Western and Vedic astrology to arrive at a time I think most suits the events and descriptors of her life.
Venus was in Libra, then its external results will take up the form indicated by Jupiter since Venus is traditionally exalted in Pisces. The external results of the transiting Jupiter in its own sign can be understood as being coloured by the indications of the natal Moon in the chart, since Jupiter is exalted in Cancer. Here is a ready table to help you apply the rule of *Svakshetra Phalam*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planet in Own Sign</th>
<th>External Results shown by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Mars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moon</td>
<td>Venus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mars</td>
<td>Saturn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>North Node</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jupiter</td>
<td>Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venus</td>
<td>Jupiter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturn</td>
<td>Venus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Therefore, the results of Venus in Libra will be shown by Jupiter. The results of Saturn in Capricorn will be shown by Venus. The results of Jupiter in Sagittarius will be shown by the Moon. A special case is that if Mercury is in its own signs, its external results are shown by the North Node. This rule works beautifully in natal charts, as well as by transit. For example, while Saturn is transiting Capricorn, we work on building our new foundations following Venus as she is placed nataly, but also as she transits around our chart. This is an advanced topic, which I am introducing here by way of simple examples. The great thing about knowing some Vedic astrology as a western astrologer, is that you benefit from techniques and tips that have been tested over centuries of practice already.

Back to the chart of JK Rowling. While Jupiter transited Sagittarius (its own sign) across her MC, we expect some fortune to befall her. Let’s use the rule of *Svakshetra Phalam* to understand what may transpire. In her chart we see the Moon is strongly connected to Jupiter. I find that combinations of the Moon and Jupiter, especially in appropriate places, strongly feature in the works of authors who produce consistent quality and quantity of literature, and who produce works which are largely well-received and popular.

The Moon in the 8th sign stellium shows that some “luck” of the Jupiter-MC transit involves difficult experiences in life. However, the ruler of the stellium being Mercury (another important consideration for authors) is nevertheless exalted and in its own sign of Virgo, and being ruler of the fifth, indicates that something of the difficult 8th sign Moon experience will cause her to be exalted, specifically informing her creative works. At the time of completing the Harry Potter first novel, her mother passed away and she has explicitly voiced that this single traumatic incident in her life forever changed the story of little Harry in the novels, where-upon she added the death of Harry’s mother and the protection of her love, as a strong thematic undertone to the entire series. The rest, as they say, is history.

Further details of the Sagittarius Jupiter transit can be gleaned from the Moon in the secondary progressed chart (which is always relevant, but especially so in understanding a Jupiter transit in Sagittarius or Pisces). In 1995, the progressed Moon had just moved into Scorpio (the natural 8th sign of the zodiac) and connected to the natal Mercury (in the 8th sign of the chart), giving supportive testimony that the 8th sign Moon experience (the passing away of her mother) was deeply traumatic and transformative for her during that time, shaping her motivation to strongly colour the writings with Scorpionic themes of death and the occult (the progressed AC was at the time in Aries, her 3rd sign of writing).

In this way, applying the rules of *Svakshetra Phalam*, you can also specify the relevance and manifestation of the Sagittarius Jupiter transit in whatever house it occurs for your clients and friends, by properly understanding the indications of the Moon in their natal (and progressed) chart.

Anthony Martial

**Natal Chart**

- Dec 5 1998, Tue 16:42 am, 28.71-100
- Mason PR
- 49°49'00.00" W
- 0°29'27.17" N

**Birth Sign**

- Virgo
- Whole Sign
- True Node

Anthony Martial and Herman Hesse - Success Stories

So essentially we know that the Sagittarius Jupiter archetype aims to follow through with an active, demonstrative goal as contribution into society, from which many opportunities emerge. It is a fire sign, it is a male sign, it is doing something, it is expressive, it is inspired. However, Jupiter in Sagittarius, while being an indicator of manifested freedom, cannot on its own indicate what this manifestation looks like—we need to look at the Moon for that. In other words, for people born with Jupiter in either Pisces or Sagittarius, or having a transit of Jupiter in Sagittarius or Pisces, the natal Moon (its condition, its house placement, its lunar phase, its state by progression, etc.) are all crucial in understanding more specifically what gifts Jupiter will intend. Let’s look at a couple more examples.

**Anthony Martial** is a professional football (soccer) player who plays for the Premier League club Manchester United, and the France national team. In 2015, he was the recipient of the 2015 Golden Boy Award for the best under-21 male player in Europe, which is awarded by a conglomeration of sports journalists from Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Portugal, France, Spain, Greece, Russia, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.
Naicker

Both the rising Sun, and Venus contact to the MC (which she rules) indicate quick and early success. The Moon in earthy Taurus in the 6th sign shows a preference for a hands-on or physical approach. Together with a strong Mars and Jupiter, this is a success story with far-reaching potential.

He began playing football at the age of 6 at the reputable Club Omnisports des Ulis, the same which has produced famous French footballers such as Thierry Henry and Patrice Evra. Jupiter in Sagittarius is in the first house, showing some extraordinary physical talent which forms part of the developmental signature. Jupiter also rules the 4th house (Pisces), showing that this is a deeply inherent talent likely to begin from a very early age. At his Jupiter Return (age 12) famous footballer Patrice Evra gave the boy his own shoes to practice in (note Pisces as the natural 12th sign of the zodiac indicates the feet).

Since Jupiter rules Saturn in this chart, the Saturn cycles can also coincide with opportunities which come to him (Saturn is in a feminine sign, therefore it indicates experiences which happen to him, not necessarily anything he actively does). At the first Saturn opposition (age 14, 2009) he was spotted by scouts from the popular Olympique Lyonnais football club which competes in France’s highest league (Ligue 1) and recruited him there in the same year.

In 2010, the year transiting Jupiter joined natal Saturn (in Pisces, again showing the results are specified by the exalted Moon), he distinguished himself in games, scoring 32 goals in just 21 matches. This resulted in him being called up to play for the national team in the 2012 UEFA U17 Championship. He has continued with this success, playing for AS Monaco (one of the most prominent football clubs in the French system) with a multi-million Euro contract extended to mid-2019. Here you see the incredible results of the Pisces Jupiter transit being given to him through a Taurus Moon (where the Moon is exalted, and being the natural 2nd sign of the zodiac, showing immense personal financial gain).

Jupiter in his chart shows strength. The Moon is exalted in Taurus in the 6th sign of effort, exertion, and routine. This shows that the gifts of Jupiter in the chart (inherent talent) are known by the exertion of physical effort and performance and endurance (Taurus). The Moon ruling the 8th house (other people’s money) and in Taurus (natural 2nd house of the zodiac), shows that the gifts of Jupiter manifest through major sponsorships for his physical acumen or athleticism.

Hermann Hesse (1877 – 1962) was a German-born poet, novelist, and painter whose best-known literary works explore the individual search for authenticity, self-knowledge, and spirituality. He received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1946 at the age of 69.

The Pisces archetype is very pronounced in his chart. Pisces contains Mars (the 5th house ruler of creative works, trine the Sun), Saturn (the 3rd house ruler of writing and communication), the Moon (ruler of the Sun sign, therefore indicating for what he may become recognized socially), as well as the destiny-relevant North Node. All of this is ruled by Jupiter, who is also the ruler of the AC, and placed strongly by rising in the chart and closely connected to the Saturn-Moon conjunction (we have already seen a strong Jupiter-Moon connection in relevant places to be important for famous or popular authorship).

The external form of the results of Jupiter in Sagittarius come from the Moon. The Moon and Mercury are the planets most changeable by those with whom they associate. Here we see the Moon strongly conditioned by Saturn (ruler of the 3rd and joined the ruler of the MC (Venus), showing the imaginative Piscean Moon receives inspiration and channels it through communication into the public sphere. For authors of course, we should include supporting testimony from Mercury. Mercury being strong in its own sign is conditioned by a highly expressive Uranus archetype (in the 9th sign of publishing). Mercury is also connected to the MC by trine, further supporting the public role and style of work to be literary or strongly communicative. Mercury is in its own sign too, so applying the same rule, the results of this Mercury are coming from the North Node – and again we come to Pisces! So here we see the results of the natal Jupiter as gifts, are indicated by the Moon (and its associations), with supporting testimony from Mercury.

The external form of the results of Jupiter in Sagittarius come from the Moon. The Moon and Mercury are the planets most changeable by those with whom they associate.
Barack Obama is an American attorney and politician who served as the 44th President of the United States from 2009-2017. A member of the Democratic Party, he was the first African American to serve as president. He was previously a United States Senator from Illinois and a member of the Illinois State Senate.

In 1995 Jupiter was transiting Sagittarius. The results of this transit would be indicated by the Moon in his chart. We can see a Moon in Gemini, having contact with Mercury (ruler of the 8th sign), and Pluto (in the 8th sign), and the Moon ruling the 6th sign of labour and illness. In 1995, his mother passed away following unsuccessful treatment of ovarian and uterine cancer.

The 6th sign also has relevance pertaining to work, especially that of civil service. The Moon having a connection to the 5th sign ruler Mercury, also can show a result in writing or communication at the same time. In 1995, as he was beginning his political campaign for the Illinois Senate, he released his first personal memoir about his childhood and upbringing, Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance. We see the detail of his writings coming from Cancer, the sign ruled by the Moon (remember, we are contextualizing the Jupiter transit by a full delineation of the natal Moon).

In the sign Cancer we have Venus, ruler of the 4th house, indicating themes of the 4th house being emphasized: home, father, ancestry, etc. The 6th house is traditionally associated with themes of subjugation, submission, slavery, and bondsmen (being close to the 7th house of relationships but below the horizon and hence below our status). Having the sign of Cancer as the 6th house, shows a family history or ancestry carrying themes of hardship, separation, slavery and other related social challenges facing humanity. In a modern context, having Cancer on the 6th house ruled by the Moon, also shows that in this year of the Jupiter transit he is focused on his work in the community and perhaps running for office as a civil servant (service is a 6th house theme, the Moon shows community involvement). Finally, the Moon as ruler of Cancer is placed in Gemini as the 5th house, linking writing with themes of childhood from that perspective as well.

This is a good example of interpretation in astrology as being quite varied, and that when a planet or sign archetype is activated, it can very well tend to manifest all its possible significations at the same time.

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Theodore Naicker, DMA., DAS., is a specialist Western and Vedic astrologer based in South Africa with a background in petroleum engineering. He has worked as an astrological consultant since 2012. He runs courses, webinars, video series, retreats, and workshops on specialist topics in astrology. You can find out more about his background, qualifications, and events at www.spicastrology.com/about-theo/ or email info@spicastrology.com.
Called to Meet the Past
The Nodal Axis enters Cancer/ Capricorn

by Lynn Bell

Later this year, on November 15, 2018, the Mean nodal axis will shift from Leo/Aquarius to Cancer/Capricorn. (The ingress for the True Node is November 7). These signs invite us to consider the past. They call us back to ancient events, both collective and personal. Even more significantly, as the nodal axis shifts into Cancer/Capricorn, it will move backwards into connection with Pluto, and then with Saturn. The old authoritarian temptation is heightened by the South Node's entry into Capricorn, the desire to find a 'big Daddy' who will decide for everyone, and 'take responsibility.' The ancestors call to us, to step up and finish what they could not, to repair an error, to pay a debt. On some occasions, we may be pulled into circumstances reminiscent of another era, another time. The Nodes here ask us how to honour the past without being caught up in it.

Since April 2017, the South Node has been in Aquarius. One of the most striking tendencies during this period has been a powerful connection to 'groupthink;' Politically speaking, we can identify this trend in the United States with people either associating with the conservative side of the equation or classically liberal. Many of us have been pushed into stronger identification with those who think the same way. A few rare individuals have taken a stand, breaking with their cohort, to call out for truth. The North Node in Leo asks for this kind of personal courage, invites individuals to speak out against a powerful tide of group mind. The recent passing of Senator John McCain highlights this polarity and is seen in the outpouring of admiration and tribute to his courage and strength of conviction. It is fascinating that this man, once honoured and admired, an incontestable hero, had begun to lose support, as chanted slogans replace thought. An 'us-versus-them' mentality can be seen as a degraded expression of the Aquarian impulse to find like-minded souls.

In Cancer and Capricorn, the nodes speak even more powerfully to what has come before, they speak to the history of humanity. In many ways the power of the past may be stronger during these passages. We must remember that the nodes, unlike other astrological factors, move backwards through the signs. They describe an involutorial spiral, like the unwinding of a spool of thread. This backward movement is a recapitulation of what humanity and individuals have already experienced, an activation of patterning. It may seem as though the past rises to meet us, bringing history back to life, sometimes in unwelcome forms. We have unfinished business.

The North Node in Cancer asks us to protect the vulnerable, to make things safe for those who cannot protect themselves. It calls us to the inner life, and harnesses the power of imagination. Externally, it may also correspond to a wave of women in power since Cancer relates to the feminine. Evolutionary astrologers talk about the connection between these nodal signs and the passage from a matriarchal to a patriarchal society, and we may see an echo here. Other tradi-
tions refer to the Cancer/Capricorn axis as the “gateway of the soul”.

Has the pressure of the world pulled us out of alignment with soul’s purpose?

Capricorn is often the builder and law-giver. Together these two signs hold the world in place, they give rise to the external and internal structures that support our development. However, when unconscious, Capricorn’s structural gifts can take the form of over-control. Authoritarianism, top-down decision making, and a paternalistic hierarchy can all grow stronger. At its most extreme, the tyrant is constellated. Given the passage of Pluto in Capricorn since 2008, these tendencies are already quite perceptible, in the world at large with powerful personalities like Erdogan, Putin, Orban, and Mohammed Bin Salman, to mention just a few of those who have risen to power. The authoritarian temptation will be strongest as the Nodes interface this potent planet, and continue to move through Tropical Cancer/Capricorn. This also happens to correspond to the incoming Saturn-Pluto conjunction (exact on January 12, 2020). So many planets in Capricorn, especially these particular planets, argue for a strong redirection of the world. We are watching political lines being redrawn and continents change shape. Values are shifting, and the new technologies that came in under the Neptune-Uranus conjunction in the same sign have now revealed their potential as subtle mechanisms of control.

Most often the Node’s passage through the signs bring powerful inward events, while the eclipses that punctuate them every six months, reveal these processes in the outer world. This time, Pluto will also be conjunct its own South Node at 21 of Capricorn, compounding, and intensifying the evolutionary process. Pluto’s crossings with its South Node happens only at 87 and 161 year intervals, a result of its highly elliptical orbit. The first crossing of this cycle occurred in July of 2018. Until then, the last time a crossing took place, was in 1930, at the time Pluto was discovered. It reveals itself to us at the nodal crossing. Individuals who are born during this time will have great power to bring about deep transformation, or destruction. They will crave intensity, and carry the seeds for potent reform.

For further research, here is a link which calculates planetary nodes http://www.true-node.com/eph1/ Plutowill next cross its node on January 5th of 2019. It will be conjunct the Moon’s Mean Node on March 28th 2019 (22 Capricorn). The Moon’s node will align with Saturn on May 20th 2019 (20 Capricorn).

Two dates of interest arise, when we look at previous times in history where the Moon’s nodes and Pluto conjunct in Capricorn. The first date 1517, when we look at previous times in history where the Moon’s nodes and Pluto conjunct in Capricorn. The first date 1517, when the omnipotent Catholic Church was profoundly challenged for its own internal corruption. There was a call for reform for the complete restructuring of a corrupt system. It

The core concept of this revolution was a call to inner spiritual authority, to an inner relationship to truth, rather than a docile acceptance of external proclamations.
is not surprising to see Saturn approaching a conjunction with Pluto, though still in Sagittarius, at the time Pluto conjuncted the Moon’s node, see chart. The Church hierarchy chose to suppress the movement rather than listen to its cries for change, and a hundred year dismantling began. Communities were torn asunder, entire populations went into exile, political alliances changed. The core concept of this revolution was a call to inner spiritual authority, to an inner relationship to truth, rather than a docile acceptance of external proclamations. Each individual had to find their inner connection with divine authority. Where authority is corrupt, where it leaves no room for a true connection, where it enslaves rather than frees, then this crossing of the Moon's nodes and Pluto's nodes has a potent effect for reform, for redirection. Pluto crossed its own Planetary node (at 14 Capricorn at the time) a dozen or so years after the Reformation began. The Reformation itself came less than a century after the new technology of the printing press changed access to both old and new ideas. At the present time, we find ourselves a Saturn cycle on from the profound changes brought religious restructuring to Europe, deeper into that direction. The 16th century is no guarantee that this cycle will bring us to light, and we can only hope this will bring a major redirection of consciousness.

For the individual, the Cancer and Capricorn axis highlights a particular set of concerns. Issues of dependency and control, of responsibility and care, in alignment with the house positions of these signs in our birth charts, will call to each of us.

**Issues of dependency and control, of responsibility and care, in alignment with the house positions of these signs in our birth charts, will call to each of us.**

But it also initiated Europe’s use of African slaves in the new World, beginning a cycle of immense cruelty and dominance. These past cycles give us both hope and caution. The toxic underpinnings of our world will come to light, and we can only hope this will bring a major redirection of consciousness.

**Lynn Bell** is a Paris-based astrologer whose work spans multiple cultures as a speaker, teacher, author and consultant in astrology. After many years of teaching and lecturing throughout France, she was invited to join the Centre for Psychological Astrology in London in 1995. In the UK she teaches for The Faculty of Astrological Studies Summer school in Oxford, and the LSA, as well as the CPA, and she continues to consult from her home in Paris. Outside the world of astrology, she has often collaborated with Caroline Myss, and her CMED Institute. She has been part of the faculty of the New Chartres School, held every year, for the past seven years in Chartres, France by Wisdom University.
Cancer/ Capricorn
Moon Nodes
The Sacred journey towards Belonging

by Vanessa Couto

The North Node journeys through Cancer from November 7, 2018, through May 4, 2020. The zeitgeist for the next 18 months reflects the core themes of the structures of ‘belonging’.

If you have the Nodes in either Cancer or Capricorn, these core themes of belonging, memory, and independence are highlighted, and will be beckoning to be made conscious in your life. Look to the houses activated in your birth chart to see in which specific areas of your life these themes play out.

I personally have the South Node in Cancer with the North Node in Capricorn, so I will have the Nodal Reversal by transit to look forward. Those of you with the South Node in Capricorn, and the North Node in Cancer, will have a Nodal Return, which comes around every 18 years. In both of these instances, it’s a time of focused awareness around one’s life purpose and soul work.

According to astrologer Elizabeth Spring, author of “North Node Astrology - Rediscovering Your Life Direction and Soul Purpose”, the Nodal Reversal period is both an illumination time, akin to the Full Moon phase as well as the time to dig for the ‘gold’ inherent in the South Node’s shadow. It’s time to “access the highest octaves of both the North and South Node signs.”

For this article, I will focus on the core motifs of the myths surrounding Cancer and Capricorn for a big picture of these collective and personal themes.

Here be dragons

We can return to the origin myths of a sign in order to flesh out the broader themes that are up for reflection as the Lunar Nodes journey through Cancer and Capricorn. For that purpose, let us start with the symbolism of the Dragon in relationship to the Lunar Nodes.

For the Western Medieval astrologers, the Lunar Nodes were called Caput and Cauda, meaning the Head of the Dragon, and the Tail of the Dragon. The Head of the Dragon came to embody how we take in and respond to new experiences; it is our growing edge. The Tail of the Dragon represents not only the more vulnerable aspect of the dragon, but also the place of elimination.

The Head of the Dragon points to where we are headed, the lessons to be learned, the growing edges of our development and how we engage with the new that comes into our lives. The Tail of the Dragon reveals how we can liberate ourselves from the past, also how we have integrated the lessons learned, and how we now need to move on so that we don’t get stuck in an old way of behaving.

When we imagine a dragon and how it moves, we can easily see how its head and tail work together in the process—the head leads, while the tail balances. The pitfall is when we embrace one over the other; most often it is the tail of the dragon that keeps you fixated and mesmerized, highlighting the natural tug-of-war that the Lunar Nodes signify. They capture the polarity aspect of their position and placement in opposite signs in our birth charts.

Inherently, this is a dichotomy dragon, where its tail illuminates the unconscious aspects of the sign it inhabits, while its head points to the qualities we need to embody so that we may move forward. In many schools of thought, the Lunar Nodes reveal our ‘Axis of Fate,’ as explained by Celeste Teal in her book “Lunar Nodes - Discover Your Soul’s Karmic Mission.” Much like the heroes in myths around the world, we too have to struggle with our Lunar Node dragon.

No matter your belief or disbelief in reincarnation or karma, the Lunar Nodes highlight what is unconscious within us, the behavioral aspect that is running on automatic (South Node), and the traits and gifts we need to develop for our personal growth (North Node.)

