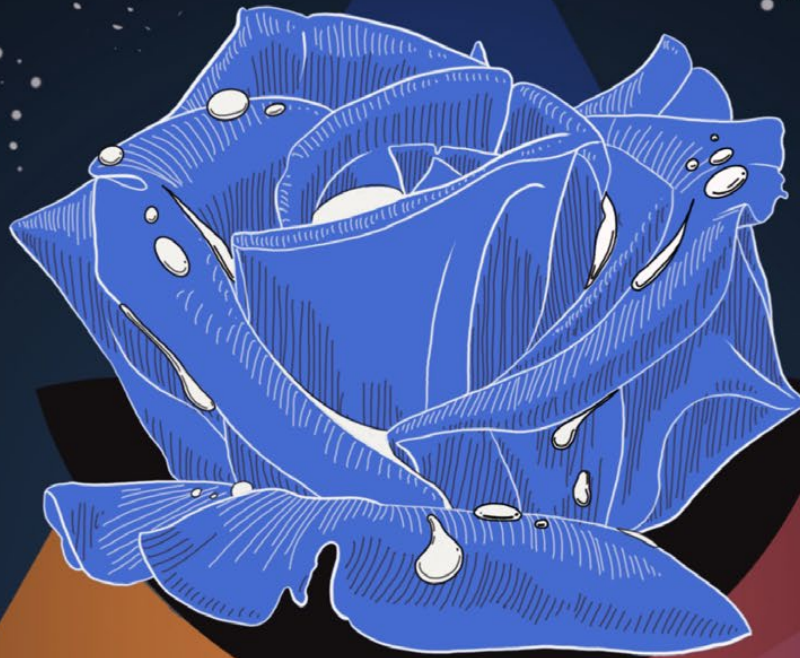


# The Evolving Astrologer



SATURN *IN* PISCES

*plus* PLANTS  
& PLANETS

V32 **01** MARCH EQUINOX  
2023

THE ORGANIZATION FOR  
PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGY **opa**



## SATURN IN PISCES

### PLANTS & PLANETS

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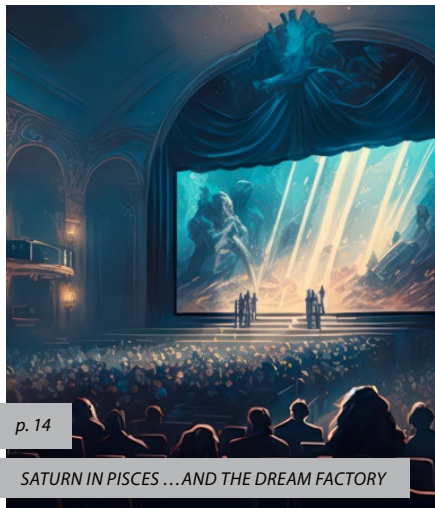
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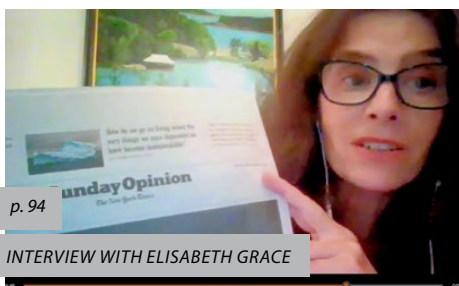
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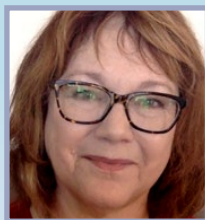
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## Dear OPA Members

**G**rey skies. A lull before the storm.  
As I write this, the "Pineapple Express" is on its way to sunny California, already swimming in floodwaters and buried in unrelenting snow. Most of us are experiencing unique weather as we surf the unpredictable in all of life, astrology transits guiding our way.

For me, the personal unpredictable was that I finally succumbed to the Covid virus this past week. I dared to meet my astrologer bud, Linea Van Horn, for our first in-person lunch since "Pre-Pandemic," the great marker of time. Two days later, literally hours after Saturn moved into Pisces, we both tested positive. Even though I have endless faith in astrology, I still find it remarkable that the last time I was seriously ill was when Saturn was last in Pisces in the 90s. I am grateful that I am generally healthy, and respectful of Saturn's ability to slow me down.

Many of my friends reported a spiritual, transformational quality to their experience of intense bouts of Covid. Even with a relatively mild case, the fatigue feels like living in a cloud where only fundamental life-sustaining needs get a vote. Every day is a reminder to find balance. My inner imperative to accomplish is dull and muted. This morning, I found myself readily stopping everything to hold my trembling Coyote dog, who freaked at the squeak of the battery alarm. I frequently rest, pondering the ceiling.

This need to be balanced and take care of the physical body has been astrologically hammered into our collective psyche through the Taurus North Node and Uranus in Taurus transits, and soon will be a needed balance for Pluto in Aquarius. As Pluto's ingress always suggests the curriculum — *What is corrupt? What needs to be transformed?* — our inability to wisely handle even the current levels of technology will be brought to our attention. The wave of tech innovation likely to flood us in the upcoming decades promises to be both magnificent and overwhelming. We can imagine and project all we like, but the truth is we don't know what it will feel like to live within this new terrain. The next few months provide a brief immersion, from which we can return to Capricorn tried and true to stabilize before we are fully in the new.

I believe the simple, human pleasures of life will help us find balance and manage unimaginable world changes: delicious and nutritious food, personal connections, tending to the earth, and simplicity come to mind. Our June issue will feature these healing themes.

For now, and for me, the necessary human connection comes from our astrological community. I appreciate the connection and memories I have with you, and hope that the array of astrological wisdom we share helps you find inspiration, grace, and balance.

In gratitude,  
Kay

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

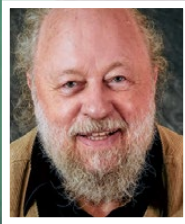
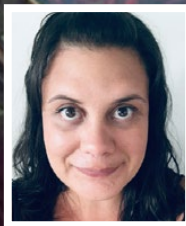




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# WELCOME

## to the March 2023 Equinox Edition

by William Sebrans

*To every thing, there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven...*

Right. Quoting Ecclesiastes, like a ubiquitous Hallmark greeting card, are we?

In a manner, yes...but also note that in 1965, the American rock group, The Byrds, blissfully jangled the airwaves with their electrified, 12-string guitar rendition of the oft-quoted Biblical verse in *Turn, Turn, Turn*, marking a signature flourish of that **Saturn in Pisces** period that spawned psychedelics and related art.

And here we are again, 58 years — two Saturn cycles later, and one Saturn cycle after Julia Butterfly Hill tree-sat for two years in the mid-1990s to protest environmental negligence and destruction.

That prior late-20<sup>th</sup> Century Saturn round also coincided with the rise of the life and business coaching profession and

the distinct emergence of the “conscious business” movement, exemplified by poet-philosopher David Whyte’s *The Heart Aroused: Poetry and the Preservation of Soul in Corporate America*, released in 1994-5.

We’re no fans here of Astro-hyperbole that, with each new cycle, either markets impending doom or a New Dawn.

In these lanes, we take a more moderate view that rather frames planetary shifts as intricately woven influences, like Celtic knots, threading the good and bad, the ugly and beautiful, the sacred and mundane, the tantalizing and tedious.

In that spirit, the March Equinox edition of **The Evolving Astrologer** features diverse, complementing perspectives on **Saturn’s transition from Aquarius to Pisces** and **Pluto’s dip into Aquarius**, with

all their beckoning possibilities, potentially fearsome challenges, and beguiling nuances.

On another note, spring is emerging here in the Northern Hemisphere, and if our Southern Hemispheric friends will forgive our latitudinal bias, we offer a secondary theme of **Plants & Planets** that keeps our study of planetary influence literally grounded in the time of blooming. Regardless of our latitude or longitude, the correspondence of celestial archetypes with our plant allies invites our willing participation.

As with each issue of TEA, individual contributors from our OPA community offer their perspectives and understanding on diverse astrological topics — from **House Systems** — a currently “lively” subject in the Astro-community — to the astrological correlates of the experience of **shame and its healing**.

Our Senior Editor, Denise Hancock, delineates **transit themes** for March-June 2023. You’ll want to take note of the offering in our now-regular Horary Corner.

Each season of TEA brings the written version of an **OPA Live** panel that, this round, features four different takes on Saturn in Pisces—lathered with enlivening cultural references to warm his temperamentally cool disposition and ponderous reputation while engaging your Saturn-weary attention.

We weave engaging art and illustrations throughout, ensuring that knowledge and beauty get their equal, respective due in TEA.

Thank you for your ongoing, upbeat participation and thoughtful contributions to OPA and to the “Round Art.”

**Will Sebrans** started out as a child and then, somehow, wound up becoming OPA’s Publications director. After a successful entrepreneurial stint as principal of a Sausalito, Ca technology search firm...in the 1990s, he shifted to working with individuals to evoke the best version of their lives, using astrology, Human Design, life coaching, and whatever tools picked up along the way that work. He is a classical/improvisatory guitarist, loves most dogs, and tends not to refuse any kind of fresh berry. Will publishes twice-monthly an upscale, graphically alluring, frequently witty (he convinces himself) Astro-cultural museletter: *Practical Astrology for Artful Types*. <https://tinyletter.com/wsebrans> His website: [www.otherwiseworld.com](http://www.otherwiseworld.com)





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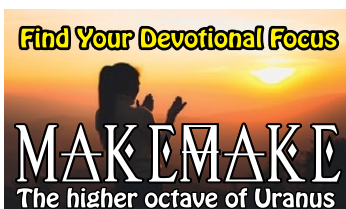


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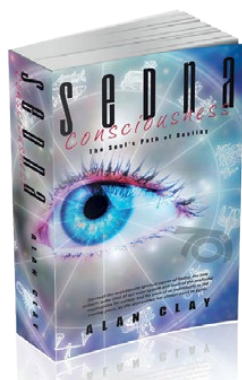
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~ Karen La Puma, Astrologer, Counselor.

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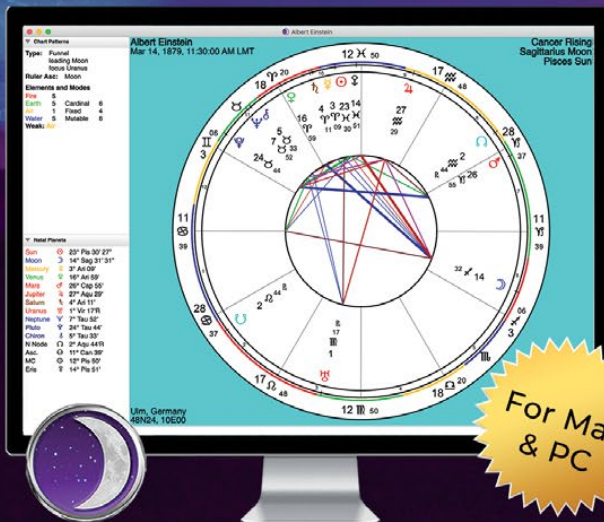
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FOUR ASTROLOGERS DISCUSS

MALLORY HASTY  
GIULIO PELLEGRINI  
GINA PICCALO  
WENDY STACEY

# SATURN IN PISCES

## Introduction to OPA LIVE

**T**ruth told, planetary sign changes are excellent for Astro-business, and with good reason: they mark significant and verifiable weather changes — for the individual, the collective, and the planet.

With a changing of the guard, general curiosity peaks, while the attending theories and predictions keep pace with it.

For anyone familiar with his astringent ways, Saturn's ingress into Pisces on March 7 may come with a mixture of relief, foreboding, and disconcerting question marks.

*Have we had enough of his entitled position for nearly six years at home in Capricorn and Aquarius?*

Many might emphatically answer **YES!**

But the stark paradox of Saturn's limiting and structuring nature meeting Pisces' diffusion and chaos has us seriously scratching our astrological heads.

Saturnian conversations can carry overtones of heaviness and ennui...but don't need to.

Our OPA Live panel, comprised of **Gina Piccalo, Mallory Hasty, Wendy Stacey**, and **Giulio Pelligrini**, takes a lively look at Saturn's challenges and gifts in Piscean periods as they have shown up in our cultural fabric over the

centuries—in film, letters, music, and the visual arts.

Looking back at such richness, we have good reason to look forward.

Saturn's ingress  
into Pisces  
on March 7 may  
come with  
a mixture of  
relief, foreboding,  
and disconcerting  
question marks.





## SATURN IN PISCES THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

by Giulio Pellegrini



As the ultimate timekeeper, where Saturn goes, our collective conversations tend to follow. When Saturn enters Pisces on March 7th, attention shifts from Aquarian rationality and into the realm of the ineffable, that “*undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns.*”<sup>1</sup> Saturn’s transit through Pisces represents a departure from the signs it rules and away from restructuring and reorganization that has characterized its influence in recent years, ushering in a blank slate — a tabula rasa upon which we may remake our tales and myths.

When Saturn is in Pisces, art moves to the foreground. Musicians, writers, philosophers, artists, and creative thinkers in all disciplines are inspired to bring new modes of expression into existence and weave new myths into the collective imagination. Through the arts, we have the opportunity to experience timelessness. Being “lost” in a book, a film, or a work of art is the special gift of Pisces. Artists transport us to worlds beyond our immediate comprehension, providing fresh opportunities to cultivate empathy and gain insight. With Saturn in Pisces, we have a chance to lose ourselves and gain an understanding of our interconnectedness with all life.

Pisces’ traditional ruler, Jupiter, now stands in Aries and will move through Taurus, Gemini, and mid-way through Cancer during Saturn’s tenure in this sign. These first four signs of the zodiac represent our psychological foundations, suggesting our personal histories will come up as the raw materia — the pictures we use for imaginative remolding in Pisces.

Saturn’s transit of Pisces offers a profound opportunity to broaden our creative vision and choose our own “way through the woods”<sup>2</sup> using art as our guide.

*They shut the road through the woods  
Seventy years ago.  
Weather and rain have undone it again,  
And now you would never know  
There was once a road through the woods  
Before they planted the trees.  
It is underneath the coppice and heath,  
And the thin anemones.  
Only the keeper sees  
That, where the ring-dove broods,  
And the badgers roll at ease,  
There was once a road through the woods.  
—Rudyard Kipling*

### The Piscean Paradox

Depending on where one stands in the zodiac, Pisces may appear deeply irrational or divinely inspired. Symbolized by two fish swimming in opposite directions — one swimming toward the light of day and into order and consciousness intelligence — the other swimming into the depths of chaotic night and intuitive

realms of the deep unconscious, Pisces contains all of the stored psychic material generated from the preceding cycle. Marking the end of the zodiacal year at the March equinox, Pisces embodies the balancing and integration of the human psyche. It is here where we must confront and reconcile our past experiences. The 12 signs of the zodiac are often viewed as a journey of the soul, progressing through increasingly complex stages of development. The Piscean process represents an integration of the psyche leading to an expansion of our sense perception and direct knowledge, ultimately leading to a state of universal consciousness.

Integrating the disparate and fragmented parts of our psychic past is often fraught with loss and an uprising of deep emotion. Saturn was in Pisces conjunct the South Node in June 1905 when the crew of the Russian battleship Potemkin, built for the Russian Navy’s Black Sea Fleet, rebelled against the ship’s officers, viewed now as a first step towards the Russian Revolution of 1917. In 1925, *Battleship Potemkin*, a dramatization of the events of the rebellion directed by Sergei Eisenstein, was released as a silent film. It is considered one of the greatest films of all time.<sup>3</sup> The film’s premiere version opened with a quote from Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky’s 1905, vivid with Piscean and Aquarian themes (Uranus had opposed Neptune in 1905):

*“The spirit of mutiny swept the land. A tremendous, mysterious process was taking place in countless hearts: the individual personality became dissolved in the mass, and the mass itself became dissolved in the revolutionary impetus.”<sup>4</sup>*

Over 100 years after its release, Eisenstein’s film continues to be hailed for its peerless mastery of film aesthetics, and the indelible images of humanity’s battle against oppression and authori-

In 1925, *Battleship Potemkin*, a dramatization of the events of the rebellion directed by Sergei Eisenstein, was released as a silent film. It is considered one of the greatest films of all time.



tarianism continue to resonate deeply with our natural desire for liberty and self-determination.

### The Old Man and The Sea

Esoterically, Saturn is called the dweller on the threshold, governing structure, boundaries, limits, and everything leaden, heavy, and cold. But what happens when Saturn enters a sign where there are no thresholds with which to dwell? At first glance, Saturn and Pisces seem antithetical to each other, and in many ways, they are. However, on closer inspection, there are some interesting commonalities to explore.

As the outermost planet visible to the unaided eye, Saturn signifies the limits of our awareness and experience. Saturn, according to Liz Greene, represents *"a psychic process by which the individual may utilize the experience of pain, restriction, and discipline*

Like Saturn, Pisces is a sign located far from life's beginnings—it is the final sign of the zodiac, and like Saturn, it is concerned with endings and the unfoldment of authentic being.

*as a means for greater consciousness and fulfillment"* leading to completeness and wholeness of the self. Like Saturn, Pisces is a sign located far from life's beginnings — it is the final sign of the zodiac, and like Saturn, it is concerned with endings and the unfoldment of authentic being.

In *The Planets Within*, Thomas Moore calls Saturn the god of closing time and writes, *"In his own way Saturn brings us out of the world of the literal, away from plain life experience, into the realm of eternal patterns, the true home of the soul, or more plainly, to a state of consciousness in which the psychological dimension in its purest can be perceived and appreciated. When the gnawing painfulness of Saturn is avoided and his influence appears simply as senile crustiness and imperial control, we do not find our way to these primordial fantasies so far removed from moist experience."*

Moore's description of Saturn's ends reveals a striking similarity to Piscean concern for the ethereal realms of the soul, awareness of abstract archetypal symbolism, and sublime states of being. These two archetypes may differ in method, but their results share a common goal: to elevate human consciousness. Saturn works through the educational value of pain, while the Piscean way is the revelation of truth by removing what Vedic texts call *"Maya,"* or illusion.

Another of Saturn's treasures is the gift of deep contemplation and the flourishing of the creative faculties through concentrated effort. Piscean creativity, on the other hand, is based on intuition and access to a state of mental alignment psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi calls flow, which is a *"focus that, once it becomes intense, leads to a sense of ecstasy, a sense of clarity: you know exactly what you want to do from one moment to the other."* He says that the best moments of our lives are not the passive, relaxing times, but the times our mind and body are stretched to their limits to accomplish something worthwhile. Saturn may be the ideal partner to provide Pisces with the resilience and fortitude necessary for creative endeavors, for Pisces is the principle underlying all forms. At the same time, Saturn is the principle that brings a specific form into existence through persistent effort.

### Dreams and their Daemons

When we reach the sign of Pisces, we are working with an extraordinarily subtle, multifaceted, and multivalent energy of both human and transcendental experiences. This is why Piscean energy can be so difficult to manage — we have an extra-sensory experience of life while bound in our limited human form. Edgar Allen Poe, the 19th-century romantic and gothic literature writer, seemed to understand this dynamic when he wrote, *"that which you mistake for madness is but an over acuteness of the senses."* Mr. Poe's fascination with the supernatural was no doubt sharpened by his Jupiter-Pluto-Moon conjunction in Pisces square Saturn-Neptune in Scorpio.

If you are Piscean in nature, you will feel the universal and archetypal in your field of awareness as sense impressions, colors, gradients, and meaningful symbols. The awesome nature of the universe and an understanding of life's fleeting impermanence is more available to you than most. You may receive information automatically from inexplicable sources. Both 20th-century clairvoyant Edgar Cayce and contemporary psychic Tyler Henry have Saturn in Pisces. Cayce felt that all minds were timelessly connected in the dream realm. For many Pisceans, the dream world can feel more real than the Saturnian world of clearly defined boundaries and material objects. This can lead to feeling lost in the world, like Bilbo Baggins growing stretched and thin, having worn the ring of invisibility once too many times. There can be a feeling of drifting away or a need to escape into the ecstatic realm of the supra-sensual.

When our Piscean senses are activated by transit, we can feel the razor's edge between indescribable beauty and unendurable suffering. Addiction, depression, and the outward symptoms of an inner search for union with the divine are often linked to this Piscean disposition. If you have planets in Pisces, Saturn's transit through this sign may bring a grey cast to your perceptions, making it more difficult to apprehend your trusted sources of grace and intuition. Saturn may ask you to sharpen your sense-abilities through patience and directed practice. This could be a time to enhance your spiritual practice by refining your contracts and commitments in love and relationships. If your sense-abilities are not particularly intuition-based, Saturn may ask you to focus on their development by putting people and circumstances in your way that require understanding, compassion, and self-sacrifice.

When Saturn is in Pisces, dreams have the opportunity to become reality. The English writer Emily Brontë, famously shy and reclusive, whose only novel, *Wuthering Heights* became a masterpiece of Romantic and Gothic literature, had Saturn and Pluto in Pisces on the IC. In the novel, she writes, *"I have dreamt in my life, dreams that have stayed with me ever after, and changed my ideas; they have gone through and through me, like wine through water, and altered the color of my mind."* *Wuthering Heights* can be read as an extended meditation on Piscean themes of love and obsession, explosive emotion, self-discovery and the search for identity, and encounters with the supernatural.

The German Lutheran theologian and philosopher Rudolph Otto called Brontë's novel *"a supreme example of 'the daemonic' in*

If you are Piscean in nature, you will feel the universal and archetypal in your field of awareness as sense impressions, colors, gradients, and meaningful symbols.



## PELLEGRINI

*literature.*" He linked the 'daemonic' with a genuine religious experience — a fundamental experience surpassing all prescribed doctrines and reaching into a primal and deeply innate realm. In 2003, writing for *The Guardian*, writer Robert McCrum praised *Wuthering Heights* along Piscean lines when he wrote, "*The scope and drift of its imagination, its passionate exploration of a fatal yet regenerative love affair, and its brilliant manipulation of time and space put it in a league of its own.*" Emily Brontë died in 1848, during her 30th year, when Saturn returned to her native Pisces.

A world without Pisces (and Saturn) would be devoid of the rich tapestries woven from the threads of emotions, landscapes, and colors that transform dreamscapes into tangible reality. A world stripped of the very essence that breathes life into the vivid depths of our imaginations.

### From Artifice to Art Itself

In the film *Dead Poets Society*, English teacher John Keating (played by Robin Williams) explains, "*We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. Medicine, law, business, engineering — these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life, but poetry, beauty, romance, love — these are what we stay alive for.*"

Saturn in Pisces beckons us to develop an awareness of art as a way of being, a process of becoming consecrated by what we are willing to sacrifice, a Faustian trade where material concerns are exchanged for a chance at sublime transcendence and, perhaps, immortality through creative works. The lives of artists (and astrologers!) are often characterized by a relentless dedication to their creative pursuits, frequently at the cost of other essential aspects of human life. This is not solely the province of Saturn in Pisces, but we find a pronounced tendency with this placement.

Pisces's ability to make contact with the subtle vibrations of life makes this sign especially adept with filmic arts, poetry, music, dance, and imaginative forms of literature. Pisceans have a holistic understanding of beauty, seeing grace not just in things considered pretty, but also in loss, decay, and the full spectrum of human experience. This is often considered a secondary trait or reduced to a Piscean triviality.

We often think of aesthetics as how things look, but on a deeper level, aesthetics speak to divine harmony and human recog-

nition of goodness. In Taurus, art is lusty and sensual; it's the painting, the sculpture, and the mosaic. In Libra, art is a social construct — the art docent assesses art's hierarchy and value. But in Pisces, we find Art Itself — one's life as a work of art — a way of being. In Pisces, we leave behind Cartesian notions of being the "*thing that thinks*" split from the natural world and become what Heidegger considered as consciousness "*uncovering*" itself and the world simultaneously—this is the domain and experience of Art. We could say fantasy or imagination, but in Art, there is always the quality of transcendent experience, a state that is more difficult to achieve and sustain, exemplified by the union of Saturn and Pisces.

Oscar Wilde spoke to the primacy of art and aesthetics when he said, "*Beauty is a form of Genius — is higher, indeed, than Genius, as it needs no explanation. It cannot be questioned. It has divine right of sovereignty.*"<sup>5</sup> Taken in this way, aesthetics and beauty become a way to access the divine logos; just as some might find God in a temple, or another in a spiritual community, one might find ultimacy in a sunset or an inspired work of art.

Wilde is regarded as a master of his craft, but how he lived is often cited as his greatest work of art. He provocatively suggested that life imitates art, which turns the notion of divinity on its head. Wilde believed truth is perceived through language, music, and the arts. He said, "*things are because we see them, and what we see, and how we see it, depends on the arts that have influenced us.*" He remarked that the fogs of London were invisible for centuries until Romantics began to paint them and reveal their beauty.

The Armenian Romantic painter Ivan Konstantinovich Aivazovsky, considered one of the greatest masters of marine art, had Saturn in Pisces with Jupiter conjoining the Midheaven. His best-known work, *The Ninth Wave*,<sup>6</sup> widens our appreciation of the human struggle against the forces of titanic nature. It depicts a tumultuous sea in the aftermath of a fierce night storm as desperate souls cling to the shattered remnants of a shipwreck. The debris takes the shape of a cross, serving as a poignant metaphor for salvation from earthly sins. It is a luminous work, haunted by the ethereal radiance of nature — a force that can unleash both destruction and inspiration.

The liminality of the Piscean mind combined with its heightened sense perception gives this sign an uncanny ability to tap into creative intelligence as if channeling the gods themselves. With its operatic sense of scale and ability to draw meaning from seemingly disparate parts, Saturn's transit of Pisces promises to sharpen our perceptions and reveal "*more things in heaven and earth*"<sup>7</sup> than we have dared yet to dream.

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*The Ninth Wave*, Ivan Konstantinovich Aivazovsky



# ASTROLOGY

O N Y O U R



ANDROID?



APPLE?



PC?

# Yes.



[lunaastrology.com](http://lunaastrology.com)

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# SATURN IN PISCES ...and the DREAM FACTORY



by Gina Piccalo

**H**ollywood as we know it was born with Saturn in Pisces, a fitting lineage for the so-called *dream factory*. It marked the arrival of the first mythmakers to Los Angeles in 1905, the reign of the studio titans of the 1930s, Stanley Kubrick in the 1960s, and Quentin Tarantino in the 1990s.

Movie-going has crested and crashed with every Saturn in Pisces transit. But the mind-blowing creative breakthroughs of these periods always lured audiences back.

Saturn in Pisces works like a narcotic on filmmakers, inspiring delusions of grandeur and productions as groundbreaking as they are detached from reality. Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," David O. Selznick's "Gone With The Wind," Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey," John Lasseter's "Toy Story" and, yes, Kevin Costner's epic "Waterworld" were all created under the spell of Saturn in Pisces.