Belonging and Mastery

The Lunar Nodes will travel through two opposing signs for 18 months, giving us enough time to flesh out the themes highlighted by these signs. Even if we don’t have planets or relevant aspects in these signs in our birth chart, we can observe the zeitgeist for confirmation of these themes.

With Saturn, the ruler of the South Node in Capricorn, also transiting through Capricorn, there is a strengthening of the Goat’s shadowy aspects, while beckoning us to work towards developing our inner authority and mastery. Yet, with the upcoming arrival of the South Node in Capricorn, we are also called to eliminate the rougher edges of the Goat’s sign. Adding Pluto to Saturn and the South Node in Capricorn, there’s a natural push-and-pull between developing mastery and authority but without the hardening of one’s soul.

That’s what the North Node in the nurturing sign of Cancer will bring to our attention, the need for us to do the collective work in developing a more holistic sense of belonging and care for what it means to live in community - the human tribe.

“The great irony is that modern culture is suffering an epidemic of alienation, yet so many of us feel alone in our unbelonging, as if everyone else was inside of the thing that we alone are outside of.” Toko-pa Turner - Belonging: Remembering Ourselves Home

In Toko-pa Turner’s excellent book, she dives deep into exploring the many facets of belonging and the struggles we face in our modern times around our lost sense of belonging - to community, to family, to ourselves, to our geography, and even to our place in the cosmos.

Her book is apropos for these times, highlighting the North Node’s upcoming arrival in Cancer, where the themes of family, tribe, and a shared sense of community are the lessons which we need to learn.
CUETO

individually and collectively. The hardening of the borders, the entrenchment in our individual beliefs, and our inability to engage in dialogue, all reveal how misaligned we are with belonging. (some readers may see the hardening of the borders as a necessary step to secure the tribe – it is important to remain accessible to the other political spectrum, even if you can state your personal opinions as such: that they are personal to you.)

Her book calls us to do the inner work (read North Node development) of facing our fears and grief around belonging, so that we may together build a living bridge of connection, as we weave and bind the roots of our beings together. To Toko-pa Turner, alienation is the belonging’s darker sister; and in this symbolism, we can see the shadow aspects of Capricorn revealed.

While Capricorn teaches us about becoming masters of our own lives, gift- ing us with the determination to climb the mountain of our ambition and drive, it can also miss the mark by isolating us in our drive to make it ourselves, thus uprooting us from the shared sense of belonging. ‘It’s my way or the highway’ in its most negative aspect, for it is about independent mastery and authority at the cost of splitting away from community and family. This is the negative side of Capricorn and also the root of its vulnerability.

Of Sea Goats and Crabs

The mythology around the constellation of Cancer and Capricorn is both ancient and hard to pin down. As a constellation, Cancer is faint and quite inconspicuous. The symbol of the crab is a reminder of one of the most ancient of animals on Earth. In evolutionary terms, the Crab is virtually unchanged, and this makes sense when we think of Cancer as a sign that is interested in memory, family roots, memorabilia, and ancestors.

Capricorn’s constellation is one of the oldest observed, already showing up in the Babylonian records several thousand years B.C. Again, this is an interesting connection, as Capricorn is also a sign that is concerned with tradition, respect for that which takes time, established systems of governance, and history. Both signs beckon us to examine the past and learn from our shared memory, so that we may know the best way to move forward.

The myth around Cancer stems from the story of Heracles (Latinized as Hercules) and his 12 labors. In Heracles’ second labor, he has to destroy the Hydra, a water monster with the body of a dog with eight or nine heads: the heads continued to multiply as Heracles cuts them off. In the midst of his battle, Hera sends the crab to distract him by biting on his ankle (or toes depending on the myth version."

From its earliest of associations, Cancer was the cosmic womb from which new souls would come to Earth.

Heracles crushed the crab under his foot and managed to destroy the Hydra by cutting it down by its roots deep inside the muddy waters. In gratitude for its work, Hera blesses the crab by immortalizing it as a constellation in the heavens.

The symbolism here - Heracles’ work of killing the Hydra by targeting its roots and the lowly crab’s work of biting our solar hero - shows us what Cancer teaches us: there is immense value in understanding our past. Diving deep to understand the roots of our issues through working with our memories is what helps us let go of that which has us by its claws.

Another exciting aspect of the constellation of Cancer: for the ancients it was the gateway through which the souls would incarnate in this world. From its earliest of associations, Cancer was the cosmic womb from which new souls would come to Earth.

With the North Node in Cancer, work with the past, with our shared trauma and our collective memory, will be necessary if we want to move forward and not just repeat our past mistakes. There is gold to be retrieved from understanding history. In light of the latest discoveries around epigenetics, we will benefit immensely from understanding the root of our collective malaise from the lens of the ancestral work we all need to embrace.

The myth around the Capricorn constellation starts with the sea goat image familiar to the Sumerians and the Babylonians.

Linked to their original imagery of the sea goat was their god Ea, who ruled the waters, agriculture, and in essence, taught humans how to be civilized.

Another dominant motif around Capricorn was its Greek association with the satyr Pan and the help it lent to Zeus (Jupiter) during the war against the Titans. When the Titan goddess Rhea conceived the sea monster Typhon to come and fight against Zeus, it was Pan who disguised himself as a fish but managed only to transform his bottom part into a fish, retaining the upper portion as a goat.

In the midst of the battle, it was Pan’s cry that saved the day, as Zeus was reduced to just his limbs by Typhon. Thanks to Pan’s cry Hermes comes and gathers the remains of Zeus and brings the god back to life. Out of gratitude, Zeus places Pan in the heavens as Capricorn.

But it was also at the height of Greek civilization, that Capricorn’s sea goat lost its fishtail and became just a goat, more Pan, less fish. It was perhaps at this point that Capricorn started losing its connection to the waters (Cancer) and became the driven Senex (Latin for an old man) mountain goat.

Perhaps during the Lunar Nodes’ 18-month journey through Cancer/ Capricorn, we should reconnect to the archetype of the god Ea, and its deeper relationship to the waters of our inner lives and imagination. Because with Pluto, Saturn and eventually Jupiter traversing the Capricorn landscape, we already have an overemphasis in this archetype, and now we need to reconnect to the waters within. The Lunar Nodes’ journey through Cancer-Capricorn will help set the tone and recal-
brate the collective’s misalignment around these complimentary signs.

Envisioning Capricorn as a sea-goat, not just a mountain goat, makes it easier to see how the power of Capricorn stems from keeping the connection to the waters of imagination, feeling, family and memory (Cancerian themes.) While we may aggrandize the image of the lonely hero, master of his world, we also know that there’s an inherent imbalance when our hero is never again able to find a connection in the world.

It’s true that our solar heroes need to fight their inner and outer dragons to be able to make something of themselves in the world, a Capricorn theme. But the lack of connection to their feeling world, their sensibility, their soul is what drives our solar heroes to become hardened and embittered Senex figures, who are unable to show compassion and emotion. Even heroes need to return to their community and reestablish their inner link to the soulful waters of feeling and imagination.

Best approaches to navigating the Nodes’ journey through Cancer/ Capricorn

Individually and collectively, the Nodes’ journey through Cancer and Capricorn will beckon us to do the emotional work needed to affect change and to solve the many problems we face.

In the emotionally driven sign Cancer, the North Node’s 18-month stay will beckon us to face the scars of our past trauma, dig into our individual and collective memories to better understand how we can move forward. Healing and therapeutic work would be appropriate because our inner work isn’t just individualistic navel-gazing, it is both political and ecological.

A focus on community building and connection will be highlighted to dispel the universal feeling of alienation. It will be more fruitful to move beyond the Aquarian artificial cells of social media and to engage in creating shared experiences of belonging.

In thinking of ways to do this, I’m reminded of the book and now Netflix movie ‘The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society’ by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. It’s a story of how the inhabitants of the Isle of Guernsey survive the German occupation during World War II by coming together in a makeshift book club, where the shared joy of reading and engaging with the stories helps them bond and form a friendship that stands beyond the horrors of war.

Belonging and community

“One of the essential building blocks of community, is a shared sense of values. Though we might be different in lots of ways, it’s through our intersecting values that we create long-lasting connection and meaningful change. Before we can make the village we long for, we first have to name what we value most so that we can envision the tomorrow we want to create.” -Toko-pa Turner - Belonging: Remembering Ourselves Home

We have the opportunity to engage in exercises of belonging during the Lunar Nodes’ journey through the axis of the Crab and the Sea Goat. Only together can we ride this dragon of individual and collective transformation.

May we be able to let go of the exaggerated aspects of hardened individualism, the cynical and embittered Senex in all of us, so that we may reconnect with the collective waters of imagination and story because the world needs us to remember our collective shared sense of connection and belonging.

Vanessa Couto is an astrologer, artist, podcaster, and teacher in Portland, Oregon. Her work weaves mythology, fairy tales, depth psychology, and art. She’s also the creator of the coloring books “Lunar Mandalas” and “The Sun’s Heroic Journey”. Find more at [www.vanessacouto.com](http://www.vanessacouto.com).

Mandala artwork by Vanessa Couto
Book Review
Review by Arlan Wise

Sedna Consciousness
The Soul’s Path of Destiny
BY ALAN CLAY

Alan Clay undertook an ambitious project when he decided to explain Sedna to readers. Sedna is a newly discovered (2003) planet which is at the outermost edge of the solar system. She lives way beyond the Kuiper belt in the Oort Cloud. As there is no empirical evidence to look at, Alan Clay intuited that Sedna works in the realm of the unconscious. This book contains his theories on how to understand what Sedna means in our lives and in our charts.

Sedna is small, about the size of Pluto, and is thought to be made up of ice and rock. It is cold, estimated to have a temperature around -240 degrees. Because of this fact, Sedna was named after the Inuit goddess of the sea, who is thought to live at the bottom of the icy Arctic Ocean. There are at least five legends about Sedna, which fits with a planet who is so far away that there is no real definitive information about it. The gist of these legends is of a girl whose father takes her to sea and throws her overboard. As she tries to cling on, he chops off her fingers and she sinks to the bottom of the ocean to become a sea goddess who is worshipped by hunters to provide them with food. Sedna is thought to teach us to let go.

Sedna is on an 11,406-year orbit. Alan Clay divides the history of mankind into Sedna years. It is an interesting concept and an interesting way to look at history. It changes your perspective to see time through Sedna years.

Because of this long orbit, Sedna stays in one sign for nine hundred to a thousand years. If you were born before 1968, you have Sedna in Aries. Everyone born after 1968 has Sedna in Taurus. In 2024, Sedna enters Gemini and knowing this we can be on the lookout for what this will mean. Clay delineates Sedna in the houses, and has extensive explanations of Sedna in aspect to other planets in the chart. Clay also has chapters on Sedna aspects to the Centaurs and other Trans-Neptunians.

The author tries to bring meaning to Sedna by looking at the events that happened in 2003 when Sedna was discovered. He has 12 case studies with charts so that one can see Sedna in the chart. There is extensive description of each person’s life which overrides the astrology at times. Much of the last section consists of stories of people’s lives, including many murder victims. It is interesting but it feels like there are more biographies than astrology.

This is a big book, 1,197 pages. It could have been smaller as there is repetition, sometimes whole paragraphs are repeated. There are many descriptions of individuals with Sedna in aspect to a planet, but there are only twelve charts in the book. It might have been better to have less examples and more charts. It would be helpful to have an ephemeris of Sedna during the years of the readers’ births so they can fine tune by degree if their Sedna closely aspects a planet or sits in which house. There is no research available so it is hard to distinguish if the examples are cherry picked or if Sedna acts in a certain way for the majority of charts.

The book is based on speculation since there is no hard evidence to prove how Sedna functions. The words “may” and “perhaps” are used a lot in the book. Very few people have experienced Sedna transits so it is hard to find a personal frame of reference for her effects. She seems vague, which is apt if she is a force in the unconscious. She is connected with our spirituality and can be seen as a description of our spiritual quest and presenting challenges to make us grow. “Sedna energy is the oneness of everything”.

It is important to read the first third of the book and then look at the aspects that are relevant to you and your clients. It is an ambitious book which requires an ambitious read, but when you do read it, you will learn about Sedna.

The Professional Astrologer
an essential volume for every student and practitioner

Available In Paperback and E-Book
at Amazon.com and OPAastrology.org

The Career Astrologer
OPA’s Quarterly Magazine
## Astrology Retreat

*A Spiritual Retreat in the heart of Mayan sacred land.*

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**Maurice Fernandez, Gemini Brett, and Oner Doser**

As we approach the intense threshold of the 2020 planetary alignments, hinting at a fundamental shift on the planet, spiritual work is ever more important – We come together to strengthen ourselves spiritually and join forces to support the planet in these intense times.

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**Ceremony at Uxmal Pyramids**

with Mayan Shaman Don Marzo

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MORE THAN JUST A PHASE

Why are there twelve Signs of the Zodiac? This number can’t be defined by the Stars for the Ecliptic Constellations are not equal in size while the Signs most certainly are. The astronomical author of twelveness is often said to be the body for which “month” is named though of course we also honor the dance of Sun as we Earthlings witness Moon gracefully wax and wane.

Moonday the 13th

It could be suggested that thirteen, not twelve, is the number of Moon because she travels about 13 degrees each day and transits the entire Zodiac about 13½ times annually. This orbit of Earth (the Sidereal Month) averages 27½ days (or 13+13+1.3), which is why ancient Arabic, Chinese, and Indian astrologers honored 27 or 28 lunar mansions (known as Nakshatras in the Vedic tradition), one to host each day of Moon’s heavenly journey.

The Sidereal Month

The Sidereal Month is seen in the chart by tracking Moon’s return to a Zodiacal degree and seen in the sky by tracking Her return to a lunar mansion, constellation, or fixed star. Moon is rising in San Anselmo, California as I type this sentence on Monday September 3rd, 2018 at 12:13am. She is 13°12 Tropical Gemini in the Nakshatra called Rohini, which means “The Red One,” named for the bright eye of the Bull constellation, the star Aldebaran to whom Moon is now closely aligned. Moon will return to this Zodiacal degree and star alignment in about 27½ days on September 30th at 5:44am, but will be in Waning Gibbous Phase (trine Sun) rather than Waning Half (square Sun) as she is now. (See Fig 1 below.)

The Synodic Month

Sidereal lunar mansion traditions predate the 12-Sign Zodiac by millennia, but it is the cycle of lunar phases that is shown by the oldest calendars known, whether painted on cave walls or chiseled into bone.¹ The 29½ day Synodic Month of lunar phases is longer than the Sidereal Month because, during the 27½ days required for Moon to circle the Zodiac and return to the degree that hosted the previous New Moon, Sun moves about 27½ degrees so Moon must travel another couple of days to catch up for their next Synod or meeting (Fig. 1). From Earth’s point of view, the Sidereal Month is all about Moon while the Synodic Month is lunisolar. Moon Phase is a reflection of the relationship between Moon and Sun (Fig. 2, at right).

Calendar Calisthenics

The ancient Babylonian calendar consisted of twelve months alternating between 29 and 30 days to keep the 29½ day synodic cycle (or lunation). Twelve such months add to 354 days, a period known as the Lunar Year. To maintain an alignment with the seasons, which is imperative for a calendar to function agriculturally, an intercalary (leap) month must be added about every third year. The Synodic Month of 29.53 days and the Solar Year of 365.242 days synchronize almost exactly every 19 years, resulting in a near perfect lunisolar period that includes twelve years of twelve months and seven years of thirteen months where the months alternate between 29 and 30 days.

The Sidereal Month vs. the Synodic Month

Fig. 1

Fig. 2. The Phases of the Moon by Astrological Aspect to Sun. This illustration also shows the Northern Hemisphere location of Moon in the sky (or below the horizon) as Sunset.
Metonic Magic and the Silver Fraction

This period of 19 years or 235 lunations (19 \times 12 + 7 = 235) is now called the Metonic Cycle though it was known well before the life of Greek astronomer Meton for whom it is named. The builders of Stonehenge constructed the innermost horseshoe of their astronomically advanced temple with 19 bluestones and also encoded the lunisolar secret of 7/19, which geometer Robin Heath calls the “Silver Fraction.” 27 divided by 19 equals 0.37, a number somehow shared by synodic and sidereal lunar mysteries as there are 12.37 (365.24 / 29.53) Synodic Months and 13.37 (365.24 / 27.32) Sidereal Months per year. What strange magic is this?

Sky Serpent and Lunar Extremes

Every month, Moon snakes above and below the path of the Sun, crossing the Ecliptic at the Lunar Nodes and peaking about 5° above or below at the points traditionally known as the Lunar Bending (Fig. 3). Skygazers who know the Ecliptic Stars can watch this dance in nature and astrologers can learn to see Lunar Latitude in the chart (Fig. 4). The Lunar Nodes transit the Zodiac in about 18.6 years, bringing Lunar Maximums when the North Lunar Node reaches zero degrees Tropical Aries because the most northern lunar latitude (Northern Bending) then coincides with the most northern declination of the Zodiac (0° Cancer) and the most southern lunar latitude with the most southern zodiacal declination. During Lunar Maximums, Moon is more than 5° Out of Bounds when She aligns to the Solstice Points. Lunar Minimums occur when North Node reaches zero degrees Tropical Libra because the Southern Bending aligns to the most northern zodiacal declination and vice versa.

Enter the Dragon

The 27.2 day Draconic Month (the time between Moon’s consecutive conjunctions with the same Lunar Node) is slightly shorter than the Sidereal Month because the general motion of the Lunar Nodes is retrograde. The 346.6 day Draconic Year (Sun’s consecutive conjunctions with the same Lunar Node) is also known as the Eclipse Year because Sun must be near either North or South Lunar Node for Solar or Lunar Eclipses to occur (Table 2). Total Solar Eclipses can occur because Sun is about 400 times the size of Moon by diameter, but also about 400 times further from Earth so the Luminaries appear to be the same size in our sky.

Size Matters

Astronomical orbits are elliptical, not circular so a perfect Syzygy (triple alignment)

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**Table 2. Eclipse Limits**

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<th>SOLAR ECLIPSE</th>
<th>LUNAR ECLIPSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total*</td>
<td>00° 00' - 09° 55'</td>
<td>00° 00' - 03° 45'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial or Total*</td>
<td>09° 55' - 11° 15'</td>
<td>03° 45' - 06° 00'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>11° 15' - 15° 21'</td>
<td>06° 00' - 09° 30'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibly Partial</td>
<td>15° 21' - 18° 31'</td>
<td>09° 30' - 12° 15'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* solar eclipse may be Total or Annular
between Earth, Moon, and Sun will produce an Annular Solar Eclipse or ‘Ring of Fire’ if the New Moon is too far from Earth to occult the entire solar disk. The dark focus of the Moon-Earth system that astrologers have come to call Black Moon Lilith always lies between Earth and the Lunar Apogee (furthest point of Moon’s path from Earth). When Moon is close to Lilith on a chart, She is relatively far, small, dim, and slow. We have come to use the term Super Moon to describe the relatively close, large, bright, and fast Perigee Moon (Fig. 5). The Anomalistic Month is the time between successive Lunar Perigees.

Size Matters

Moon is a master teacher of the Astrological mysteries. Not only does She advance our archetypal study by shifting Signs and therefore Polarity, Triplicity (Modality), and Quadruplicity (Element) every 2.3 days, but Her phases allow for a sentient experience of astrological aspects and introduce the importance of synodic cycles. Moon quickly teaches the attentive stargazer to honor the extra-Zodiacal dimensions of latitude, declination, size, and speed, which expand our astrology astronomically when applied to the other Planets that grace our eyes and also to those who eternally hide.

May the Light that Changes ever be our gracious Guide.

Love and Planets,
Gemini Brett
MoreThanAstrology.com

Illustrations by ScorpiAna and Gemini Brett for Arts of the Chart

1 Cave paintings and carved artifacts from Europe and Africa suggest Synodic Lunar Calendars have been kept for at least 30,000 years. [https://sservi.nasa.gov/articles/oldest-lunar-calendars/]
2 Stonehenge, the Marriage of Sun and Moon by Robin Heath [http://cura.free.fr/decem/06heath.html]
The Great Syzygy
The New Paradigm of Relationship in the Age of Aquarius
by Shannon Gill

Aquarian Age & The New Myth
It is controversial to delineate when the Age of Aquarius actually begins, or if in fact it already has. It is a bit like trying to determine when the dawn begins. Is it when the morning sky first reveals it luminous glow long before the sunrise, or is it when the Sun actually emerges over the horizon? Regardless of this dubious assignment, the inarguable fact is that we are very much immersed in the energetics of this new epoch, whether we are a few years out, at the gates, or well on our way, the birth of the new Aquarian energies are rolling in like the tides of the ocean.

For those who may not be aware, an ‘astrological age’ is an epoch of time in which major themes in the development of humanity, particularly relating to culture, society, and politics, are affected. There are twelve astrological ages corresponding to the twelve zodiacal signs in western astrology. Known as the ‘Precession of the Equinox’, the cycle of Ages move backwards through the Zodiac and is determined by what sign is the Sun when it rises on the Spring Equinox (March 21). Currently, the Sun is in the very last degrees of Pisces (moving backwards), and is very close to formally transition to Aquarius. The Pisces Age has been intensely concerned with matters of faith and religion, yet ultimately dominated by hierarchy, power and the split between the spiritual and the material world. During this Age the predominate drive has been to find something in which to believe. According to many astrologers, each astrological sign has a key phrase, and for Pisces it is “I believe.”

As we shift into this new Age of Aquarius, the prevailing myth will transition from external fixation & faith, into direct knowledge and relationship with the Divine Source itself, surrendering any need or desire to ‘believe’ in any one concept or dogma. The key phrase for Aquarius is “I know”. We are now seeing through the deluge of religious corruption, and are experiencing a collective awakening to our direct connection and relationship with Source. According to acclaimed Swiss psychoanalyst Carl Jung, the symbol of the Aquarian water carrier signifies that the psyche of the individual will no longer be carried by religious communities but instead by conscious individuals. Jung states that “individuals are to become the incarnating vessels of the Holy Spirit on an ongoing basis.”

Jung’s transmission relating to the process of human’s individuation and eventual ascension lays out specific guidance in the realms of spiritual practice and psychological inquiry. Through this active engagement, the psychological knowledge of antiquity.” Jung also developed compelling astrological material in reference to the coming Ages of the future. Specifically, he emphasized the Age of Aquarius and the return of Man to his Soul. Jung speaks of the transition from the Age of Pisces to the Age of Aquarius by stating: “Around the birth of Christ, there follows the Age of Pisces. Pisces is a water sign. That is probably why we have to look for spirit in the water, in life’s flow of images, and in the unconscious. And now we are on the threshold of the sign of Aquarius. The air element has been assigned to it, and it is symbolized by an angel or a human being, instead of an animal. Here, the Spirit is meant to become something subtle again, and human to become who he is.”

As we shift into this new Age of Aquarius, the prevailing myth will transition from external fixation & faith, into direct knowledge and relationship with the Divine Source itself, surrendering any need or desire to ‘believe’ in any one concept or dogma.
The Great Syzygy

creation of an alchemical cauldron may lead to
the elevation of one's consciousness to
this more 'subtle-angelic' state. He refers to
this process of realization and sacred embod-
iment as "The Syzygy", or the 'Divine Couple'.

Syzygy, represents 'wholeness and com-
pletion'; which is a result of "Conjunctio
Oppositorium", the conjunction of oppos-
ites within the human Soul. Syzygy literally
means to be "yoked together." Jung used
the term to denote "an archetypal pairing
of contra-sexual opposites, which symbol-
ized the communication of the conscious
and unconscious minds, the conjunction
of two organisms without the loss of iden-
tity." Jung terms these opposites anima
(unconscious feminine side of a man) and
anima (unconscious masculine side of a
woman). The integration of the masculine
and feminine energies, also known as the
"androgyne" is the representation of whole-
ness and will become the hallmark of the
Aquarian Age.

Essentially, Jung claims that through this
union of opposites, spiritualization of the
body occurs. This process catalyzes each
person to regain original purity and recep-
tivity of the Soul. This phase follows the pri-
mary stage of the integration of all shadow
projections, and the removal of the inflated
ego and unneeded conceptualizations
from the psyche. He speaks of the alchem-
ical state of 'albedo' when referring to the
Syzygy state of consciousness.

You will find similar declarations attribut-
ed to Jesus, stating: "When you make the two
into one, and when you make the inner like
the outer and the outer like the inner, and the
upper like the lower, and when you make male
and female into a single one, so that the male
will not be male nor the female be female,
when you make eyes in place of an eye, a hand
in place of a hand, a foot in place of a foot, an
image in place of an image, then you will enter
the Kingdom." --Gospel of Thomas, 22

Evolutionary Relationship & The
Divine Mirror

As we journey deeper into this new
Aquarian myth, those who are actively
engaging the process of evolution are wak-
ing up to a radical new spiritually progres-
sive paradigm when entering into intimate
relationship. As a result, we are witnessing
a collapse of the old conventional models
of relationship that were following the 'till
death do us part' model, to a new spiritual
model of commitment to a 'sacred contract'
committing not to the 'person', but to one
another's personal evolution. Perhaps an
elevated model of relationships may com-
prise partners entering relationship with
the intention of serving one another, the
relationship becoming a sacred crucible, an
ecstatic alchemical container for the meta-
morphoses of the Soul.

This level of spiritual work is tantric in
nature and can be referred to as the 'high-
er work'. In a sacred tantric relationship, it
is widely understood that one has a deep
commitment, first and foremost to the evo-
lation of their own Soul. Only then, may
they consciously enter into the dance of
'self and other', where that the alchemy
of the union will reflect back all that has
been hidden, denied, or repressed from the
self. This, in conjunction with the sacred
container of love and compassion from
each partner, assists in the burning off and
eventual integration of all of the shadow
aspects that must proceed the 'albedo' pro-
cess leading to the potential "syzygy" that
Jung proclaims.

Jupiter in Libra Catalyzes and
Expands

The astrological movements of the past
couple of years have ignited a quickening of
the relational evolutionary processes. Jupiter's
transit through Libra - September 2016
through October 2017, catalyzed a mas-
sive reorganization of relationships in the
collective. Jupiter, the harbinger of higher
consciousness, traveling through the sign
of Libra, ruling over the domain of rela-
tionships, resulted in a collective urgency
in this process of realization and sacred embod-
iment as "The Syzygy", or the 'Divine Couple'.

In a sacred tantric relationship, it is
widely understood that one has a deep
commitment, first and foremost to the
evolution of their own Soul. Only then,
may they consciously enter into the dance
of 'self and other', where that the
alchemy of the union will reflect back all
that has been hidden, denied, or repressed
from the self.

Tantra & the Alchemy of Ecstasy

Jupiter, 'the great expander', has also
catalyzed a focus on the Scorponic sexual
realms that may be utilized as a spiritual
portal that can accelerate the journey to
healing and accessing of higher states of
consciousness. As a result, there has been
a collective interest emerging as a urge to
'member' the ancient Vedic path of sacred
sexuality- Maituna Tantra.

Maituna Tantra is the spiritual practice of
sexual union. It is the transference of ener-
gy which occurs as the couple 'becomes
as Gods and Goddesses'. It is through the
diminishing of ego and confrontation with
ultimate reality, couples gain access to the
experience of bliss through the union of the subtle bodies. The merging of internal opposites - masculine & feminine, dark & light, spirit & flesh - activate the 'Syzgy' which sparks the Spirit body to experience ascension into the higher realms.

This is not just about 'good sex'; it is an actual alchemical process that transforms the energetic make-up of the body/mind/Soul. The density that is experienced through the 'weight' of shadow material and closure in the body is literal and visceral. Through this intentional practice of the deep integration of all of the elements, coupled with the very specific breath and partnered bodily practices ascribed, the couple creates a 'vehicle' which enables 'traveling' outside of this human 3-D realm, into other cosmic realms of existence. It is truly a paradox, that when we actually surrender into the very core of our pain, we release ourselves from it. True love, which is our only real essence, sets us free. Fears of abandonment, betrayal, unworthiness, and self-doubt arise to be played out in the magnetic mirror of our relationships. If we are able to be courageous enough to feel into it, and also to hold ourselves and one another in compassion with unconditional love, all may be transformed in the sacred container of our sexual relationships.

2018 Mars & Venus Retrograde Dance

Mars and Venus embrace their every-other-year reverse waltz through the Zodiac this year, putting our relationship dynamics and patterns under the microscope, and delivering a rite of passage to 'level-up' our relationship dynamics. This time of reevaluation serves our evolutionary advancement by slowing us down and presenting the underbelly of our current mode of relating to ourselves (Mars) and our intimate partners (Libra).

It is a period of intense focus upon the psychological and emotional connections, distortions, blocks, needs, and wounds, which are currently being played out. The rapid pace of life lends itself towards falling asleep to patterns and higher awareness. However, during a retrograde period, the sudden pause and reversal of the flow of energy, catalyzes awakening to the current dynamics at play. We may then course correct, clarify the connection, and/or shed another layer of our snakeskin by taking a conscious dive into the shadow dimensions within.

Essentially, we have the opportunity to refine the flow of energy between the opposite poles. Both within ourselves, and then between us & our intimate partners. Higher awareness is necessary to provide a container for the renegotiation of energetic patterns and clearing. It is a threshold that offers the opportunity to advance one's ascension journey.

Mars Retrograde in Aquarius-Capricorn June 26 – August 27, 2018

Mars, the fiery "Warrior" planet, cycles in reverse through the Zodiac once every 22 months, making it the rarest planetary retrograde, and possibly the most challenging. This is due to the essence of Mars, which represents our energy moving outward. It corresponds to our will power, our motivation, our instinctual action, our innate passions and our sexuality. Mars reflects the masculine drive and directs our forward movement. Therefore, in retrograde motion, the usual 'go-getter' planet, turning both inwards and backwards, can feel quite destabilizing, frustrating, and create massive inner tension and angst.

Mars rules Aries, which is the first sign of the zodiac, and thus has to do with the birth of a new cycle, and our individuation process from Source. It is our relationship to our self, first and foremost, our independence, autonomy, and our personal power. During the retrograde reevaluation phase, we experience the 'planetary push' to review our relationship to our self on an intimate level. In this time of review, questions may arise as to our own internal dance of opposites. Where are we on the scales of balance with our internal polar opposites? Masculine vs. feminine, shadow and light, mind vs. heart? Calling forth the rebirth of the 'divine masculine' is the collective razor's edge. Redefining 'masculine' based on internal balance of the poles.

Mars was retrograde this year in Aquarius, which brought forth elements of a new paradigm of evolutionary relating to be explored. Aquarius, 'the Awakener' catalyzed a collective focus on this new paradigm of intimacy that for some, begged the questions of monogamy vs open relationships, attachment vs detachment, and independence vs. codependence. The simultaneous square to Uranus forced breakdowns or breakthroughs, with massive numbers of break-ups!

This every-other-year pilgrimage, which Mars takes in order to re-invent the self, plays an important role in the transformational path of relating. Before we are truly prepared to meet another in the sacred cauldron of conscious intimacy, we must first have reached equilibrium and balance with our own 'inner-lover'. Mars backwards waltz through Aquarius pushed our boundaries in order to expand our comfort zone. It has also propelled us to explore where
The Great Syzygy

we are between the old-conventional model of relationships and the new paradigm of sacred evolutionary relating.

Venus Retrograde in Scorpio-Libra: October 5th - November 16th:

Venus, Goddess of love, beauty, and relationships takes it’s backwards turn shortly after her counterpart – Mars returns to its direct motion. Venus, like Mars, only retrogrades once every 18 months, making this passage a significant portal to clarify, refine, and upgrade our relationship dynamics. Venus, the celestial queen, reigns over the sacred feminine essence and art of divine love. She is concerned with the expression and continuity of love, divine connection, grace, and pleasure of all kinds.

Venus is one of the two planets that has dual rulership. She has masculine and a feminine expression. With the yin Venus-Taurus, we are concerned with matters of ‘self-love’, nurturance, pleasure, and our direct relational needs. In yang Venus-Libra, the motivation is the flow of romantic love that we share with another. The Taurus ruled 2nd house is inconjunct to the Libra 7th house, therefore the developmental stage of the individual in respect to the 2nd house energies will reflect the person’s capacity for 7th house intimate relationship dynamics. According to Mark Jones, “our individual needs (2nd house) and relationship concerns (7th house) can then be placed in the context of our deepest yearnings and aspirations in the 12th house, Neptune and Pisces.” The process of self-love (Taurus) to intimate love (Libra) catalyzing the ultimate love union with Source (Pisces) is reflective of the alchemical process of the Syzygy.

This season’s Venus retrograde cycle begins on October 6th at 10˚ Scorpio and returns back to 25˚ Libra. Once again, the Scorpionic dark-mother of the Zodiac beckons us back to the underworld to reveal what is still hidden. In love relationships, this can be anything from issues of self-worth, fears of inadequacy or loss, obsessive dynamics, jealousy, or sexual issues. In addition, commitment themes may arise, as Scorpio is interested in Soul commitment and deep union leading to spiritual ascension. It is through this level of sacred and intentional merging that we gain access to the ‘gates of heaven’ in the tantric realms. However, Venus will oppose Uranus during her journey through the darkness, which will likely bring unexpected twists and turns, and a potential see-sawing between commitment vs. freedom.

On Halloween, Venus backtracks from Scorpio, into Libra, where we will likely be re-evaluating whether or not the union is worth continuing. After all of the shadow work in Scorpio, in Libra, we get to come up from the deep ocean of the unconscious and catch our breath accessing some objectivity, and also attempting to regain balance on the Libran relational scale.

Once Venus finally resumes its forward momentum on November 16th, the potential for those couples that stay in union after surrendering to the alchemical fire of transformation, may gain access to their celestial wings and take flight such as the mythical phoenix that magically emerges from the ashes of destruction to fly blissfully free into the higher cosmic realms. Another level of initiation on the ascension path successfully completed.

“Your task is not to seek for love, but to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it”. – Rumi

Jupiter leaves Scorpio for Sagittarius: November 9th – December 3rd

Can we say EXHALE!? Jupiter leaving its year long sojourn through the Scorpionic snake pit will bring us to the ‘ah-ha’ mountain peak, where we gain access to the 360˚ view of the journey we have traversed over the last few years as it transitions on November 8th to the sign of Sagittarius. The accelerated evolution began with the Uranus-Pluto square of 2011-2016 initiating the massive personal and collective eruptions, forcing cataclysmic change in every area of our lives. However, the past year with Jupiter in Scorpio, we are being refined by a compressed cycle of ego transformation as a result of the deep psychological pressure forcing integration of the darker aspects of our being that had been lingering. It has required great courage and humility to face the aspects of ourselves and our past, which we may have preferred to have kept hidden. Within the dance of sacred partnership, the clearing out of the debris, has given way for more light to come pouring through.

The gifts of such a hero’s journey which may be expected with Jupiter’s ingress into Sagittarius, are those of greater freedom from one’s emotional density, spiritual expansion, and the capacity to truly pierce the veil of perceived reality, gaining access to the higher realms of existence. Couples consciously embarking upon this path of ‘evolutionary relationship’, or committing to the ‘sacred marriage’ of divine union, through practice and deep reverence of one another and the divine, may be given keys to the vehicle that has access to ‘the road less traveled’ into the magical and mystical ‘unknown’, where they may viscerally ‘experience’ all that they have learned about. The potential reveals itself - to become ‘One’ with ‘all that is’.

Certainly it is not the sole motivation of the syzygy, to merely leave the realm of illusion and escape into blissful wonderment. The evolutionary charge is to say ‘yes’ --to fully taste and merge with the extraordinary ecstasy that is the cosmic cocktail of the Universe but then to become a conduit of this highest vibration of love-light, a ‘transceiver’ unto the planet, as an agent of the collective process of ascension and bringer of the new dawn in this Age of Aquarius. Now is the time for us to claim the truth of our Beingness, as the bearers of the sacred elixir of the divine, so that it may once again flow freely upon the earth.

“We’re all just walking each other home.” – Ram Dass & Paul Gorman

Shannon Gill-Jones is an Evolutionary Astrologer, Jungian Counselor and agent of personal and collective transformation. With a background in Buddhist psychology, Dance Therapy, various modalities of soul-work and indigenous ceremonial arts, Shannon facilitates transformative personal and group experiences utilizing the integration of the wisdom of the cosmos, embodiment practices, sacred ceremony and ritual. Shannon has a private practice, teaches, hosts retreats, and also serves as the President of the Astrological Society. She is the creator of “Rhythm Sanctuary” Ecstatic Dance in Boulder, CO, and seeded dances in Denver and Austin. Currently in partnership with Russell von Ohlhausen, she has created “Illumination”, an extension of Rhythm Sanctuary; non-profit “The Shift Foundation”, “Astram- Astrologer’s Alliance” and together they operate “Lotus Bend Sanctuary”, a spiritual day retreat center in Austin, Tx.

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A wonderful new book about the 12 star signs, with an entirely new and, yet, in the end very familiar approach, from basic stereotypes to depth psychology

The star signs explained in a more accessible and coherent way than ever, as transformations between the four elements Fire, Air, Water and Earth.

From most elementary properties to deepest themes in psychological astrology, with many references to Greek mythology and examples from daily life, the star signs emerge like reborn with familiar traits.

Suitable for all who know little or nothing about star signs, as well as for professionals, the new approach reveals a much more coherent and easy to learn world of the star signs, which remains nonetheless very multifaceted and multilayered. Hence this book is often almost a revelation even to professionals, allowing them to rediscover well-known themes in more coherently and evidently interwoven ways.

Written and richly illustrated in over 20 pictures by a Swiss physicist (*1966 in Zürich) with lots of experience in astrology and a flair to explain things very accessibly.

Available at Amazon and other vendors
More info and preview at artecat.ch
24 Ways to Market Your Emerging Astrology Business on a Budget (or With no Budget at All): Part II

To read Part I, refer to the previous issue of Career Astrologer, June 2018, Solstice Edition

In Part I, of this article we explored a number of ways to market your emerging astrological practice with little or no budget at all. These ideas are simple and easy, just the way marketing should be. It only takes minimal effort to implement the changes needed to achieve the desired results. Remember that marketing is not about the use of all those technical tools, like SEO, Lead Generation, or CTA, which are, simply dry jargon. Successful marketing is about communicating the value that your services bring to people, done in a meaningful and smart way. In this part, we examine a few other effective ways of promoting your business and your astrological services to your potential clients that won’t break the bank.

12. Rethink your Email Signature

It’s no secret that email has become an integral part of doing business nowadays. Just think of the volume of emails you send on a regular basis, and that becomes even more relevant when you start interacting with prospective contacts and clients. Your email signature is a prime spot to showcase your business, your services and your offerings. Changing email signatures is easy and it only takes a few minutes to make those valuable adjustments. Besides your name and phone number you might want to add your business name, your website/blog address, social media accounts, services you specialize in, your logo, or even a link to your recent (or most popular) blog post. If you are organizing a webinar, hosting an event, or presenting at a conference, you might want to temporarily add that to your signature, as well. Each email you send will be your brand ambassador, a silent, non-intrusive advertisement that is truly cost free, yet is creative and effective.

13. Consider using LinkedIn to Network

If you are looking to showcase your professionalism as an astrologer, LinkedIn would be a great platform to utilize. Not only can you connect with the people from similar industries, you can also join LinkedIn groups where all industry-related discussions take place. It is not all promotional. By engaging in the open discussions and answering relevant questions, you can increase your social visibility, grow your network and establish yourself as a professional in the field of your astrological expertise. If you cannot find an existing group, you can always create your own, and invite others to join the group. That way you automatically present yourself to the group members as a manager and expert in the topic-related field, opening a space for others to share ideas, ask questions and promote their offerings.

14. Handwritten notes

If you are just trying to establish your client base and a time factor is not the main issue, it is good to send out handwritten Thank You notes to your clients. A simple and charming note goes a long way. It is that finishing touch that makes the client feel appreciated and cared for. It builds trust and increases the chances of your clients referring you to their friends, or coming back for another session with you when the need arises.

15. Birthday Specials

Invite your clients to a special discount for their birthday – they will certainly be interested to have a reading for their upcoming year. This way they feel both welcomed and reminded of your services.

16. Implement a referral program

Word of mouth is the most effective type of marketing. By employing a simple referral program you increase the chances of getting more clients without your direct effort. As soon as you wrap up a session or project, and your client is satisfied, ask if there is someone they know who might benefit from your counsel. Offer discounts that are valuable to your client, as this will be the driving incentive for them to refer you to their friends and to their network, increasing a number of potential new clients.

17. Join industry organizations and networking groups in your area

Business guilds & networking organizations in your local area are prime places for you to promote your talent and your services. You can practice your elevator pitch and get comfortable talking about yourself. Get your business cards ready as they will come in handy. Meet other professionals, participate in committees, and even offer to give presentations. Try to find non-competing partners who sell to the same client you do. Referral partnerships can be a great way to build your practice, especially if you establish good working relationships within a networking group. Remember that people want to see your professionalism and confidence before they establish you as a primary referral in the services you specialize in. Leverage your network and don’t forget to follow up with each person you receive the business card from.

18. Offer a freebie

It can be a range of services: a checklist, various cheat sheets, video/audio lectures, tutorials or even a short tutoring session. It does not have to be a full consultation, although that is also an option. The main idea is to offer clients content or material that is of some value to them, something
they would usually pay for. Offer the content in exchange for their email address, referral, testimonial, or even a positive mentioning on social media.