Faith is tested during Saturn in Pisces and that's especially evident in the lives of creative visionaries. Water itself became the corrective to Costner's excess, losing his extravagant floating set to a hurricane and nearly drowning during a squall. Selznick's

artistic vision slipped into an amphetamine-fueled mania as he struggled to contain a runaway production.

This slippery slope from *dream-making to madness* is quintessentially Saturn in Pisces. The creative nirvana can seem so close during this transit that film budgets swell, hubris overwhelms the auteur, and time loses all meaning.

"Gone With The Wind" and "Waterworld" were the most expensive films of their eras. Kubrick's masterpiece was released \$1.5 million over budget and 16 months behind schedule, and he was still editing it after it was in theaters. Disney spent two years

outlining "Snow White," then mortgaged his house to finance the film and still needed an extra loan to finish it.

Despite all these Saturnian challenges, these were era-defining films that won awards, established the filmmakers' legacies, and resulted in creative and industry breakthroughs. Once Saturn's tests are met with commitment and integrity, the rewards can be enduring. But with Saturn in Pisces, the tests may challenge our relationship to reality itself.

This next Saturn in Pisces transit, off and on from March 7, 2023, to Feb 13, 2026, coincides with one of the most mind-blowing shifts the industry has ever seen: the mainstreaming of A.I. During most of this period, Saturn in Pisces rules Pluto in Aquarius, only underscoring its creative significance.

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Already the whole movie-going experience is ripe for an epic overhaul. Major movie chains, faced with empty theaters and anemic studio lineups, are facing insolvency. As it has in the past, Saturn in Capricorn and Aquarius has tested the stamina of Hollywood's latest innovations. The streaming platforms, most conspicuously Netflix, have overpaid for big-budget films, and they're losing subscribers. Saturn in Pisces may demand a sacrifice, while Pluto in Aquarius reinvents the entire system.

It wouldn't be the first time that Saturn in Pisces reoriented the creative boundaries of filmmaking and upended its distribution system. After all, it was this transit that codified the movie-going pastime in the first place at the peak of the nickelodeon craze of 1905-1907. In fact, the owners of those early exhibition halls — William Fox, Carl Laemmle and Louis B. Mayer — became the studio titans of the mid-1930s, during the next Saturn in Pisces transit. Every time Saturn transits Pisces, it seems, the have-nots become the establishment, and the establishment dissolves.

By the 1930s, the dusty movie halls of the 1900s had been replaced by grand movie palaces. The vaudevillians, meanwhile, were replaced by screen sirens who sold their souls to the studios. It was the height of the Great Depression — the tragic signature of Saturn in Pisces opposite Neptune in Virgo — and people needed to numb out to the Piscean illusion of glamour. Behind-the-scenes, Hollywood was a Saturnian patriarchy that fed its starlets drugs, manipulated their love lives, and terrorized their child actors.

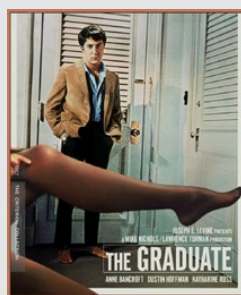
When Saturn entered Pisces in 1964, it opposed the Uranus-Pluto conjunction in Virgo, coinciding with a rapid dissolution of the old system to make room for the mavericks leading an anti-establishment revolution. The once mighty studio heads were selling out to multinational corporations. As viewers and creative talent left movies for television, the grand theaters of the so-called Golden Age were being torn down to make way for multiplexes.

## THE MORAL AMBIGUITY OF SATURN IN PISCES

A new era of moral ambiguity was also emerging in the mid-1960s thanks to broad revisions to the Hays Code restrictions of the 1930s. Limits on sex and violence in movies that were established during the 1930s were dissolved in the 1960s. This led to a whole generation of films about

sexual promiscuity, drug experimentation, and extreme violence in the 1960s, all signatures of that era's Saturn in Pisces trine Neptune in Scorpio.

The Piscean shadows of alcoholism and sadomasochistic loomed large in



Movie Posters: *Gone with the Wind*, *The Graduate*, *Pulp Fiction*. *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967): Clyde Barrow (Warren Beatty) and Bonnie Parker (Faye Dunaway) make a getaway after a botched store robbery. *Pulp Fiction* black and white vector image by <https://www.vectorportal.com>, CC BY 4.0

"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," a shocking 1966 depiction of marriage by real-life couple Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.

Written and cast during Saturn in Pisces, "The Graduate" was a groundbreaking satire on changing sexual mores. Michelangelo Antonioni's "Blow Up," released in January 1966, was the first film to show full frontal female nudity and pubic hair. Roger Corman's "The Trip: A Lovely Sort of Death," starred Jack Nicholson as an ad exec who experiences a nightmarish LSD experience and marked the first film to depict the psychedelic drug experience.

Here too, is Saturn in Pisces testing the limits of consciousness and reality. But also, these films attempt to frame a raucous and confusing era, the signature of Saturn in Pisces opposed the Uranus-Pluto conjunction.

"Bonnie and Clyde," a drama about real-life bank robbing lovers, became one of the era's totems of realistic violence in this new age of film.

Produced by Saturn in Pisces native Warren Beatty, the film was shot in 1966 and 1967, during his Saturn return. Like so many other Saturn in Pisces productions, it was late, overbudget, and expected to fail. Instead, it became a "sleeper" hit.

It was innovative, too. One of the first mainstream American films to depict graphic violence, the film used a new technique for simulating bullet hits with so-called "blood squibs," small explosive charges mounted with bags of stage blood. Containers of liquid that helped sustain an illusion. Saturn in Pisces strikes again.

Whatever lines "Bonnie and Clyde" had crossed, "Pulp Fiction" carried into another dimension altogether with a disorienting, non-linear structure, subversive sexual innuendo, and extreme, surprisingly graphic violence.

Just as Saturn entered Pisces in May 1993, Quentin Tarantino submitted his "Pulp Fiction" script only to have it deemed "unfilmable" by executives at Columbia TriStar, the studio that paid nearly \$1 million

Whatever lines  
"Bonnie and Clyde" had  
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for it. Harvey Weinstein disagreed and made it the first feature he acquired after Disney bought his indie studio Miramax.

Interestingly, both "Bonnie and Clyde" and "Pulp Fiction" riffed on the pulpy gangster genre established during the Saturn in Pisces era of the 1930s. And both filmmakers had Sun-Mercury in Aries signatures. Mavericks, indeed.

For Tarantino, the Saturn in Pisces transit activated his natal Jupiter in Pisces trine by sign to his Neptune in Scorpio. After years of toiling in obscurity, his dark cinematic dream became manifest.

The marketing campaign tempted moviegoers with the very Saturn in Pisces tagline: "You won't know the facts till you've seen the fiction." The film broke the mold of narrative filmmaking, won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, and became the first indie to surpass \$200 million box office.

One critic claimed the film was "nothing less than the reinvention of mainstream American cinema," and Roger Ebert called it the most influential film of the decade.

## A CREATIVE WAVE

While Saturn in Pisces tested moral boundaries, it also elevated animation from a low-brow art form to a full-fledged box office draw. Two of Walt Disney's most innovative and successful films were influenced by Saturn in Pisces: the first full-length animated feature, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," and the second, "Mary Poppins," which melded animation and live action and debuted new special effects that swept the Oscars. "Snow White" was his most successful film until the next Saturn in Pisces transit in 1965 when "Mary Poppins" beat that record.

In the same way Disney's "Snow White" showcased the breadth of technological advancements of its time, Pixar's 1995 animated feature "Toy Story" demonstrated

the magic of computer-generated animation. Just like "Snow White," the filmmaking process was excruciating, with only thirty seconds of film being rendered each day. But Saturn rewarded the effort. "Toy Story" not only grossed more than \$350 million worldwide that year, but it also standardized a new technology and established a new era in animation.

There's an underdog quality to Saturn in Pisces that's reflected in the uphill battles fought by hubristic auteurs during the transit. On the surface, it seems to underscore the "god complex" among filmmakers. Against all odds, they're driven to realize their visions. Expectations are often unrealistic.

This is especially evident in the story behind Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey," a psychedelic comment on alien life and human consciousness that blew the minds of a generation.

Kubrick spent the entirety of Saturn's transit through Pisces writing (with futurist Arthur C. Clarke), producing, and filming his epic. Production began on Dec. 29, 1965, with a T-square to Jupiter in Gemini from the Moon-Saturn in Pisces opposite Pluto-Uranus in Virgo. Using groundbreaking techniques, an army of designers, and expert consultants, he aimed to artfully depict the first contact with extra-terrestrial intelligence.

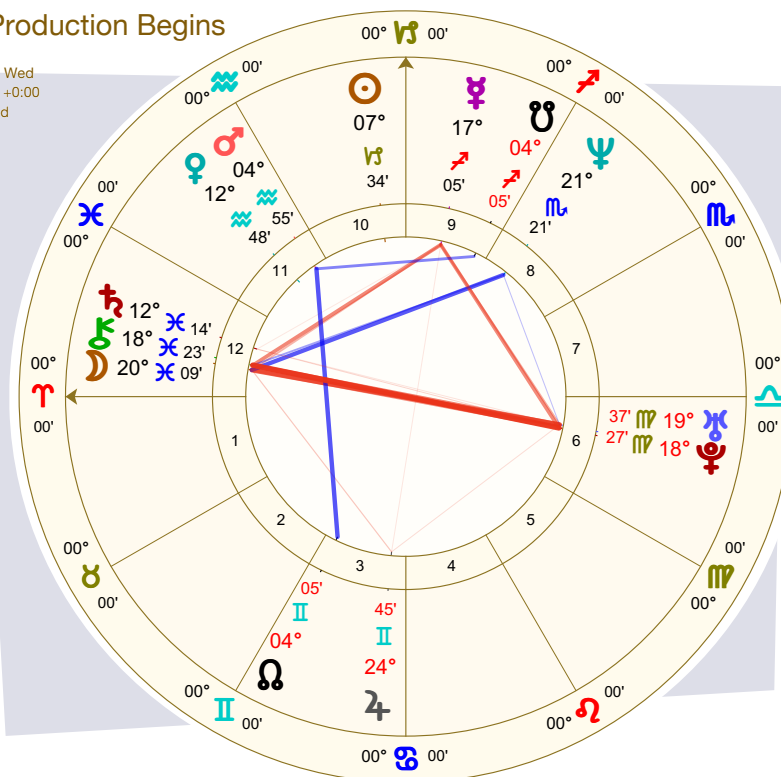
Kubrick and Clarke spent two years simultaneously writing the "2001" screenplay and the novel, an echo of the double-bodied nature of Pisces. There are tendrils of the zodiacal and planetary archetypes woven throughout the film's narrative, too.

It follows the journey of a computer-controlled American spacecraft bound for Jupiter (ancient ruler of Pisces) with one conscious scientist and three traveling in suspended animation (a Piscean dream state). Early drafts had the scientists headed for Saturn, but the special effects team couldn't convincingly re-create the



## 2001 Production Begins

Natal  
Dec 29 1965, Wed  
12:00 PM UT +0:00  
Borehamwood  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Whole Sign



Kubrick spent the entirety of Saturn's transit through Pisces writing (with futurist Arthur C. Clarke), producing, and filming his epic.

planet's rings. Saturn in Pisces is elusive and perhaps camera-shy.

Shooting in the brand-new Cinerama widescreen with 200 special effects sequences, Kubrick aimed to communicate the narrative through imagery and feeling rather than dialogue. There are long stretches of the film with no speaking. This led one critic to call the film "somewhere between hypnotic and immensely boring," a fitting blend of key words for Saturn in Pisces.

The ending, which Kubrick envisioned just as transiting Jupiter entered Cancer, depicts the protagonist, Dave, being taken by godlike entities who are pure energy and intelligence with no form. Dave loses all sense of time as he regresses back to infancy and is sent back to Earth with superhuman powers.

During its New York premiere, 250 people walked out. Critics were perplexed and put off by the three-hour run time. The initial earnings were too little to even cover the \$10 million budget, leaving the production \$800,000 in debt. Yet the legacy lives on. The film is considered one of the most influential sci films of all time.

## SATURN IN PISCES + HISTORY OF FILMMAKING

From the phantasmagoria spectacles of 1790 to the cinematography of today, Saturn in Pisces has had a presence. It start-

ed with Thomas Edison's phonograph, first demonstrated during the transit in 1877.

On Aug. 24, 1891<sup>2</sup>, with Jupiter in Pisces opposite Saturn in Virgo, Edison patented the Kinetoscope movie viewer, a prototype on which future movie cameras were built.

Over the next decade, Edison, an Aquarius born with Saturn in Pisces, built a movie-making empire on the work of other inventors, acquiring and patenting their advancements, then locking out competitors with lawsuits until he held a monopoly over the industry. His approach could be described as, ahem, slippery.

By the time Saturn entered Pisces in April 1905, Edison had lost his patent and his control. And a new era of "firsts" washed over the industry: the first true feature-length film, the first commercially produced film in natural color, the earliest surviving example of animated film, the first modern film studio, and the first published film criticism.

Freed from Edison's litigious threats, creative technique was being standardized and a new wave of visionaries took over. In 1907, Chicago movie projectionist Donald H. Bell and camera repairman Albert S. Howell formed the Bell and Howell Company and revolutionized motion picture photography and projection equipment.

Ultimately, Edison might be the first movie-making titan whose rise and fall cor-

related with Saturn in Pisces. If it weren't for him, independent filmmakers might never have escaped to Hollywood to build their own empires.

## EVER CLOSER TO A WAKING DREAM

In 1935, Eastman Kodak Company released its legendary Kodachrome film, invented by two musicians-turned-scientists, and known for its enduring color realism.

In the mid-1960s, the viewing experience broadened, literally, with the advent of widescreen filming in 70 mm. This inspired filmmakers to shoot longer takes and play with the space within the wide frame. Once again, the notion of a boundary is explored and tested with Saturn in Pisces.

But it was the transit of the mid-1990s that introduced an entirely new way of filmmaking using the power of computers. Steven Spielberg released "Jurassic Park" in June 1993, a film that, for the first time, featured life-like computer-generated creatures that shared the screen seamlessly with actors.

Spielberg, a Sagittarius with Jupiter in Scorpio, later described this moment as when *"I suddenly saw that everything was going to change. Not just my movie, but the entire world was going to follow. It was going to change everything for all of us and for audiences everywhere and we were never going to go back."*

## A.I. + SATURN IN PISCES

Yet another epic breakthrough, perhaps even more startling, can be expected during this next transit of Saturn in Pisces.

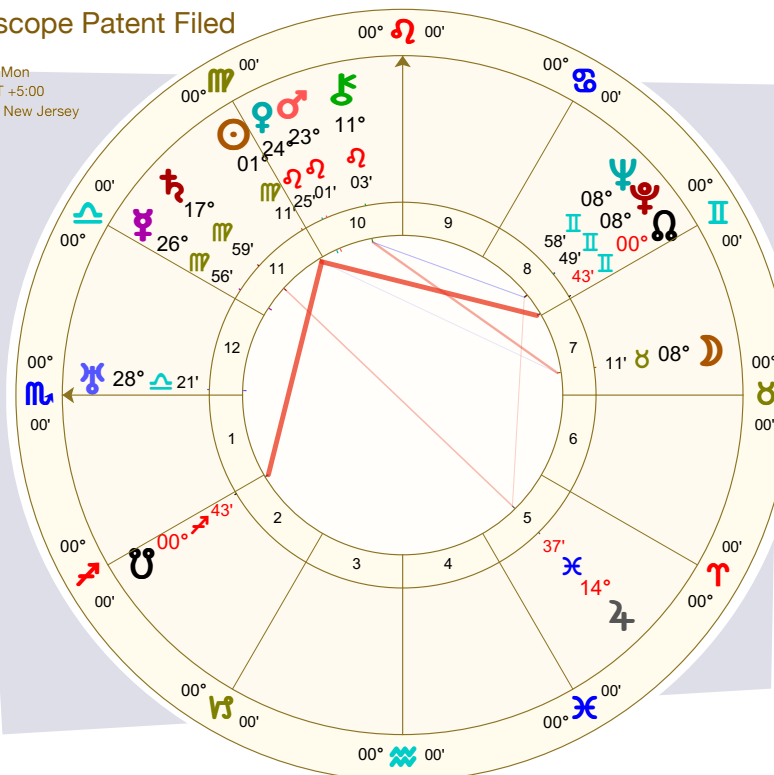
While artificial intelligence is hardly new, piloting self-driving cars, filling our social media feeds, and filming the unfilmable, the astrology of the next few years promises to bring these neural networks to the next level. It's one thing for an A.I. to digitally de-age an actor. It's quite another when it can write, direct, score, and market its own movie.

Saturn in Pisces will certainly test our perception and definition of what's real and even redefine the meaning of the collective unconscious. This might be the era when a tsunami of democratized tech finally overwhelms Hollywood's gatekeepers and redefines the industry entirely.

Consider the astrology of the company responsible for this revolution OpenAI, a San Francisco-based research organization. It was founded on Dec. 11, 2015, just after a Sagittarius New Moon with Saturn

### Kinetoscope Patent Filed

Natal  
Aug 24 1891, Mon  
12:00 PM EST +5:00  
West Orange, New Jersey  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Whole Sign





## PICCALO

in Sagittarius square Neptune in Pisces, and Jupiter in Virgo. When Saturn in Pisces aligns over this natal chart, we might say that this company's ideological ambition to change the world by refining data in creative and helpful ways will challenge our notions of reality and test the strength of its own vision.

On Feb. 4, 2021, just weeks after the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction at 0° Aquarius, the company released DALL-E to the public, an A.I. that creates images from text prompts. Within days, social media feeds were awash in the hyper-real imagery, otherworldly scenes, and even expanded versions of human-generated masterpieces.

On Nov. 30, 2022, with Jupiter winding up its transit in Pisces, OpenAI released ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence that, when prompted, can tell jokes, write songs, poems, short stories, dialogue and computer code, mimic celebrities, and historic figures, and create shot lists for films. From late March to mid-June 2023, as Pluto transits early Aquarius, we may see a profound evolution of DALL-E and ChatGPT. The phrase "more human than human" comes to mind.

These startling advancements not only challenged our established concepts of artistry, they also blew apart our notion of what's possible with artificial intelligence.

The next three years will be pivotal for OpenAI as Saturn in Pisces tests the company's vision and challenges it to expand. Structural revisions, immense effort, and tremendous advancements could come as a result.

While this year promises epic shifts among creatives, particularly as Saturn in Pisces sextiles Jupiter in Taurus in 2023 and early 2024, the foundation that launches the new era may still be under construction until the spring and fall of 2025.

That's when first Saturn in Pisces squares Jupiter in Gemini and then sextiles Uranus in Taurus, alignments all timed to coincide with the Virgo-Pisces eclipse cycles. By September 2025, Saturn in Pisces will trine Jupiter in Cancer, while Uranus and Pluto trine in Aquarius-Gemini.

That's when these exciting tools could get into the hands of everyone, and life is

forever transformed — we hope improved — by the synergy between human consciousness supported by A.I.

Perhaps what we once considered entertainment will evolve into something that approaches a spiritual experience. What if it helps us empathize with each other on a mass scale and neutralize these years of polarization? Or maybe, we'll get lost in our own illusions as anyone with an internet connection will be able to tailor-make a fantasy, replete with A.I. actors. Whatever the possibilities — and they're certainly endless with this transit — may we aspire to the most exalted manifestations of Saturn in Pisces.

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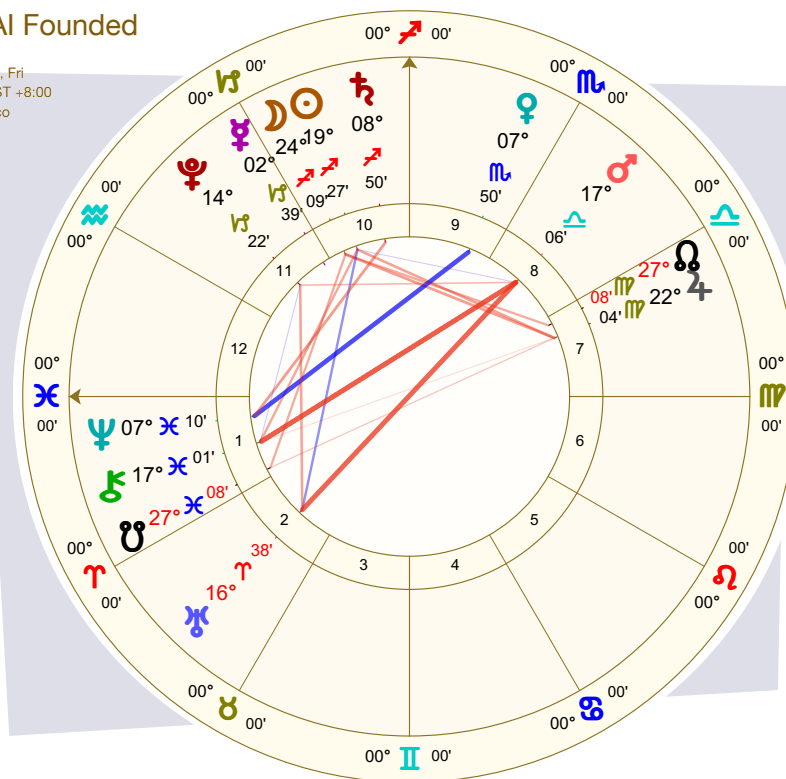
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**Gina Piccalo's** first career was as a journalist, covering Hollywood for the *Los Angeles Times* and other publications. After decades of self-study in astrology, she was certified by Kepler College in 2014 and has practiced as a counseling astrologer ever since. Her work has also appeared in *The Mountain Astrologer*. She can be found at [ginapiccaloastrology.com](http://ginapiccaloastrology.com), on Instagram and on Patreon.

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# BITTER TEARS

## SATURN IN PISCES

by Wendy Stacey



There are numerous ways in which Saturn's transit through Pisces (2023–2026) will play out, and this article will shed light on notable themes likely to emerge during its transit.

At the exact ingress, on March 7, 2023, Saturn is unexpected (using Ptolemaic aspects), which makes it more isolated and exaggerated. It stands alone, as aspects do not integrate it with any of the other planets in the cosmos. The characteristics that capture Saturn in Pisces will seem larger and more dominant.

This ingress of Saturn into Pisces is unique because Neptune resides in the same sign (since 2011). We have become familiar with Piscean characteristics, particularly those that mark spiritual and compassionate themes, along with developments in the arts, especially photography (everyone in the world now with a mobile phone is a photographer), and the growth of the pharmaceutical industry. Saturn, through this sign, will, on the one hand, seek to halt or remove some of these Piscean principles but will also guard for them — endorsing certain themes with a stamp of approval.

Whenever the social or outer planets travel through Pisces, the spotlight shines on who has been persecuted in society. Neptune in Pisces describes the harsh nature of oppression, while Saturn illuminates the oppressor and describes the injustice. There is a necessity to put things right.

The last time Saturn transited Pisces (May 1993 – April 1996) it marked the first-ever general elections in South Africa (April 1994), which were open to all races — flagging the end of the Apartheid era. From that election, Nelson Mandela became President, and the country became governed by a majority rule. Twenty million South Africans (with an 86.9% turnout) voted.<sup>1</sup>

This outcome is symbolic of Saturn in Pisces, signifying long-standing issues of injustice. In our current era, Saturn's transit

Neptune in Pisces describes the harsh nature of oppression, while Saturn illuminates the oppressor and describes the injustice. There is a necessity to put things right.

with Neptune in Pisces will present opportunities that can turn the tide on similar issues that need resolution.

The last time Saturn and Neptune both transited Pisces was 1847–1849, 174 years ago. What can we learn from this era? This period was marked by large civil unrest, with revolts in Europe and the UK, as people wanted more liberal governments. The US and Mexico ended the Mexican-American war (February 1848), which had ramifications of territorial transfer. The abolition of slavery movement in the U.S. was gaining momentum, and Marx released his 'Communist Manifesto' (Feb 1848), which changed the way people thought not only of economics but of class division and oppression.

This period of Saturn's co-presence with Neptune signified the end of the Romantic period, an era that started in Germany and spanned the whole of Europe and America. The Romantic period was when music, literature, visual art, architecture, and intellectualism thrived, based on an affinity for imagination, intuition, individuality, and idealism — all Piscean concepts. The ending was a response to emerging science and industry, where in counterpoint, people were drawn to paganism and nature and promoted individual imagination and expression.<sup>2</sup>

Scholars differ in their assessment of when precisely the Romantic era ended, but there is a relatively consistent view that considers the late 1840s as the end — when Saturn and Neptune both transited Pisces. From 1800 to 1850, a sub-movement of Romanticism labeled 'Dark Romanticism' peaked in the late 1840s and encapsulated the darker expression of Saturn and Neptune in Pisces. This movement introduced a more 'gothic' style where people took to the demonic and grotesque, glorifying human fallibility, self-destruction, condemnation, and the psychological effects of guilt and sin. It could be considered the shadow side of the lighter Romantic era.<sup>3</sup>

One literary piece attributed to the dark romantic period is the poet Edgar Allan Poe's 'Ulalume' (1847) which concerns loss and grief, a work commended for its gothic imagery and hypnotic rhythm.<sup>4</sup> Another example is Emily Brontë's, 'Wuthering Heights' (1847), a tale of debilitating sorrow. Reviewer Robert McCrum writes, "*The scope and drift of its imagination, its passionate exploration of a fatal yet regenerative love affair, and its brilliant manipulation of time and space*" makes it one of the best novels of all time.<sup>5</sup>

Although we live in different times, these works provide insight into the themes Saturn and Neptune in Pisces bring forth and reflect the social climate regarding fashion and the arts. They suggest what we might be attracted to or identify with during this period.

The Saturn in Pisces journey is also noteworthy as Saturn guards the gates as the dispositor of Pluto's transition from Capricorn to Aquarius. Pluto travels back and forth between these signs (five times) from March 2023 until November 2024. Saturn wears a different, more regulated cloak as ruler of both Capricorn and

From 1800 to 1850, a sub-movement of Romanticism labeled 'Dark Romanticism' peaked in the late 1840s and encapsulated the darker expression of Saturn and Neptune in Pisces.