19. Create a promotional video
   The best way to let everyone know about you and your services is by creating a promotional video that can be subsequently uploaded and shared on your website, blog, or your social media accounts. Video content is the most popular and most engaging kind of content across all platforms. Present yourself in the most natural, 'you-specific' way so that your viewers have a sneak peek into your persona. Make sure your introduction is short, to the point, memorable, and relevant to the area of your astrological expertise. This video can be the electronic equivalent of your business card you can easily share with anyone you interact with online.

20. Automate your social media accounts
   If managing your social media account seems cumbersome and time consuming for you, there are free tools you can use to automate certain processes.
   Sending automatic direct messages is one of them. Each time someone follows you on social media, this tool will send out an automated welcome message. That automated direct message can be anything you want your first interaction to be like. Make sure you sound as relatable as possible though. You can include a short introduction, links to your website, and even content that you think might be helpful to your new followers. Among the best tools for your social media automation are CrowdFire and SocialOomph. The process of setting it up is rather simple. Your new followers will surely feel acknowledged and appreciated when they receive a personalized message from you. Just don’t forget to follow up with them if they reply to your initial welcome message.

21. Start a local Meetup group
   If speaking at the conferences sounds too intimidating, leading a local Meetup group might be a great first step in overcoming a fear of teaching and presenting in front of an audience. On Meetup.com you may set up a desired size of your group, the topic of interest, and pick the location you feel most comfortable with. To start, your local coffee shop is a great place for a small group to meet up at as it eliminates the pressure of meeting new members at non-neutral space. By leading a smaller group of astrology enthusiasts, you will develop your presentation skills, build up your network and establish more confidence. Organizing a Meetup group can also be a great transition into offering personal classes and private tutoring.

22. Print flyers or post them online… a lot of them
   Designing a flyer has gotten much easier these days. Canva offers a variety of free, pre-made beautiful templates that are very easy to personalize, and allow you to create flyers or brochures for any occasion. The printing cost is minimal and the effects are going to be significant, especially if the designed flyer is creative and edgy. This is even more relevant if you are hosting a local class or a Meetup group and you are trying to spread the word in your local community. Distribute the flyers on public bulletin boards and ask to put them up in local yoga studios, cafes and coffee shops to increase the awareness for the advertised event or service. On that note, you could also host an event with a non-competing business and then cross-promote the event to your subscribers and on social media using the digital version of your newly-created flyer.

DON’T MISS ALEX AT
i-ASTROLOGER

Alex Zolotov will be presenting at the 2018 I-Astrologer conference in Tucson AZ – Oct 4-10, 2018.

HIS PRESENTATIONS:

Effective Branding and Marketing in your Astrological Practice

An active seminar on Marketing and Branding for Astrologers. Attendees will leave with a clear understanding of branding as an effective way to fully market themselves in pursuit of establishing a growing and successful astrological practice.

Social Media Marketing for Astrologers

The power of social media is undeniable. The astrologers nowadays have an opportunity to use it as the tool to their advantage and boost the growth of their emerging astrological practice. The seminar will touch upon: the idea of a Social Media plan aka ‘plan of action’, daily check-list for successful social media marketing for astrologers, target audience and the appropriate social media platforms to reach the desired target market, easy and effective social media supportive tools and additional resources, additional e-Networking tips, and other ways to become e-visible as a business entity.
23. Guest post on other astrologers’ blogs

If you always have something to say about the world events, astrological transits, or your own research, then you might want to leverage your astrological network by writing guest posts on other astrologers’ blogs. Reach out to popular astrology writers with the request to host your articles and ideas on their website. By collaborating with other astrologers you reach higher exposure by gaining attention of the people who might not have been familiar with you and your work. An example of that might be a Q&A post where you are being interviewed by another astrologer with a link back to your website. It’s a win-win situation as both of you will benefit from this collaboration, exposing each other to contacts from your own digital network.

24. Use your social media background and cover photos

Each social media platform offers you a few spaces for an image that is not your profile picture. This is the photo that everyone gets to see when they see your profile (besides the profile picture). Think of it as prime real estate, a digital space where you can include your non-intrusive advertisement to promote your new blog post, special offer, a webinar or freebie. The image can be easily edited and customized through Canva, uploaded on your social media profiles, and changed as frequently as you like. Make sure it is simple, clean, and easy to understand for anyone who might be viewing your profile. If needed, include clear instruction on how to access the content you are promoting through that image. You can see why that space is valuable so there is no sense wasting it for some generic images that do not add any significant value to your existing practice.

I hope these simple suggestions will benefit you in your efforts to make your growing astrological practice lucrative and successful.

Alex (Sasha) Zolotov is a career adviser at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Along with his work in the field of professional development and career education, he is completing his second bachelor degree in marketing management, focusing on social media marketing and digital analytics. His background includes managing social media accounts and the content distribution for an independent student newspaper The Mass Media and Spoon University UMB – a digital publication for a foodie club he has founded on campus. Sasha Zolotov has obtained multiple marketing certifications from the leading marketing agencies, along with his astrology certifications from Kepler College where he is finishing up his Diploma in Professional Astrology. He is a proud board member at the Association for Young Astrologers, where he is honored to serve as a Member Engagement Coordinator.
The Astrology of Aging
(By Maurice Fernandez and Russell Ohlhausen)

ARIES – Six ongoing concussions. Getting close to beating my father’s all time best of eight.

TAURUS – It’s not the cookies, its my thyroid acting up again...

GEMINI – Now that I’m retired I can finally write my novel! I don’t remember what it’s about at the moment....

CANCER – Soon I’ll be wearing diapers again!

LEO – My fabulous mane is far from gone, wait ‘til I remove my shirt.

VIRGO – Years of healthy living has made it so much easier to recover from plastic surgery!

LIBRA – Two words: Catherine Deneuve.

SCORPIO – My Doctor said Viagra is right for you.

SAGITTARIUS – Nothing like a hip replacement to get you back on the road proselytizing.

CAPRICORN – I’m old, finally!

AQUARIUS – Mortals age, Aquarians transcend!

PISCES – The more you age, the more meds you can get!

Cover Art

Eya Floyd
I am an astrology loving, pisces sun/moon, taurus rising, artist from Austin, TX. Last March I discovered the wealth of astrology online and I’ve been voraciously listening and making art to the tune of your planetary interpretations ever since. My dream is to work with astrologers who have a passion for speaking and teaching astrology. The fruits of my artistic labors this year will become part of a new Oracle deck I’m working on with Arwen Lynch Poe, of the American Tarot Association.

Top 3 astrologers who inspired the cover art: Venus Star Introduction with Julija Simas was a big help! Kathryn Zumstein posted an excellent EA Zoom meeting (Venus Rx Dance with Uranus-Mars-Lilith) just in time to help me finish out the project. And Caroline Casey, (the first astrologer to inspire me to paint in this direction!) really fed the vision with Making The Gods Work for You, and her audio series - Visionary Activist Astrology, at SoundsTrue.com.

https://www.etsy.com/shop/EyaClaire
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Humor Graphic

Ash Mystic
Ash Mystic’s work integrates occult knowledge with channelled intuition to illustrate visions of times past and future. He utilizes various media and techniques including watercolor, algorithmic imaging and digital photomontage. Ash offers commissioned pieces and art divination readings for soul guidance and manifestation alchemy.
asymystic.com
I believe my practice as an astrologer continues that can be traced back over 1500 years. My ancestors practiced various forms of esoteric arts at once enlightening but also personally challenging for me. I do care about being a kind person in the world, to others and myself, which is also part of the journey.

We never see ourselves accurately, so it’s difficult to say. Worst thing might be my cancer rising, though I know it is a symbol of being genuinely caring, which I am, it also means I need time alone. I have a puppy who insists on being walked twice a day, and I end up in all kinds of conversations with people that are at once enlightening but also personally challenging to the cocoon I need to be in on a regular basis. The best thing might be the same thing, in that I do care about being a kind person in the world, to others and myself, which is also part of the journey.

You never tried… extreme Sports- though I have been bungee jumping.

You can’t refuse… a chance to travel- Sag moon

What is playtime for you? More broadly, enjoying new cultures, or further Exploring places I’ve been before. Hearing new languages. Learning new languages. I currently speak 5 languages, including Spanish and English. I am embarking on learning Thai.

Your animal totem? Currently, a dog. My dog specifically.

Your superstition? Be careful about buying used shoes. Don’t walk anyone else’s path but our own.

Your Chinese sign and element? Wood rabbit

Your favourite place on earth? Mexico has been home for almost 6 years now. But Canada is home, it is profoundly familiar. I have other places on the planet that have a bit of my heart, that I know I will return to. I would say cities are better representatives of my favourite places, and what resonates as where I need to be can change dramatically depending on what my spirit needs at any time of life.

What would you define is an important evolutionary lesson for you in this life? That my journey is the only one that truly matters. What other people are doing has nothing to do with me. This is personally, in terms of their interactions, but also more broadly as well. There is no comparison or competition. The competition is only with oneself, who will win today, love or the ego?

YOUR PRACTICE

Where do you live and practice? I live in Cancun, Mexico. I practice almost exclusively online, though I teach classes internationally. I am currently creating an astrology group here in Cancun that will run on a regular basis.

How long have you been practicing – How did it start? This is a very long story, but the short answer is I started studying at 14 on the encouragement of my family. Around my Saturn return is when people started offering to pay me for it. I went into astrology full time 12 years ago.

Your Astrology teachers? I feel like any book I’ve ever read has been a teacher, a part of my journey. But if I had to name some specific people, it would start with my aunt Shireen, who was a spiritual teacher to me. I had the great fortune to complete an MA in the cultural study of cosmology and divination, from the University of Kent, UK. My teachers there were many, but the people who made the strongest impact on my understanding and respect of my practice included Geoffrey Cornelius, Maggie Hyde, and Patrick Curry.

Your Astrology hero? That’s a tough one, we have so many! I’m going to say Steven Forrest. He was the first really big astrologer who let me interview him as part of my WebTV show Synchronicity WebTV. That interview changed my life, personally in terms of the knowledge he shared, and professionally as well. Many people continue to approach me in all kinds of spaces, telling me how much that interview meant to them. He has a true generosity of spirit that changed me, and serves as a model for me now when I meet new astrologers or am asked to be interviewed.

Three favourite Astrology books? Pluto: Evolutionary Journey of the Soul by Jeff Wolf Green. It is one of the most powerful, classic Astrology reference books in the world today.
Kim Rogers Gallagher had one of the first books on transits that I ever read – it was my bible for a couple of years, decades ago. *Star Signs* by Linda Goodman was a great introduction, it opened a door for me that led me to this amazing life journey.

**What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment to date in your astrology career?**

There are a lot. There was achieving my MA, mentioned earlier. That was a high point. My YouTube channel, nadiyashadotcom, will reach 100k in a few days, so that’s really big too! There are just a few astrology channels to pass the 100k mark, so I’m feeling very grateful and high about that at the moment. The fact that I’ve been doing this for so many years, that I’ve had the trust of so many for so long, I think that brings a lot of gratitude too.

**What made it possible for you to become a full time astrologer?**

Love and support.

**What is the great thing and the hard thing about being an astrologer?**

The great thing is that, to be an astrologer means that you are profoundly willing to trust yourself, to stand apart and be seen as weird or ‘other’. That takes a strength of spirit and self, and I’m so glad I had the family I did who blessed me with that.

**What are your future ambitions in the field of astrology?**

Just to keep walking my path, to enjoy the journey as much as possible, to maintain the independence I have and to continue to grow in self-trust and let my work be an expression of that. I have been ambitious in the past, but honestly, I’ve come to understand that all that matters is being at peace with yourself and with your choices. So that is how I define success today and that’s what I want to move more fully towards.

**What Inspires you to be an OPA member?**

It’s been a wonderful journey so far! I love how enthusiastic everyone is about creating community.

**Any advice for those who would like to become professional astrologers?**

Well, I have a talk I’m doing or have done by the time this is published, as part of the I-Astrologer series, which is all about success on YouTube as an astrologer. Lots of advice there. But mainly – just know who you are and stay true to that vision, and you’ll find your audience. If you don’t know who you are, that’s ok, because there are people who will want to be part of your discovery along your journey, in astrology and beyond. Just share, know that you are worthy to shine and have something to give, and good things will follow.

Thank you!
Most people have had experiences with intuition. Not thoughts, but a valuable flow of information spontaneously presenting itself out of the blue. In the form of knowledge, images, energetic or bodily sensations. We also use other terms like inspiration, inner knowing, gut feeling, being in flow, having a hunch and more.

A powerful intuition is akin to an advanced GPS-system that elevates life to a higher level to the benefit of ourselves and the totality we move in. It is enlightening, often fun and full of surprises, a kind of everyday magic.

But do we know what we are talking about – and are there different kinds of intuition? Can astrology shed some light?

As students of astrology, we are aware that a profound understanding of a chart in its totality, with all of its moving parts, is founded on intuition. The mind in itself cannot grasp the complex interaction within the multi-layered inner world of an individual. Interpreting these cosmic modes requires the feel of a musician or the inspiration of a soccer player doing a brilliant run while reading the field.

My own interest in intuition was prompted first by a spiritual opening unexpectedly resulting in the healing of a long time infertility, as described in my book Meet Your Soul.¹ The effects were spectacular – from no children over a period of six years to the birth of three boys in only two years. The last birth was a set of twin sons born on my birthday, adding two more Aquarians to the 17 (!) already in the family.

But it was the occurrence of a simple discovery that later deepened my interest and kick started a more thorough investigation into intuition. One day I was engaged on the phone in a truly inspiring conversation. During this conversation, I noticed my left hand moving about in the air, gesticulating forcefully. Surprised, I looked at the moving hand... being normally 100% right handed. In that moment, I scanned my body and registered other changes like breathing equally through both nostrils, a particularly open sensation in my throat and being able to feel all of my body in full. My voice had a fullness to it and the words came out in a pleasant vibration and flow. My entire body was filled with vibrant energy as if it were – awake. This observation hit like a lightning bolt. It seems that under specific circumstances we can shift or transcend to a new level of awareness and connect with something higher or larger. A shift that has physical effects on the body. It is not just a subjective “feeling”.

I started a research project doing interviews with a long line of professional freelance creative people – and also people employed in industries such as nursing or finance, where creativity does not serve the cause. My findings validated my original observation in full.²

Some had experiences like mine, but the physical effects presented themselves in a wide range such as goosebumps, tingling or buzzing sensations, energy waves on different parts of the body, the need to look upwards in a specific direction, a change in vocals and almost always an experience of light, in the form of powerful clarity, a feeling of elation, enhanced vitality and lightness of body. The intuitive state of awareness is real and differs from our day-to-day consciousness, mentally, emotionally and physically. In-tuition means “tuition from within”.

Intuition can be defined as meaningful information of a higher order spontaneously inflowing without the use of cognitive thought. This can come in the form of knowledge, images, music/sounds, energetic or bodily sensations. Often this occurs so quickly that it never registers in one’s awareness – you hear the words as they leave your mouth or observe the painting as it manifests through the brush in your hand.

Through astrology, we can observe a number of different kinds of intuition:

**Psychological Intuition**

This is the ability to perceive basic human emotions and motives connected to survival; the struggle for energy and resources, and the fear of lacking or losing them. This form of intuition is signaled by the intense and uncompromising desire for sex, food, money, power and recognition, or even mere attention. It is connected with the sign of Taurus/Scorpio, planet Pluto and the Eighth House. If this power is enhanced, an individual can tap into collective trends of the masses.

A frightening example of an expert in this field was top Nazi Joseph Goebbels, whose effective apparatus of propaganda is said to have been the determining factor in the spread of national socialism through precisely tapping into the collective feeling of humiliation in the German people after their defeat in WWI. Goebbels had Sun and stellium in Scorpio in the 11th house and Pluto sextile his Leo Ascendant. Hitler himself was a Taurean Sun with Pluto conjunct Neptune in the 8th sextile his MC in Leo. When I saw Hitler’s chart for the first time, it was not the buzzing chart of a world leader that I expected, but a chart with the dominant theme of lack. There are few planetary aspects and a Capricorn Moon with its shadow side representing a sense of restriction, of having too little and often a resentful envy of others who appear to have enough, leading to rigid judgment and bias—a chart of scarcity and disconnect. On reflection, it makes sense that, “If God is Life itself” and the “Giver of Life,” then the opposite would be “lack of life” and the active principle the “taker of life.”

It is a somewhat spectacular fact that the three warlords of the next World War, generals Patton, Rommel and Montgomery, were all born with the Sun in Scorpio on the 11th, 15th and 17th of November. They lead millions of young men into the hell of war. A
recent biography describes through personal letters and other sources how they were intensely preoccupied – not with the young men dying or injured under their command, but with each other and winning their interpersonal competition.\

In the mixed department, we find Christian reformer Martin Luther, whose demeaning views on women and sexuality had destructive effects for hundreds of years. His mission of reform was prompted by the corrupt practice of the papal church in receiving money for letters of absolution, and he worked to give back to the individual the power of the relationship with the Divine, and to remove that power from the interfering hands of clergymen and rulers. Luckily this power also can be manifested in a light, wonderful, and transformative way, such as found in the works of Scorpio writers Michael Ende and the amazing work of Danish Lars Muhl, author of The O Manuscript describing the mystery of Mary Magdalene. Scorpio, Astrid Lindgren, creator of Pippi Longstocking worked as a letter censor in Stockholm during the second world war. Everyday she read the despairing correspondence of young soldiers and their families. She has explained that she created the children’s book character, Pippi, as a direct response to the madness of the grandeur of Hitler. What if the strongest person in the world were a small girl?

Psychological intuition will often be directed at the area of traditional psychology as formulated first by Sigmund Freud. Freud’s chart displays a Taurus Sun and stellium in the 7th house. Pluto on the Descendant shows an intense interest in underlying emotional drives of “the others” – 7th and 8th houses being classical houses of psychology. To top it off, Freud had a Scorpio Ascendant. The chart of C. G. Jung places his Sun on the 7th house/Descendant, Moon-Pluto conjunction in Taurus, as well as Jupiter in the 8th house. The area of the astrological chart under investigation will often be that of the Moon. This is part of our inner child with subconscious and habitual early behavioral patterns, and with ingrained strategies for survival. The psychological intuition is connected with the survival of the body and the element of Earth.

Creative Intuition
This type of intuition is connected to the element of Fire and its corresponding signs, Aries, Leo, Sagittarius, and bodies, Mars, Sun and Jupiter, as well as the First, Fifth and Ninth houses.

Creative intuition is spontaneous and dramatic, and often is visual and artistic with an emphasis on action, adventure, risk taking and transgressing limitations. The fire signs need to experience their sense of identity through creative self-expression. Artists like Lady Gaga, Elton John and Eddie Murphy beautifully demonstrate the fiery energy and colorful creative powers of the Sun in Aries. I can personally vouch for the absence of forethought in the young male ram in particular☺. When a typical Aries needs to pass through a door, his last resort is reaching for the handle. Sun sign Leos, Madonna and Whitney Houston, demonstrate the greatness and the challenges of the creative powers of this sign. The birth chart of Whitney Houston displays a grand Fire trine between a Venus-Sun conjunction, Moon-Jupiter conjunction in Aries and Sagittarius rising. Perhaps a fire that proved to be too difficult for her to handle as her life ended tragically. One of the best known songs of Madonna is titled “Express Yourself”.

One of the artists that participated in my research interviews is also a Leo with
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Aries Moon – a successful flower creator who describes his creative process as being initiated by roaring sounds in his inner ear and later, as manifesting as images of his future creations saturated with intense ambiance and colors—much like the lion Aslan creating all of Narnia through his roar.

Sagittarians Jane Fonda, Winston Churchill, Steven Spielberg and Walt Disney need no further introduction and fully demonstrate the battle-ready, fearless visionary and visual gifts of this sign.

Creative intuition is connected with the Fire element – creativity through vision and action.

Clairvoyant/healing/musical Intuition.

Clairvoyance, musicality and gifts of healing are often reflected by the sign of Pisces, Neptune and the 12th house; the spiritual medium or channel, healer, musician, photographer, mystic and dreamer. This type of intuitive often has experiences through images and sensations, and has the ability to feel the energy of another person or animal. They can contact spirit guides, deceased loved ones, angels and highly intelligent non-physical entities.

Among the famous “seers” are Edgar Cayce and Rudolf Steiner, both Pisces born. In a state of deep trance, Edgar Cayce was able to “remote scan” a personality, determine life purpose and diagnose physical weaknesses of an individual and suggest directions for healing. His chart displays a stellium in Pisces and a Neptune-Moon conjunction in Taurus. He had no recollection of his sessions and sometimes struggled with his Christian beliefs in reading them afterwards.