Aquarius. Pisces has a chaotic feel, where time is not linear and where the collective unconscious unites in thought. Saturn's placement in Pisces brings a sobering tone that will underline 'how' the characteristics of Pluto's journey will unfold during this era. There is an element of 'no man's land' where the tone of life can become darker and more despairing. Saturn is associated with death and Neptune with loss. Both signify grief and despair, guilt and resignation. It may be that delayed trauma and depression resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic emerge during this transit. Pisces tends to look backward and remind us of what is unresolved and what feels overwhelming; Saturn is associated with fearfulness, images of what humanity has gone through, or whatever was imagined, what was once surreal to everyone on the planet. Heavy emotions hit home with a huge thud. However, it is not all despairing; Saturn in Pisces can also mark the emergence of wonderful things. When Saturn and Neptune were both in Pisces, vegetarianism rose to greater popularity as part of the return to an appreciation of nature. The first Vegetarian society was formed in the UK in 1847. When we think of dance, music, or any of the arts, we see Saturn formulating and institutionalizing creative pursuits in these areas. We can look forward to new genres of music (which will be synthesized with Pluto in Aquarius), new instruments

There are no bounds to Pisces, no matter how much Saturn attempts to reign it in. Moreover, Saturn will bring legitimacy to Piscean endeavors. Spirituality will grow on all levels.

developed, and new forms of art and expression that will represent something never seen before in society. Instruments such as the 'handpan' – a recently invented percussion instrument (Switzerland 2007) that involves the hand to drum onto metal uniformly and is often used in ayahuasca, meditation, or yoga rituals – indeed sing to the era of Pluto in Aquarius and Saturn in Pisces, and there will be so much more.

There are no bounds to Pisces, no matter how much Saturn attempts to reign it in. Moreover, Saturn will bring legitimacy to Piscean endeavors. Spirituality will grow on all levels. Typically, one might expect church attendance numbers to increase, but with Pluto ingressing into Aquarius, this will have more of a new, radical, equal, democratic, and independent quality to it.

As a long-standing discipline, it also fares well for astrology as a growing (and ironically respectable) area of interest. There is a danger of more cultish inclinations with Saturn in Pisces, as Saturn can lean to oppress the masses, which will certainly happen within political and intellectual spheres. It is also important to note that Saturn in Pisces can offer a more controlled spirituality where guidelines and discrimination can result in essential dogma to order to maintain its function and oppressing qualities similar to what Pope John Paul 11 did in 1994 when he made a public outreach to discriminate against homosexuality and labeled it deplorable<sup>6</sup>.

This position of Saturn in Pisces brings out a multitude of options on where we wish society to go and how we wish it to function and offers many different routes as an alternative to the disappointing roads we have all traveled recently. Saturn and Neptune both correlate with the concept of 'doubt.' With these planets comes a yearning for belonging to something far greater than ourselves. There is some threat to indoctrination and/or assimilation and the rise of occultism, but there is, of course, the return to the past, adoption of more paganistic values, and a heightened appreciation of nature (which we experienced during the last period of Saturn and Neptune in Pisces). Uranus's transit through Taurus also emphasises this.





## STACEY

Developments in botany will undoubtedly ensue, and the return to medical developments in all fields, with pharmaceuticals but also homeopathy and herbalism. All other forms of healing will hopefully flourish during this period. The American Medical Association (AMA) was founded in Philadelphia in 1847, and this transit gave rise to many cures, yet unknown, as regulations and trials will be rubber-stamped. Institutions ruled by Pisces, such as prisons, hospitals and any sector dealing with 'care' will be overhauled and reformed to create better care and improved health. Access to healthcare (in all its forms) will hopefully also make much progress. Mental health care (particularly with the recent Jupiter-Saturn conjunction in Aquarius and Pluto to follow that will focus on the brain) will advance in ways we cannot even comprehend. Welfare systems worldwide will require restructuring as issues of poverty, unnecessary mortality, and poor healthcare are spotlighted, and the need to address the most vulnerable in society becomes a priority. The increase of spiritual pursuits will ensue, and the themes of those spiritual pursuits will be played out with Pluto in Aquarius, which denotes a more freedom-orientated and individualistic quality, albeit somewhat anarchic.

The co-presence of Saturn and Neptune in Pisces correlates with the concept of fate and makes us question what we ultimately believe, personally and collectively. Here, we ask the true meaning of human existence, why we reside on this planet, and how we got here. Was it destined, and is there a larger plan or order? What happens when we die? With Pluto in Aquarius, we will not only question what our place is on this planet but what our place is within the entire Universe...

Here, we ask the true meaning of human existence, why we reside on this planet, and how we got here. Was it destined, and is there a larger plan or order?

and beyond! Our world has grown so much larger since the last Saturn in Pisces, and with Pluto's ingress into Aquarius, we need to brace ourselves for how wide and vast our world will become.

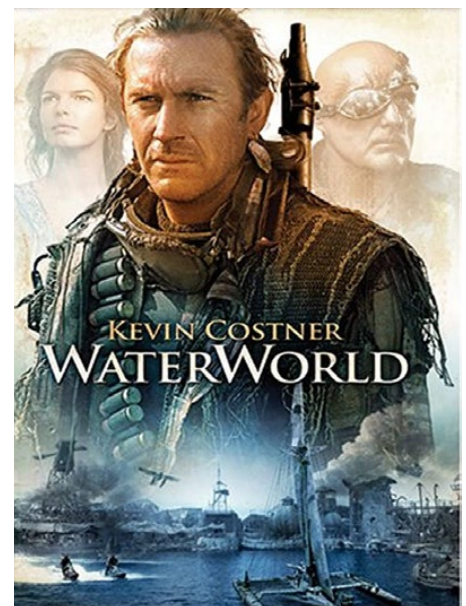
In 1994, when Saturn was last in Pisces, the Burj Al Arab, the world's first and only seven-star hotel, began construction. The theme of Saturn is signified here as the hotel was one of the most iconic, triumphant, tallest, and architecturally significant buildings of its time. It put Dubai on the map as a serious growing city, and amongst other things, it is now considered the architectural capital of the world. With Saturn in Pisces, we see this first building of its kind to be built into the sea, on an island created to house the structure, its glamour and opulence denoting mystery. It boasts enormous dancing water fountains, and the foyer is lined with gigantic aquariums. What is also significant about the Saturn in Pisces signature here is that it is still unknown how much it cost to build, deliberately symbolic of ridiculously vast wealth. This building paved the way for many architectural initiatives, colonizing the sea, and setting a new architectural touchstone going forward.

While Saturn returns to this sign, we will see similar developments of architecture, and with Neptune also residing there, we can expect more water living of all varieties. Shipbuilding and state-of-the-art submarine structures will become of interest, and most likely, someone will make a movie of Noah's Ark! Interestingly, the movie *Waterworld* came out in 1995 while Saturn was in Pisces — a film where, due to sea levels rising, everyone lived on atolls where there is no land. At the time, this movie was the most expensive movie ever to be made, and its production costs were never recuperated. It highlights the deprivation of water, and Saturn in Pisces is literally the restriction of water. With Saturn and Neptune residing in this sign gives some hope to put the engineering into order to finally conquer the affordability of desalinating sea water to help those millions who die every year (mostly children) from water shortages or dirty water-related deaths<sup>7</sup>. Efforts will also help environments, mainly croplands around the world which are dependent on water and where there is a need to find new irrigation solutions and combat soil and coastal erosion.<sup>8</sup> Neptune is often linked with inflation. Neptune entered Pisces in 2011 and now travels through the last degrees of this sign. Its

final exit will be in January 2026, when it conjoins Saturn — so we can expect a continuation of these themes. We have experienced an enormous increase in inflation which is predominantly a result of the last economic crisis in 2008 when Pluto entered Capricorn — now it hovers over those last degrees of Capricorn for almost two years. When we add Neptune's dignified position in Pisces, we now face a different type of economic predicament as we see runaway inflation and, subsequently the hike of interest rates globally. Debt still looms, and we face, on both personal and national levels, the severe consequences of being unable to repay long-term loans (particularly from nations to the IMF), which have continued to accumulate since 2008. Politics between countries have successfully played with attempts to keep exchange rates at a low and keep interest payments lower; however, with Saturn and Neptune in Pisces (and Jupiter and Saturn in air) — the risk of further inflation approaches.

Saturn is associated with cold and Pisces with water, so here we can expect all things 'icy' to be newsworthy. Interestingly, on the last journey of Saturn through Pisces

The movie *Waterworld* highlights the deprivation of water, and Saturn in Pisces is literally the restriction of water.



we saw the dishonor of two-time Olympian and twice Skate America Champion ice skater Tonya Harding for conspiring to attack her skating rival, Nancy Kerrigan. This resulted in Harding's lifetime ban from competitive ice skating and one of the biggest sports scandals in history (1994), documented in the acclaimed 2017 movie, 'I Tonya'. On the same ice-skating theme, in 1995, the International Skating Union allowed figure skating to lift the ranks of amateur ice skating to its own competitive league.

Ice will be a factor during Saturn's travels through Pisces. One major concern is the melting ice caps and rising sea levels. As Pisces is the boundless ocean, Saturn represents the benchmark and that which crosses over it. While Pluto ingresses into Aquarius, the other sign that Saturn co-rules with Uranus, we have an air quality present bringing in weather pattern changes such as cyclones (due to sea levels and ice melting) and perhaps conveying concerns over fish migrant paths through the oceans which will inevitably alter regional and global environments and ultimately food sources. There will, however, be fascinating developments of things to do with the ocean. We don't know what creatures exist at the bottom of our deep seas. We can learn a lot from the waters covering most of the earth. Discoveries and develop-

ments will proliferate, and we can look forward to a deeper understanding of the vast abyss on this planet.

Saturn in Pisces will guide us and test us through some turbulent times, but it is not always dark. It will bring light to evolving needs of generations and aspects of history which continue to diminish specific groups in society. Saturn will require us to care for those who are neglected and make us reconsider the needs of others. It requires sacrifice and compassion to unite as Pisces requests - it is universal and includes everyone. Saturn in Pisces brings form to fantasy, dreams into reality and although challenging, we will be better for it.

We are reminded of the Spring of 1964, during Saturn's previous residency in Pisces, when Johnny Cash, the man in black, produced his concept album 'Bitter Tears: Ballads of the American Indian', as an activist tribute to the unfair treatment of the indigenous people of North America. The title couldn't be more apt and the concept more befitting to describe this ingress. It was this title that I borrowed to name this article. We now live in a global society, so one significant difference to this plight is that it will now be universal!

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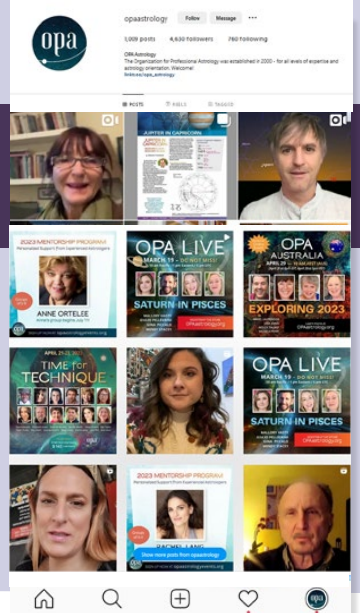
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**Website:** [wendystacey.com](http://wendystacey.com)

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# THE SATURN IN PISCES CONUNDRUM



by Mallory Hasty

**S**aturn in Pisces is a radical paradox — arguably one of the strangest planet-to-sign combinations. Saturn rules over time, limitations, and concrete structure. *But how do we conceptualize these Saturnian principles in the mystical sign of Pisces?*

Piscean time is like Dali's melting clock — the most basic part of our day turned into a surrealist dreamscape. *And if Saturn is the planet of structure, how do we lay bricks for a wall in the middle of the ocean?* Saturn has tunnel vision; it sees limitations & puts them under a microscope. By counterpoint — Pisces sees beyond the limitations of the material world; its job is to transcend the earthly realm to merge as one with spirit.

It seems like parsing out the contours of this placement is like unraveling a Sphinx's riddle, to be granted access to a different dimension.

Yet, it's not to say that the planet and sign have nothing in common. Both the planet and the sign are connected to the ending of things. A Piscean ending is a Christ-like surrender, knowing that the bardo — reunification with God, and rebirth into the new cycle inevitably follow after the moment of death. However, a Saturnian death doesn't poeticize rebirth. Saturn's ending is more of a complete erasure of the pre-existing structure before something better can be built. Saturn sweeps up the ashes and re-levels the ground so a new foundation can be formed—but only after the old, unusable structure has been eradicated. It's the atheist's death into nothingness. But Saturn in Pisces is the 6th stage of grief after the 5th stage of acceptance: *meaning-making*.

Another theme that both Saturn and Pisces concern themselves with is service. Where they diverge are their distinctly different reasons for offering it. On a fundamental level, Saturn is called to be of service because it will help someone or something function more efficiently. It doesn't matter to Saturn if the public claps with praise or clenches their fists at this

so-called "service" or "improvement. That's because Kronos, the strict father, knows best. But when transiting through Pisces, Saturn must now learn to empathize with the people who are in need of the service. It's not just about the new hospital being built to serve the community; it's about holding hands and listening to the life story of the person who is sick and dying in that very hospital.

As a Jupiter-ruled sign, Pisces is not only concerned with the meaning of service, but also the concept of truth. How truth is revealed and experienced seems to be more of a Jupiterian concern, and thus the

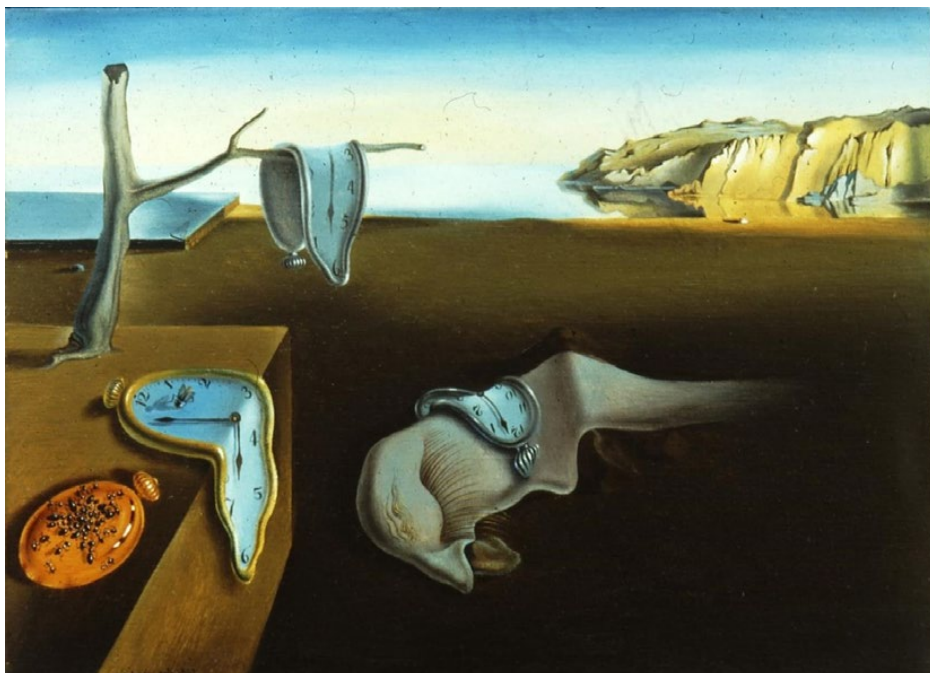
Piscean time is like Dali's melting clock — the most basic part of our day turned into a surrealist dreamscape.

concern of Pisces and Sagittarius. Pisceans experience truth energetically through the direct experience of their crown chakra, and, thus, the structures they form in their lifetime are intuitively channeled.

They don't go about creating structure in the typical "realistic" or "logical" way. One definition of logical is "sensible given the circumstances." To approach something with logic means that one calculates the given circumstance and whether it fits the container of a goal. Logic implies that there is a "yes" or "no" to whether something can be accomplished. That's where Saturn in Pisces is different — it's as if the laws of logic and reason do not apply to these natives. All they need is belief and God on their side, they already have it. So, why question whether it can be done or not? The question at hand becomes, *how does God, who is already on my side, want me to be the vessel of this divine assignment?*

**Perhaps the conundrums of Saturn in Pisces are best addressed through the examination of an unlikely Saturn-in-Pisces duo: the poet Walt Whitman & musical artist Bad Bunny.**

Through the creation of new poetic and musical genres, their own acts of humanitarianism, and living through their given society's crumbling foundations — these two Saturn-in-Pisces natives begin to show us a little bit about the mystical Saturn-in-Pisces delineation.



## Saturn in Pisces & WHITMAN's Free Verse

*"I accept Time absolutely.  
It alone is without flaw,  
It alone rounds and completes all,  
That mystic baffling wonder."*

Walt Whitman was born on May 31st, 1819, at 1:45 am in West Hills, New York. Whitman was part of the first generation born after the War of Independence. At the time, America was generally optimistic about the country's new democratic, independent status. Being born into the newfound "Land of The Free," the Whitman family's revolutionary spirit can be clearly seen through the names of the siblings: Andrew Jackson, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson were named after the revolutionary heroes of the time.

However, Walt was given no founding father's name, but rather his own biological father's, in true Capricorn-Midheaven fashion. Whitman was marked with the father archetype from the beginning and would grapple with the Saturnian theme for the rest of his lifetime.

It will come as no surprise that Whitman is now known as the father of free verse poetry. Whitman's Capricorn Midheaven is ruled by Saturn in Pisces, in a close conjunction with both Chiron & Pluto.

The fact that he is deemed the "father" of a poetic movement is quintessential Saturn. The MC's conjunction with Pluto is unarguably the widespread impact Whitman's poetic freedom would have on generations of poets and thinkers up our time. The free-verse part of it all is where the Piscean influence comes through. Let's talk about what "free verse" actually means, and why it is indicative of Saturn-in-Pisces.

Today, we may take free verse poetry for granted — the art of succinct poetic

meter and a crisp rhyme is appreciated in retrospect, similarly to how we appreciate dinosaur bones or a roll of papyrus. But in the context of Walt Whitman's time—he was the weird one for trying to veer away from specific poetic structures. Rhymed and metered poetry was the regular fare. Imagine a time when poetry's excellence was judged by the poet's ability to weave words into a certain structure. For example, we all know the famous beat of the Shakespearean sonnet's iambic pentameter. Even if you're thinking, iambic pentameter who? I can almost guarantee you know the sound of it. Let's read the last six lines of Sonnet 130 aloud:

*"I love to hear her speak, yet well I **know**  
That music hath a far more pleasing **sound**;  
I grant I never saw a goddess **go**;  
My mistress, when she walks,  
treads on the **ground**.  
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as **rare**  
As any she belied with false **compare**."*

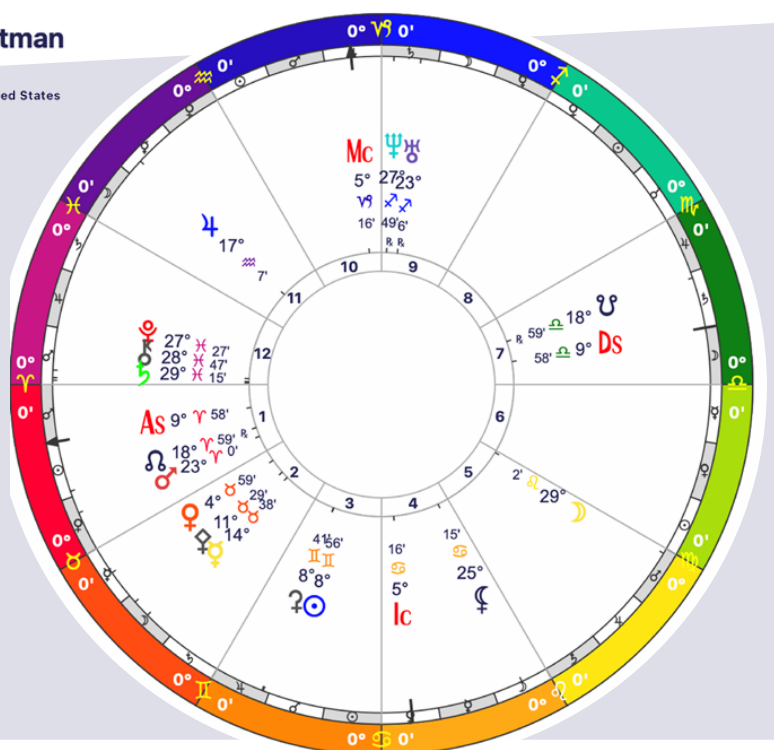
Even if you don't know anything about the nitty-gritty of poetic meter, you can still see and hear the structure of poetry that is written in a certain form. The Shakespearean sonnet is not the only poetic structure — there are hundreds. It was revolutionary for Whitman to veer away from writing within any structure and, instead, free himself from written constraints. Now — let's read aloud a free-verse line from Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*:

*"I too am not a bit tamed, I too am  
untranslatable,  
I sound my barbaric yawp over the roofs of  
the world."*

Can you hear the difference between Whitman's free verse versus a structured poem like Shakespeare's? Whitman tossing poetic meter out the window was so Saturn-in-Pisces of him; the concept of poetic

### Walt Whitman

May 31, 1819  
1:45 AM GMT-5  
West Hills NY United States  
Lat 40° N 49' 38.0"  
Lng 73° W 26' 17.0"  
Whole House  
Tropical



Whitman was marked  
with the father  
archetype from the  
beginning and would  
grapple with the  
Saturnian theme for the  
rest of his lifetime.



## SATURN IN PISCES CONUNDRUM

timing is made to feel more abstract. This goes back to the Saturnian theme of time; in order to make a rhyme, you need the timing of the right number of beats and syllables. But remember: Whitman is a Saturn-in-Pisces native. So, he doesn't overtly concern himself with that poetic timing rules, does he? In fact, with these two lines, he's poking fun at his own unstructured form. He calls his untamed and "untranslatable" poetry a "barbaric yawp." He knows that most other poets of the time are going to consider his unstructured writing an uncouth man's carving on the cave.

### The Song of Himself: Arian, Piscean, or Both?

It's not to say that Whitman's poetic genius was lost on everyone while he was alive. Poet Ralph Waldo Emerson became an important ally during Whitman's time and advocated for the genius of *Leaves of Grass*, which was Whitman's first book of poetry that he began during his first Saturn return in 1849.

Let's examine a famous *Leaves of Grass* stanza at the beginning of the poem, "Song of Myself":

*"I celebrate myself, and sing myself,  
And what I assume you shall assume,  
For every atom belonging to me as good  
belongs to you."*

The poem's title calls upon Whitman's Aries Rising, ruled by Mars in domicile in the 1st house. The North Node in Aries sits only a handful of degrees away from Mars. This snippet of the poem undoubtedly evokes Aries' key phrase, which is "I am." Mars is also in a grand fire trine with Whitman's Leo Moon and Sagittarius Neptune. His anorectic Leo Moon is in-between the New Moon Phase and First Quarter—meaning Whitman's soul arrived on earth to clear the new path for the seedling to spring through the ground.

And here's where we  
arrive back to the  
Saturn-in-Pisces paradox:  
Saturn doesn't want  
to merge, yet Pisces  
wants to enmesh.

Yet, his Saturn-Pluto conjunction implies that it wasn't just about clearing the path for his own self, but for entire generations of poets to follow. Surely, we could make the argument that all of the restructuring that Whitman does with poetic form is due to the unhinged, risk-taking influence of his grand fire trine. He does proclaim, "*Resist much, obey little*," doesn't he?

Yet the line "*For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you*" cannot be anything other than Piscean. For Whitman, there is both joy and grief felt by being interconnected to every leaf, every last drop of rain, and every soul. And here's where we arrive back to the Saturn-in-Pisces paradox: Saturn doesn't want to merge, yet Pisces wants to enmesh. And we can witness this paradox happening here, in this very stanza: the declaration of Whitman's own celebration of his individual self, yet the overwhelming feeling of being interconnected to everyone & everything is still present.

### BAD BUNNY: Re-Structuring Spanish Music, Puerto Rico, and the Grammy's

Bad Bunny didn't invent rap, trap, or reggaeton. But much like Walt Whitman—this number-one international music artist did change the structure of pre-existing genres.

Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, later to be known as Bad Bunny, was born on March 10, 1994, in west Puerto Rico. (We are unsure of his exact birth time. In light of his recent Grammy award for Latino Artist of the Year, awarded in February 2023, I have chosen a 1:30 pm chart to reflect this recent big moment of recognition: Jupiter in Aries transiting over is Aries MC-Venus conjunction).

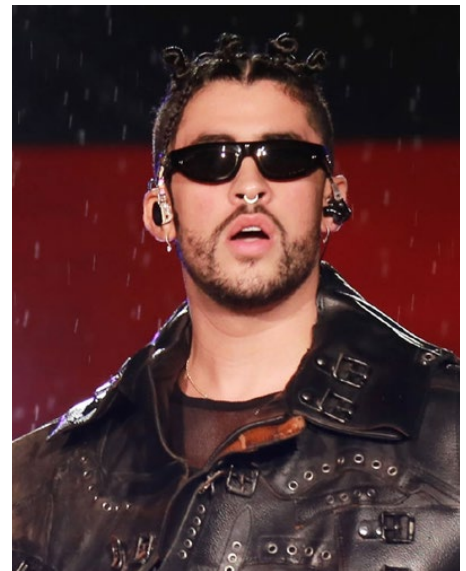
What is trap and reggaeton to begin with? Both musical genres are already the spawn of a complicated family tree. We can say that trap is a mix of rap & EDM, while reggaeton incorporates both hip-hop and reggae. Bad Bunny takes his truly unique musical blend a step further and even incorporates salsa, merengue, pop, & rock into the mix. We can attempt to put a finger on his musical structure, but we'll quickly get that Saturn-in-Pisces feeling of trying to nail down a roof hatch on top of the sea. One of my personal favorite Bad Bunny songs — *Después de la Playa* — which currently has nearly 400 million listens on Spotify, is a good example of Bad B's musical fluidity, and how one song often expands upon a multitude of genres.

The fluid verses of his music aren't the only facets of Bad Bunny's life where structure, or lack of it, is a central theme. Note that Benito is just now coming up on his first Saturn Return period and has spent most of his life growing up in a country that is no stranger to structural issues. Puerto Rico's debt crisis, bankruptcy, country-wide electric shortages & blackouts, deteriorating public services, and the US abandonment during the Hurricane Maria crisis of 2017 and beyond, have been regular themes in the life of this Saturn-in-Pisces native. Despite the government's structural collapse and corruption, Benito insists on his love & undying support for the Puerto Rican people. For instance, he helped create the Good Bunny Foundation, which donates and collaborates with other non-profit organizations to improve the lives of Puerto Rican youth through arts and sporting programs.

Bad Bunny's passion for his country reminds me of Walt Whitman's fierce American dream despite the harrowing democratic growing pains he witnessed right in front of his eyes.

Zooming in on Bunny's natal chart, we'll notice the Moon-Mars conjunc-

The fluid verses of his  
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Concierto realizado en el Estadio Hiram Bithorn  
Kevin9625Ja, CC BY-SA 4.0

tion in Pisces is only a few degrees away from Saturn. He also has the Sun at 19 degrees Pisces, as well as Pallas Athena at 25. It's hard to decipher if it's Bunny's Moon-Mars-Saturn or his Sun-Pallas that reflect his fierce, protective attitude of his motherland. Regardless, Bad Bunny has become a warrior of his own Puerto Rican people, inspiring and leading them through crises with not only his music but also his concerts and philanthropic efforts. He also has given a voice to the underserved Puerto Ricans who are fed up with their governmental systems.

For instance— at a recent island-wide concert in PR, Bad Bunny proclaimed that PR's power company can "go to hell." Most of these islanders are fed up with the privately owned electric company that the Puerto Rican government chose to take over the island's power grid in 2021. Bad Bunny even has a song on his latest album called *El Apagón* or "Blackout," where he proclaims his love for PR, but also claims he needs to distract himself before he "gives Pipo a slap." PR's governor, Pedro Pierluisi, is nicknamed "Pipo."

This musical artist has broken many musical records in his short musical career so far. According to Spotify, Bunny accumulated 18.5 billion streams in 2022 and has been named Spotify's top artist for the third year in a row. He is the first artist ever to be the top Spotify Artist thrice in a row,

Zooming in on Bunny's natal chart, we'll notice the Moon-Mars conjunction in Pisces is only a few degrees away from Saturn.

knocking out even megastars Taylor Swift and Beyonce from the tippy top of the list.

In his early college years, Benito worked as a bagger at a grocery store. And now his album *Un Verano Sin Ti* was the first Spanish-language album to be nominated for Album of the year at the Grammy's. Although he did take home a few different Grammy's, Album and Artist of the year were awarded elsewhere. However, Bad Bunny fans have found this problematic. With billions of streams all around the world, don't the numbers prove that he is, in fact, Album and Artist of the year? Yet again — the Saturn-in-Pisces arrives in this world to ask everyone to consider if their structures are expired. In this case, it's as though Bad Bunny's growing legacy starts to probe the historically English-speaking, Western, White standards of the Grammy's and beyond. As Bunny continues to grow, his Spanish music will continue to ask — both directly and indirectly — what do these awards mean to artistry in the first place?

### The final cut...

Walt Whitman, the father of free verse, fundamentally revolutionized poetic form. Bad Bunny, modern prophet of the Puerto Ricans, continues to transform and probe Spanish music, language, and cultural norms. Both these Saturn-in-Pisces natives created new poetic and musical genres.

In addition to their artistic reorientations, both Whitman & Bunny witnessed country-wide structural collapse and the societal rebuilding process in their lifetimes. Inevitably, these social crises influenced their own acts of humanitarianism — another Piscean theme.

Saturn in Pisces is a radical paradox. But the paradox becomes clearer when we look at Whitman's and Bunny's relationship to time, limitations, and concrete structure; for these natives, it's as though the limit does not exist in the first place; as for time, it's merely a suggestion. Both these people show us the divine assignment of a Saturn-in-Pisces placement: to uproot the preexisting structure, point out its disparities, give rise to the voice of the common majority, make rebellious art, and remind everyone of their interconnected "atoms."

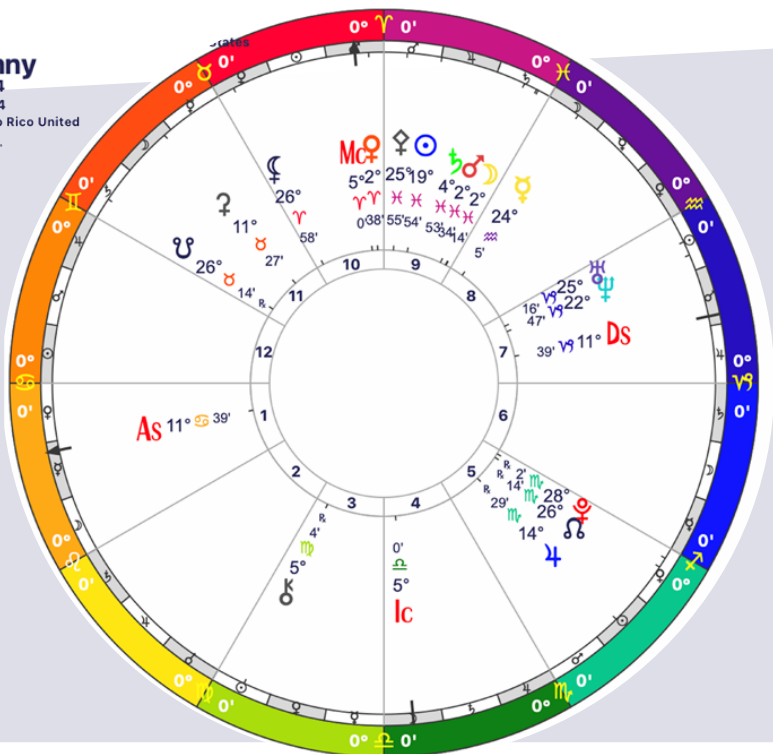
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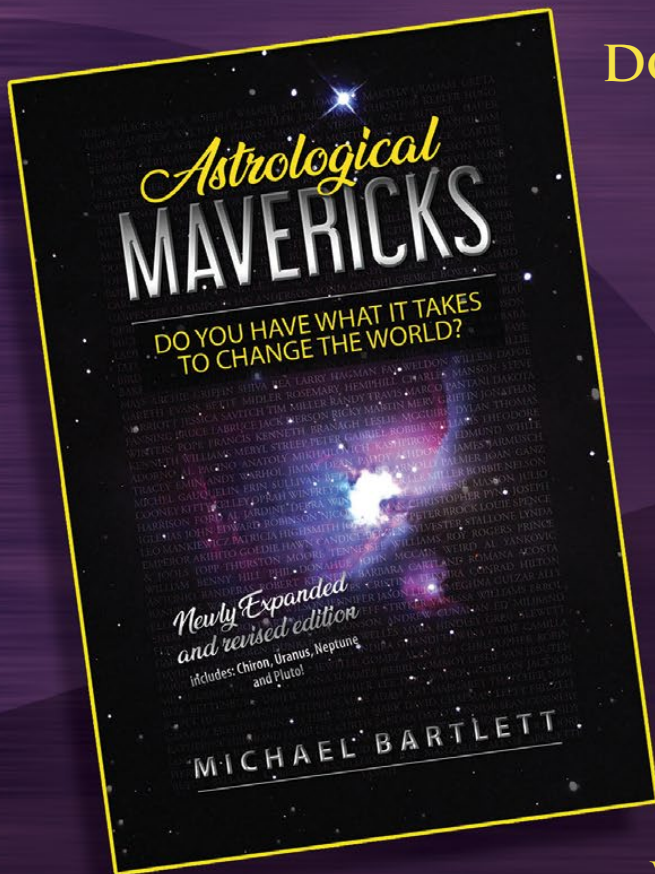
**Mallory Hasty** is a consulting astrologer, tarot teacher, and world traveler. With her degree in English-Writing & Religious Studies, her knowledge of poetry, literature, and religion often makes its way into her healing work, as well as her teachings and classes. Her astrological practice is rooted in the Hellenistic tradition, her main focus being to guide clients towards embodiment, inner-child healing, and nervous-system homeostasis. She loves to work with Highly-Sensitive People, because she is one herself. Mallory is currently pursuing professional certification through the Organization for Professional Astrology (OPA), and was recently awarded one of OPA's Most Promising Astrologer Grants of 2022.

### Bad Bunny

Mar 10, 1994  
1:30 PM GMT-4  
San Juan Puerto Rico United  
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Long 66° W 03' 44.0"  
Whole House  
Tropical







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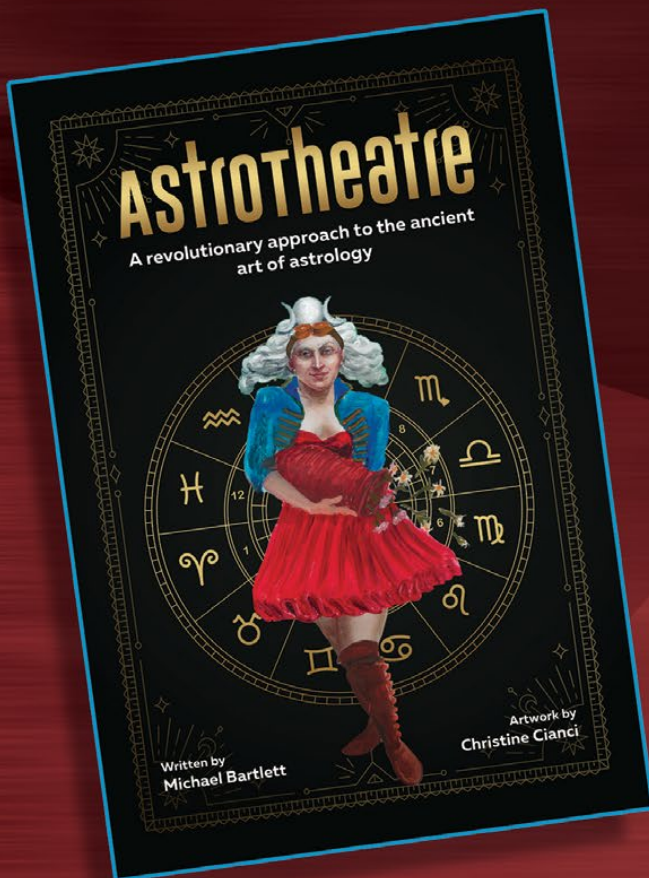
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# Yves Saint Laurent

## FASHIONING FANTASY INTO REALITY

by Shane M. Nygaard

**T**he ocean. Since time immemorial, it has called mariners, sailors, and explorers to venture upon its vast, boundless waters. So too, has the astrological Piscean ocean called mystics, poets, dreamers, and artists to sail within its mysterious, symbolic depths.

Of all the ocean's imagery — from corals of every color...to myriad fantastical and deadly aquatic species...to fish swimming every which way, the *symbol* of Pisces is signified by only two fish swimming in opposite directions—yet eternally bound together. This symbolism of Piscean opposites is reflected in the differing cultures of the Western and Eastern worlds, in the distinction between masculine and feminine energies, and in popular culture, exemplified by author J.K. Rowling's world of Muggles and Wizards.

Unlike the boundlessness of the sign of Pisces, the planet Saturn is the planet of limitation and restriction. Saturn contains and restrains, and concerns itself with responsibility, discipline, and gravitas. It symbolizes maturity and the reaping of harvests, both bountiful and grim. Mythic Saturn is the Greek Chronos, the God of Time. Through Chronos-logical time we encounter the weight of and the wait in the daily grind.

As Saturn brings boundary to the boundless, form to the formless, and limit to the limitless, it is a most suitable vessel for navigating the expansive Piscean ocean.

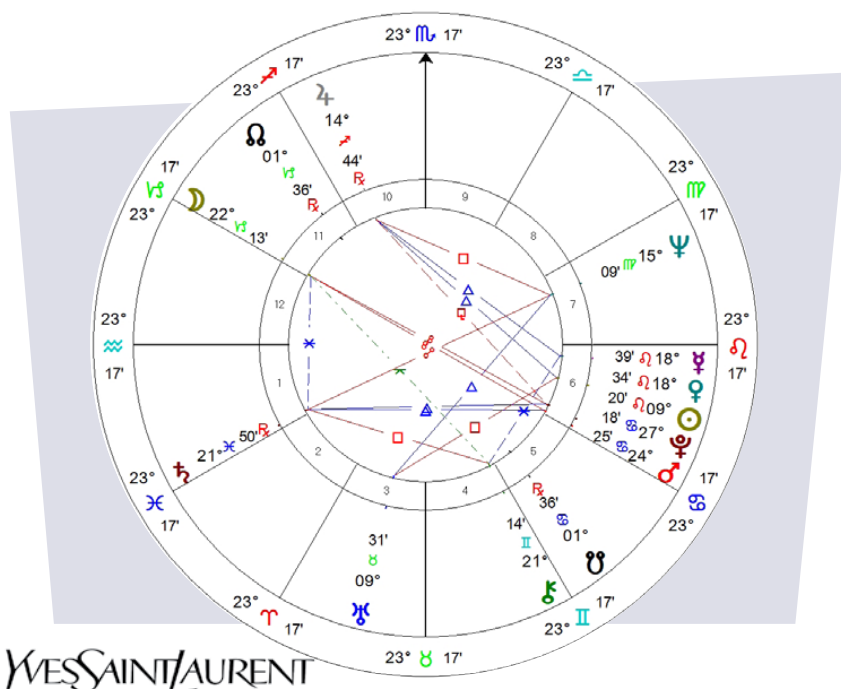
Artists and designers sail the Piscean seas of creative potential, not always guaranteed to make landfall, yet with Saturnian discipline and dedication, this wealth of possibilities can, in time, be brought into form.

One such Piscean sailor is the legendary haute couture ("high fashion") designer Yves Saint Laurent, born August 1, 1936,

at 7:45 pm in Oran, Algeria. He debuted with Sun in Leo in the 6th House, Moon in Capricorn in the 11th House, Aquarius Rising, and Saturn Retrograde in Pisces in his 1st House. As Saturn entered Pisces on March 7, 2023, it seems a *suit-able (fashion humor)* time to look specifically at this placement in the life, fashions, and revolutionary artistry of Yves Saint Laurent and how, with Saturn in Pisces as a vital placement in his natal chart, he was able to fashion fantasy into reality.

### YOUTH, DIOR & THE TRAPÈZE COLLECTION

Yves Saint Laurent was born into a wealthy and loving family, with a glamorous mother who saw and encouraged her son's creative spirit from an early age. As a young child, Saint Laurent produced



YVES SAINT LAURENT

Yves Saint Laurent, August 1, 1936 at 7:45pm, Oran, Algeria.  
Placidus Houses. Rating: AA from astro.com database.

small theater shows for his family, creating costumes for paper dolls as the characters in his shows. His mother brought Yves along on her trips to town when she purchased internationally popular fashion magazines, which were an enormous influence on young Yves.<sup>1</sup> And she brought him along on trips to her tailor for her dresses, which eventually led Yves to create dresses himself for the many women he grew up around, including his mother, grandmother, and two sisters.

Flash forward and through turns of events, Saint Laurent met and eventually became apprentice and heir to the throne of the world's then-greatest couturier — Christian Dior. This was a fortuitous position for Saint Laurent, as Dior was *"rigorous about quality, [and] the Christian Dior couture House would teach him about the importance of discipline in fashion. Brilliant as Saint Laurent was, he needed structure to calm and temper his creative imagination."*<sup>2</sup> A mentor able to discipline and structure a creative and fertile imagination was a perfect pairing for Saint Laurent with Saturn in Pisces. Within the House of Dior, his artistry flourished.

Dior's sudden and unexpected death in October 1957 catapulted the 21-year-old Saint Laurent into the spotlight. Shortly thereafter, on January 30, 1958 — leading up to his Saturn square as Saturn transited Sagittarius — Saint Laurent presented his first collection as Dior's successor: his Spring–Summer 1958 Trapèze collection.

A signature of the Dior aesthetic was the tightly corseted hourglass torso, which was certainly stylish but not comfortable. From the start, Saint Laurent distinguished his work from Dior's, loosening the cinch (Saturn in Pisces loosening structure) in favor of a more comfortable fit. This became known as his Trapèze collection, with the trapeze evoking images of graceful and fluid movement — not unlike the imagery of mutable Pisces.

The Trapèze Collection *"relied on none of Dior's signature stiffening and padding. Instead, Yves' youthful line liberated female*

*curves from the tyranny of a nipped-in waistline...The applause was immediate, the collection hailed a triumph."*<sup>3</sup> This is mutable Pisces, taking what had been stiff, cinched, and padded, loosening it up and relieving the fixedness. Saint Laurent's creative discipline paid off.

## A SHIFTING VISION

It was years later, before Saint Laurent's exact Saturn Return (March 26, 1966), that his vision of fashion and design began to shift. We can imagine as sturdy, solid Saturn moved from fixed air Aquarius into mutable water Pisces in 1964, the ocean waves rippled. What may have been a solid practice and vision for Saint Laurent began to loosen, *"I suddenly realized that dresses should no longer be composed of lines, but colors. I realized that we had to stop conceiving of a garment as sculpture and that, on the contrary, we had to view it as mobile. I realized that fashion had been rigid up till then, and that we now have to make it move."*<sup>4</sup> The solid lines and structure of fashion became colors and movement for Saint Laurent. Through his shifting vision, we see the astrological modality shift from a fixed view to a mutable view — a new ocean of possibilities.

## THE FISH OF ART & THE FISH OF FASHION

Perhaps one of the most remarkable Saturn in Pisces expressions found in Saint Laurent's career, which came into form as his Saturn Return moved ever closer, is when he began uniting Fashion and Art in his haute couture stylings. Traditionally, the great fish of Fashion swam in one direction, and the great fish of Art swam in the other.

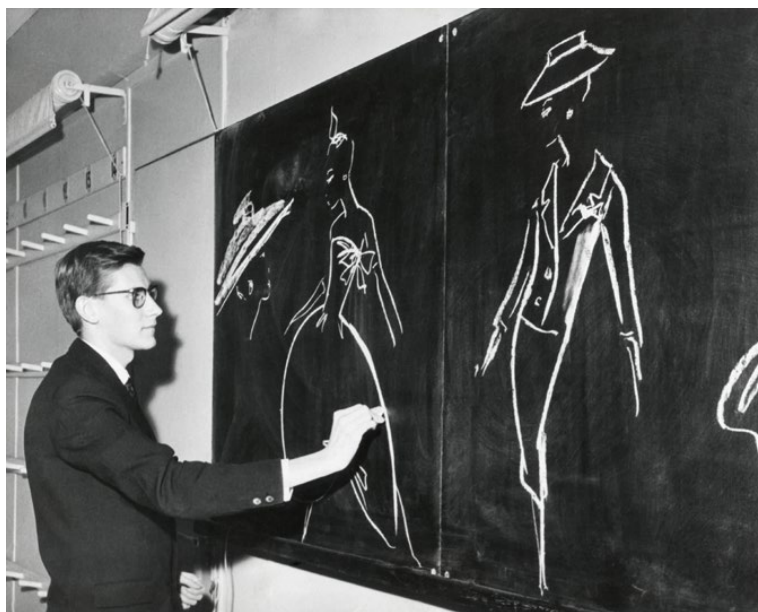
The two did not cross paths. Yet, in Saint Laurent's work at this time, we see these two fish become famously and eternally intertwined, *"I have always been fascinated by painting, so it was only natural that it should inspire my creations,"* Saint Laurent wrote for a 2004 Paris exhibition.<sup>5</sup> And as Dominic Lutyens wrote for the BBC, Saint Laurent's *"passion for the arts – his designs were often inspired by artists – made him feel that his work blurred the boundary between a.rt and fashion."*<sup>6</sup>

## THE MONDRIAN COLLECTION

This blurring of the Art-Fashion boundaries became evident in Saint Laurent's Fall-Winter 1965 collection when he debuted what became known as the Mondrian Collection, a series of cocktail dresses paying homage to the Dutch painter Piet Mondrian. Mondrian was known for pioneering an abstract art style using geometric shapes and bold colors, most notably red, blue, and yellow. Interestingly, Mondrian himself was a Pisces Sun, and the Piscean vision is clear in his approach to his art, *"Art is higher than reality and has no direct relation to reality. To approach the spiritual in art, one will make as little use as possible of reality, because reality is opposed to the spiritual."*<sup>7</sup>

Inspired, Saint Laurent imagined the geometric artwork as fashion, blending the heavier wool jersey and lighter silk to bring appropriate weight for the dress to hang on the body and not distort its shape. As Saint Laurent's partner Pierre Bergé recalled when first seeing the creation, *"I remember that when Yves sent for me, I was in my office. I went to see him and there was a model in the very first Mondrian dress, with a small*

From the start, Saint Laurent distinguished his work from Dior's, loosening the cinch (Saturn in Pisces loosening structure) in favor of a more comfortable fit. This became known as his Trapèze collection,





## YVES SAINT LAURENT

*red square...on the shoulder. I was, of course, dazzled. It took my breath away. It was so incredibly right. It worked perfectly.*"<sup>8</sup>

Can we not see the mutability of the Piscean imagination in Saint Laurent envisioning a two-dimensional painting wrapped around the three-dimensional female form and curves, yet maintaining its more or less two-dimensional appearance? "Saint Laurent's genius lay in his skill in keeping the lines and color blocks of Mondrian's paintings apparently geometrically aligned on the moveable shape of a woman's body, which he achieved by imperceptibly incorporating darts and seams into the graphic grid shapes."<sup>9</sup> He took a painting, made it fashion... and then, made it move.

The Mondrian Collection was a smash hit with the public and Saint Laurent's clientele and was a precursor of even more artistry on the horizon.

### SATURN RETURN: RIVE GAUCHE & READY-TO-WEAR

Also on the horizon was Saint Laurent's Saturn Return in March 1966. In sync with Saturn's return, he and his partner Pierre Bergé opened the "Rive Gauche" ("Left Bank") store that year, named for its location on the left bank of the Seine River in Paris. This was Saint Laurent's "Ready-to-Wear" shop, a first-of-its-kind in the haute couture world. Earlier couturiers dabbled in ready-to-wear, but Saint Laurent was the first to fully venture into its possibilities<sup>10</sup> with what would become a signature of Saint Laurent's legacy.

"Ready-to-wear" is the term used for haute couture fashions created for the general public in familiar S-M-L-XL sizing, using more affordable fabrics. These were not unique couture made from luxurious fabrics, as Saint Laurent explained a couple of years after Rive Gauche's success, "*The big difference between couture and ready-to-wear is not design. It is the fabrics, the handwork, and the fittings. The act of creation is the same.*"<sup>11</sup> In Rive Gauche, Saturn maintained the creative status quo, yet Pisces loosened the boundaries of how and where such creativity is expressed. Lower prices made the fashions affordable, and general sizing allowed for the younger generation to embrace the famous fashions of Yves Saint Laurent without drowning in the otherwise extravagant prices.

Rive Gauche not only appealed to younger women eager to wear Saint Laurent, but also to young men of the same generation. As he had already broken stereotypes with his womenswear, Saint Laurent continued the trend with a

newfound freedom of expression for his menswear. Rive Gauche for men stocked patterned silk shirts, knitted twinsets, velvet jackets, and easy trench coats, which appealed to the generation of uninhibited young men ready to explore their own identity through a more flamboyant style of dress appropriate for the era.<sup>12</sup> Saturn in Pisces, binding men and women together in embracing Rive Gauche.

### SATURN RETURN: HOMAGE to POP ART

Though already internationally renowned and acclaimed by 1966, Saint Laurent's Saturn Return also solidified his place in fashion legend through the maturation of his creative genius. His Mondrian Dress marked a shift in both his vision of fashion and how he would come to combine Art and Fashion as his signature aesthetic for decades to come, a hallmark of his work.

As Saturn transited through Pisces in the mid-'60s (1964-1967), the Pop Art movement, originating in the 1950s, reached its peak. Pop Art "*drew upon everyday objects and media like newspapers, comic books, magazines, and other mundane objects to produce vibrant compositions, establishing the movement as a cornerstone of contemporary art...The Pop Art movement aimed to solidify the idea that art can draw from any source, and there is no hierarchy of culture to disrupt this.*"<sup>13</sup>

As Pop Art shifted the cultural tides, abstract expressionism's elitism was washed

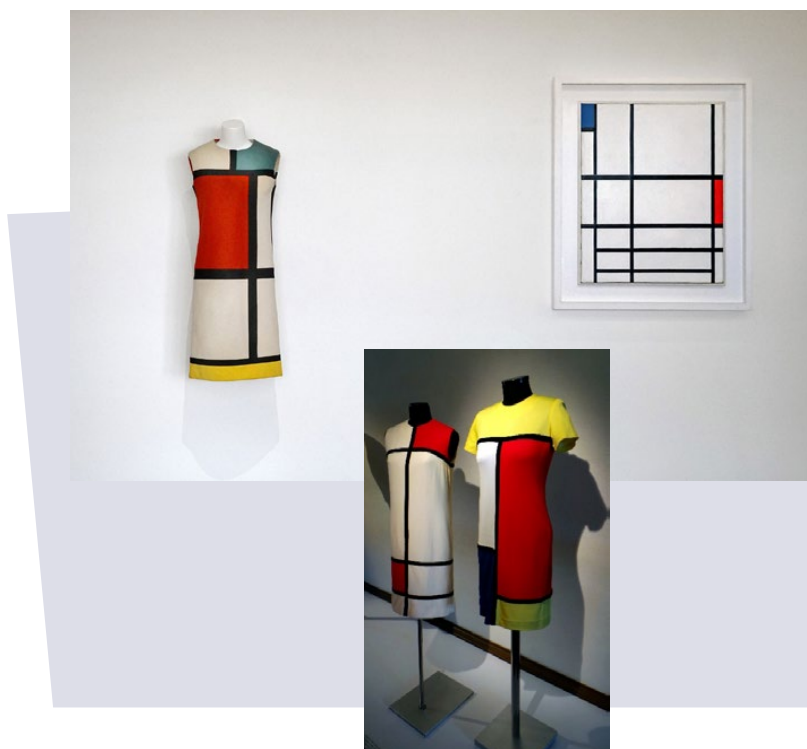
away in favor of art that appealed to the masses. For Saint Laurent, as a "*designer who was passionate about culture, who loved opera, ballet, and the theater, his antennae were finely tuned to the changing moods of abstraction, and the American Op Art and Pop Art movements of the mid-Sixties provided him with new ways to translate a canvas to the catwalk.*"<sup>14</sup> He, of course, wove Pop Art into his haute couture, and amid his first Saturn Return, debuted his Autumn-Winter 1966 "Homage to Pop Art" collection.

This new collection featured knee-high dresses with bright pink pastel colors; bright red lips; comic book-style faces; and colorful heart, moon, and sun shapes throughout. The Pop Art aesthetic was now haute couture. Again, a hugely successful blending of Art and Fashion, bound together within the pieces of this stunning collection.

### SATURN RETURN: LE SMOKING

Furthermore, within this Pop Art collection was what would become his most iconic creation, Le Smoking, a piece that embodies the two fish symbolism of Pisces in a most evocative manner.

Culturally, the mid-Sixties included the sexual revolution of the United States, and Saint Laurent was again in synch with the times. Le Smoking was his androgynous take on the traditional male tuxedo ("smoking" in French translates as "tuxedo" in English), now designed for women. As Saint Laurent had been blurring the



lines between art and fashion, here again, he blurred the lines, only this time it was between genders and sexuality. Le Smoking used *"the superb cutting of a masculine trouser suit juxtaposed with overtly feminine pussy bow silk shirts [which] played with topical ideas of sexual ambiguity...the success of his tuxedo would transcend all other designs to become the most recognized signature of his whole career."*<sup>15</sup>

Amid the sexual revolution and women's liberation, Saint Laurent's Le Smoking was a look and style that empowered women, as they were able to express their sexuality without the need to reveal skin. And Le Smoking brought to women a traditional men's style, completely rewriting societal fashion rules, thus equalizing the playing field between the genders.