Steiner’s great contribution within the field of education and child-rearing lies in his forceful emphasis on the right of a child to innocently experience the magical wonder of life, all the way through childhood with an aim toward the natural emergence of the intellect and powers of discrimination around the age of nine. Steiner’s educational methodology included the understanding of the importance of music for the harmonious development of the personality. Later research has shown that music enhances powers of teamwork – and wires the brain for math. The Pisces-Virgo axis is reflected in Steiner’s chart with a Virgo Moon opposing his Sun. At the core of Steiner’s work is the profound understanding that the personality and gifts of a child are innate. His work emphasizes that these gifts must be brought out through the nurturing care and interest of adults, acting much like a human gardener. There is no ‘Tabula Rasa’. This was a totally new concept in the often violent world of the 19th century and prior centuries. In Denmark – an enlightened country compared to most - the right to beat a child was only banned in 1997.

American Pisces Esther Hicks, quite right-ly, has become world famous as a channel for the highly intelligent entity “Abraham”. Pisces Albert Einstein often spoke of his intuitive insights, love of music and religious life view; painter Renoir demonstrated poetically the dreamy beauty of the sign and so did composer Chopin.
knowledge for the future. Here we find the brilliant inventor and scientist, the political and social activist/reformer, the inspiring teacher and wise advisor.

At the highest levels we find the incorruptible individual who speaks unselfishly with the voice of Truth for the enlightenment and liberation of mankind. The sign of Aquarius is connected with the myth of the Titan, Prometheus, who discovered that humans lived in misery, crouching in darkness without the light and warmth of fire (in other versions of the story, knowledge of fire was removed from humanity by Zeus). Prometheus, felt compassion and stole fire from the Gods to give to the human race. Prometheus paid a terrible price of punishment from Zeus until liberated by Hercules, who can be viewed as a symbol of the awakened disciple on the Path of enlightenment.

Many Aquarian emphasized individuals served as social liberators in the course of history. Abraham Lincoln liberated the country from the onus of slavery, displaying a larger than life courage in combination with refined practical and psychological cleverness. Further examples of Aquarian leadership are Franklin D. Roosevelt, who together with Churchill liberated the world from Hitler. Boris Yeltsin courageously flaunted the powers that be on a military tank in Moscow and following Gorbachev’s steps to dissolve the Soviet Union, cooperated with another Aquarian, Ronald Reagan. Together their policies helped in bringing down the Berlin wall and in reducing nuclear weapons around 1989. With the genius and idiocy of the sign, we find in Mozart – watch the movie Amadeus on this genius-fool who loved farting jokes. The list goes on with Darwin, Dickens, Francis Bacon, Edison (lights on!) and in present day, Oprah Winfrey, Eckhart Tolle and Alicia Keys.

In the context of modern astrology, Uranus rules Aquarius, yet in a branch of astrology called Esoteric astrology (initiated by Alice Bailey), Uranus is a ruler of Libra. This becomes relevant for the more evolved individual. We find here Gandhi with Uranus on his MC, Libra poet Rumi and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, chairwoman of the UN Commission drafting the Human Rights Declaration in 1948. Gandhi wrote in his autobiography that everything he did was solely his “experiments with truth”. An outstanding pioneer of astrology is Aquarian Evangeline Adams. The art of astrology itself, the language of energy, is commonly said to be associated with the sign, Aquarius, and its modern ruler Uranus.

The most powerful version of this higher mental intuition, in my experience, is in a combination of Aquarius/Uranus and Pisces/Neptune. Using an example, the founder of soul centered astrology, Alan Oken, displays Uranus conjunct Moon sextile Sun and trine Neptune in his chart.

How do we access the intuitive level?

This question is the topic of countless spiritual and religious works. Generally, it is agreed that transcendence or the shift to intuitive states is founded on a specific intention, and specifically the intention and profound wish to serve and create to the good of other living beings. As well as doing what you love and surrounding yourself with positive, supporting people. Also therapeutic work and a spiritual practice such as meditation and prayer. And living “at ease” with yourself (your true or essential nature) and value system, thus avoiding dis-ease.

Individually, the placement of the Sun, interacting with the rest of the chart, is central in showing our creative potential – the Divine spark of life. Your particular brand of intuition is displayed in the signs and planets.

What may constitute some of our intuition blocks? Generally speaking – doubt, scepticism and fear.

At the individual level, we must look at the placement of the Moon, as it displays our subconscious defense mechanisms and basic emotions founded in childhood. The Moon comes with creative gifts of its own but on an emotional level, it can hinder higher intuitive faculties.

The Moon reflects our inner child, who attaches itself to what is familiar. In the attempt to have love and nurturing, it doesn’t matter if it is good or bad, as long as it is familiar. One cannot overemphasize the Moon’s need for security. It can at times be obsessive. While the need for security is part of survival, and attachments serve their developmental purpose, it is important to learn to identify our automatic subconscious programming and transcend it, so we may access higher levels of realization.

Shedding detailed light on the Moon to render the subjective objective and the subconscious conscious is what I would perceive as one of the most useful aspects of astrology. As astrologers, we can be human gardeners, cultivating the Divine Spark in every being, helping lift up all into the air, away from the snake of fear, the Hydra. By doing so we empower the individual to transcend limitation and to access the higher levels of intuition.

Harvard neurosurgeon Eben Alexander, puts it beautifully, reflecting on his near death experience in Proof of Heaven: “True thought is not the brain’s affair… True thought is pre-physical. This is the thinking-behind the-thinking responsible for all the genuinely consequential choices we make in the world. A thinking that is not dependent on linear deduction, but that moves fast as lightning, making connections on different levels, bringing them together. In the face of this free, inner intelligence, our ordinary thought is hopelessly slow and fumbling…Our truest, deepest self is completely free. This is the true spiritual self that all of us are destined someday to recover. But until that day comes, I feel, we should do everything in our power to get in touch with this miraculous aspect of ourselves – to cultivate it and bring it to light.”

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NOTES:

1. All Astrological data from Astrodienst: https://www.astro.com/astro-databank/Main_Page


3. Join our research project! We would be delighted to hear your experiences with intuition. Please fill out questionnaire here: https://www.dropbox.com/s/6hq1r1zwxsmk237/Questions%20on%20Intuition%20pdf?dl=0

4. War Lords, by Terry Brighton.


6. See a true Aquarian in action – watch the movie Lincoln. The US Northern troops so loved this man that they sometimes recited his speeches back to him. The actor playing the role of Lincoln, Daniel Day-Lewis, later stated that he “intensely missed” being an expression of this elevated man after shooting the film. For more inspiration, move on to Sagittarius glory in Darkest Hour about Churchill.

7. Second chair was a Danish woman, Bodil Begtrup. The achievements of these women came to my attention only due to the fact that one of them was my grandmother’s best friend… not the educational system. The rest of the draft team consisted of a Lebanese muslim poet, the head of the French Resistance and a Chinese professor. From biography A World Made New, by Mary Ann Glendon.

8. Go to Nina’s Book Shelf www.ninabentzon.dk.


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Have you ever encountered someone who so uncannily resembled someone else that you’ve seen before, that as an astrologer you thought to yourself, “I wonder if those traits are influenced by their sign?” It’s long been surmised that cosmic energies effect the expression not only of a person’s personality, but also their appearance. There is a little-known, yet long history of this fascinating area of astrological theory. Astrological physiognomy is the study of the traits & characteristics of the face and body, in relation to the signs, planets, aspects and elements. What manifests in the mind, also manifests in matter.

Two decades ago, as I was beginning to take my metaphysical practices more seriously, I was motivated to take notes on some observations regarding the appearances of the individuals whose charts I was reading. I made some inquiries into this astrological connection and found to my surprise that little substantive work had been done in this area of astrological research in modern times. Most of what was available were revised looks at older works based on previously established premises with no attempts to apply modern methods of research to new studies.

“Your face is a book, where men may read strange matters.”
~William Shakespeare

The Planets Within You

As astrologers and practitioners of the meta-sciences, how many times have we heard (or we ourselves exclaimed), “As above, so below,” the summary opening truism of the Emerald Tablets. One could almost say that it has become one of the astrological communities ‘go to’ cheerleading slogans for getting the message across of the principle of correspondence between planets and people. Yet, fewer have heard or have heralded the associated axiom, “As without, so within,” also attributed to the Hermetic teachings. Regardless of the variations of these phrases, the concept of inner and outer correspondence is an ancient one.

The majority of regularly practicing horoscopic astrologers tend not to delve too much beyond the psychological realms for more corresponding evidences of astrological correlation. Whether reading an individual’s natal chart or discussing society’s current or future events, the preoccupation of the effects of the cyclical nature of human affairs dominates the field of astrology. This tendency to stay focused primarily on the human psyche has diminished the scientific attitude that once was the backbone that united astrology with the other sciences.

There are those in the field who do carry these celestial connections into the areas of medical astrology, wherein the natal and transiting energies are taken into consideration with the native’s condition of health and the body. This physiological connection could be considered a bridge between the emotional and physical well being; and we, as astrologers, can link the psyche to the body through the lens of the planets in the Zodiac.

“A physician without a knowledge of Astrology has no right to call himself a physician.”
~Hippocrates

Physiological Doctrine of Correspondence

The term for the doctrine which assigns the physical body to the Zodiac, both external form and internal organs, is called melothesiad. The assignment of the body parts to the Zodiacal energies, has a well-established basis through many ages and in many high cultures across the globe. The famous images of the Zodiac Man—“homo signorum” or “melothesia”, shows the Zodiacal signs harmonizing the macro & microcosmic domains as they are assigned to the parts of the body. (See figure below.) Occasionally in some texts in antiquity, you will find these Zodiacal associations with animals as well, where the point is also being made that the human and animal realms relate. The organic material form is directly connected to the energetic field forces in which we are immersed, and also affected by the subtlest changes of the planetary bodies around us and within the field of the Earth body, in which we have been created.

Astrology in Nature

The science of astrology was once viewed as “natural philosophy”. Astrology was not distinctly separate from any of the other physical sciences. Somewhere along the way we seemed to phase out the ‘philosophy’ aspect and to all but forget the ‘nature’. What is “astrology”? What does it mean to each person who studies it, practices it, profanes or denounces it? You might think this would be a simple query easily answered but as many of us in the field of astrology know, there is no uniform or simple way to address
Until the last few centuries astrological study was a driving force in the fields of chemistry, astronomy, and medicine, as well as the science of the conscious evolution of the individual and collective soul. It was revered as the "highest of the sciences".

The Chinese Art of Mien Shiang
A fascinating tangent on the subject is the ancient Chinese art of Mien Shiang (pronounced myen shuang). It was observed, in what is now China, that people born during certain periods of the year, different years and within generations have shared common characteristics of visage and the related subsequent temperaments, which in turn aligned to the 'Chinese Zodiac.' For at least 3000 years this practice, Mien Shiang (or Xiang), directly translated as 'face reading', has remained relatively intact but primarily was made available only to the elite.

In 221 BCE, Emperor Qin Shi Huang ordered the majority of all esoteric material to be destroyed within the empire. (He was also the emperor who had the famous terracotta army buried.) He started by taking down his own imperial portraits, so that enemies within the state would not attempt to read his face. The practice went underground and persevered as a 'secret teaching'. Though somewhat suppressed during the height of communist fervor, face reading has made a noticeable comeback in recent years.

Although face-reading is an Eastern practice, more often business persons in the West have used the art in their negotiations to achieve a strategic advantage over their competition or in their handling of employee affairs. This practice, of course, requires a keen set of observational skills rather than being presented with a set of natal data to input and analyze. Essentially, this practice exemplifies the literal understanding that the "chart is in the face".

In the last decade or so, a number of schools dedicated solely to the Chinese art of face reading have emerged. Just as you would study to become proficient at reading a natal chart, so too you can become equally skilled at reading the multitude of details and traits of the face to accurately tell a person's character and their life path.

The early Taoist philosophers and practitioners understood that the face was also a microcosm of the body as a whole. That just as the body holds the organs, the face mirrors the energy of those organs, the level of vitality they express, and so too the conditions of the celestial connections to which they correspond. Each side of the face also reflects a blending of the masculine and feminine qualities of these archetypal traits. Mien Shiang is very detailed and is based on the five elements of the Wu Xing system. This system, though different from the Western four elements system, can be transcribed to connect these two natural languages, by means of how each corresponds to the celestial sphere.

Mole and Mark Indicators
An extension of face reading, is the art of analyzing moles (or lack thereof). Reading moles is also an ancient practice in divining a person's character and life path. The Taoists, in their study, also went into greater detail about the connections of moles on the face and other parts of the body. The Vedic system of spiritual practice of Samudrika Lakshana also goes into great detail of the psychological associations of moles and the astrological correspondences. In the West, this tradition can be traced, having been known through the Hermetic teachings around physiognomy, which was merged into the rising practice of natal astrology around the end of the Hellenistic period.

Whereas the Mien Shiang system can be somewhat subjective to the untrained eye, identifying moles and their relative placements is essentially straightforward. I have found this to be a useful addition to the toolkit (similar to palmistry) when combined with the natal horoscope.

One classical example of mole reading is a mole (or beauty mark) around the mouth or upper cheek, which has been long been viewed as an indicator of heightened sexuality. For reference, Marilyn Monroe, Cindy Crawford and Madonna all bare this type of beauty mark, and are recognized sex symbols around the world. This particular mark does seem to be recognized cross-culturally.

Astrologer William Lilly, in his Christian Astrology made extensive use of observations and correspondences with moles (and...
ZODIAC FACES

marks) on the body. He connected each of these to various concepts of melothesis. For example, Lilly wrote this about Aries Ascendant:

“...as if Aries be in the Ascendant, the mark, mole, or scarre is without fail in the head or face; and if few degrees of the signe ascend, the mark is in the upper part of the head; if the middle of the sign be on the cusp, the mole, mark or scar is in the middle of the face, or neer it; if the later degrees ascend, the face is blemished neer the chin, towards the neck: This I have found true in hundreds of examples.”

Granted, he saw little difference between whether these were genetic marks you were born with or if these were scars that came about during the span of life. All of these types of marks identify some aspect of life and each are connected to the energy and the effects of the planets and signs.

Zodiagological Physiognomy

As I mentioned, physiognomy means ‘interpreter of or interpreting nature’. In this case, the part of nature being interpreted is you. The natural lens through which you are being interpreted is the Zodiac; the main focus being viewed is your face. Facial reading (or just physiognomy) is the practice of judging or determining an individual’s character and well-being by their countenance, whereas zodiagal physoignomy is the union of astrology with facial trait classification.

It appears from the historical record that it was a well-established independent study, practiced by the Babylonians long before the Greeks took it up. As the practice of natal astrology rose over a period of centuries in the Mediterranean, non-astrological physiognomy remained a primary method of determining a person’s health and life path. Physiognomy was utilized by astrologers as an alternative secondary method of determining character. The first mention of astrological correspondences to traits comes from a small piece of the Dead Sea Scrolls, from around 30 BCE, referencing sign-based assignments in the context of physiognomy.

Since then, there have been numerous attempts to establish a set of rules of correspondence for astrological judgment. Many early natal astrologers were focused on sign-based systems of rules, while others only used planet-based rules, and still others emphasized the decans. Some used declination and some retrograde, to establish variations within traits. Other’s have used houses, fixed stars, planetary rulers, ascendent rulers, dwhads, and even single-degree assignments, as well as various combinations of systems to establish an order for their determinations. The point being, that just like astrology as a whole practice, there is not one set of established guidelines for accurately determining the correspondences. Yet, one thing is for certain, there is an obvious link between celestial energies and the physical attributes expressed in organic form. Despite the lack of consensus of rules, there is a remarkable consistency among the various themes in the differing systems and with the descriptors used in the determining factors of judgement, which has been observed and has persevered for centuries.

“The face is a picture of the mind with the eyes as its interpreter.”

~Marcus Tuillius Cicero

God & The Devil—two sides of one face

Let me start by stating, “There are no ‘pure’ archetypes, in either physiognomy or astrology. Period!” The variables for this are simply too vast to be possible, and go beyond planets and people. What we see with our eyes, in the face, are the echoes of the reverberated whispers of a well-kept secret we hid from ourselves about a cloudy thought on an ancient memory we had of a past life when we once glanced in a mirror for an instant and felt that we may have seen one angle of an expression of God looking back. The only thing we glimpse are faint facsimiles of daguerreotype images protruding through a dimensional veil of spacetime attempting to take shape and form in the world of matter, which is still striving to achieve archetypal ‘perfected-ness’. In essence, we can only guess at, let’s say, what a perfected Leo would look like in both genders and through each race & ethnicity; or what the quintessential embodiment of Jupiter would look like in human form.

Yet, despite this issue, one can still discern a Cancer Moon from an Aquarius Moon, a Taurus Rising from an Aries, or a Libra Sun from a Sagittarius. It takes time to train the eye and the mind for this level of complexity to be discerned, but with practice it can be done with varying degrees of success. One must also take into account the ability, critical eye and possible bias of the interpreter. Some people can hear three notes of a concerto and name the composer, yet many people cannot tell Mozart from Beethoven, and some cannot tell Beethoven from John Williams. Hopefully, most people can distinguish Mozart from Jazz. The same applies to determining the distinct traits and a possible astrological correspondence.

The Mirror of Heaven & Earth

In my work on the Zodiac Faces, I have chosen to focus on element, sign, and aspect based assignments for my process. I have also had good luck at determining some themes with planet-based judgements, as well. This work contains too much to cover for an article, even looking at one primary trait in each element and sign is not possible. So I will take a look at one of the easiest to determine: the element of Fire, and the Sun placement of Sagittarius. Again, I must stress that not all who have the Sun, Ascendent or a stellium in a particular element or sign will bear these traits shown, or they may not be readily observable due to some overarching planetary factor or life occurrence. The fact is that most people are naturally ordinary and most of the archetypal ‘strong traits’ are simply diffuse.

All of the elements, signs and associated planets can be assessed through a set of distinguishing traits. The strength of the energy of each sign can also further be determined by the number of bodies in the sign, how they are aspected, and by which planets. The biological influences of the Western Fire element are, in my opinion, the simplest to spot (though natives with a dominant Mars may mimic, to some degree, the element or associated sign energy).

The Element of Fire

The celebrity images shown at the top of the following page give a sampling of char-
acteristics that are more often associated with Fire. These particular traits can be distinguished through the genders, whereas some traits will be stronger or weaker in accordance with sex. The Fire element in general, particularly Aries, lends itself to a more “rubicund of visage” or reddening of the skin tone. In the stronger trait natives there is usually an ‘elfeness’ to the eyebrows, being slightly raised, pointed or even “Spock-like” (Leonard Nimoy was also an Aries).

Within the element, as tradition appears to confirm, strong trait Arians tend to have more energetic emphasis in the area of the forehead. This does not necessarily entail a large forehead, merely that the area above the brow is more pronounced. In Leo, the line of the eyes more often has a cat-like predator quality (I have also noticed that within Leo there appear to be more cases of “hammerhead eyes”; such as those of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.) In both men and women the chin & jaw are usually stronger often squared. With Sagittarius there is an ‘intensity’ right down the center of the face, primarily between the eyes and with the upper lip & gum. It is my ‘favorite sign’ to highlight so I will add a little more detail to what I generally see with the Sagittarian facial archetype.

The Sagittarian archetypal or ‘primary strong’ traits are what I refer to as ‘the pinch-eye’ and ‘the horse-mouth’ (which I find quite interesting given the Centaurian nature of the sign. One can clearly see in these selected faces a common trend among these two characteristics within these Sagittarian Sun natives.

**The Pinch:** The trait that I refer to as ‘the pinch’ seems to be most prevalent, by percentage, within Sun sign Sagittarius. Though, I have been able to determine that this trait is sometimes noticeable when the Sun is in Scorpio, as well, lending credence to additional aspected energy as a possibility and possible distinction with tropical and sidereal zodiacal energies. Note: I have noticed that females tend to have this more than males, who exhibit more prominent brow trait and ears.

**Centaur Teeth:** The most telling trait of any of the archetypal structures, is horse mouth; I prefer to call this trait ‘Centaur Teeth’. I have also seen this appear when a dominant body or group (stellium) is in Sagittarius, particularly Mars. Joe DiMaggio was a notable Sagittarian with this trait. Though it is not always regularly pronounced among Sagittarians, it can usually be identified at some point. Some with this trait have ‘trained themselves’ to hold an expression that normally covers the space over the upper gum (this is the case with
ZODIAC FACES

Lady Judy Dench, whom only on occasion reveals the strength of this trait in her face.

These are just two traits among several which tend to be more prominent within the sign of Sagittarius. Each sign tends to produce a number of primary & secondary characteristics. It is the combination of planetary energies along with genetic heritage which tends to influence the native's overall appearance (see illustration at right.)