As Saturn binds us into chronological time, it is only fitting (*fashion humor*) that, following its debut in Autumn-Winter 1966, Le Smoking has stood the test of time. And in true, structured Saturnian form, Saint Laurent featured the tuxedo jacket in each of his collections through 2002, when he retired.

## RUSSIAN PEASANT COLLECTION

In true boundless Piscean fashion, Saint Laurent was never at a loss for new ways to inevitably bring the two fish symbolism to his fashions. In his Autumn-Winter 1976 "Opéras - Ballets russes" Collection, also referred to as the "Russian Peasant" collection, Saint Laurent brought the aesthetic of Russian peasant life together with the elegance of haute couture. The great fish of Wealth and the great fish of Poverty. Also, the great fish of the City and the great fish of the Country/Village. *"His collection simultaneously evoked czar-era Russia and the Russia depicted in operas. Using gleaming colors and luxurious textiles (including fur, chiffon, silk, velvet, and gold lamé), Saint Laurent restored haute couture's capacity to make people dream."*<sup>16</sup> Saint Laurent invoked not only the Pisces fish symbolism but Piscean

Time after time,  
Saint Laurent's work  
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notably bringing into  
form the two fish bound  
together yet swimming  
in opposite directions.

dreaming. He had the ability to make people dream, as well as bring his own dreams into form. This collection was among his greatest personal successes, "The clothes incorporated all my dreams, all my heroines in the novels, the operas, the paintings. It was my heart, everything I love that I gave to this collection."<sup>17</sup>

## BOUNDLESS ARTISTRY

Throughout his career, Saint Laurent inevitably returned time and again to not only blurring the boundaries between Art and Fashion but continued to also bring two opposing genres together. In 1966 he created the evocative sheer blouse using transparent silk fabric, blending clothing and nudity. In his Autumn-Winter 1979 collection he paid "Homage to Picasso and Diaghilev," again bringing paintings to life in fashion. In 1981-1982 it was Henri Matisse and Fernand Léger. And in 1988, he brought Vincent Van Gogh's "Irises" and "Sunflowers" paintings to life, extravagantly embroidered into jackets that became modern legends.

## CONCLUSION

With these examples of the haute couture fashions of Yves Saint Laurent, we see how time after time, his work embodied the astrological qualities of Saturn in Pisces, most notably bringing into form the two fish bound together yet swimming in opposite directions. Putting Saint Laurent's work in the broader cultural context of the time, from early on, he created fashions that broke away from tradition and the expected styles for women in favor of fashions that liberate and empower. Haute couture before Saint Laurent favored cinched waists and form-fitting, movement-restricting styles, which reflected the restrictive and limiting roles society expected of women for generations. Saint Laurent loosened the cinch and brought in traditionally masculine fashions now reimagined for women. This rewrote the rules and empowered women in a way never before seen in the echelons of haute couture.

Saint Laurent's Saturn Return occurred amid the women's liberation movement and the sexual revolution in the United States, and his creativity and artistry in the world of haute couture challenged traditional notions of femininity and masculinity, especially his ingenious Le Smoking tuxedo suit. His fashions raised questions for the times – *What is femininity? What is masculinity? What is art? What is fashion?* – Such questions were in sync with the times, and in sync with the softening and blurring boundaries familiar to Saturn in Pisces. During his press conference

announcing his retirement, he reflected, *"I am proud that women around the world wear trouser suits, tuxedos, pea coats, and trench coats. I tell myself that I have created the modern woman's wardrobe, that I have taken part in the transformation of my times."*<sup>18</sup>

Through his discipline and dedication to his work, Yves Saint Laurent's influence on fashion and his influence on women's empowerment have become eternally sewn together into a cultural fabric that stands the test of time.

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**Shane M. Nygaard** studied archetypes at the Caroline Myss Educational Institute (CMED), where he earned his Archetype Consultant certification. His studies at CMED also included astrology, and he's been exploring archetypes and astrology ever since! He has presented for the Minnesota Jung Association (including "The Supernatural in Popular Culture," and "Astrology & the Collective Unconscious"), and his article "From Sunrise Through Nightfall: The 12 Houses of the Zodiac" has been published in *The Mountain Astrologer*. Shane presented on Utopia and Dystopia in The Age of Aquarius at OPA's Great Awakening Conference and most recently presented "Astrology & Fairy Tales" for the OPA community after earning his "The Art of Fairy Tale Analysis" certification at the Assisi Institute. Shane's influences include the Pre-Raphaelite Romantics, James Hillman, Liz Greene, opera, drag, Jung, and things with wings. Shane can be reached at [shane.nygaard@gmail.com](mailto:shane.nygaard@gmail.com)





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# PLANTS & PLANETS



## The 12 Healers

by Kira Sutherland

*"The cure of the part should not be attempted without treatment of the whole.*

*No attempt should be made to cure the body without the soul, and if the head and the body are to be healthy you must begin by curing the mind.*

*For this is the great error of our day in the treatment of the human body, that physicians first separate the soul from the body."*  
—Plato, The Republic, 382 BC

**A**s a practicing Naturopath and Astrologer who teaches medical astrology, I am always looking for simple healing treatments to share with my students. Many people who study medical astrology may not have specific healing qualifications, so I think it's important to learn ways of assisting one's client beyond a reading of their chart.

There is a need to learn and offer safe suggestions, be it activities, foods, or other forms of healing that are not contraindicated by certain ailments or medications. In 30 years of clinical practice and lecturing on medical astrology, I have found flower essences to be my favourite modality of treatment that is safe, effective, and inexpensive.

The use of flower essences has been around for hundreds of years. There are essences made from English, Alaskan, Californian, and Australian flowers. Likely there are essences made in many other places but those listed above are the most well-known. As a Naturopath, I learned the use of Bach Flowers as they are some of the oldest and most well known of the essences.

In medical astrology, we explore a person's natal chart to assess their constitutional strengths and weaknesses. Consultations can be based on the natal chart alone, or can include transits, progressions, and other techniques like solar arcs or annual profections. Other health readings can be done from a horary or decumbiture chart taken from the time of illness or accident. Treatments can be based on presenting symptoms, current or past ailments, or from the natal chart constitution.

I find many people come for a general health reading and want to learn diet and lifestyle suggestions to help them

**For many, there are underlying emotional and mental states that are part of the holistic health picture. This, I think is where flower essences come into their own**

live a healthier, more abundant life. For many, there are underlying emotional and mental states that are part of the holistic health picture. This, I think is where flower essences come into their own. Yes, I may suggest herbs or foods that support a natal constitution, but flower essences support

one's emotional and mental health and can enhance treatment to more desirable level.

When I first started to study medical astrology, I was excited to learn that Dr. Edward Bach originally created 12 remedies, known as the *12 Healers*, and at some point, these were ascribed to the 12 astrological signs. I am unsure who the first person was to do this — we are pretty certain it wasn't Bach himself. Regardless of the original source, I find it to be incredibly accurate in its application and have happily embraced the 12 healers into my astrological treatments with great results.

Edward Bach was a British physician, bacteriologist, pathologist, and homeopath. He became frustrated with the limitations of Western medicine and its focus on the physical body and treatment of the symptoms, rather than the underlying cause of disease. He had a keen interest in the healing properties of plants. Bach believed that certain flowers had healing properties that could address the underlying emotional states that lead to physical ailments. He created the Bach flower remedies in the 1930s.

Each remedy corresponds to a specific emotional state, and they are meant to help individuals restore emotional balance, which in turn can promote physical health.

Bach believed that the remedies were safe and gentle, and could be used by people of all ages and in conjunction with other forms of treatment. He first developed the original 12 healers, and then went on to develop a set of 7 helpers and 19 additional remedies, bringing the total number of flower remedies to 38.

The application of the 12 healers into the astrological rulership system is a great way to support an individual's natal chart. There is no correct way you must use them, and I have played with different combinations over the years. The lists below are different combinations I have found useful to supporting one's natal chart. I select the

planetary ruler of the sign whether the planet or point appears.

#### 1. MAINTENANCE REMEDY

- Sun – core vitality
- Moon – emotional support
- Ascendant – physical body
- Mercury – to support the mind
- Saturn – where we create fear and restriction]
- Any planet in the first house that is not in the same sign as the Ascendant

#### 2. PROGRESSED CHART SUPPORT

- Progressed Sun
- Progressed Moon
- Progressed Ascendant

#### 3. NATAL AND AILMENT SUPPORT

- Sun, Moon, and Ascendant
- Sign of the planet causing the issue
- The opposite sign to the planet causing the issue

#### 4. NATAL SUPPORT WITH ASTEROIDS

- Sun, Moon, Ascendant
- 6th House cusp and the ruling planet of 6th
- Chiron and Hygeia

#### 5. FERTILITY SUPPORT

- Moon
- Venus
- Jupiter
- Juno
- Ceres

There is no right or wrong way to use the 12 healers. You can change formulas around as you see fit for the client and their presenting concerns, be it natal issues or transits.

To use flower essences, one traditionally buys the stock bottles which are sold at health food stores or online.

- You will need an empty 25-30ml bottle (about 1 ounce) and fill this with 1/3 brandy (or apple cider vinegar if avoiding alcohol) and 2/3 spring water.
- Place 4 drops of each essence you are using into this bottle. Once the dropper cap is in place, shake the bottle so that the essences disperse throughout the fluid.
- For treatment, take 4 drops on or under the tongue about 3-4 times a

day until the bottle is gone or until you forget to use them.

- The mixtures should be used within a month or two even with the preservative of alcohol or vinegar. Eventually, you could get mold growth and this would not be good for anyone's health.

Essences are subtle but quick to act, and I find them definitively nourishing to your mind and emotions. I encourage you to try different combinations on yourself as well as your clients and see how they go. One of my favorite things to do at the conclusion of an astrological reading is to hand over an essence/remedy of personalized support to the client's natal chart and constitution.

Please be aware that flower essences are preserved with brandy. Thus, if you or a client cannot tolerate any alcohol or

smell of alcohol, they must not be used.

The last thing you want is for someone to be triggered by a remedy you give. I always discuss this with my clients before suggesting a remedy, as there are those that have chosen not to have alcohol, and others may be allergic to it.

I use vinegar as the preservative for those that don't want alcohol but can still have a little alcohol from the 4 drops from the stock bottles. If complete abstinence from alcohol is needed, then flower essences cannot be used.

So, now that you know what they are and how to create a flower essence blend, let's go over what each of the 12 healers is used for and how they correlate to the 12 signs. Keep in mind that every sign has a positive expression as well as some "stereotypical" challenges. The focus on the challenges below is intended to demonstrate how support can be selected.

To use flower essences,  
one traditionally buys  
the stock bottles which  
are sold at health food  
stores or online.





# PLANTS & PLANETS

## THE 12 HEALERS

### ARIES

AGRIMONY can be used for impatience and irritability, feelings of guilt, and self-doubt. Indications for use:

- Quick in thought and action
- Intolerant of those slower than themselves
- They prefer to work and think alone
- Accident-prone, they rush in 'where angels fear to tread'
- Frustration will exhaust an impatient Aries

This remedy helps cultivate patience and empathy.

### TAURUS

GENTIAN can be used for depression from a known cause, pessimism, or those who are easily discouraged. Indications:

- Delays or hindrances cause doubt and dishearten them
- Can be depressed, negative, discouraged, and melancholic
- Skeptical when good things happen
- When down, they can allow inertia to take over, becoming more stubborn and immobile

Gentian helps individuals develop resilience and an optimistic outlook.

### GEMINI

CERATO is good for Gemini-type issues where a person is unsure of self and repeatedly seeks advice from others. Indications:

- Lacks confidence in themselves to make their own decisions
- Thirst for information on every subject
- They doubt their own choices and abilities
- Naturally inquisitive and a need for variety

- Their individuality allows them to rebel against what is the norm
- For those who doubt their own intuition and constantly seek validation from others

Cerato helps individuals trust their inner wisdom and make confident decisions.

### CANCER

CLEMATIS is useful to support Cancerian types who dream of the future, and struggle with lack of attention and presence in the moment. Indications:

- Not happy in their present circumstances
- They dream of happier times in the future.
- Their sensitivity is so strong that withdrawal is safer than feeling things.
- They enjoy solitude and sleep longer than average, thus escaping into their own fantasy world.
- For those who tend to daydream and avoid the present moment

Clematis helps one to become more grounded and focused.

### LEO

VERVAIN is useful for Leo traits like extreme mental energy, anxiety, tenseness, and inability to relax. Indications:

- Fixed principles and ideas
- Overly confident and sure of their opinion
- Great wish to convert all around them to their own views
- They will use authority to gain power and control over a situation.
- They seek to impress others with the significance of their cause and beliefs.
- They are inexhaustible and full of passion

This remedy is for those who have a tendency towards overenthusiasm or fanaticism. It can help people find a more moderate, accepting approach to life.

### VIRGO

CENTAURY is helpful for those who are easily influenced and exploited by others. Indications:

- Overanxious to serve others, they overtax their strength.
- They do more than their share of the work, and thus they neglect their own mission in life
- The doormat remedy where they will always say yes even if they want to say no
- Self-denial and martyrdom

This remedy is for those who struggle to say "no" and end up feeling overburdened by others' demands. It can aid people to set healthy boundaries and prioritize their own needs.

### LIBRA

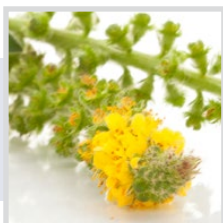
SCLERANTHUS is useful for Libran tendencies toward indecision and hesitancy, or imbalance. Indications:

- Unable to decide between two things.
- Easily become imbalanced and confused
- Having too many choices = great stress
- Takes time to make a decision, prone to procrastination due to indecision

This remedy can aid the person to find balance and make confident choices.

### SCORPIO

CHICORY is useful for people who struggle with self-indulgent and self-pitying behaviours or demand attention. Indications:



Agrimony



Gentian



Cerato



Clematis



Vervain



Centaury

- Keeps those they love in a constant state of imbalance in order to be needed and in control.
- They fear being dependent, thus they seek to make others dependent on them
- Strong desire to be significant and enjoy the company that supports this need
- For those who express love through controlling or manipulating others, often out of a fear of being alone

Chicory can aid in development of genuine compassion and unconditional love.

## SAGITTARIUS

AGRIMONY is helpful for complaints of mental worry and anguish in those who appear cheerful.

- Cheerful and humorous people, they love peace and are distressed by arguments.
- Tormented, restless, and worried
- They hide their worries behind their humor
- They are known to take alcohol to stimulate them and help bear their burdens
- Use humor and distraction to avoid confronting problems.

This remedy helps people to face their emotions and find inner peace.

I suggest you just try the essences related to your natal chart or to your clients' without overly paying attention to the descriptions.

## CAPRICORN

MIMULUS can aid those who fear a defined lack of things, such as poverty, not having success, or achievement.

- They secretly bear their dread and do not speak of it.
- Procrastinate from a fear of a negative outcome.
- Feelings of insecurity drive them to achieve.
- Fear both pushes and paralyzes them.
- They cannot handle the thought of remaining unrecognised or overlooked.
- They take themselves and life over-seriously
- Specific fears, such as heights, spiders, or public speaking

The remedy helps individuals face their fears with courage and confidence.

## AQUARIUS

WATER VIOLET for pride and aloofness, the desire to be alone

- Notably independent, capable, and self-reliant
- Free of the opinions of others, they go their own way.
- Proud people, they can be condescending at times.
- Prefer to be detached or slightly removed from most situations.
- They can be rigid, inflexible independent, and strong-willed

This remedy can help bring out their natural intelligence, desire to be of service to humanity, and ability to emotionally connect with others.

## PISCES

ROCK ROSE is useful for extreme fear, panic, and terror. Indications:

- For those of a sensitive nature who feel as if they have no boundaries to others' emotions or the world's problems.
- The fears are hidden in the subconscious.
- Vulnerable emotional sponges, who are acutely sensitive to their environment

The remedy can help individuals find courage and inner strength in the face of fear.

## SUMMARY:

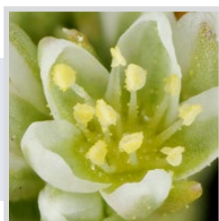
One doesn't need to match the description of each of the points under each sign. In fact, I suggest you just try the essences related to your natal chart or to your clients' without overly paying attention to the descriptions.

It is also said that you can't have a bad reaction to them; if they are not the right fit, they'll do no harm. So you can relax about getting it 100% right. Have fun experimenting with the 12 healers. Notice what changes for you and enjoy the healing process!

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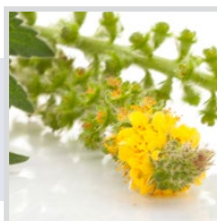
**Kira Sutherland** is an Australian Naturopath, Nutritionist, Herbalist, and Astrologer who lives between Sydney, Australia, and the mountains of BC, Canada. She divides her time between clients, writing and lecturing on health, wellbeing, and medical astrology. Known for her vibrant, straightforward teaching style, Kira has lectured in Medical Astrology around the globe and has been in clinical practice for over 25 years. Kira combines her knowledge in Natural Medicine with her passion for Medical Astrology into a wonderful mix of mind/body medicine. She can be found at [www.astrologyofhealth.com](http://www.astrologyofhealth.com) and [@astrologyofhealth](https://www.instagram.com/astrologyofhealth)



Scleranthus



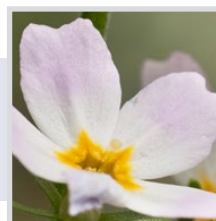
Chicory



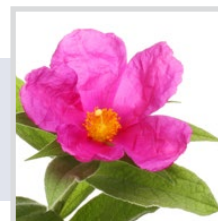
Agrimony



Mimulus



Water Violet



Rock Rose



## Plants as Allies ASTROLOGERS AS GUIDES



by Sue Morris

There was a time when astrology and herbalism danced in each other's arms to the music of the spheres. And oh, how they danced, those astrologers and herbalists, like folk dancers in step with the rhythms of ancient traditions. In our current time, people seem to yearn for this dance once again.

Throughout history, astrologers and herbalists moved along parallel paths. From humankind's earliest days, there is evidence of the search for and use of medicinal plants. Anthropologists and scholars of prehistory confirm that a considerable part of medicinal knowledge and herbal tradition can be traced back to the Stone Age<sup>1</sup>. Foraging and cultivating medicinal plants, healing skills, and preparing remedies were more instinctive and observational than theoretical.

Likewise, the practice of astrology began as humans started observing astronomical cycles; the Sun, the Moon, planets, and stars provided a reference for measuring time's passage and making sense of the respective environments of ancient cultures. Paying special attention to the changing moon for planting and harvesting crops gave rise to a system of agriculture grounded in the lunar cycles.

Herbalists observed and categorized plants for curative purposes, while astrologers used the planets and stars to diagnose and treat illness. Matching the planets describing an illness with the plants that reflected the nature of those planets cast astrology as the method of diagnosis and herbalism as the treatment<sup>2</sup>.

### The Intertwined History of Astrology and Herbalism

Herbalism and astrology are ancient and traditional systems with a common timeline. Astrology flourished in ancient Mesoamerica, Sumeria, India, China, and Greece, as did discoveries in botany around the world. The 1st-century Greek physician

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Dioscoride categorized and systematized pharmacological plants in *De Materia Medica* («the materials of medicine»). This was a primary herbal reference for over 1500 years until the end of the 16th century. The Greeks used the humoral system known as the Hippocratic Temperaments, based on the Four Elements, to diagnose and treat illness. The notion that four bodily fluids — blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile — caused illness persisted for over 2000 years in the West until the rise of controlled empirical science in the mid-19th century<sup>3</sup>.

Humans were aware that the natural world was connected to celestial influences. Medical astrologers traced the link between the stars and the body, using charts to diagnose infirmities. Plant medicine evolved. Herbs and plants were categorized as references in traditional *Materia Medica* worldwide. Humans mainly depended on botanical material for medical needs to retain vitality and cure diseases. Throughout much of history, and up until the 17th century, astrology was considered an academic discipline across much of Eurasia.

As Charlotte Trass (2020) described<sup>4</sup>, the long, intertwined history clearly separated within the past 200–300 years (less

than 5 percent of recorded history). Once the ideas of the Scientific Revolution began to emerge in the mid-16th century, there was a wholly different view of the natural world, in which astrology and herbalism had no place.

Church and science led us to our current mind and patriarch-dominated medical profession with its doctrine that astrology and folk healing were unscientific and superstitious. The idea of herbalism as a taboo subject appears in history multiple times, from botanical ties to witchcraft in the 1400s to 1600s to how medical students have been educated about herbalism since the early 20th Century. When specific standards for medical education were set up by the American Medical Association (AMA), the teaching of herbalism, as well as training in homeopathy, naturopathy, chiropractic, and osteopathic practice, were disallowed. The age of dogmatic scientific thinking began at the expense of the traditional arts rooted in connection to nature.

Superstition, witchcraft, the church's power, the medical societies, and the scientific Age of Reason all contributed to the decline of astrology and herbalism as standard practice. The dance of plants and planets ended, leading to the separation from nature and the cosmos that characterizes modernity. The church and the medical profession turned off the music of the spheres, and no dancing was allowed.

### My Path to Linking Astrology and Herbalism

In the 1980s, when I began studying astrology and herbal medicine, I sought separate schools for my education. Living in England at the time and interested equally in both subjects, I studied herbalism at The School of Phytotherapy in Kent on

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weekends while taking astrology classes at The Company of Astrologers in London during the week. It hadn't occurred to me how to work with both arts together for years. In the 1980s, it was unusual enough to find a place to study either discipline, let alone both, and extremely rare to find a place that connected them. That is until I studied with astrologers Maggie Hyde and Geoffrey Cornelius and herbalist Graeme Tobyn at The Company of Astrologers in Queens Square in London. Thanks to those brilliant teachers, the link was made there, and I started walking the winding path toward the work I do today.

I was able to put into practice skills incorporating the two loves of my life, astrology, and plant medicine when I

started my business making herbal skin care products using plants growing in my garden. Before I knew the first thing about growing a garden (that came later), I understood the influence of the lunar cycle and planting by the moon. I turned to the best guide available for gardening success, Luna herself! For ten years, I published a *Planting by the Moon Calendar*.

Over time, it felt as if my role was as a conduit between earth and sky. Head in the stars, hands in the earth. The valuable skills astrology taught me, planting according to the moon cycle, harvesting medicinal plants according to the Planetary Hours, and choosing herbs according to the Doctrine of Signatures, enabled me to work with more intensity of purpose.

As someone with Virgo rising and the chart ruler Mercury in Aquarius in the 6th house, I'm obsessed with plants for nutrition and medicine. I love growing plants, cooking them, making remedies with plants, and teaching about the need for plant-based healing. My degree in Medical Dietetics and career as a nutritionist supported me as I studied astrology and started my business crafting herbal products. The reverence for plants overlapped every aspect of my work, as well as doing speaking events about herbalism and hosting Herbal Retreats at my home throughout the year.

I'm gratified and humbled when people seek remedies or help when their health is challenged. I aim to have a remedy on hand when neighbors ring when they have colds asking for tea, or people stop by for salves to treat their bruises, or others need tinctures for digestive problems, respiratory ailments, insomnia, depression, and hot flashes! One friend

Before I knew the first  
thing about growing a  
garden (that came later),  
I understood the  
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cycle and planting  
by the moon.

needed something soothing to treat her skin after the prescribed cream for her radiation treatment burned. And so many need something for chronic pain. It's the perfect job for Virgo energy or 6th houses. I've learned to intuitively trust in nature and the stars that guide my path to be of service. Stepping outside my kitchen door to a magical medicine garden enables me to turn to those allies when needed.

A sign that hangs at the entrance to my garden says, "**Value Plants as Medicine.**"

### Returning to Lost Traditions

There is a deep yearning to return to the intuitive, sacred, nature-based living in lost traditions. People are seeking help, understanding that the medical systems we have in place are detached from environmental, economic, social, and healthy sustainable solutions. The pharmaceuticals of modern life, while sometimes helpful,





# PLANTS & PLANETS

## PLANTS AS ALLIES

offer no nutritional value, so fortification is necessary for supporting the health of the body. Herbs from the earth, by contrast, are rich in nutrients, phytochemicals, and antioxidants.

We need all the plant allies we can get these days after negotiating the challenges marked by transiting **Saturn in Saturn-ruled signs**, an extended Mars in Gemini with retrograde, a year of Saturn square Uranus, and Neptune making its painfully slow journey through the final decan of Pisces ... (Those orthopedic and infectious disease specialists probably had their best years ever). With Saturn now entering Pisces, I hope to see a resurgence in people seeking natural remedies and greater truth and authenticity in the marketing of plant-based products.

For those able to grow even one plant on a windowsill, grow a patio garden, or transform a lawn into a small garden, I encourage even the most modest attempt to return to folk medicine. Grow a rosemary plant in your kitchen. Pot up some basil for a sunny window. Have aloe vera plants on hand. You can grow something simple and wonderful if you have access to sunshine and water. The more aromatic the plant, the greater the pleasure, simply from inhaling or rubbing your hands against the leaves. If you work in an office with good light, take a plant to work.

Growing a garden, making simple remedies, or seeking out an herbalist who can prepare a remedy for us is empowering, even more so with the guidance of an astrologer who understands health conditions.

Herbs can treat every system in the body. Herbal medicine is accessible, renewable, and affordable. Herbal medicine reduces the need for pharmaceuticals and access to complex, expensive institutional systems.

If Pluto represents power and Aquarius is the collective, the time for people to regain their sovereign authority is nigh. Let the folk find their way back to folk medicine. As Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune travel through water and earth signs, the opportunity is ripe to return our attention to the earth, letting the stars guide us.

## Case Study of How I used Herbs and Astrology for Injury Healing

To illustrate the powerful connections between astrology and herbalism, I'll share a story of how I used plants to treat the anatomy of a **Mars in Gemini** injury.

In the past year, I've had to turn to those allies for a host of crazy injuries I experienced. *Is it just me, or did anyone else notice how many head and shoulder injuries occurred while Mars dallied in Gemini?* I saw many people having injuries or accidents to their shoulders, as I did in the second half of 2022. One unfortunate day, I took a terrible fall, a double fall, in fact. I'd been working in the garden all day, overtired. My neighbors invited me to harvest the last of their tomatoes which were about 40 pounds of beautiful, organic tomatoes I couldn't stand to see go to waste. I'd already done all the canning from my own harvest, and my neighbors said they couldn't process anymore. I was finishing up a day of September activities, including

weeding, picking herbs, harvesting, and wheeling over all those luscious tomatoes from my neighbor's garden in my wheelbarrow. At the end of the workday, I stopped to pull an overgrown Cleome flower. It had grown so tall that it fell over, blocking the steps leading down from the garden — concrete steps I go up and down many times a day. It needed to go. I yanked and yanked, but it was determined to stay rooted. I lost the fight, flew backward, first hitting the back of my head on the concrete step, then flew again, landing quite hard into a metal arbor holding up a clematis. My ankle was twisted, my shoulder badly injured, and my head swollen and throbbing. I lay there dazed. My first

My first ally was my beloved friend, comfrey. A Saturn herb, comfrey is a well-known wound healer for skin and bones, the structural organs of the body.





A Mars herb like  
Rosemary can be helpful  
for, among other things,  
inflammation, and  
beneficial after accidents  
and injury.

response was to cry, and my second was anger at myself.

I share the story to explain how I chose plant allies to help my injuries. It took me a day to move well enough to hobble to the garden to get them, but my need was great, and I knew what I needed was out there. My first ally was my beloved friend, comfrey. A Saturn herb, comfrey is a well-known wound healer



Comfrey, *Symphytum officinale*, its botanical name, comes from a Greek word meaning "to unite." Comfrey root heals broken bones and eases painful joints and inflammation, (Culpeper)  
Comfrey root resembles bones!

Above: A bee enjoys a taste of comfrey's purple nectar

for skin and bones, the structural organs of the body. The leaves are a potent remedy for soothing bruises and injuries, as well as being pain relieving. I submerged my sprained ankle in comfrey soak, the crushed leaves steeped in warm water. An hour later, my ankle emerged basically free of discoloration, the swelling and pain immeasurably relieved. I was returned to a slow walk, not a hobble! While my ankle soaked, I wrapped a poultice of comfrey leaves around my bruised shoulder. The relief was faster than even I had expected! What could have led someone else to the Emergency Room was remedied by a powerful plant in my garden.

For my head, I turned to the Mars-ruled herb Rosemary. Ice had done the trick initially, as I took to my bed with ice packs from head to toe. A Mars herb like Rosemary can be helpful for, among other things, inflammation, and beneficial after accidents and injury. Rosemary is valuable as an analgesic, helping with pain and headaches, and much needed when you bend a metal garden stake when slamming into it with your head. As a tincture, Rosemary offered the added benefit of helping me to focus. I worried about my brain being rattled from a head injury.

Overworking physically can interfere with mental clarity as tiredness takes over. I also used a Mercury herb, the headache-relieving, wound-healing, and pain-relieving Lavender. I enjoyed inhaling it as an essential oil, putting a few drops in my diffuser, and rubbing my Lavender Salve on my head and neck, helping to calm my rattled spirits, soothe my aching

head, and treat the bruising. From then on, I applied my Pain Relief Salve, rich in CBD, comfrey, calendula, aloe, and a blend of anti-inflammatory essential oils for relieving aches and pains.

Many other plants could have been used, but as these plants grow right outside my door, I had easy access, and they are tried and true allies. I bow to Saturn, Mars, and Mercury herbs for their support. Saturn and Mars were in hard aspect by transit to my chart ruler Mercury, perhaps suggesting in no uncertain terms that I should slow the hell down. A good fall will do it!

### A Call to Reconnect Astrology and Herbalism

As we move out of the materialistic Pluto in Capricorn era, the ancient spirits and plant allies are waiting to dance again. Astrologers and herbalists have emerged from great traditions with expertise, valuable skills, and passionate purposefulness. We have the tools to connect and share knowledge with each other and those seeking help through social media platforms, the web, and the many schools of astrology and herbalism established since the 1980s.

Let's take a drink and join hands.

Remembering the words of the sage Joni Mitchell, "*we are stardust, we are golden, and we've got to get ourselves back to the garden.*"

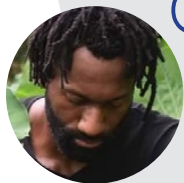
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**Sue Morris**, owner of *Sue's Salves*, plants by the moon and harvests according to the Planetary Hours. Sue is also a botanical perfumer, creating personalized botanical perfumes according to your temperament as seen through the lens of the birth chart. Sue holds a degree in Medical Dietetics and Nutrition from Penn State University. She happily lives in rural Pennsylvania, tending to her garden, building her business, speaking on Herbalism and Astrology, and offering Herbal Retreats throughout the year. Sue has opened the conversation about astrology to countless people through the door of herbalism. She's known as the "Salvelady." Check out Sue's Salves by visiting her website, [suesalves.com](http://suesalves.com), or contact Sue at [salvelady@comcast.net](mailto:salvelady@comcast.net).







## The Harmony of the Celestial & Terrestrial Wanderers

by Cameron Allen

I first began learning about the connection between plants and planets in 2016 while working at a local spiritual supply store in Memphis, Tennessee. In my journey to becoming an herbalist, I gathered information from various folk magic practices, looking in books to find lists of herbs corresponding to planets. It was utterly frustrating to me because, from the medicinal herbal lens, 60% of the plant-to-planet correspondences made no sense. The challenge stretched beyond that. No text would even explain how they concluded the correspondence. I discovered this as not just an issue of herbalism but one of our modern world. We are all too often taught *what* to think rather than *how* to think. This leaves us with rigid thought processes, emphasizing separation and compartmentalization, to our detriment.

There is indeed value in categories and compartmentalization with a purpose. However, in everything we do, having an awareness of context is vital. Before sharing my thoughts about plant and planet correspondence, I will give my deepest thanks and highest regards to my teacher, Sajah Popham, who assisted me in formulating most of my thoughts around this topic.

I also want to express my gratitude for the humbling that has occurred within me and in my life through building connections

and taking lessons from the plants themselves. What wisdom I can share has largely come from what they have so graciously gifted me when I listen to them. I also acknowledge the planets who have guided me as I have wandered on my path with a trust in them that is beyond what belief could ever impart. One thing I have learned is fundamental — *cultivating a living relationship* with the plants, the planets, and the Source in which they blossom to access the truth that arises at that moment.

### Habitat

My process begins with understanding the habitat of a plant because everything that exists is indebted to the environment in which it grew, for better or worse. The consideration of environment and habitat is often overlooked in the study of herbal correspondence. We note that plants do not grow in one region or setting, so each

plant might have a different planetary or zodiacal correspondence based on habitat. Our understanding must be broader and more nuanced than a linear mindset.

In the Amazon Rainforest, there is a specific way of naming plants based on their habitat and location. To illustrate, I will use the Dandelion root as an example. Dandelion root is a plant that grows in a variety of places. From the lens of Amazonian plant medicine practitioners, Dandelions are like a family because the plants all carry a specific signature. Dandelions can grow in abandoned lots in urban environments and fields. I've seen it growing near lakes, forest edges, and mountainous regions. Each of these locations brings a more specific planetary influence to the plant as an individual, even though the Dandelion family is considered one plant.

To my current understanding, Dandelion is native to Asia and Europe. This brings me to my planetary correspondence from a habitat perspective. Because Dandelion grows in such vast hardiness zones, it has proliferated across the Pacific and Atlantic oceans and spread across North America. For me, this gives a primary habitat correspondence to the planet **Jupiter**.

Jupiter is "the greater benefic," not always due to its nature as "good," but because Jupiter is fertile and has life-giving qualities. Whenever I see a plant that

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Due to the nature of the cooling and drying effect, the Dandelion root and leaf can be palliative to the tissue state that Jupiter can cause since the qualities of Jupiter are warm/hot and moist.

is profound at spreading its seed, I think of Jupiter. The secondary planetary correspondence is dependent upon where the Dandelion grows. Having primary and secondary correspondences is helpful so you don't unnecessarily limit your ideas. This way, you can rely on your personal relationship with the plant and the truth of your heart.

### Morphology

Morphology is a topic that most people familiar with pairing plants with planets would call the *doctrine of correspondence*. Plant morphology is the study of the physical form of plants. In simple terms, it's about the external structure of the plant, the root, stem, flower, leaves, seeds, etc. This is the study of the color, shape, texture, size, and other features that can be perceived with the five senses. Without going into depth, I note that most Dandelion leaves have an arrow-like shape. I was taught that this shape points to Sagittarius and a connection to Jupiter.

Dandelion seeds easily spread because they are carried by the wind, even a slight breeze. When I was younger, I remember going out to find Dandelions to blow the seedhead, watching the seeds disperse, and wishing for things I wanted to expand toward in my life. I recently revived that practice and primarily do it on the days and hours of Jupiter. Sometimes I blow the seeds toward Jupiter when the planet is visible in the night sky.

### Energetics

To avoid confusion in using the word 'energetics,' I'll note it is not a subtle experience or what people mean by "the vibe or energy of something." Although this concept can be included (and should be in relation to the plant's subtle effects),

it is not my context. I address the quality or combination of qualities: *hot, cold, wet, dry, tonifying, or relaxing*. This distinction becomes important in correspondence when building relationships through the *doctrine of sympathy and antipathy*.

Sympathetic means that the plant is of a similar nature and quality to the planet, whereas antipathetic means that it is of the opposite nature and quality. Opposite here means that the plant can have a balancing effect to planetary effects when properly applied.

Dandelion root has the energetic qualities of cooling, and although I find it reasonably neutral, I would say that it is of a drying nature. Dandelion root gently tonifies the tissues as well.

When utilized for its nutritive qualities, I find that Dandelion can relax the tissues of the urinary tract if the person ingesting it has too much heat, irritation, and experiences tension via an atrophied tissue state.

Due to the nature of the cooling and drying effect, the Dandelion root and leaf can be palliative to the tissue state that Jupiter can cause since the qualities of Jupiter are warm/hot and moist. This is an example of a plant with a correspondence that is antipathetic to the planet, effectively creating harmony in the tissue state if an excess of Jupiterian conditions is present.

### Taste

Taste is an area of planetary correspondence often debated between herbalists and astrologers of every tradition. No matter your perspective, the more important thing to remember is that all of these correspondences are mental constructs that point to relationships. I invite you to develop a coherent process for viewing the taste-to-planet correspondence. As astrologers and astrology enthusiasts, the subject of taste is generally not on the curriculum. Understanding taste has many layers, and allowing yourself to develop the skill of attuning to taste can be of service in unexpected ways.

Taste is a language from the tongue to communicate what is entering the inner world from the outer world..

Taste is a language from the tongue to communicate what is entering the inner world from the outer world. If you put just a pinch of powder with the bitter flavor on your tongue, the liver will respond based on the communication being translated through the language of taste. Taste is not static, and it's wise to acknowledge this when considering correspondences as plant flavor profiles. It is important to note that plant taste varies depending on where it comes from and even the season when it was harvested.

Dandelion root has a complex taste profile, although primarily bitter. It also has a salty taste and just a touch of sweetness. Stay mindful that the quality of sweetness with herbs is almost nowhere akin to what the culture in the United States refers to as sweet. Dandelion leaf is also bitter and with a salty profile. The mineral density within the Dandelion leaf gives it a salty taste.

### Organ affinity

Every planet, astrological sign, and plant harmonizes with a specific organ system. The planet Jupiter corresponds to the liver. (As with everything in astrology, there is debate on this point.)

Regarding Jupiter's correspondence to the liver, I emphasize that Jupiterian people may tend to accumulate and do things in excess. When this happens, the liver is always affected. Jupiter rules the signs of Sagittarius and Pisces. Sagittarius also has a co-rulership of the liver. Pisces does not have a correspondence with the liver, but it has a tendency towards stagnation of the lymphatic system, which Dandelion root also has an affinity for due to its alternative herbal action. I will discuss this in the next section.

Dandelion root has an affinity for the liver, whereas the leaf has an affinity for the kidneys. I use the Dandelion root as the correspondence to Jupiter.

### Herbal actions

Dandelion root is considered a general detoxifier ridding the body of excess wet quality. Dandelion is also a cholagogue, which aids in producing bile in the liver. Another action of Dandelion is cholagogue. Cholagogues aid in moving the bile flow from the gallbladder to the small intestines.

Dandelion leaf is a diuretic. A diuretic is an herbal action that promotes the production of urination. It also has a nutritive effect. Nutritives are herbs with a high mineral content that can be used to nourish



# PLANTS & PLANETS

## CELESTIAL & TERRESTRIAL

the body. The liver connection to Jupiter is present along with the leaves' ability to nourish, which harmonizes with Jupiter's anabolic nature.

### Using Dandelion

Dandelion can be used in numerous ways, and it's a versatile plant for beginners to explore plant and planet correlations. Dandelion extract and oil are used in skincare products. I find skincare an easy introduction to Astro-herbal preparations. Keeping it simple, I suggest you create oil from Dandelion flowers during the day and hour of Jupiter.

To make the oil, add a 1:2 ratio of Dandelion flowers to jojoba oil in a heat-proof glass canning jar. Place the jar in a pot filled with water; this creates a "double boiler." Use medium-low heat for up to 2 hours to allow the flowers to infuse into the oil. Strain the Dandelion-infused oil into a jar. Keep in a cool to cold place, depending on how long you plan to keep the oil.

**Infusion:** Although the roots and leaves can be steeped to make tea, I usually only infuse the leaves. I have two primary ways of making Dandelion leaf tea. One way is to create a simple infusion like the tea you get from a store already bagged. Boil hot water, place a tablespoon of leaf in a reusable tea bag, and let it steep for 7-15 minutes. The other infusion is similar but varies greatly in the length of the steep time. Again, boiling water, this time, I use a quart. I place ½ to 1 ounce of dry Dandelion leaf in the jar and let it sit for four or more hours. This version of the infusion brings out the nutritive qualities of Dandelion.

**Decoction:** Using the roots of the Dandelion, I add a tablespoon per cup of water into a pot. Once the water is boiling, I turn it down to simmer for 15-30 minutes. I strain the root. I add honey and wait until the tea is at room temperature.

**Tincture:** When preparing Dandelion as a tincture, I usually use 15-30 drops, 2-3x a day.

We cut down that which could bring us abundance to make something look pretty based on distorted modern standards.

**Nutrition:** During the spring season, I find a place that is safe to harvest Dandelion and mix Dandelion leaves and flowers with other greens to make salads, use for omelets, and even sometimes put it into my juice recipes. My invitation is to explore more, as this is a brief reflection of what is possible with Dandelion and food.

**Magic:** I worked with Dandelion before I started applying astrology to my herbal practice. I use Dandelion to assist with developing clairvoyance. It also is used in combinations as a wish-granting mojo in voodoo. Jupiter is the planet that can bring "god consciousness," as one of my teachers says. In our times, this is how religion is perceived, as is a vision of *what God is*. This is a function of Jupiter. And granting wishes is quite the Jupiterian thing with connection to Hoodoo.

### Contraindications

Since I have been in practice, I have not experienced any contraindications to Dandelion root or leaf. Of course, we want to understand each individual's constitution so that we use herbs with discernment. As with all herbs, be mindful to check in with your primary health care physician (especially if you are taking medications) to prevent undesirable herb and drug interactions.

### Personal experience

From what I have learned, Dandelion corresponds with the planet Jupiter related to a quality of "abundance." The idea of abundance here comes from historian Ali A. Olomi in reference to Jupiter in the Islamicate period of astrology, where community and society were central, as opposed to the hyper-individualized orientation we often find in our current cultural context. Dandelion grows bountifully and aids us in the ability to eat it freely with almost no potential to overharvest. In our times, we cut it down and treat it as a hindrance. The lack of wisdom in contemporary culture becomes apparent through such experiences.

We cut down that which could bring us abundance to make something look pretty based on distorted modern standards.

I have also started using Dandelion root for people here in Memphis who have "pot bellies and love fried catfish." Dandelion is most helpful for relieving issues caused by excessive eating of fried foods, which happens a lot in the culture

Dandelion root is also used in some traditions for dreams and divination.

Dreams are ruled primarily by the Moon. This still brings in the correspondence of Jupiter as it is said to be exalted in the sign of Cancer.

where I practice. Dandelion root is also used in some traditions for dreams and divination. Dreams are ruled primarily by the Moon. This still brings in the correspondence of Jupiter as it is said to be exalted in the sign of Cancer, which is the temple and dwelling place of the Moon. When I first learned this, I would put a cup of Dandelion tea in the moonlight every time the Moon was at the first 10 degrees of Cancer, where my natal Jupiter is. To my surprise, this practice led to having more dreams, recalling more dreams, and knowing things that were not so readily apparent in my waking life while working with others.

I leave you with a reflection on how the plants and planets show up. As I was nearing the completion of this article, someone asked me what I was working on. I told them I was writing about Dandelions, and their response was, "O, Dandelion, how joyous," with a smile on their face. The person who asked happens to have a very Jupiterian nature with a laugh that can be heard in any room. It is experiences like these that are reminders of the magic that reality holds.

*Cameron Allen began his path to understanding mind-body awareness with a degree in health and sports science and psychology. Seeing that there was more to understand outside of the colonized education system, he began seeking understanding through direct experience with nature, Astrology, herbalism, rootwork, yoga, Ayurveda, and other indigenous technologies. Cameron is a practicing herbalist and astrologer that focuses on holistic health, predictive forecasting that enhances the present moment, and deconditioning the ways in which we have been taught in order to reorganize ourselves with the natural rhythms and cycles of life in a practical way through our relationship with astrology.*





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# ASTROLOGICAL HOUSE DIVISION

by Rhys Redmond Chatham

This article will discuss the issue of house division — a topic that invites frequent debate, and sometimes heated exchanges.

Rather than advocate the use of one house system over another, I will compare some of the major house systems, discuss how they are calculated, and delineate what distinguishes one from another, allowing you to make informed choices about which one to use, for what purpose, and when.

Various house systems have gone in and out of style over the years. In my case, during the 70s, I used Campanus houses, Koch in the 80s, and switched over to Placidus in the 90s through the 2000s. I started using exclusively Whole Sign Houses (WSH) for a time, and then switched to Regiomontanus.

All these house systems worked fine and gave good results.

*So, what gives? If they all work well, then why use one over the other?*

Many astrologers use the house system in which they were trained but can become uncomfortable using another because some of the planets shift houses. Those studying ancient or traditional techniques will want to use a period house system. Many will use a house system simply because it is what is presently in vogue.

It is fine to use a house system because that's what your teacher used, or because an ancient, medieval, or Renaissance astrologer is said to have used it. However, after you have looked at the various techniques of house division, understanding how they work and what their underlying symbolism is based on, it seems natural that you will arrive at your own informed conclusions when it comes to choosing one house system to use over another.

At the very least, it is useful to look at some of the major house systems and compare them, so we understand how they are calculated and what they are based on. One can then see that each system has

Rather than advocate the use of one house system over another, I will compare some of the major house systems, discuss how they are calculated, and delineate what distinguishes one from another.

unique symbolic implications and strong points.

I will lay the foundation for doing that in this article.

## The Categories of House Division

The house systems can be classified into three major categories:

- **Ecliptic-based houses** — These house systems divide the ecliptic itself. WSH, Equal House, and Porphyry are in this category.
- **Space-based houses** — These systems divide space in the celestial sphere in various ways and then determine how the resulting house cusps relate to the ecliptic. Campanus, Morinus, and Regiomontanus houses are space systems.
- **Time-based houses** — These divide the time of the daily rotation of the Earth and then take the timing positions and project them in various ways to the ecliptic, resulting in house cusp positions. Alcabitus, Koch, and Placidus are of this type.

Each of these systems is based on various celestial circles in the sky.

As astrologers, it is important to be able to clearly visualize each of these circles and identify their positions in the sky, for only then can we come to understand their symbolism.

## The Celestial Circles:

Celestial circles or *great circles* are used in determining house cusps. They are as follows:

- The ecliptic
- The meridian
- The horizon
- The celestial equator
- The prime vertical

I will review them one by one.

## The Celestial Sphere:

All the celestial circles are drawn in what is called the celestial sphere. (See Fig. 1) The celestial sphere is defined as an imaginary sphere in which the observer is in the center and within which all celestial objects are considered to lie. The celestial sphere is simply an extension into outer space of the sphere of the planet Earth.

## The Celestial Horizon:

The horizon is the point where the sky meets the Earth. The celestial horizon is formed by the projection of the horizon

of the observer – or the location of where the chart was cast onto the celestial sphere. (See Fig. 2)

### The Ecliptic:

The ecliptic is the circle that astrologers use to measure the positions of the planets and other objects.

The ecliptic is the imaginary great circle within the celestial sphere which the Sun traces in its annual motion, as seen from the perspective of Earth. Remember, the Sun appears to be revolving around Earth, from our point of view. We Earthlings are geocentric!

### The Meridian:

When we refer to the meridian, we are speaking of the local meridian. The meridian is a great circle of the celestial sphere which passes through the zenith, the nadir, and the north and south points of the horizon. (See Fig 2).

There are 360 geographical meridians on the sphere of Earth of 1° of arc each. We simply project the local meridian (i.e., longitude line) out into space onto the celestial sphere, where it becomes one of the great celestial circles.

### North and South Celestial Poles:

The North and South Celestial Poles are simply a projection onto the celestial sphere

of Earth's geographical North and South poles. (Fig. 1.)

### The Zenith and Nadir:

Another important point is the zenith, which is defined as the point directly above the observer's head. The nadir is directly below the native's feet at the other end of the globe extended out into space, it is the polar opposite of the zenith. Do not confuse the nadir with the I.C.; they are two separate points in the three-dimensional celestial sphere (see Fig. 2), although, in a horoscope, they appear to be in the same position. This is because, in a standard astrological chart, the ecliptic and the meridian are compressed together so that they fit on a two-dimensional page.

### The Celestial Equator:

From the diagram above, you can see that the celestial equator is simply a projection of Earth's equator onto the celestial sphere. (Fig. 1)

### The Prime Vertical:

The prime vertical is defined as a great circle starting at the due east point of the observer (not to be confused with the Ascendant!), going through the zenith down to the due west point, then down to the nadir and up again to the eastern point. It is perpendicular to the local meridian, that is, it is at a right angle, exactly 90° as it crosses the meridian. (Fig. 2)

Now that we've reviewed the various celestial circles, let's consider how they relate to the three categories of house systems and posit possible symbolic meaning.

## Symbolic Meaning of the Celestial Circles in House Systems

### ECLIPTIC-BASED SYSTEMS:

**Whole Sign Houses (WSH)** define the cusps with the zodiac itself, bringing the symbolism of the ecliptic as the primary circle that we must look to. The Ascendant and M.C. float in this system and do not define the start of the 1st and 10th houses. The ecliptic is the apparent path of the Sun around the Earth. Symbolically, it is a circle that is extra-lunar, it is not of the Earth, it is beyond the Moon in the heavens.

Because the house cusps in this system are determined by the 30° division of the constellations along the ecliptic and do not directly connect to the great circles of the horizon or local meridian, two other methods of house division were used by the ancients to achieve this integration.

This brings us to our next ecliptic-based house system: the **Equal House System**.

Whole Sign Houses define the cusps with the zodiac itself,

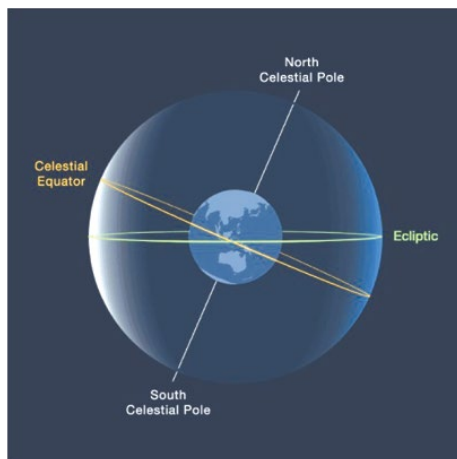


Fig. 1 – Celestial Sphere – Image: NASA

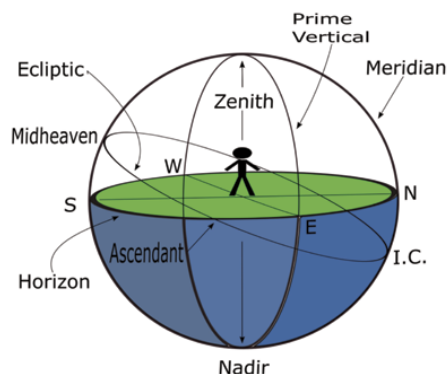
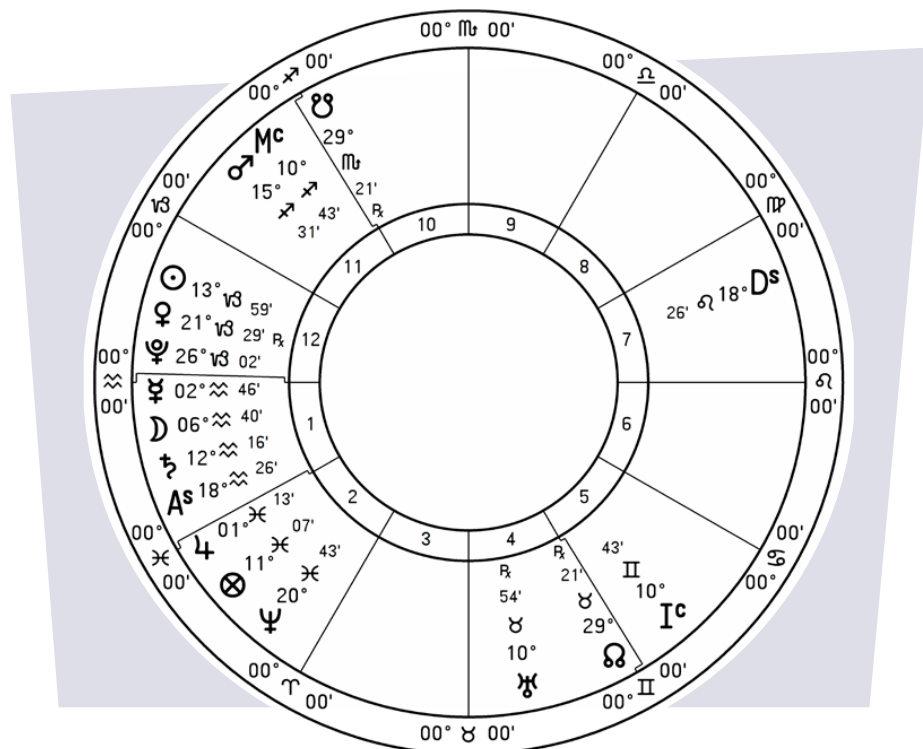


Fig. 2 – Celestial Horizon, Image: c. R. Redmond Chatham



Whole Sign Houses



## ASTROLOGICAL HOUSE DIVISION

**Equal House** places a heightened importance on the degree of the Ascendant, which defines the starting degree of each subsequent house. This system is already more anchored to the Earth than whole signs in that the horizon takes on increased prominence. By using the degree of the 1st house to define the cusps of all the others, it centers its focus on the native, of what the person is experiencing on Earth. The 1st house symbolizes YOU, the 2nd house YOUR money, the 3rd house YOUR siblings, and so on. The Ascendant defines the start of the 1st house, but the M.C. is floating in this system as it does in WSH.

Equal House places a heightened importance on the degree of the Ascendant

In the Porphyry system, the span of the ecliptic between the horizon and midheaven is trisected equally to produce three houses.