A Hierarchy of Energy

When I first began to loosely compare charts and faces, little did I know that it would become a bridge for my understanding of the astrology of nature, the mathematics & geometry of light, study of sound & vibration, quantum mechanics, and many other fields of noetic knowledge. So many varied disciplines can be or must be understood, at least on a fundamental level, in order to glimpse the bigger picture of how planetary energies flow in a biological system. It is no surprise that a proper working model for the astrological forces and their effects on people has yet to be put forth and accepted.

The process can be looked upon as a hierarchy of transceivers. This scalable order of energy & matter is what manifests our reality. From the simple quantum structure that functions by moving vibrational information in and out of multiple dimensions, which in turn ‘informs’ the formation of the atomic field to the subsequent creation of molecules, and on up the scale to the DNA “antenna” acting to create more complex and interactive “antennae” to manipulate RNA. During gestation, the creation of the spinal column and neuro-pathways replicate the “antenna”. At birth, the DNA ceases its developmental function, at that point an infant’s nervous system itself begins to function as an interactive “antenna” within the larger field.

Prevalence Factors

When gauging the traits and comparing them against celestial energies, there are several general factors to consider:

DNA Foundation: It is imperative to note that genealogical, ethnic and racial DNA sequences will provide the base material foundation for the native. The family traits most likely will be obvious because this code is the core infrastructure for the planetary energies to be acted upon.

Solar Interaction: The Sun location seems to take precedence in good percentage of samplings. The traits granted by the Sun position may be subtle or in some cases become extreme and reveal the overall archetype of the position. There also seems to be variations of archetypal combinations based on when a person is born in a given period.

Rising Interaction: The Rising energy - Ascendant (time of day) also appears to be a strong influence in many instances, with considerable consistency between researchers over two millennia. Though, the limited data available regarding persons born on the same day & year, and also the necessity of having an accurate birth time, makes this category difficult to compare in research. Adequate photographic image data, combined with accurate natal data is not as readily available, with the exception of some celebrities whose natal charts are documented.

Lunar Interaction: The Moon’s influence does appear noticeably distinct in the cases where myself and others have been able to compare persons born during the same Solar periods. From my personal research, the Lunar energy does appear to be more distinguishable in females, rather than in males.

Orbital Matrix Pattern: Rather than emphasizing traditional hard or soft aspect patterns as a primary source of energetic pathways for the planets to interact, I have approached the natal charts by looking at the strengths of combinations of variables. In my studies of this area, the aspects of the chart, particularly related conjunctions, cross-aspects, and interacting stellium groupings, play a larger role than previously considered. The overall geometric pattern tends to actualize or materialize a general structure of energy which forms between the planets. I call this an ‘orbital matrix’. Much like a musical chord, a plane-
Another chord or tone may be approximated by another set of notes in a different chord. These are just a few factors to take into account when looking into physiognomy. When a number of these factors align, there appears to be a natural tendency of a ‘morphological duplication’ of physical traits, what I call The Doppelgänger Effect.

The Doppelgänger Effect
I have spent a great deal of time classifying and categorizing prevalent trait themes among the elements (similar to Mien Shiang), by Sun, Moon & Ascendant through the signs, just as a number of astrologers have done for centuries. Though much of this research goes beyond trait assignments, by looking at aspects & patterns in the charts, I have chosen not to go into any of that here. Instead I wanted to go right to the idea of duplicate expressions within the charts overall, the part of my study I refer to as the Doppelgänger Effect. Doppelgänger is a Germanic loanword meaning “double goer” and it generally means a non-biological look-alike or ‘double’.

To better understand this through the traits and expressions, let’s look at two examples of natal chart comparisons of sign, planet and geometric matrices. In this first example, below, we will notice these two remarkable single shot photo expressions of biologist Richard Dawkins and the actress Emma Watson. Despite the difference in gender and in nearly 50 years of age, the Aries energy signature and the general ‘orbital matrix’ (the planetary pattern & aspect configuration) is comparably geometrized. Though, Watson and Dawkins were not born in England, they are are both of English ancestry, therefore the genetic links are also present and determinable. There are several secondary aspect patterns and planetary placements that are also reflected in each chart.

Despite the difference in gender and in nearly 50 years of age, the Aries energy signature and the general ‘orbital matrix’ (the planetary pattern & aspect configuration) is comparably geometrized.

No one would ever confuse actors Peter Dinklage & Hugh Laurie in person. Dinklage is 4'5” and Laurie is 6'2”. In this second example (following page) we see that the natives not only share the same Sun sign but also the same birthday. The two also reflect similar "orbital matrices" in the charts, in this case with Mars and Saturn. The morphology of these two individuals is quite striking despite the differences that arise through dwarfism in Dinklage. In fact, the characteristics associated with dwarfism actually correlate the variations of the certain traits and how they are morphed by natural processes. The associated trait similarities recognizable in both are transformed through dwarfism in Dinklage’s appearance.

Why Does Research Matter?
The most often asked question I tend to get from the average astrologer is, “Why should I care about facial traits being connected to celestial influences? It doesn’t help my clients or with my counselling skills, even if it’s true. Why bother?” Well, I have come to accept the fact that this is just how some people think: ‘If it doesn’t directly gratify me now, or I don’t make money from it, then why put energy into it’. This seems to have become ingrained in astrology, when it comes to research. The current state of the astrological science is alive, yet, it hardly

Richard Dawkins & Emma Watson

Richard DAWKINS, biologist
DOB: March 26, 1941, unknown
Place: Nairobi, Kenya

Emma WATSON, actress
DOB April 15, 1990 unknown
Place: Paris, France
The natives not only share the same Sun sign but also the same birthday. The two also reflect similar "orbital matrices" in the charts, in this case with Mars and Saturn.

The Career Astrologer
OPA's Quarterly Magazine
page 60

Peter DINKLAGE, actor
DOB: June 11, 1969, 1:37am
Place: Morristown, NJ

Hugh LAURIE, actor
DOB: June 11, 1959 unknown
Place: Oxford, UK

The issue of deeper research into this field is two-sided. Scientism needs to return to the realms of natural philosophy that it shunned as of the late 17th century, and furthermore take seriously the relevant questions of our physical and psychological interactions within the cosmos. Astrologers must catch up to the reality of modernity, and not merely rely on repeating and reinterpreting ancient tradition. They must also seek to understand how to re-integrate that tradition through the mathematical language of nature and quantitative research, the same manner in which scientism engages.

Data & Rigor
The most daunting area for any field of collective research is data. It does not matter as to what area of science you are engaged, be it biological sciences, physical sciences, quantum sciences, astro-sciences, etc, data collection is the bulk of the work. The ARC-Database (Astrological Research Collaborative), an independent collective database initially supported by Alexandria i-Base, Kepler College (research arm), ISAR, Cosmic Patterns & David Cochrane, myself, and several others, was initiated a few years ago in the attempt to collect and archive all existing research data-sets, as well as establish a new repository for natal astrological research. So far this project remains paused until more energy can be put towards it but we hope that the future will support such a research based approach.

Fascinating! Where to start!? One of my comrades in this niche of astrology, illustrator & astrologer William Schreib, has published two little books that are great primers for any enthusiast to begin to get a feel of what to look for in the face. His two works, Dance of the Zodiac, and Personalities of the Zodiac are two of my favorite referrals to introduce astrologers (and skeptical curiosity seekers) to this fascinating, little emphasized area of our field. William recently mailed me an advance copy of his new book Portraits of Personality: How the Cycles of Nature Shape...
Your Character & Appearance, the latest book to be published on this subject. It is a revised look at his works on the characterized illustrations of the traits, with detailed breakdowns of the planetary combinations and examples of the traits using celebrity images. It can be found at astro-visions.com

Another project that will allow you to participate is Astrofaces, online at astrofaces.com, by contributing your photo and natal information. Moshe Berlin has put together a wonderful project, which also allows you use your own skill to identify for traits among multiple search criteria. Be a contributor to his research and do a little research of your own.

I will be presenting some of the extended material on Zodiac Faces: Astrological Physiognomy & Cosmological Simpex at The Kepler Conference, January 24-27, 2019 hosted by the Canaveral Research Center in Florida. If you would like to help advance the field of astrological research, I encourage you to attend. This a cutting edge intensive conference focused on solely on astrological research. Presenters will be using detailed qualitative and quantitative methods to provide the most comprehensive look at the current state to science within the astrological field.

The Unified Astrological TOE (Theory of Everything)
As dedicated astrologers, we all wish to add-to or contribute something special to astrology. Whether it’s a new approach, reviving an ancient technique, the deeper study of a recently discovered celestial body, an original interpretation of a dated astrological perspective, or by adding to the body of work that is attempting to reunite the sciences, most serious astrologers wish to impart something unique to the field. In one way or another, in small or large part, we each help to determine how astrology is being accepted now and how it will be in the future.

“Astrology...the most far-reaching intellectual human enterprise in the history of civilization...”

Astrology is the general term we give for a very broad endeavour, which actually encompasses every area of scientific and spiritual study. Ultimately, all things are one and unified. This of course includes astrology as an equivalent science to all other sciences. There are many astrologers who wish to shine a light on the biological, statistical & mathematical confirmations of the empirical nature of astrology, in order to strengthen astrology’s scientific foundations. Astrology unites the spiritual and material realms; a synthesis of all the natural fundamental cosmological forces that can be observed and understood by science. It is the ultimate puzzle; which has created us to strive to solve itself.

We are the physical manifestation of subtle points of the material conscious world brought forth through human form. This materialization of consciousness in people’s faces and bodies can be observed and classified, both a momentary expression (transits) and by the identifying traits (natal). The external appearance reveals your internal self, just as your external self is your personal revelation of the external cosmos. “As within, so without”

REFERENCES

Russ von OHLHAUSEN is an ontological researcher, writer, lecturer and astrologer; his work reflects a lifetime of study of science, religions, myths, metaphysics & most importantly —nature —and what they reveal about the human story. Russ is co-founder of the Astrological Society of Austin & Co-Director of The Shift Foundation with Shannon Gill. His groundbreaking work in cosmological mechanics, and astro-mathematical research, Celestia Mathematica, is considered a foundational structural theory of astrology by many. He is also the creator of Zodiac Faces: Planetary Physiognomy and The Holy Myth: The Bible as Astrological Treatise, and the ARC-Database Initiative (Astrological Research Collaborative). Email: rlohlhausen@gmail.com

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AN INTRODUCTION TO VEDIC ASTROLOGY
by Ehsan Khazeni

Western (Tropical) and Indian (Vedic/Jyotish) astrology are two major branches of astrology practiced all around the world. There is an increasing bidirectional tendency to learn the other system among both Western and Vedic Astrology practitioners. In most of the Western astrology conferences, there is a Vedic Panel, and in turn, Western astrologers have been invited to speak and teach in India and Vedic conferences.

The purpose of this column is to introduce the very basics of Vedic astrology to Western astrologers. The domain of Vedic astrology is as vast as Western astrology and like Western astrology, to learn it properly one should spend years in learning and practicing. However, having general knowledge and basic skills of Vedic astrology may give Western astrologers more insight on what they already do or might encourage them to learn and apply Vedic astrology in their astrological practice seriously.

I am grateful to Maurice Fernandez and OPA for giving me the opportunity to share my experience through this column.

My Personal Story with Western astrology

Years ago, when I asked my first Vedic astrology teacher about Western Astrology, he answered: “Western Astrologers don’t have any significant knowledge. They ignore sidereal motion, so they fail.” This comment kept me away from Western astrology for years.

In 2013, a new friend Naomi Bennett suggested me to read charts of each other with different approaches. She interpreted my chart and changed all my presumptions about Western astrology.

One year later, both of us were invited to International Vedic Conference in Kolkata organized by Gopal Bhattacharjee where many Vedic and Western astrologers exchanged their knowledge.

After that conference, both of us, along with Alex Trenoweth, were welcomed as the resource persons for Sanskrit Department of the University of Delhi in a conference entitled “Affinity of Western and Vedic astrology: Two Sides of the Same Coin.” The term two sides of the same coin was suggested by Naomi Bennett.

Meeting and reaching many eminent Western astrologers, I noticed that there are many similarities between the two branches as well as enormous differences between them. I noticed that some Western astrology techniques could help me decode Vedic and Persian techniques, and vice versa. In this series of articles, I try to mention and explain many of these similarities and differences in a relative way to be useful for both Western astrologers interested in Jyotish as well as Vedic astrology practitioners who like to become more familiar with Tropical astrology.

Tropical Vs. Sidereal

Almost all Vedic astrologers practice with the Sidereal Zodiac while the majority of Western astrologers only use the Tropical Zodiac. No doubt that changing the Zodiac changes everything in your chart. Practically most of the planets and ascendant will change. You may feel bad when you see that you are no longer the fiery fixed Leo but a soft emotional Cancer! I am sure that this is the toughest part of switching the Zodiac.

Please note that for Western astrologers the definition of Zodiac is a matter of calculation while in Vedic astrologers, it is a part of the Vedic tradition. Therefore, It is an inseparable part of their culture. As a Persian astrologer myself, I now use both Sidereal, Tropical, and Sidropical (a mixture of both at the same time!)

You know that some of the techniques based on Geometry, Distance, and local horizon are valid in both Zodiacs. I keep it short by mentioning that both schools have particular time-tested techniques. Of course, some specific techniques may work better on one type of Zodiac.

Generally, Vedic astrologers follow a tradition called Chitra Paksha which considers the fixed star Spica as the commencement of Sidereal Libra. Few other schools point to other fixed stars. Several Astrologers in different times measured the distance between Spica and (North) Autumnal Equinox which is known as Ayanamsa. The distance of Ayanamsa is currently approximately 24 degrees so, for example, a planet at $^5_2$ of Tropical Gemini falls in $^{110}_2$ of Sidereal Taurus.

In India, the calculations of an astronomer and astrologer Lahiri are embraced as the default calculations. To get started, you can follow Lahiri Ayanamsa. Other Ayanamsas have slight differences up to one or two degrees. It can be discussed later.

I frequently remind my students not to be too attached to their planetary positions! There are different approaches, different Ayanamsas, and various house systems—you can have many charts, each showing some aspects of yourself, so one should not ignore other possible changes. The other point is the dignity of some planets changes when the Zodiac changes. A Libra Venus may go debilitated in Virgo while the same regression may make Mercury exalted. In the beginning, accept it as it is. The rules for Exaltation and Debilitation are very fascinating in Vedic astrology. Certain combinations may cancel the debilitation and turn the planet into a sovereign state (Called Raja Yoga which means Kingly Combination). I will explain it later.

Whole Sign Houses
The astrologer who learns how to use the house cusps carefully and mark the intercepted signs using Placidus or other systems would find it difficult to see that most of the techniques of Jyotish are based on Whole...
Sign houses. Sepharial in an article entitled "Hindu Astrology" published in 1893 writes:

"I can state frankly that the Hindu method of Jataka (natal astrology) and Prashna (horary) is more of an art than a science. It is sufficient for them to draw a figure, putting the rising sign or Lagnam in any Bhava (house), without regard to the natural position of the zodiac at the time; and from this as a radius they ascertain the positions of the other signs by mere inspection, and do not write them into the figure. In the same way, the planets’ symbols are merely set in the houses which the signs they are in are known to occupy.”

The paragraph above shows that he was considerably unsatisfied with the Whole Sign houses and considered it as a lack of mathematical skills, but this is not accurate. The fact is he wrote this article when Western astrologers had very little information about Indian Astrology. Indians were aware of those calculations for centuries. However, the structure of Vedic astrology mainly based on sign lordships, and by using other house systems, these techniques fail. The more you understand the philosophical and mathematical architecture of Vedic astrology, the more you feel comfortable with Whole Sign Houses. Nonetheless, many Vedic astrologers use the Bhava Chart (a chart based on other house systems) beside the whole sign chart (Rasi Chart).

Of course, many Western Traditional astrologers such as Robert Hand, or Chris Brennan, utilize this house system. Whole Sign Houses is the primary house system of Vedic astrology. In some schools like KP Placidus is used while some scholars apply Sripati house system which is calculated as like as Porphyry. The only difference is that the cusps of Porphyry are in the middle of houses of Sripati.

**Chart Styles**

When I traveled to India for the first time, I had many difficulties sharing information with Indian Astrologers because I couldn’t read their charts easily.

The fact is it was not only my problem. Five Astrologers from different areas of India gathered in a room to discuss the example charts of the workshop. Some were using North Indian style while others were using South Indian.

Even the teachers in conferences usually put both styles side by side to make sure everybody enjoys the teachings. It is the same in most of the books.

Sometimes beginners feel inadequate to read a chart drawn using another software with different fonts or colors. I understand because our eyes get used to a particular style and changing the chart style perhaps makes it harder to read. However, since astrology is a universal language, we should spend some time to learn how to read different chart styles.

On the other hand, for professionals, a new chart may work as a new source of inspiration. Please note that every chart style is created to emphasize some concepts. The Western wheel is perfect to find planetary aspects at a glance. The north Indian chart has emphases on house placements, and south Indian chart is designed to focus on the planets in signs. Until the late 19th century, most Western astrologers used to cast square charts as well! I’ve chosen the Chart of pioneering astrologer Alan Leo to be cast in all different styles. As you can see in the picture, their chart style is very similar to the north Indian charts. (See charts below and on following page.)

In the **North Indian chart** the **First house is on the top of the chart** while in the **Western chart, the first house is on the left.** Astronomically the chart of the west makes more sense as if you face to the south, but conceptually the north Indian diagram is drawn to show some essential principles which I will write about soon.

**Vedic Astrologers usually do not use the glyphs.** They write the numbers 1 to 12 for the signs and Two-letter abbreviations for planets. For Example: Su for Sun, Mo for Moon and so on. Some other prefer the Sanskrit abbreviations like Sy for Surya (Sun), Cn for Chandra (Moon), Sk for Sukra (Venus), etc. Of course, Indians themselves use Sanskrit letters instead of English letters.

Vedic Astrologers usually do not use the outer planets Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto since they were not identified before telescopes. The new generation, however, is interested in them and some new theories developed for their usages in Vedic astrology as well.

In the **North Indian chart**, the houses are fixed, and the first house is always on top-center. Other houses are counter-clockwise. The Number that is written under the first house is the ascending sign, and the
order of numbers go on consecutively in other houses.

**In the South Indian chart**, the signs are fixed, and the order is clockwise so the Ascendant may fall in any of boxes of the chart and you should count other houses from that point. At first, it seems confusing, but after practicing, you find it very amazing. The Second house in the top row from left is always Aries. Four corners are always Dual signs. Top-left is Pisces and below-left is Sagittarius.

In this style, the Ascendant is usually marked by a line in the corner of the related sign.

Analysis should be done from the Moon as well. For this reason, Vedic astrologers cast a chart in which the Moon is placed in the first house. This chart is simply called Moon Chart. Suppose we have Aries Ascendant and Moon in Gemini. So, to cast the **Moon chart**, the Ascendant would be Gemini. In the South Indian chart, however, you don’t need to cast a new chart because you already know how to count houses from any square.

**A little Sanskrit**

Most of the general terms used in Vedic astrology have English equivalents, so slowly you can extend your glossary of Sanskrit astrological terms. Since we are just getting started, I will not overwhelm you by using many Sanskrit words in the text and instead list few of them here. Sometimes there are several equivalents for a term, so I choose the most common one. Although most English books on Jyotish use the English names of signs and planets, it is good to know their Sanskrit terms. (See tables at left.)

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**Getting Started**

Are you ready to experience some features of Vedic astrology? Of course, it is too early, but you can taste some of the general differences and use your existing knowledge to delineate some charts with a new preset.

Cast your own sidereal chart using Western style and whole sign houses. See how the planetary positions may change. Think for a while about sidereal positions of your chart as well as few other people you know.

The next step is casting the same charts using a Vedic astrology software. Usually, major Western astrology software have some Vedic features as well. Try reading and playing with both South and North Indian charts. You can also download Bindu Astrology Software Android edition for free from Google Play. Try to get more acquaintance with the chart styles by frequently referring to them. We would be happy if you share your experiences and questions with us.

**Ehsan Khazeni** is a leading astrologer and researcher from Iran. He is the developer of Bindu Astrology Software and Saptarishis Research Software. Having oriental background and putting Persian, Arab, Indian, Medieval and modern western Astrology together, made him a pioneering researcher on roots and origins of astrology. He is the Vice President of ISAR to Iran.

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**Sign**  
**Rasi**  
**House**  
**Bhava**  
**Ascendant**  
**Lagna**  
**Planetary Combination**  
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**The difference between tropical and sidereal zodiacs**  
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**Muhurthas**  
**Horary Astrology**  
**Prasna**  
**Spica**  
**Chitra**

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**Aries**  
**Mesha**

**Taurus**  
**Vrishibha**

**Gemini**  
**Mithuna**

**Cancer**  
**Karka**

**Leo**  
**Simha**

**Virgo**  
**Kanya**

**Libra**  
**Tula**

**Scorpio**  
**Vrischika**

**Sagittarius**  
**Dhanus**

**Capricorn**  
** Makara**

**Aquarius**  
**Kumbha**

**Pisces**  
**Meena**

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**Sun**  
**Surya**

**Moon**  
**Chandra**

**Mars**  
**Mangal**

**Mercury**  
**Budha**

**Jupiter**  
**Guru**

**Venus**  
**Shukra**

**Saturn**  
**Shani**

**North Node**  
**Rahu**

**South Node**  
**Ketu**

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**Image 3: Chart of Alan Leo North Indian Style**

**Image 4: Chart of Alan Leo South Indian Style**
Astrology in the 21st century is vastly different from the astrology of 20 years ago, let alone 30, 60 or a hundred years ago. We can attribute this change and development to the influence of the internet, and the availability on the web of many rare texts from antiquity. No other astrologer in the past would have had access to so many of us.

We have access to many papers and dissertations from seats of higher learning around the world. There is so much information available at our fingertips that we are in danger of drowning in a sea of information and misinformation. Nowadays, we have access to many techniques that were not available to the practicing astrologer in the past, and we may say that the focus of interpretation has shifted as many modern astrologers are not as invested in precise prediction, but rather in character development and the potentials of free-will.

Techniques from the Past

In the past, printed material was rare, expensive and only available to those with a knowledge of Latin, Greek or Arabic. Although astrology was a respected field during the Renaissance, its place as a science gradually diminished throughout Europe in the following centuries. In England, astrology eventually even came to be viewed as superstitious nonsense, seen primarily as occult, and therefore to be avoided at all costs.

There were some astrological texts available that were translated from either the Greek or Latin, such as Greek Horoscopes (O.Neugebauer and H.B. Van Hoesen). Ptolemy’s work was translated by Robbins, Astronomica was translated by Gould, and then works of Dorotheus by Pingree, yet these translators were not in the mainstream of the actual practising astrologers and therefore either mistranslated the essential meaning or changed the translated texts to suit their own bias. Where these books were available, they were usually hard to find, or very expensive.

The Time of Rediscovery

Before we discuss the global revival or renaissance of traditional astrology, let’s start by focusing on astrology in England from the 17th century onwards. Astrology, having reached a new pinnacle, began to disappear until gradually it remained known only to a few with an interest in history, alchemy and magic. Regular almanacs gave the days of the week, the phases of the Moon, saint’s days, and the best days to plant seeds or to harvest. In the 19th century in England, we had Zadkiel’s butchered re-publication of William Lilly’s masterpiece Christian Astrology, the works by Sepharial, and then the work of Alan Leo & Madame Blavatsky through the Theosophical Society.

It wasn’t until the late 19th & early 20th century, that astrology in England once more began to put out a few metaphysical shoots. Thanks to Alan Leo and Charles Carter (via the Theosophists), the Astronomical Lodge of London was chartered, in turn this ensured a revival of astrology in the United Kingdom. This led to the formation of the world renowned Faculty of Astrology, which celebrated its 70th birthday this year.

It was in 1930, with the celebrated birth of Princess Margaret and the publication by Naylor of her birth chart in the Daily Express, which brought astrology to the wider public eye. This popularized what we now know as Sun sign astrology. (Though, Nick Campion actually credits Leo with giving us the emphasis on Sun sign astrology) 1

Under the auspices of the Faculty of Astrology, Margaret Hone and Charles Carter added substantially to works available in the UK. However, due to the Alan Leo court case in the early 20th century, both predictive and horary astrology were dropped from the teaching syllabus. These were seen as ‘fortune-telling,’ and as such anyone practising this form of predication was liable to imprisonment.

On Both Sides of ‘The Pond’

Predictive astrology in America continued to be available through the works of Luke Broughton, Sibley, and Evangeline Adams. Many great astrologers arose in the United States, such as Ebertin, Rudhyar, and Steiner, by way of the influences of Jung and his writings. Astrology in America continued its rise in the 60’s, through works of Grant Lewi, Dane Rudhyar, Johndro, Ivy Goldstein Jacobson, Barbara Watters & The Brotherhood of Light. President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy acknowledged their use of astrology, and the practice began to flower again in the mainstream. Though the predictive side of astrology was quickly dropped in favour of Jungian thought, American traditional astrology continued to hold its ground.

In 1980 the gifted Robert Zoller produced his work on The Arabic Parts in Astrology, the Last Key to Prediction. Then came a period of silence with regard to any form of Traditional astrology or techniques. Meanwhile the Jungian astro-therapy teachings gained ground, mostly due to the combined team of Liz Green and Howard Sasportas. There was an explosion of books in the 80’s by many astrologers who came from a psychological background. They wrote copiously on the newly discovered outer planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, ascribing them rulership over certain signs and aspects of life. Suddenly it seemed the astrological world was

Ptolemy’s work was translated by Robbins, Astronomica was translated by Gould, and then works of Dorotheus by Pingree, yet these translators were not in the mainstream of the actual practising astrologers and therefore either mistranslated the essential meaning or changed the translated texts to suit their own bias.
Immersed in the study of the outer planets and asteroids.

In England, two books on Horary astrology appeared in 1985. One was a slender volume by Derek Appleby entitled, Horary Astrology: An Introduction to the Astrology of Time, published by Aquarian Astrology, along with a publication of a facsimile of William Lilly’s Christian Astrology of 1654 by Olivia Barclay & Clive Kavan were published under the Regulus Imprint. On the back of Christian Astrology, Olivia began writing a series of articles and lectured both in the UK and America. She then devised a course, teaching these traditional methods – the Qualifying Horary Practitioner course (QHP), the first course dedicated solely to predictive astrology. Many famous astrologers emerged from Olivia’s tutelage: Lee Lehman, Barbara Dunn, Deborah Holding, John Frawley, Carol Wriggers, Sue Ward and a host of other well-known astrologers.

In America during the ’80s certain ‘astrological royalty’ also started studying ancient astrological texts. These gifted individuals were able to read texts written in Greek, Latin and Hebrew and came to realise there was wealth of forgotten predictive techniques. The main trio were the three R’s: Roberts Hand, Schmidt and Zoller. They set about working through many forgotten works listed in the CCAG. The CCAG (full title is the Catalogus Codicum Astrologorum Graecorum) is a 12-volume catalogue of ancient astrological writings in Greek. The CCAG was published between 1898 and 1953 in Brussels, mainly by Franz Cumont & Franz Boll. The CCAG has been described as the “most important” modern survey of Greek astrological writings. Along with Eileen Black, in 1993 the three R’s set up Project Hindsight under the Golden Hind Press imprint and the rest is history!

My Introduction to Traditional Astrology

As I was a former student of Olivia Barclay and subsequently a Tutor on the QHP, Olivia insisted that I subscribe and support this wonderful venture. Thank you Olivia!! I cannot convey my excitement, which was soon followed by my frustration, as I sought to decode these little pamphlets in their blue & brown covers. Eventually I did manage to unearth some simple gems that have placed me in good stead over the decades.

I feel it came entirely down to the efforts and dedication of Robert Hand, Robert Schmidt and Robert Zoller that we now have access to these ancient texts. While we did have the Robbins translation of Ptolemy’s Tetrabiblos, and Manilius’s Astronomica translated by Goold, neither of these men were astrologers. As such, they either mistranslated the essential meanings, or changed the translated texts to suit their bias. Without a doubt, Tetrabiblos has been the most influential book in Astrology for hundreds of years but Ptolemy offered no examples or detailed explanations regarding some of the methods he mentioned.

The first book I became aware of that offered more insights into ancient methods, (complete with diagrams!) was Greek Horoscopes by Otto Neugebauer & H.B. Van Hoesen. This was a collection of early horoscopes collated from various sources, with many of the examples coming from Vettius Valens (2nd century AD). Greek Horoscopes was first published in 1959 by the American Philosophical Society and then republished in 1987.

Since the turn of this century, many more works have appeared with translations from Arabic, Persian, Hebrew and Latin. The majority of these works have been produced by the indefatigable Dr. Benjamin Dykes, along with further works from Rob Hand. Dr. Dorian Greenbaum and Charles Burnett have also produced some incredible works relating to the Daimon and Abu Mashers Great Introduction. Further books have appeared by Joseph Crane and of course, Chris Brennan.

A Closer Look

I hope in this essay to make astrologers who may have overlooked our rich origins, to become now aware of the existence of these texts, and what I consider their phenomenal use in accurately delineating charts. Although I am a strong advocate of traditional or classical astrology, I was initially trained by the world-renowned Faculty of Astrology in modern Western psychological practices. So I do have an understanding of the use and practice of this more popular form. I do hope that many modern astrologers will find what follows to be of some benefit in their practice or at least stimulate their curiosity in looking at how our astrological ancestors used astrology.

I thought I would just share a few charts showing how the classical astrologers of antiquity made their forecasts or predictions.

My favourite Horary chart is from Greek Horoscopes – Neugebaer & Van Hoesen, page 146: Small Lion – Will he be tamed?

“The Asc indicated the type of animal [Leo], Venus in the rising sign & Jupiter in the 11th about to receive contact from the Moon, indicated tameness and as the Moon in the setting sign was opposite Venus, showed it would be brought up with men and would go abroad on a ship because the setting sign was watery.

(Note: In many ancient texts, there is an association with Water—whether that is related to Saturn being the gate keeper between the known and fathomable and the unfathomable world beyond the starry heavens, I don’t know. Also Aquarius being of the airy triplicity is considered hot and moist, I am sure somewhere in some papyrus there is a reason but it is a puzzle!)

The Moon had left the opposition of Venus and was about to contact Jupiter so joined the fortunes of the sender and receiver, for
TRADITIONAL ASTROLOGY

the sender was to become Consul and the Receiver was Consul.”

This I feel is a marvellous insight into the questions of the time. I do not know of any astrologer over the past thirty years who has been asked a question about a pet lion! How times have changed.

Sect & Triplicity

One of the first things I gleaned from those early ARHAT publications was the importance given in natal techniques, to the Sect of the chart and the Triplicity rulers. 

Sect is simple – diurnal or nocturnal. It helps ascertain which planets are in the right hemisphere, right sign polarity (masculine or feminine) & with their Sect leader or light. They have added strength and are better able to perform their tasks. If the Sun is above the horizon or Ascendant, then it is visible & dominates our sky. That is the Sect Ruler. If the Sun is below the Ascendant, then the Moon becomes the Sect ruler, regardless of which house or hemisphere in the chart it is placed.

With Triplicity Rulers, this is where we begin to see the biggest differences. As mentioned earlier, Tetrabiblos was the book that every astrologer had on their shelf. We know Lilly had a copy, as he mentions it amongst his extensive bibliography at the back of Christian Astrology. Here we see, as with Ptolemy, that Mars is the sole ruler of the watery triplicity; Lilly even says, … you find Mars, who according to Ptolemy and Naibod, rules only that triplicity (water) both day and night.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Night</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Jupiter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>Venus</td>
<td>Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air</td>
<td>Saturn</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Mars</td>
<td>Mars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only two planets were assigned as triplicity rulers, in contrast to both Dorotheus and Valens who gave three. The third planet acted as a partner, or participatory ruler to the other two triplicity rulers. The two prime rulers, swapped places according to whether the chart was diurnal or nocturnal, the third remained the same. (See table below.)

Classical scheme of Triplicity Rulers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRIPLICITY</th>
<th>DAY RULERS</th>
<th>NIGHT RULERS</th>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

Triplicity rulers were used to assess the potential quality of the thirds of life.

As Valens notes (From Valens Anthology Bk 2 & Bk 3 – page 45) Concerning the sect of the stars:

“It’s necessary to consider the sect of the stars, for the Sun, Jupiter, and Saturn rejoice when they are above the earth during the day, below the earth at night. But the Moon, Mars and Venus rejoice when they are above the earth at night and below the earth during the day.”

And here is Dorotheus:

“Know the lords of the triplicities of the signs, ‘the lords of the triplicity of Aries by day are the Sun, then Jupiter, then Saturn. By night Jupiter, then the Sun, then Saturn’. … I tell you that everything which is decided or indicated is from the lords of the triplicities, and as for everything of afflictions and distress which reaches the people of the world and the totality of men, the lords of the triplicities decide it…”

Carmen Astrologicum – Dorotheus of Sidon.

Here is one from Valens³:

“… The nativity being nocturnal, the lords of the trigon, Saturn and Mercury are declining. For the first years, the native was irregular in many things, he live debt, though the support in the area of parents was good. Then later, after gaining an inheritance and augmenting his mode of living by means of advancements and resources, he became ambitious and fit to rule and munificent, acceptable to the crowds, a friend of kings and leaders, and one who furnishes provisions for temples and works, he gained a lasting memory. For the Lot of Fortune and Exaltation were found in Pisces and Jupiter, the lord, was culminating”.

Note: Jupiter was the final triplicity lord of the Air trigon and was in the 10th sign.

Triplicity rulership effects were not just confined to the Sect light. Ibn Ezra (1089-1164) sets out the effects of the Triplicity rulers on the houses:

“The First House: The First ruler of the triplicity indicates life, the character of the newborn, or the inquirer and his desires, and all that will befall him, good or bad, in the beginning of his life. The second triplicity ruler indicates the body and its strength (constitution), and the general course of the middle of the life. The third triplicity ruler mixes with the first two to give indications of the last part and end of life.

2nd The first triplicity rulers indicates money in the first part of life, the second and third in the middle and last part of life.”

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⁴ From Carmen, page 186 Septima. Pingree gives a date of the 2nd April 36AD 20.00. Alexandria

“The Ascendant is Scorpio and the nativity is nocturnal. The lord of the Moon’s triplicity is Mars, then Venus, then the Moon. Because the three of them are in cardines (angles) this man is mighty in eminence, powerful in leadership so that crowns of gold and silver are placed on him and he is praised.”

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The third simple technique is that of combining Profections with Solar Returns. This way of assessing which parts of life, according to the house being stimulated, is now gaining in popularity amongst many prominent modern astrologers.

Many astrologers classify Traditional astrology as too deterministic, too dark, with no room for “growth”; free will appears to be denied and the “fate” for the individual is often dire! I think many forget that a lot of these ancient “text books” were often written in best and worst case scenarios to demonstrate the points the author is making.

I have written elsewhere, the human condition has not and does not change. Apart from the horary about the pet lion, many of the horaries we have access to from the past all ask the same sort of questions: love, marriage, children, health, work and status. The ancient astrologers recognised many of us are born into “slavery” and here, just stop and think about how many of us are slaves to our mortgages or landlords! We have to work for our master in order to keep a roof over our heads, clothes on our bodies and food in our mouths. Just as they did in times past, unless you belonged to the ruling classes.

Traditional astrology recognises there are many aspects of our lives that we cannot change, whereas modern thought (and here I am not only referring to astrology) emphasises the perspective that we can all attain our dreams, if only we work hard enough, or are lucky enough, or born beautiful enough. We are told that anything is possible, that everyone can achieve their dreams, when we comprehend that reality is actually somewhat different. Yet, traditional astrology recognises that we are not perfect, we are not all born equal, we can only achieve what is promised in the natal chart and only at the right time. We are all shaped by our ancestors, the DNA coursing through our bodies, these cannot be changed (at the moment!) but we can all change! This is where the modern psychological astrology appears to part company from the traditional.

“You can’t make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear!”

The work of many brilliant astro-therapists provide hope and guidance to those seeking answers of an internal, or spiritual nature. Using the symbolism of astrology, an astrologer is able to explain the reasons for the difficulties the individual has faced, and gives them the tools to recognise how they can possibly change their view, or accept what has passed. Prevailing Western Astrology is discussed in psychological terms, whereas traditional or ancient astrology, is more philosophically based in its understanding and application. A lot of astrology today focuses on the “spiritual” aspect and identifies ways in which people can improve themselves and make changes. However, even knowing the “right time” to initiate certain changes still requires effort or input from the native. Understanding our primary motivation can go a long way to helping the native accept and work with their personal DNA to the best advantage. Modern psychological astrology encourages the person to dream their dreams but sometimes does not consider the constitution of the native. As the saying goes, “you cannot make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear!”

Find your Gems

Before you summarily dismiss traditional astrology, look again at the rock on which our modern day astrology was built; you may just discover some gems.

I finish with this passage from Dr. Nick Campion where he is discussing Henry Miller the playwright who wrote to Sidney Omarr in 1967:

“Miller also summarised his thoughts on the nature of astrology as a means of transcending immediate petty concerns in order to perceive greater truths about the cosmos and one’s self: We see what we want to see, we hear what we want to hear, whether it concerns the world, ourselves, our friends or our loved ones. The great opportunity which astrology offers is to permit us to see the whole . . . The purpose of astrology is not teach one how to thwart destiny but how to live up to it, in accordance with it. In other words, to become aware.”

References

1 History of Western Astrology Vol II. Page 232.
2 Christian Astrology, pg 105.
3 Vettius Valens The Anthology Bk II, Part 1. Project Hindsight trans Robert Schmidt. 1994 pg 39. This appears in Greek Horoscopes L95, V14 dated to about 8pm, 14th May 95
4 The Beginning of Wisdom by Ibn Ezra. Translated by Meira B. Epstein pages 85-90 Published by ARHAT 1998.

Sharon Knight has worked as a professional astrologer for nearly 30 years. Initially, studying with the Faculty, passing the Intermediate Diploma, before qualifying as a QHP with Olivia Barclay. She gained her MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology in 2004. She’s a Fellow of the Association of Professional Astrologers International and is Chair of the Association. Sharon is a Tutor and Convenor for the QHP and has her own course teaching Traditional Astrology. In the past, Sharon taught Astrology at Adult Education classes and has spoken at the AA Conferences, at The Astronomical Lodge of London and abroad. She’s written columns for various women’s magazines, newspapers and astrological journals, has a regular slot on local radio. Sharon practises classical and traditional astrology. She has a wide client base from all over the world and is passionate about her work and the place of astrology in society. In 2016 Sharon won the Coveted Astrologer of the Year title in India. Her website is www.astrologersharon.co.uk.
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THEMES OF THE SEASON

Autumn 2018

SEPTEMBER
22: Equinox: Sun ♉ enters Libra ☐
24: Full Moon @ 2° Aries ♈
30: Pluto ☿ Direct @ 18° Capricorn ☐

OCTOBER
5: Venus ♀ Retro through Nov 16 (10° Scorpio ♏ - 25° Libra ☐)
8: New Moon @ 15° Libra ☐
9: Mercury ☿ enters Scorpio ♏
10: Venus ♀ square Mars ♃ 10° (Scorpio/Aquarius ♏/○)
23: Sun ☉ enters Scorpio ♏
24: Full Moon 1° Taurus ☐
26: Venus ♀ Retro Sun ☉ Inferior conjunction – Star point
29: Mercury ☿ conjunct Jupiter ♄ @ 27° Scorpio ♏
30: Mercury ☿ enters Sagittarius ☐
30-31: Venus ♀ Retro opp Uranus ♄ @ 0° Fixed signs
31: Venus ♀ Retro returns to Libra ☐

NOVEMBER
Ch-ch-ch-changes! Mars ♃, Jupiter ♄, Uranus ♄ and Nodes change signs! Venus ♀, Mercury ☿ and Neptune ♄ change direction!
6: Uranus ♄ regresses into Aries ♈
7: New Moon @ 15° Scorpio ♏
8: Jupiter ♄ enters Sagittarius ☐ (until Dec 2, 2019)
15: Mars ♃ enters Pisces ♎
16: Venus ♀ Direct @ 25° Libra ☐
16: North Node ☐ Enters Cancer ☉ (29° degrees)
16: Mercury ☿ Retro @ 13° Sagittarius ☐
16: Mars ♃ square Jupiter ♄
22: Sun ☉ enters Sagittarius ☐
22: Full Moon @ 0° Gemini ♎
24: Neptune ♄ Direct 13° Pisces ♎
25: Mercury ☿, Sun ☉ and Jupiter ♄ conjunction in Sagittarius ☐

SEPTEMBER

September 22/23: September Equinox
No matter where on earth you are, the equinoxes are the only two days of the year that the Sun rises due east and sets due west. Make a point of directly observing the equinox sunrise or sunset from your exact window, yard or street, and you will define the cardinal directions at your precise location. Unlike the solstices, when sunrise and sunset linger on the horizon, you must check on the exact equinoxes to establish your cardinal directions. The Sun moves quickly by declination now, so this union of the ecliptic (Sun) and equator (earth) is fleeting. Such awareness helps anchor your astrological knowledge to physical reality in a visceral way.
Like any horoscope, this Equinox chart has unique features that supersede location. Being an ingress chart, the Sun is at 0° of the Cardinal sign Libra, indicating an inception of some sort. Mercury is nearby, having just completed its superior conjunction with the Sun two days earlier. Together they form a square to Saturn at 2° of Capricorn, and an eye-popping quincunx to Uranus Rx at 1° of Taurus. The uncomfortable aspects created by Sun and Mercury at this time indicate the attempted consciousness and acute awareness placed upon older, established entities. The distillation process is rarely a comfortable one. Saturn and Uranus meanwhile are continuing a strong and stable long-lasting trine that started in Fire signs (2017) and now evolves into Earth signs (2018). If anything can calm down and rein in the excitable Uranus, this is it—at least until Uranus regresses into Aries later this quarter. Best use? These few months are an outstanding time to pause the headlong forward momentum we’ve grown accustomed to. Catch up with yourself, breathe and attempt to retrieve the best from the past in order to carry it forward to the future.