**Porphyry** is a quadrant house system. In quadrant house systems, the Ascendant defines the 1st House cusp, and the M.C. defines the 10th House cusp. This creates four sectors or zones within the circle of the ecliptic, otherwise known as quadrants.

Named after the third-century Neo-Platonist philosopher and astrologer, Porphyry, this system was described by Vettius Valens in Book 1 of *Anthology*, his astrological textbook.

In the Porphyry system, the span of the ecliptic between the horizon and midheaven is trisected equally to produce three houses. This makes the houses easy to calculate. You don't need a table of houses or a computer to calculate them, you can practically do it in your head!

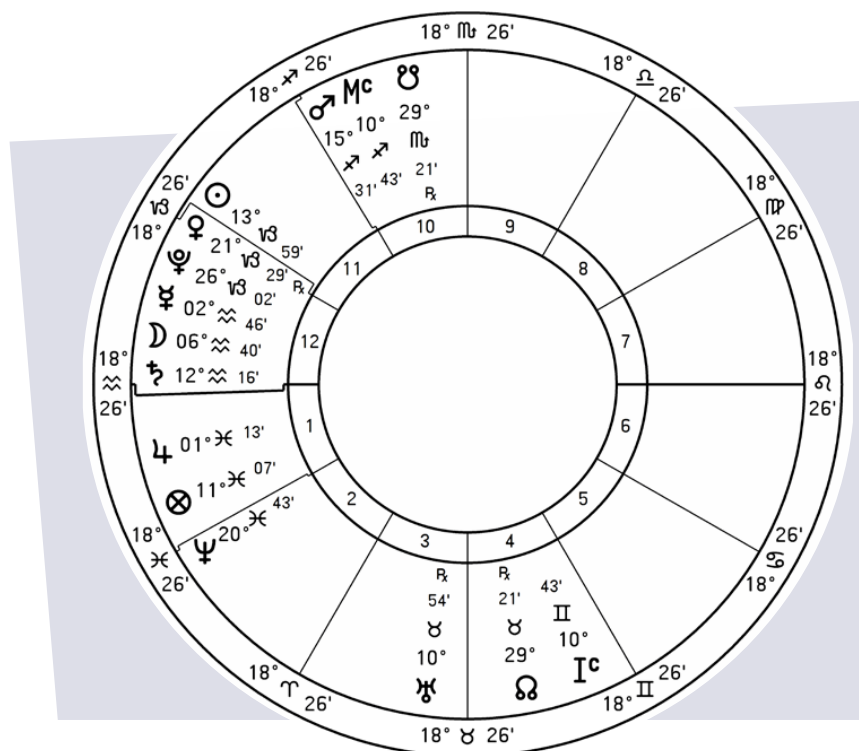
Because the number of degrees between the ascendant and M.C. varies according to location, time of day, and season, the quadrants are not of equal size. (See chart at right.)

The advantage of Porphyry houses is that the 1st House cusp starts at the degree of the Ascendant, and the degree

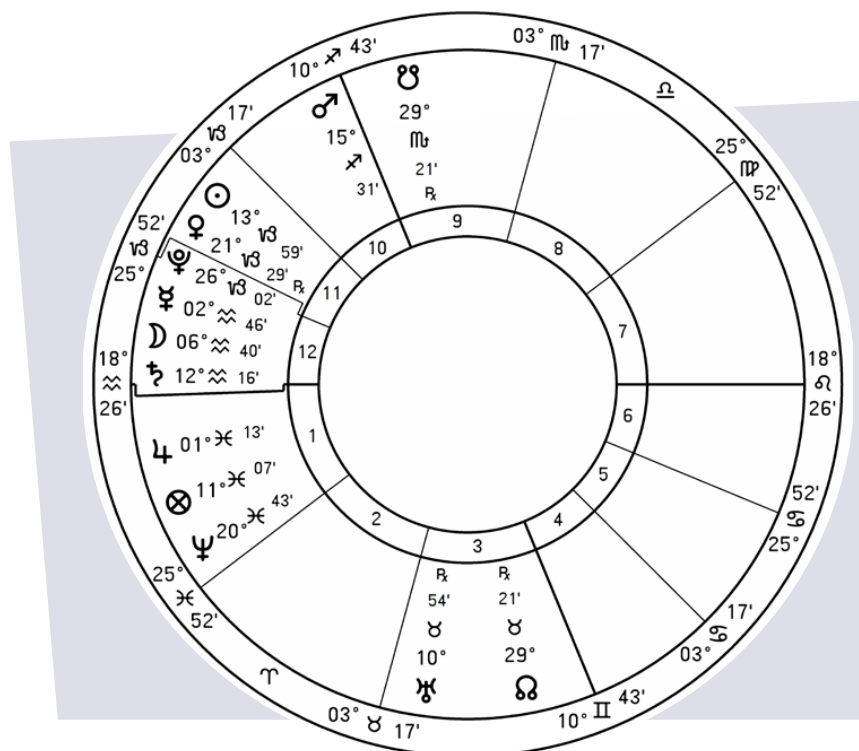
of the M.C. defines the 10th House cusp, thus underlining the importance of angularity in horoscopic astrology. In doing this, Porphyry anchors houses to the Earth in that the local horizon defines the start of the 1st House, and the local meridian defines the 10th house cusp and M.C.

One reason astrologers use quadrant house systems is for the same reason that

they use the tropical zodiac: because quadrant houses are tied to what is going on in the sublunar world. In traditional astrology, the Moon in particular holds a special role as a mediator between the zodiacal signs and the houses because she is closest to Earth, channeling the Light of all the other planets directly to our physical world. Just as the tropical zodiac is tied to the Earth's seasons,



Equal Houses



Porphyry

quadrant houses are tied in profound ways to the physical Earth itself. The idea behind using quadrant houses is that they better reflect what is happening in the terrestrial world, as opposed to the sidereal world.

Furthermore, with Porphyry, we distinguish and underline the difference between a planet being domiciled in a sign and a planet being in an astrological house.

An astrological house represents things that are linked to the Earth that we live on, the domiciles are in the heavens. For example, we could have two planets domiciled in Aquarius, with one being in the 12th House and the other being in the first. While we lose this symbolism in WSH, we get it back in quadrant systems and in systems where the 1st House starts with the Ascendant, which is why ancient astrologers used quadrant house systems in addition to WSH cusps.

Granted that the Porphyry system is more anchored to the Earth and that it is a quadrant system, it is still based primarily on the ecliptic. So, after a time, astrologers began entertaining the idea of basing house cusps on celestial circles other than the ecliptic, perhaps ones that were even more linked to Earth.

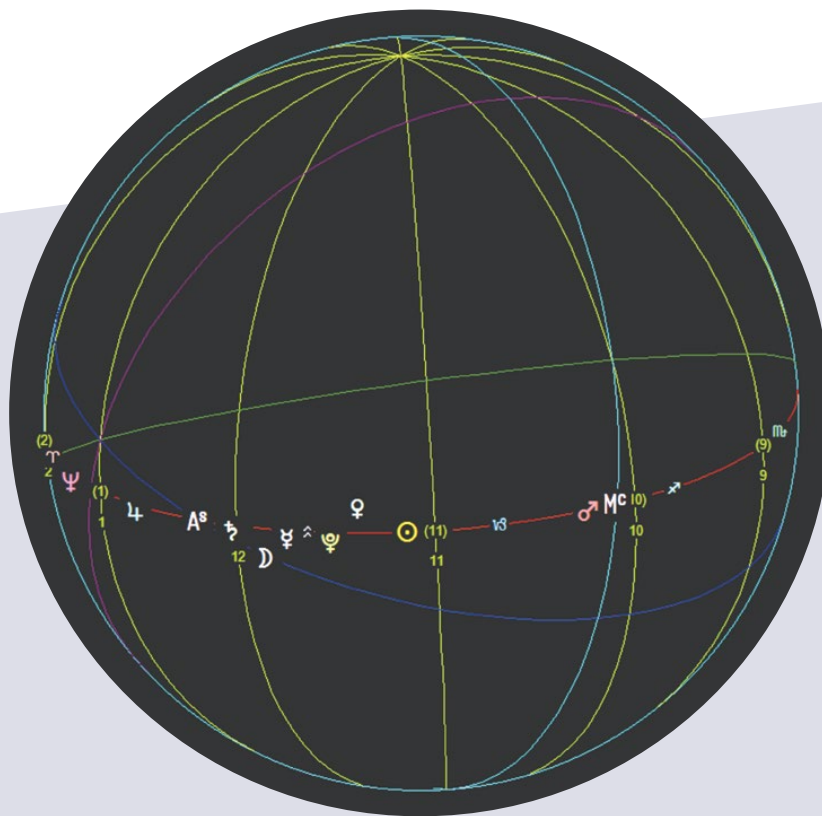
## SPACE-BASED SYSTEMS

The **Morinus House System** uses the celestial equator as its starting point rather than the ecliptic. We start where the local meridian crosses the celestial equator and from there divide the equator into twelve

Because the celestial equator is simply a projection of the Earth's geographical equator into space, any equator-based system will be quintessentially tied to the Earth and events on its surface.

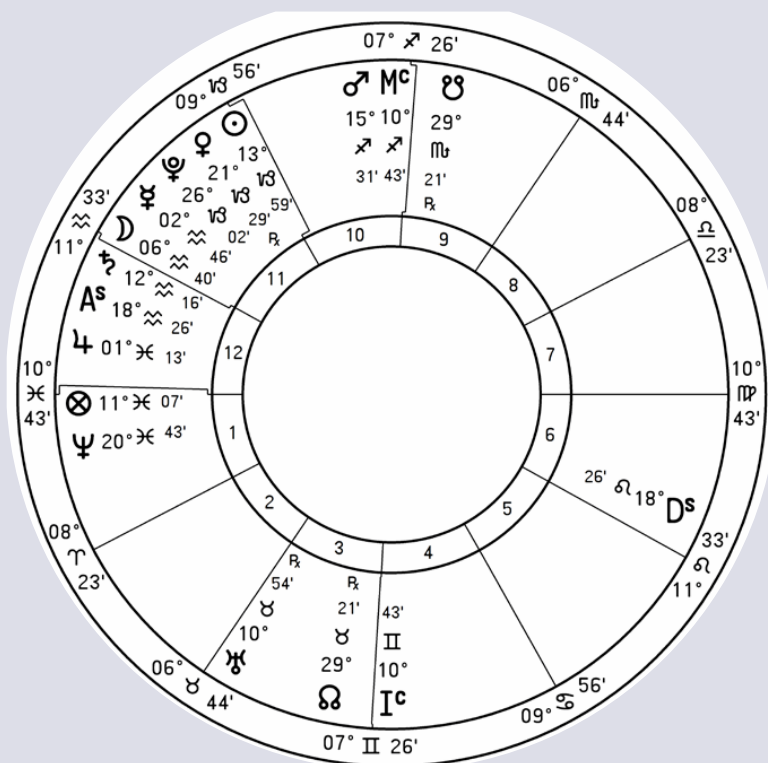
equal parts. We then project these points from the equator to the ecliptic along longitude lines drawn from the ecliptic's north and south poles to determine the house cusps. Because the celestial equator is simply a projection of the Earth's geographical equator into space, any equator-based system will be quintessentially tied to the Earth and events on its surface.

**Regiomontanus Houses** are like the Morinus houses, but instead of longitudinal



Morinus Houses

Dark green = equator. Meridian = light blue. Red = ecliptic. Dark blue = horizon. Latitude lines are drawn from the poles of the ecliptic (light green). Image: Janus 5





## ASTROLOGICAL HOUSE DIVISION

lines from the north and south pole of the *ecliptic*, lines are drawn from the north and south poles of the *prime vertical*, projecting the house cusps from the equator to the ecliptic. This combines the prime vertical's 1st and 7th House overtones with the symbolism of the equator and its connotations of movement and the rotation of the Earth, which results in a powerful system that brings the cusps of the astrological houses down to earth. In my opinion and experience, this makes Regiomontanus an ideal system for finding lost objects!

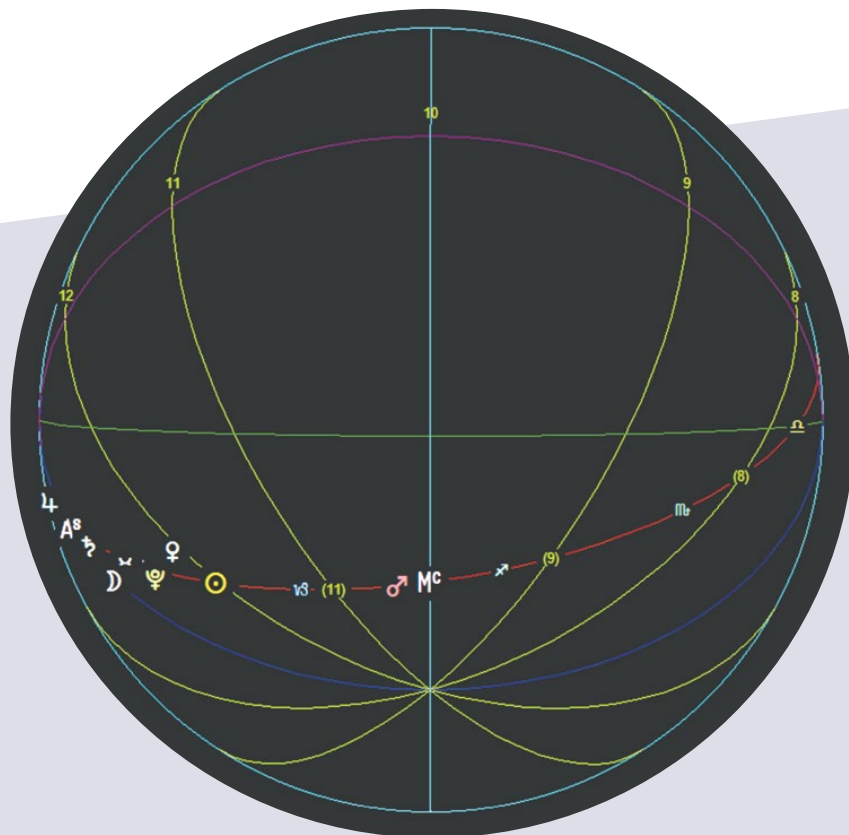
Regiomontanus in a powerful system that brings the cusps of the astrological houses down to earth. In my opinion and experience, this makes Regiomontanus an ideal system for finding lost objects!

Rather than using the Earth's equator as its base, Campanus uses the prime vertical itself as its primary circle, dividing it into 12 equal parts.

**Campanus Houses** take things a step further than the previous space-based systems. Rather than using the Earth's equator as its base, it uses the prime vertical itself as its primary circle, dividing it into 12 equal parts. The longitudinal lines are taken from the north and south pole of the prime vertical.

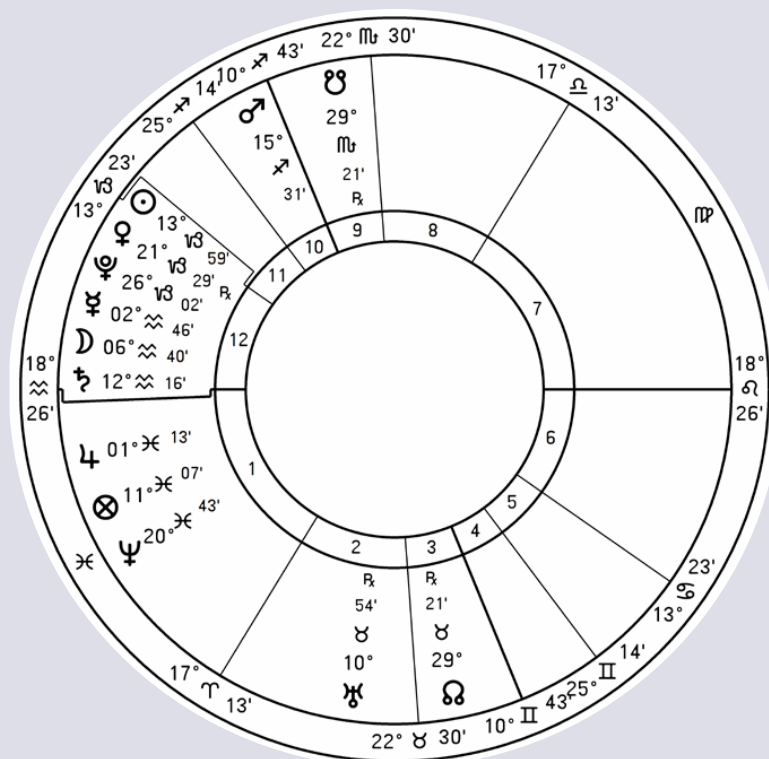
Once again, the starting point of the 10th House cusp is the M.C., but this time the 10th House starts where the meridian meets the prime vertical. Because the meridian comes from the north/south axis of the prime vertical itself and is at a right angle to it, the M.C. falls at the same longitudinal position on the ecliptic. The Ascendant locks into the cusp of the 1st House.

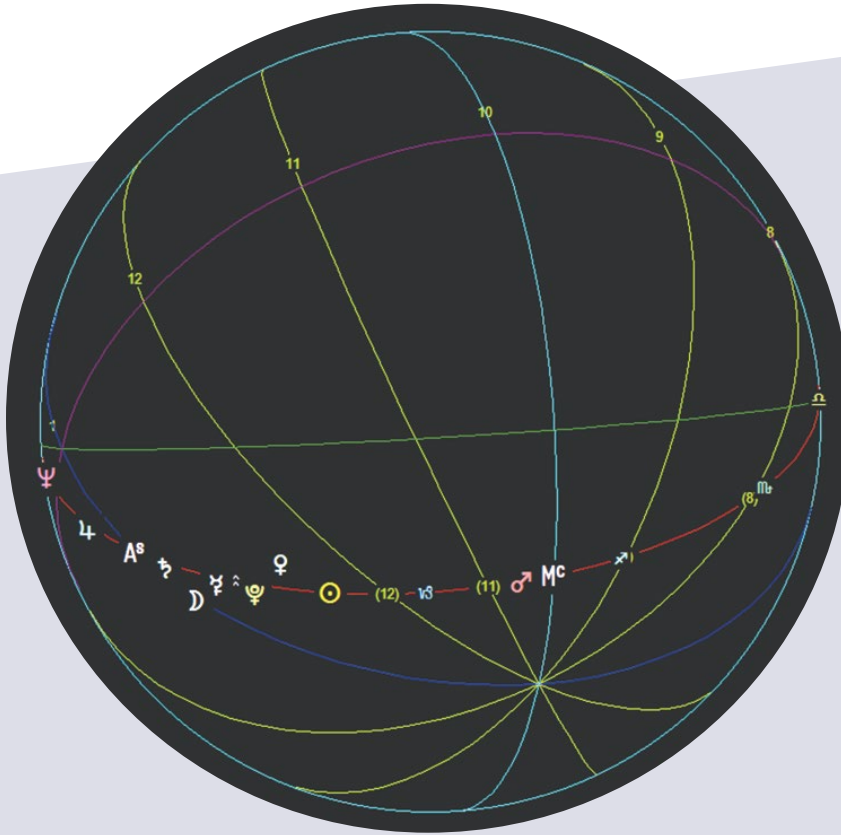
The symbolism of the prime vertical corresponds to the symbolism of the Ascendant and Descendant. Also, the zenith lies at the culmination point of the local meridian, at exactly a right angle with



*Regiomontanus Houses*

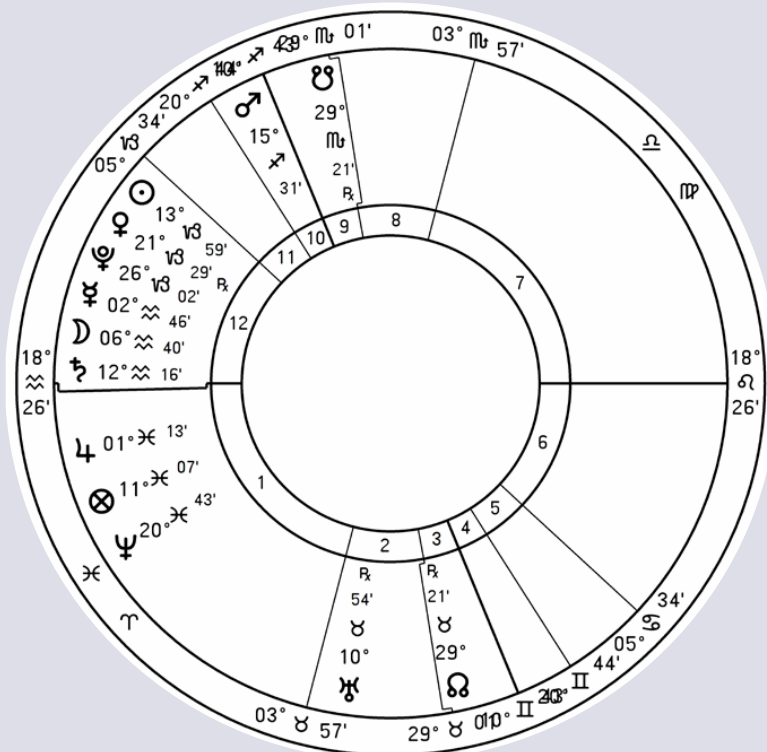
Purple = prime vertical. Dark green = equator. Meridian = light blue. Red = ecliptic. Dark blue = horizon. Latitude lines are drawn from the poles of the prime vertical.





*Campanus Houses*

Purple = prime vertical. Dark green = equator. Meridian = light blue. Red = ecliptic.  
Dark blue = horizon. Latitude lines are drawn from the poles of the prime vertical.





## ASTROLOGICAL HOUSE DIVISION

the local horizon and prime vertical, making its symbolism highly personal. It is no wonder that Dane Rudhyar used this as his preferred house system for his humanistic brand of astrology!

### TIME-BASED SYSTEMS

The **Alcabitius** House System measures the *time* it takes for the point of the Ascendant to rise to the midheaven, and simply trisects the result to mathematically determine the house cusps. It applies the same procedure from the point of the IC to the Ascendant. This was the preferred house system of Bonatti.

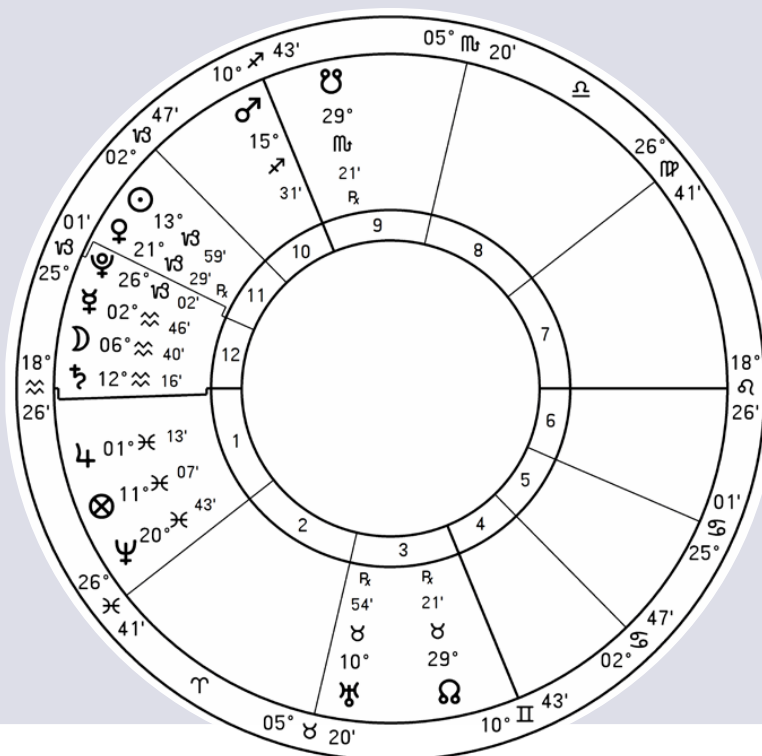
Alcabitius is similar to the idea of the Porphyry system, except that it trisects *time* rather than the ecliptic. Through its use of the rotation of the Earth itself as the basis of determining the house cusps, this system is tied more closely to the Earth and what goes on within it, as well as the humanistic symbolism of the Ascendant rising from the point of the horizon through time.

Alcabitius is similar to the idea of the Porphyry system, except that it trisects time rather than the ecliptic.

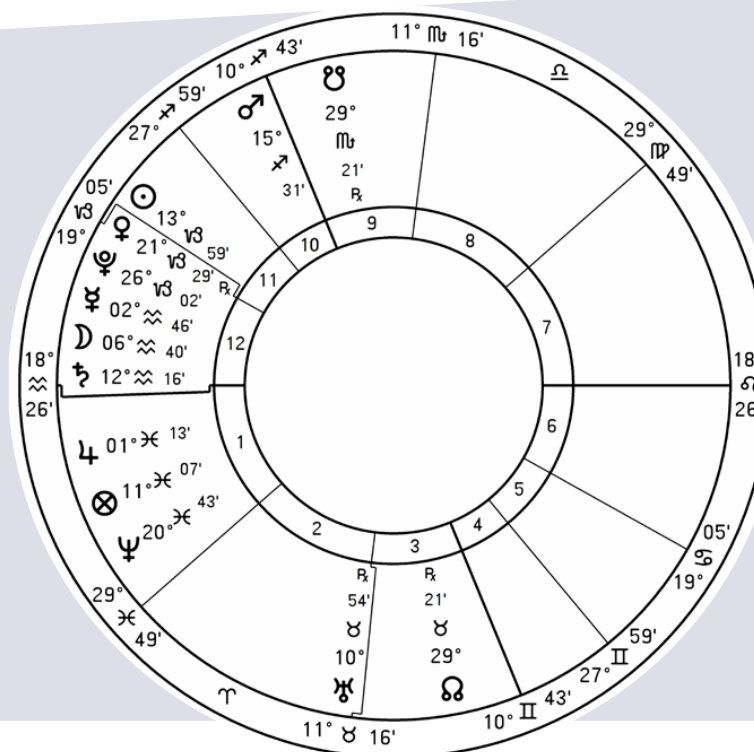
Koch Houses are calculated in a similar manner to Alcabitius, except that we go backward in time.

**Koch Houses** are calculated in a similar manner to Alcabitius, except that we go backward in time in Koch, rather than forward, as in Alcabitius. The time it takes for the point of the M.C. to reach the Ascendant is measured backward in time and then trisected. The times are then projected onto the ecliptic. Symbolically speaking there is more of an emphasis on the M.C. in this system, which would highlight the 4th/10th House axis.