When cast for a particular location, ingress charts function as a sort of astrological “weather report” for that place during the upcoming interval of time. The 2018 September Equinox, calculated for London, England, contains certain features that would capture the notice of even the most novice astrologer (see chart). Uranus, representing Communities and Groups – the Union – is squared by Mars in Aquarius – increasing the chances of shock, division and separation. You will recall that in July 2016, the U.K. voted in a referendum to separate from the European Union, in a move commonly referred to as Brexit. Although it won by only a small margin, the U.K. (ironically, itself a union of independent nations) initiated a process of removing itself from the union of...
European nations. With Uranus so prominent on this chart, the process of detachment is moving along swiftly, and in fact is slated to take full effect on March 29, 2019, only a few short months away. Notice the quincunx (disconnection) from Uranus to the Sun Mercury combination which is located near the end of the 2nd House of Finances and approaching the 3rd House of Neighbors. The 6th House of Daily Work features Pluto and Mars with the South Node, showing potential losses and belt-tightening for the working class. The Ascendant in this chart is 18° of Leo, which was the degree of the most recent solar eclipse on August 11 of this year, and hear- kens back to an eclipse at the same degree that swept over England in August 1999. It is in this way that eclipses echo on and on through time.

Another possibility exists as an expression of the "emancipating" nature of Uranus on the MC. Queen Elizabeth II of England, age 92, has a powerful horoscope which is being strongly affected by transits in 2018-19 (see chart). Notice Saturn on her MC and the unaspected Sun in her natal chart: here is the world's longest-standing monarch who has seldom wavered from the family rules instilled in her as a child. Transiting Uranus directly conjoins her Sun three times between May 2018 and April 2019, during which time transiting Pluto will cross her 21° Capricorn ascendant, transiting Jupiter crosses both her Saturn and MC and transiting Saturn enters her 12th House of Retirement. All of this opens the door for a major change in life circumstance. Her husband Prince Philip, now 97 (who describes himself as "the world's most experienced plaque-unveiler"), took matters into his own hands and recently retired from public life. And the Prince of Wales, Charles, the heir apparent to the throne? Well, his chart (not shown) has Moon at 0 degrees of Taurus and a close T-square from 0-5 degrees of the Fixed signs including his Ascendant, which will undergo a prolonged trigger from Uranus over the next two years. Meanwhile, the Queen continues to earn tremendous respect and popularity. The length of Elizabeth's reign, now in its 67th year, means that anyone on the plan-

Notice Saturn on the Queen's MC and the unaspected Sun in her natal chart: here is the world's longest-standing monarch who has seldom wavered from the family rules instilled in her as a child. Transiting Uranus directly conjoins her Sun three times between May 2018 and April 2019.

OCTOBER

October 5 through Nov 16 -- Venus Retrograde (10 Scorpio - 25 Libra)

Because Venus is retrograde only 7% of the time, the least of all the planets, our attention is alerted when the Planet of Love and resources changes direction. In 2018, she'll be retrograde from October 5 through November 16, or 10° Scorpio to 25° Libra zodiacally speaking. This is the most interesting time in the cycle of a planet whose visibility as both a Morning and Evening Star captured the attention of the ancients the world over. Her cycle was recorded by Mesoamericans and Mesopotamians alike. Her station retrograde indicates that she will soon be fading from her Evening Star phase, when she is beautifully visible in the western sky after sunset for about nine months. Master astrologer Deborah Houlding says of this point in the Venus cycle, "This station from direct to retrograde occurs whilst Venus is still very bright but about to enter the sun's beams. This is a tense stage of the cycle, because it is associated with reversals and brings a sharp focus upon matters of sexual attraction and fertilization. In relationships, it symbolizes the anticipated union of the male and his mate." Venus retrograde is notorious for bringing old lovers back from the depths, and this is especially true if you have planets or important points in the retrograde zone or in aspect to it. Traditionally, this period is considered inhospitable for marriage or beginning a new relationship. I would add that it's a bad time to end a relationship, too. It IS an excellent time to go back, review, converse and engage in deep exchange with any person to whom you're having trouble relating. Don't make permanent moves at this time. Do make efforts at relationship repair.

8: New Moon @ 15 Libra
9: Mercury enters Scorpio
23: Sun enters Scorpio
24: Full Moon 1 Taurus

Every year we have a Full Moon with Sun in Scorpio and Moon in Taurus. In 2018 both
Transits of the Season

Lights are accompanied by other planets, adding levels of complexity to this particular lunation. The Sun and Venus retrograde are moving quickly towards each other, their interior conjunction occurring just two days hence. Venus is deepest in her underworld phase, invisible behind the veil. This influence is profound and potent but since it is unseen, it is often beyond consciousness. Meanwhile, tender Moon in Taurus is partnered with abrasive Uranus, representing public (Moon) disruption and discontent (Uranus). Moon and Venus are both feminine planets and in this chart are as far apart as they can be (opposition!) and stressed by male planets Sun and Uranus, indicating intense confrontations between or on behalf of women or feminine principles. Interestingly, the way out of this confrontation is demonstrated by the easy aspects of Sun and Moon to Saturn. If the various factions follow established protocol and demonstrate patience, things will sort themselves out! However, with Uranus on the Moon, public outcry and dissent is quite likely. This lunation occurs on the horizontal angle in England meaning that the Moon rises exactly as it is full, making it “up close and personal” for this particular country, perhaps another step in fulfilling the September equinox chart four weeks ago (see chart).

26: Venus RX Sun interior (inferior) conjunction 3 Scorpio

On October 26, Venus retrograde conjoins the Sun at 3° of Scorpio. She is cazimi or in the heart of the Sun, deeply hidden in its beams and at a crucial point in her cycle. In the 2012 article “Blinded by the Light: Planets Conjunct the Sun,” I explain “The visceral sensation here is that Venus enters combustion as she is descending (from evening visibility), and exits combustion as she ascends (into morning visibility). At some point in between, she “bottoms out” (this would be at the exact conjunction) before climbing back up. During this period of combustion, Venus is provided a Cloak of Invisibility, courtesy of the Sun.” 5 Listen to Bernadette Brady, PhD, who labels combust planets “enchant ed:” She writes: “I think we have fallen into a solar-centred world where the removal of planetary phases has left us with the doctrine of a planet being weakened by the Sun, burnt and thus seen as damaged goods. However, instead of damaged, we can look at this withdrawing from the material world as a way that our charts bring charisma, a little magic, and a little awe into our own lives…” 6 This conjunction is a vital point in the Venus synodic cycle which provides rare and direct access to the magic of the underworld. May each of us go deeply inside and drink from that sweet, eternal wellspring of cosmic love.

29: Mercury conjoins Jupiter @ 27 Scorpio

Mercury may cough up another cache of secret documents at the end of October as he swings by massive Jupiter in the final degrees of Scorpio. Oh, the headlines should be interesting! Remain skeptical and don’t believe everything you read, though: Jupiter is known to exaggerate, to confabulate and to be overly optimistic about results, glossing over obvious errors in thinking. Fortunately, Mercury in Scorpio sniffs out potential problems so pay attention to the red flags he raises. As the old saying goes, trust in Allah and tether your camel — or whatever its variation in your particular faith.

30: Mercury enters Sagittarius

Mercury enters Sagittarius on October 30, and except for a brief dip back into Scorpio for the first two weeks of December, he’s in the Sign of the Sagittarius until January 4, 2019. The prolonged length of this stay means Mercury will soon be retrograde, something we will cover in November. Sagittarius is not a particularly comfortable location for Mercury, being opposite to the sign he rules. The tendency while here is to jump to conclusions, think too big and be swept away in possibilities without the proper grounding in reality. More positively, Mercury in Sagittarius is optimistic, and can provide us with confidence to authentically speak our truth. Hopefully the retrograde period will help us earthing to sustain the creativity of fire signs while being able to rethink and reconsider material we are working on, while avoiding the need to be right (Sagittarius) and thereby cutting ourselves off from new input and information.

30-31: Venus RX opposite Uranus @ 0 Fixed signs

The Full Moon chart of a week ago, October 24, set up the opposition we’re experiencing today. Venus is still retrograde, and is going to change signs tomorrow into her own home turf Libra, but not before she conquers the gauntlet thrown down by Uranus at 0° of Taurus. This is a maximum irritability aspect. Sensibilities are shaken and folks feel jangled and easily upset. Uranus always calls for an upgrade, so as it opposes Venus, ruler of the sign it is in (Taurus), perhaps this is a time when you will feel the need to revisit the way you
use your resources and the way you trade with people. Try to remain centered and make good use of the strong energy, using your knowledge of the stars to be part of the solution not the problem. Put on some electronic music and dance!

31: Venus RX into Libra

Just as many cultures are celebrating Halloween or the Day of the Dead type holiday, Venus retreats into her home sign Libra. Here she shall safely stay through the month of November, finally turning direct on November 15. Venus in Libra is a peacemaker extraordinaire. She’ll find connection where none seems to exist and use these threads to weave an artful tapestry between warring parties. What’s beautiful about her entry into Libra this month is that it coincides with her heliacal rise—her first visibility as a Morning Star when she rises ahead of the Sun. The planet is quite close to the earth now and very bright if you’re willing to get up early enough to see it. Venus is a little pushier in this Morning Star position and while in the Sign of Relationships, could show a good opportunity to assert your Venusian energy more effectively. For instance, speaking up clearly when something is wrong yet using a tone and language that infers faith in a solution. “The accommodations were not what we were lead to expect. How can we most quickly and easily get the room we were promised?” Or practice being polite to someone you don’t really care for. Find other ways to play with the idea of being assertively nice or nicely assertive. It could be lots of fun!

NOVEMBER

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With three planets (Mars, Jupiter, Uranus) plus the lunar nodes moving into different signs this coming month, and three other planets (Venus, Mercury and Neptune) shifting direction, there’s one thing you can count on this November: Ch-ch-ch-changes!

6: Uranus backtrack into Aries for the final time

After dipping his toe in Taurus for several months, rebel planet Uranus backtrack into Aries from November 6 until March 6, 2019. Anyone with planets in the last five or so degrees of the Cardinal signs of Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn will continue to experience the habit—breaking, eye-opening transit of Uranus to their natal chart. It’s been going on since the summer of 2016 and really won’t be over for another few months. Each and every one of us is still recovering from the extended square of Uranus (revolution) to Pluto (breakdowns), seven exact passes between 2012 and 2015, and the disruption caused by that rare and long-lasting event. In 2016–17 Jupiter in Libra opposed Uranus three times, which amped up the disruption (Exhibit A: Brexit. Exhibit B: Trump). Let us now breathe into the final four months of this passage of Uranus in Aries for the next 84 years. It’s been quite a ride. Is it too early to review and understand the meaning of this transit, if that is even possible? Recently I found a post by astrologer Nick Owens (CIA Agent# 37) first published in May 2010 when Uranus entered Aries. It’s an interesting read now, and gives us some guidance for analyzing the past seven years: “It will be interesting to see what new, bold, shocking visions of the world will be fought for in the coming decade: will we see the courage to confront the major problems affecting the globe like pollution, resource depletion and inequality, climate change and militant corporatism, or will long-unquestioned limits to human endeavour in these areas be transgressed without restraint? Perhaps we need to focus our minds on the best of Uranus (inimplacable principles, willingness to change deeply, even reverse direction, creative genius, humanism, rationalism, constant questioning and never accepting traditional answers) as well as the best of Aries (leadership, direction, bravery, honesty, spontaneity) to fashion principles that may be a guide to the turbulence of the years ahead.”

7: New Moon 15 Scorpio

8: Jupiter enters Sagittarius (until Dec, 12, 2019)

On November 8, the great planet Jupiter enters its home sign of Sagittarius until December 2, 2019. Jupiter was last in the sign from November 2006 - December 2007 and before that from December 1994 - January 1996. Presumably, Jupiter will be at its best when in the sign it rules, because the environment (the sign) supports the planet. As astrologer Jessica Murray noted in a recent webinar, “Staying on the Right Side of History,” here we have “the planet of excess in the sign of excess. This placement is notorious for reckless economic and financial policies.” During 2019, Jupiter makes three squares to Neptune in Pisces: one in January, another in June and the final pass in September. This inflates the economic bubble even further and has other consequences as well: The dogma of religion, trumpets blaming (Jupiter in Sagde), conflicts or competes with the quiet demands of spirituality (Neptune in Pisces). There are big dreams and grandiose fantasies, mystical yearnings but personal delusion and self-deception. This combination can be altruistic and philanthropic, willing to sacrifice the self for greater good, but also self-righteous and gullible. As master astrologer Sue Tompkins says about this aspect: “Freedom lies in escape or transcendence.”

15: Mars Pisces

At long last, Mars moves out of Aquarius where it had a rare retrograde earlier this year, into the Mutable Water sign of Pisces. While logic might dictate that water would extinguish the fire of Mars, in traditional astrology water was considered to assuage and calm the hot planet, thereby improving it. More modernly, astrologer Jayj Jacobs (1949 - 2011) famously said, “having Mars in Pisces is like trying to hammer a nail with a fish.” Either way you see it, this placement will persist for six weeks, until year’s end. Certainly, the compassionate sign of Pisces can soothe the savage beast in Mars, calming outbursts but also increasing the chances of hurt feelings. Anger might be directed inward, or have a passive-aggressive expres-
Transits of the Season

is a plus. Deborah Houlding says "The period around the (direct) station is associated with hesitancy, being caught up in loops of experience, feeling the desire to give up or the need to backtrack on previous plans ....but there is at least an anticipation of hope ahead, because the most arduous part of the cycle is coming to an end." While now far behind the Sun, Venus will slowly pick up speed and catch up to it, entering her much longer period of invisibility. In the meantime, if you are up early enough, enjoy the rest of her apparition as a Morning Star!

16: Mercury Retrograde 13 Sagittarius, Mars square Jupiter, Mean North Node Enters Cancer at 29 degrees Cancer. (True NN enters Cancer November 7)

November 16 is quite an action-packed day astrologically. Mercury is making its third and final retrograde station in Sagittarius, completing the elemental fire year for Mercury. It will be retrograde until December 6 when it stations direct at 27° Scorpio. While handwringing and whining is one way to cope with Mercury retrograde, working with this familiar cycle in a ceremonial manner to increase your awareness through cyclic use of the elements is another option. See Gary Caton’s recent book sacred text “Hermetica Triptycha: The Mercury Elemental Year” for more information and specific instructions. Additionally, on this day, Mars makes a square to Jupiter. This increases energy but also irritability: Avoid over-use injuries. Finally, the lunar nodes change sign today. Since they move backwards, they enter a sign at 29° and take about 1.5 years to move completely through the sign, exiting at 0 degrees. Signs of the transiting nodes carry the eclipses so we understand that these will occur in Cancer and Capricorn for the next year or two.

22: Sun enters Sagittarius
22: Full Moon @ 0 Gemini
24: Neptune Direct 13 Pisces

22-30: Mercury RX, Sun and Jupiter conjunction in early Sagittarius

Listen to everything but believe nothing when retrograde Mercury, Sun and Jupiter join together in the early degrees of Sagittarius. The propensity for grandiosity, self-righteousness and outright falsehoods will be on full display with this combination, but the speaker will be very convincing. Mercury retrograde could bring rollbacks or reversals of some kind, especially of a religious or legal nature. Watch headlines, especially buried ones, about regulations being rescinded and other evidence of backtracking.

DECEMBER

1: Mercury regresses into Scorpio (RX)

2: Venus enters Scorpio

Venus enters “challenging territory” in the sign Scorpio, which she must contend with until January 8, 2019. It is unusually intense for indulgent Venus! She’s still visible in the morning sky, her more assertive phase, and in the defensive sign of Scorpio, there’s somewhat of a mixed message. This is a rather tiring phase, because she’s nearing the end of her synodic cycle, rather like a traveler who is 80% of the way through a long, arduous trip; already exhausted but there’s still far to go. And if there’s one sign that can help with dogged determination, it’s Scorpio. This knowledge helps you to keep putting one foot in front of the other, understanding that eventually you will reach your well-deserved rest.

6: Mercury Direct 27 Scorpio

7: New Moon 15 Sagittarius square Mars/Neptune at 13 Pisces

Definitely do not run off to join a cult from December 2-7 when Mercury is at a standstill and Mars joins Neptune (13 Pisces) squaring the New Moon (15 Sagittarius). A good image for Mars and Neptune is “dancing with a ghost.” Another is “a lot of smoke but no fire.” How about “blind faith” or “religious fervor” for a combination of keywords? Mix a good measure of self-righteous Sagittarius with impressionable, idealistic Pisces, and you could be swept away before you even know it. Keep your head on your shoulders, dear reader, and don’t go near the water until it’s over. That won’t be for another month or so, because Mars Neptune is featured in the New Moon chart of December 7 (see chart, set for Washington D.C.).

Yes, check out that square between the 2nd House of Finance and the 5th House of Gambling (this is going to be expensive, and will probably involve our neighbors.). Libra is rising, so Venus is the chart ruler, and
there she is in the First House, caught with her panties down and in the most shocking way. Why, it’s almost enough to distract our attention from Pluto conjoining the IC of this New Moon chart for Washington D.C. But not quite. We’re well trained professionals, after all, and Pluto on the IC (with Saturn and South Node nearby!) represents a de/reconstruction of a most fundamental nature. Therefore, do not be distracted by several levels of fleeting headlines, however tawdry. Astrology helps us see that the real work is going on at a deep, hidden but foundational level. Pay attention to that.

12: Mercury enters Sagittarius
20: Sun trine Uranus 28 Fire signs

REFERENCES
1. An ingress is defined as a planet moving into a new sign by direct motion. In mundane astrology, their use is typically confined to the Sun moving into a Cardinal Sign as an indication of the period ahead for wherever the chart is cast.
3. If you’d like to have a look, here’s his data: Charles, Prince of Wales: Nov 14 1948, 9:14 pm, Buckingham Palace, England. (Rodden Rating A)
10. Deborah Houlding, op cit p.80

Linea Van Horn, C.A., NCGR, is the Astrologer at Large. Linea is Founder and President Emeritus of the San Francisco Astrological Society (1992-2014) and has served on three NCGR boards, including the Board of Examiners. Formerly employed in the astrology Internet industry, Linea is a respected teacher, published author, and popular, lively presenter. She now devotes herself to client work, teaching, writing, and community building in the San Francisco Bay Area. Visit her at www.AstrologerAtLarge.com.
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4-10  I-Astrologer Parts I and II (OPA)
Tucson, AZ, OPAastrology.org
18-22  SOTA Conference
Cheektowaga, NY, donnavantoen.com

**JANUARY 2019**
24-29  Kepler Conference
Cocoa Beach, FL, canaveralresearchcenter.com

**MAY 2019**
23-27  NORWAC
Tukwila, WA, norwac.net

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astrologicalassociation.com

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  - Solar Arc Directions in Action

- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21**
  - NAOMI BENNETT (TX)
  - What are Moon Wobbles and Why They Are Important

- **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3**
  - SHANNON JONES & RUSSELL OHLHAUSEN (TX)
  - Sexuality In the Aquarian Age: Merging the Opposites Within

- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18**
  - KATE RUSKO (Canada)
  - A Shamanic Astrology approach to Planetary Returns

- **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16**
  - SHARON KNIGHT (UK)
  - Sect and Triplicity Rulership

2019

- **SATURDAY JAN. 12**
  - DONNA STELTHORN (CA)
  - Chinese Astrology 2019 Year of the Earth Pig

- **SUNDAY FEB. 3**
  - DANIEL FIVERSON (NM)
  - The Conjunction of Saturn and Pluto In The Foothills of the 2020’s

- **SATURDAY FEB. 16**
  - ALEKSANDAR IMSIRAGIC, (Serbia)
  - Fixed Stars in Karmic Astrology

- **SUNDAY MARCH 3**
  - JULIA SIMAS (Australia)
  - The Phases of Venus

- **SUNDAY MARCH 17**
  - GREG BOGART (California)
  - Career Counseling Theory and Vocational Astrology: A New Synthesis

- **SUNDAY APRIL 7**
  - MJ PATTERSON (Canada)
  - Kitchen Table Research

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

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

- **SUNDAY JUNE 2**
  - KATHRYN ANDREN (NY)

- **SATURDAY JUNE 22**
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