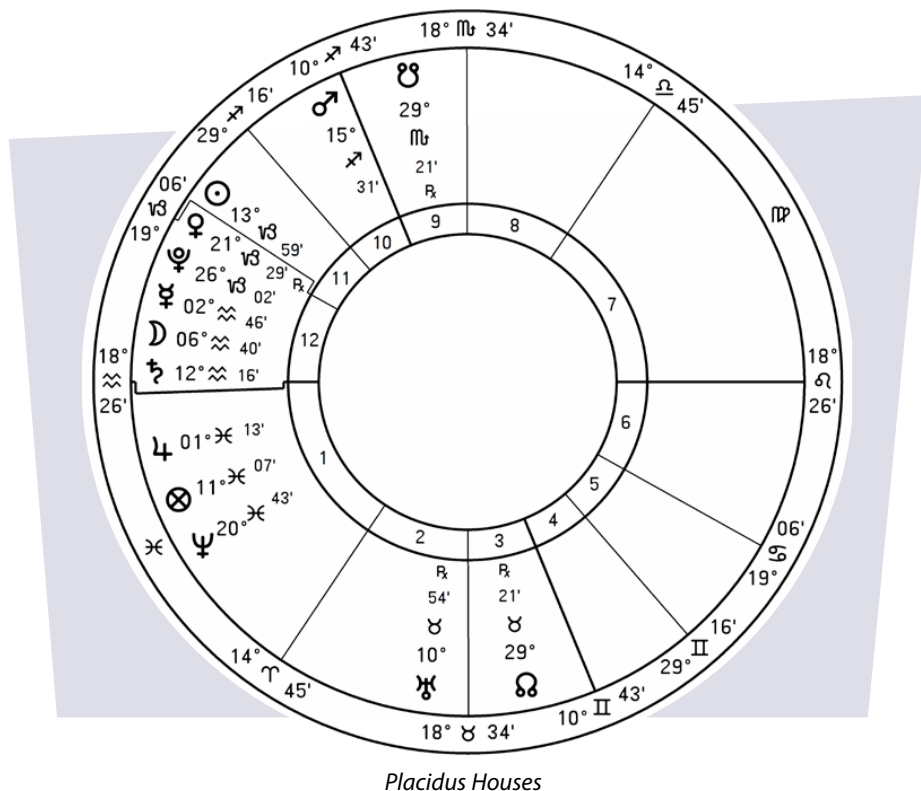
**Placidus** builds on Alcabitius, going further by taking into consideration the varying times of right ascension (diurnal motion) for the signs of the zodiac: some



*Alcabitius Houses*



*Koch Houses*



Symbolically the Placidus system is closest to the reality of being on the planet Earth.

signs take longer than others to rise over the Ascendant.

Placidus considers this in the calculation of houses and is an elegant refinement of the Alcabitius system. Symbolically this system is closest to the reality of being on the planet Earth. Because of this and its heightened use of the Ascendant, it is a factor in what makes Placidus work so well in connection with psychological and evolutionary natal astrology.

### Conclusion

As mentioned at the beginning, all of these house systems work in practice. The way to think of them is not that one is “right,” and another “wrong”, or that one is inherently better than another. A more effective approach might be to make use of more than one house system when analyzing a natal chart. One could liken this to a photographer who takes many photos of the same subject from different perspectives.

As we have seen, each house system is based on a different set of celestial circles, which render varying house cusps

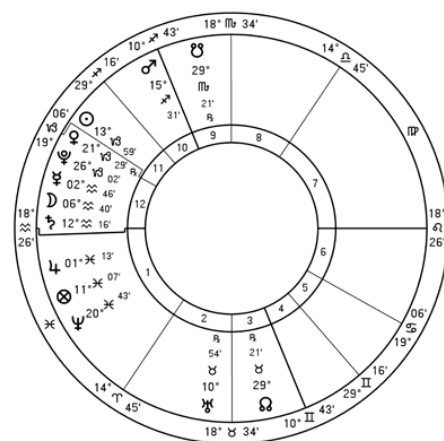
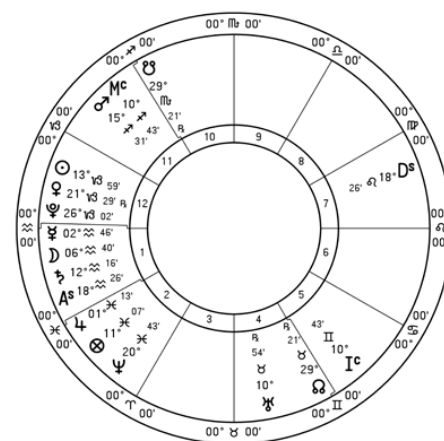
and sometimes put planets in different houses. Let’s say that this happens when using WSH and Placidus on the same natal chart. Consider this example (see charts at upper right):

The planets are in different houses, oh dear! What do we do?! Which chart do we use? Which one is “right”?

The answer to this question is that both charts are right; the only thing that is happening is that we are seeing the same native from different perspectives! It is not a question of choosing between one or the other. Both should be interpreted.

When looking at a natal chart, I have found it is best to try putting the information in more than one house system to see if any of the planets change houses. When they do, I look at the changes with interest and delineate both.

I’ve found that working simultaneously with two house systems often yields interesting information. For example, if I’m using WSH and Placidus, when I see a planet move from one house to another, I interpret both and see what resonates with the client. With clients who are past their second Saturn return, I have found that both usually resonate, representing different aspects or periods of their lives. For younger clients, this is not always the case, because it may be that the symbolism represented in one of the charts has not happened yet.



Which house system you use might depend on what you’re trying to do. For prediction, you might use one system, for dealing with a client going through emotional turmoil, another.

For horary, it does not make sense to use more than one house division system because horary doesn’t work like that. In horary, you can use any house system you want, as long as you tell the universe which one you intend to use before casting the chart... And the universe will respond accordingly! In natal astrology, changing house systems gives you alternative views on different areas of the native’s life.

I’ve found that working simultaneously with two house systems often yields interesting information.



## ASTROLOGICAL HOUSE DIVISION

In conclusion, I put forth that all the symbolism I've mentioned represents ideas to get the conversation going among present-day astrologers. Rather than arguing in favor of one house system over another, it makes sense to focus your research on which house system is best for specific astrological techniques, based on the celestial circles that come into play.

In this article, I have barely touched the surface of what the symbolism of each celestial circle might represent. These topics need further reflection and meditation

by our community. I look forward to further discussion and research into this area by my fellow astrologers.

Grateful acknowledgement in preparing this article to the following resources, recommended for further reading:

Bruce Scofield - *Astrological Chart Calculations* (2018) One Reed Publications  
Graham Bates - *The Astronomy of Houses* (2014) Urania Trust  
Martin Gansten - *Primary Directions* (2009) The Wessex Astrologer  
Deborah Houlding - *The Houses* (2006) The Wessex Astrologer

And to Bernadette Brady, whose workshop on house division sparked my interest in this fascinating subject.

**Rhys Chatham**, STA DipH, AFAN, MAPAI, is a professional astrologer based in Paris, France, with clients from all over the world. He studied 20th-century astrology with Charles and Vivian Jayne in the late sixties and seventies and, more recently, has been immersed in the practice of traditional astrology, having studied Hellenistic astrology with Chris Brennan, Renaissance astrology and magic with Christopher Warnock, and advanced horary study at the School of Traditional Astrology. Rhys is also a hermetic kabbalist and has been a member of various lodges in the U.K. since the year 2000. **Website:** <https://rhysastrology.fr/>

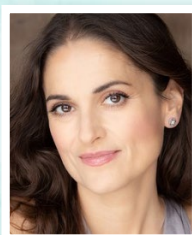
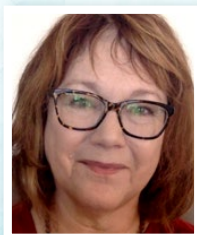


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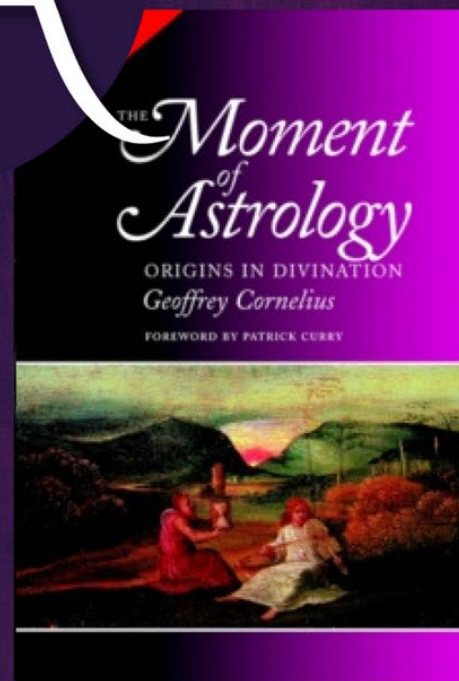
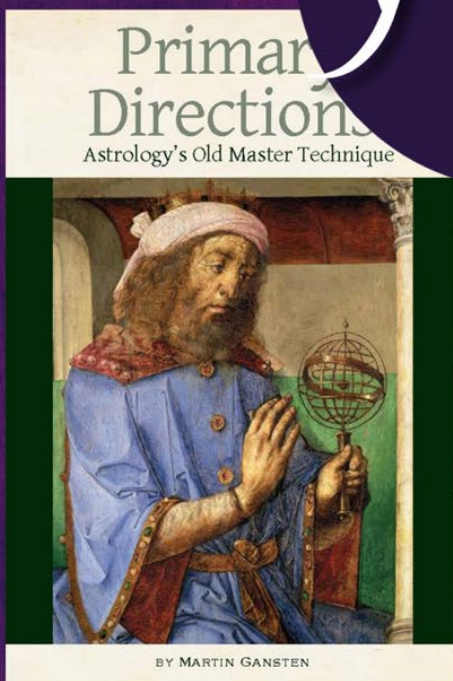
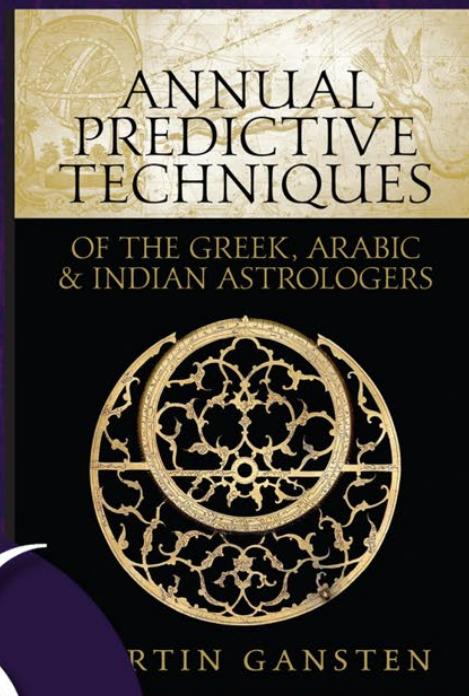
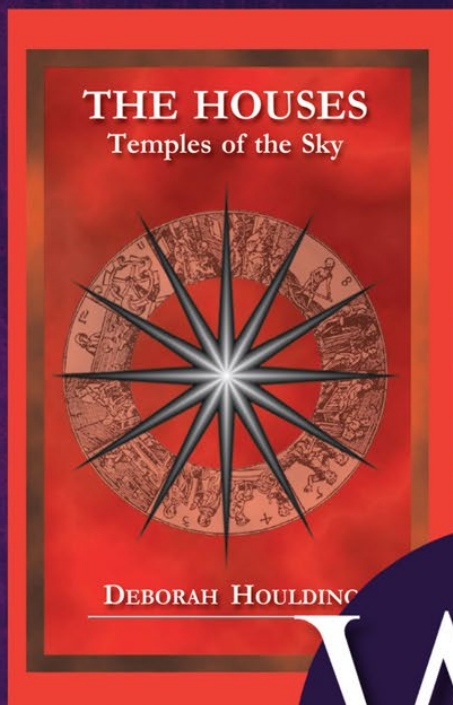
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# THE PERSONAL LUNAR CYCLE

by Aureal Williams

## A Lunar Love Story

Our Moon's consistent ebb and flow offer a structure and connection that anchors me to life. The structure comes through pattern recognition<sup>1</sup>, and the connection comes through the embodiment of a cosmic cycle. The Moon's rhythms are a visceral experience for me. Aligning with them is the ultimate form of self-care.

The upward pull during each Second Quarter phase draws me into action. The downward force I feel during each Fourth Quarter delivers me into a stillness that brings death to effort.

There is a Buddhist teaching, "*Form into Emptiness, Emptiness into Form.*" This teaching reflects the Moon as she cycles through her phases. Each New Moon brings us out of the void of emptiness into the form of a new cycle, with imperatives to begin anew.

As the Moon grows into her full light, we expand with awareness and connection. After this culminating point, we return to the emptying out that comes with the last

half of each lunar cycle. Here, we have the chance to release and let go.

This pattern of ebb and flow has been consistent throughout human history. The same ebb and flow rhythm exist within our bodies, and we see it played out with the tides. This rhythmic cycle presents a pattern we can recognize, trust, and embody.

## The Personal Lunar Cycle

Since the cycle from one New Moon to the next occurs simultaneously for everyone

The New Moon of the  
Personal Lunar Cycle  
begins with your  
Sun/Moon phase  
angle return each  
lunar month.

on Earth, this rhythm can be considered the **Collective Lunar Cycle**. There is another Lunar Cycle to follow, the **Personal Lunar Cycle**. This cycle represents a pattern of energy based on the Moon's phase at birth.

The New Moon of the Personal Lunar Cycle begins with your Sun/Moon phase angle return each lunar month. For example, my Sun/Moon phase angle occurs at 290 degrees, 54 minutes of the 360-degree cycle. When the Sun/Moon phase angle reaches that degree in each new cycle, that date and time represent the New Moon in my Personal Lunar Cycle.

Add one week to each phase to get the four quarters of this cycle. For instance, what I call the Second Quarter and is commonly known as the First Quarter, comes one week after the Sun/Moon phase angle return. The Full Moon in the Personal Lunar Cycle comes two weeks after the Sun/Moon phase angle return, and the last Quarter comes three weeks after the Sun/Moon phase angle return.

Hank Friedman, an astrology software expert,<sup>2</sup> shares that several leading astrology programs include the option for determining the Sun/Moon phase angle each month. I have direct experience that both Solar Fire and AstroApp provide this feature.

## Awakening to the Technique

My awakening to this technique occurred in 1997, and I remember it distinctly. I lived on a lake in Boxford, Massachusetts. It was a quiet community with horses in backyards. The environment was peaceful.

I had just left a position as Nurse Research Coordinator on a national Pediatric AIDS research project that involved a local team of 24 people from two major Boston hospitals. This timeline coincided with the notorious "Big Dig," a Boston area highway reconstruction project. Travel time between where I lived and worked ranged from forty-five minutes to two hours. A boss demanding that I start work on time contributed to my stress.

The mothers and fathers of the young pediatric patients in the study were not communicating their HIV status to one another. This disregard for another's safety profoundly impacted stress levels because, as healthcare providers, we were bound by strict ethics regarding patient privacy. The fact that the moms and babies were dying at an alarming rate added to the work trauma.

It was a stressful time, and my inner life cried for relief. One of my nursing skills was in helping people relax during procedures. I resigned from that employed

position and translated the capacity to help people relax into self-employment, teaching relaxation and guided imagery.

Months after leaving, I remember resting on my bed during the day, looking out at the lake, and being thoroughly distressed because I was so exhausted. Liberated from the work stress and living in a peaceful community, I was bewildered by how blood and bone tired I felt.

The American Federation of Astrologers still published their AFA Circle Calendars then, and that calendar was and remained, through Matrix Day Watch Calendar Software,<sup>3</sup> my favored astrological calendar.

Wearied and reclining on the covers, I reached for the calendar. A pattern recog-

nition popped up as I saw that I was just about to have a Sun/Moon phase angle return. Inner fireworks exploded! Of course, I was fatigued because I was in the Dark of the Moon phase that preceded the New Moon of my phase angle return.

Excited, I tracked this pattern for two years and found it a reliable predictor of energy. Anchored in the reliability of the pattern, I started teaching it to groups of relaxation clients, people who knew nothing about astrology. They were simply interested in a greater connection with our Moon. I wrote about it in an article titled *Personal Lunar Cycles* for *The Mountain Astrologer*, June/July 1999<sup>4</sup>. TMA kept that article as an Editor's Choice for about ten years.

The teaching process I used then and still do includes a didactic component where I teach the eight Lunar phases, followed by a deep relaxation exercise and guided imagery. In the guided imagery, participants review their connection with the Moon from birth until the present time. At each stage of their lives, participants imagine looking at the Moon in the night sky to notice the phase. The experience ends with each person marking down on a blank eight-wheel chart what they feel is their natal Moon phase.

In all these workshops, participants have intuitively known the phase of the Moon in which they were born. If they were born at a Quarter Moon, they might have the Moon facing the wrong direction; however, they correctly marked a Quarter Moon phase. These workshops support my experience that cosmic alignment goes beyond the logical mind. The connection between celestial bodies and human beings is authentic and interactive and can be felt as an embodied experience.

### The Personal Lunar Cycle in Practice

Each occurrence of the Sun/Moon phase angle return differs depending on the sign, house placements, and transiting aspects. What stays consistent is the pattern.

I look at the charts; however, the critical point for me is to time the Dark Moon phase in both the Personal and Collective Lunar Cycles. Because I feel these ebbs so distinctly in my body, I mark the darkest Dark of the Moon, 24 hours before each New Moon in both the Collective and Personal Lunar Cycles, as days off. I ensure I have groceries stocked to avoid traffic, bright lights, and shopping commotion. I have books to read and minimize social and professional commitments. I let demands for house cleaning go.

The sensate experience during Dark Moon times in the Collective and the Personal Lunar Cycles feels like a gravitational pull. I am magnetized toward stillness, toward quiet introspection, toward observance. I often must take to the bed to rest, let go, and allow for the dissolution of one cycle into the next. Dark Moons in both cycles are fertile ground for intuition.

Ignoring this inward turn results in a depressive gloom. Not slowing down or stopping during an ebb time is against the natural order and feels like trying to go upstream in a downstream time, or like Sisyphus with his boulder.

Cosmic alignment goes beyond the logical mind.

The connection between celestial bodies and human beings is authentic and interactive and can be felt as an embodied experience.

The teaching process I used then and still do includes a didactic component where I teach the eight Lunar phases, followed by a deep relaxation exercise and guided imagery.







period represents an ultimate self-care day for being quiet, reflective, and still.

In 25 years of practice with this technique, I have seen that people born from the New to Full Moon do not need to come to a complete stop during their Personal Dark Moon. Those born in the last half of the Lunar Cycle, from Full to the end of the cycle, tend to benefit from limiting responsibilities and commitments and stopping more fully during the Dark Moon phase in the Personal Lunar Cycle.

The nature of the first half of the cycle is building and generating. In contrast, the last half of the cycle is about disseminating and releasing. The hemispheric half of the Moon in which one is born can be recognized as an energetic pattern expressed throughout the lifetime.

### And There is More

The Sun/Moon phase angle at birth offers a predictable energy pattern that follows one through life. This imprint also provides clues to personality traits expressed throughout the lifespan.

Erik Erickson was a psychologist who advanced a theory of development called the Eight Stages of Human Growth and Development.<sup>5</sup> His stages of development directly reflect the eight phases of the Moon. The accompanying chart identifies keywords for personality imprints related to Erickson's eight stages and our Moon's phases.

Those born at the Balsamic Phase or the New Moon are border-crossers. They are genuinely coming from form into emptiness or emptiness into form. These people reflect high levels of intuition and

The nature of the  
first half of the cycle  
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generating. In contrast,  
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and releasing.

instinctual knowing. These stages are like the infant stage in Erickson's theory for the New Moon and the end-of-life stage for the Balsamic phase.

People born in the Second Quarter (more commonly called the First Quarter) question authority. The tension with this phase angle is to push against authority, as in the opening square. This external resistance happens with two-year-olds and

teens pushing up against limits to stretch into their growth.

The Gibbous and Full Moon phases correlate with Erickson's adult stages. The Gibbous phase represents the patience required in waiting for the Moon to become Full. With the Gibbous phase, one can feel like they are always reaching for something beyond contact.

With Full Moon people, contact has happened, and the light of connection is established. People born at this phase have many responsibilities with lots of people in their lives. They are lit with life.

If one has a Disseminating or Fourth Quarter phase angle at birth, the life focus is on sharing knowledge. These phases rep-

Those quiet people in  
your life or practice?  
Look to see if they are  
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resent the mature adult in Erickson's stages. People with well-integrated Disseminating or Fourth Quarter phase angles can be experts at letting go.

Even for a client who is an octogenarian, if they are born at a New Moon phase, they will have an infant quality to their life. This association is not negative; it is that they reflect the wonder of the new throughout their lifespan.

The same goes for an infant born at a Full Moon stage. Even non-verbally, this little one will light up the room with her Full Moon imprint.

Those quiet people in your life or practice? Look to see if they are born toward the end of the lunar cycle, where the focus of their living is reflective, quiet, and introspective.

### Conclusion

From the beginning of human life on Earth, our Moon has reflected the perpetual pattern of life and death. She mirrors the in and out rhythms, like our breath and heartbeat. Living in sync with this ebb and flow provides a structure that optimizes self-care and aligns planning and scheduling with nature.

Adding the Personal Lunar Cycle to the Collective Lunar Cycle can enhance the benefits of embodied living with our

## 8 PHASES of the Moon

### KEYWORDS

#### NEW MOON 0 to 45 deg.

Gestational, Formless to form,  
Instinctual

#### CRESCENT 45 to 90 deg.

Formation of boundaries  
Tension of external resistance  
— Self/other delineation  
Filtering, development of  
objectivity

#### SECOND QUARTER 90 to 135 deg.

Decisive action.  
Breaking away, as in age two and the  
teen years.  
Differentiation.  
Instinctively grounded, emotionally  
developing.

#### GIBBOUS 135 to 180 deg.

Maturation.  
Increasing energy of potential.  
Persistently refining path through  
inner questioning.

#### FULL MOON 180 to 225 deg.

Full revelation: conscious meeting of  
mind/body.  
Crisis of choice: yes or no.  
Acceptance: continuation on  
the path  
Resistance: the realignment of will  
with Soul Purpose

#### DISSEMINATING 225 to 270 deg.

Reciprocity. Responsibility. Wisdom,  
Integration.  
Returning -- sharing wisdom, giving  
back to the collective.  
Avoid alienation and promote con-  
nectedness.  
Beginning of the dissolution stage,  
spiraling back toward  
The formless/emptiness phase.

#### FOURTH QUARTER 270 to 315 deg.

Visionary. Revolutionary.  
Afraid of death or accepting of the  
cycle of life and death.  
Transcendence of form, transcen-  
dence of rejection

#### BALSAMIC 315 to 360 deg.

Perception. Dissolution. Nebulous —  
knowing without knowing how.  
Seeing between realms.  
Honor.



## THE PERSONAL LUNAR CYCLE

Moon. Because modern society is so far removed from nature, it can take up to two years to feel this Personal Lunar Cycle as a visceral experience.

If you feel the invitation, please consider tracking this cycle. Give yourself time, over many Moons, to start awakening to an embodied relationship with our Lunar Light. Anchoring in Her rhythms gives us the good timing that comes from cosmic connection.

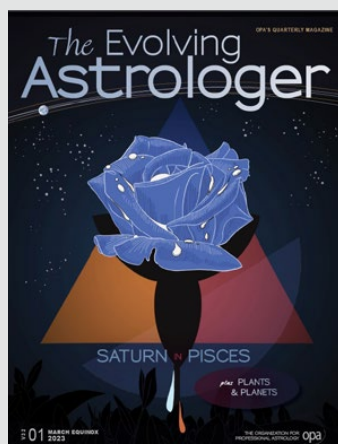
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- 1 Newman, Margaret, Nurse Theorist, and author of Health As Expanding Consciousness <https://www.amazon.com/Health-Expanding-Consciousness-National-Nursing/dp/0763712779>. Newman suggests that pattern recognition is a measure of health and wellness.
- 2 Hank Friedman can be reached at <starsoulback@gmail.com>
- 3 [https://www.astrologysoftware.com/pro/day\\_watch/index.html](https://www.astrologysoftware.com/pro/day_watch/index.html)
- 4 This article was published under my former name, Samten Williams
- 5 <https://www.erikson.edu/about/history/erik-erikson/>

**Aureal Williams** is the author of *5D, Ordinary Descriptions of an Extraordinary Shift*. Her astrological practice focuses on embodying the Moon's rhythms and on understanding pertinent placements of the recently discovered Kuiper Belt objects within the birth chart. For clients interested in a series of work, she includes guided imagery sessions for a direct experience of planetary connection. A sample of *Love in the Frequency of You*, a monthly subscription-based report on Kuiper Belt Objects, can be viewed here. Her complimentary newsletter, *5D, Here, Now*, is available by subscription through a link at the bottom of her blog page. You can read more about Aureal and her work at her <https://aurealwilliams.com>. She welcomes conversation and connection with other astrologers.



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Ava is an astrologer based in Spain. Broadly educated in the arts, her visual work is inspired by tales, myths and legends. Blending the strength of archetypes, symbolism and otherworldly imagery with social awareness, she illustrates astrological atmospheres from a feminist and inclusive point of view. Apart from her consultations and art, she enjoys the company of plants and dogs, witches, favourite trees and wildlife. You find her in her website [www.avastrologia.com](http://www.avastrologia.com) and social media accounts.

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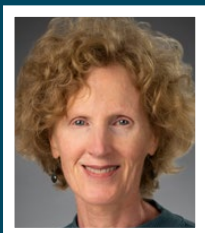
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# THE ASTROLOGY OF SHAME

WHEN YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH

by Andrea Conlon

Shame is possibly the most difficult and misunderstood emotion we experience. It is insidious and crippling, and more common than one might think. I propose that, to one degree or another, we all deal with it in our lives.

*Mindful Self-Compassion* is a growing movement in psychotherapy that addresses shame. As counseling astrologers, we can trust that we have a powerful tool that offers self-compassion quite naturally. This article focuses on the psychology of shame, how it appears in astrology, and astrology's inherent capacity to mitigate shame.

## Dynamics of Shame

At its core, shame is the fear that I am flawed in a way that renders me unlovable. It is an emotion whose roots lie in the innocent wish to be loved, which never goes away, from birth onward. This is our deepest longing. "All of us have loved someone fiercely who could not love us back."<sup>1</sup>

Shame may also be essentially tied into our ancient limbic survival neurology; where we are shamed, we may be cast out from the necessary support system of the tribe and will die. Hence, the grip it has and the importance of dealing with it.

Internally, shame is a self-attack and involves negative self-evaluation, such as

*I am bad/inadequate/flawed/a failure.* In this way, it is like an autoimmune disease, eating away at us inside. There is also a social or external component, a real or imagined fear that others see me as bad and flawed and are contemptuous of me. But even more debilitating is that shame breeds isolation and concealment. Shame is hidden; people often don't even know it's there.

Shame is now studied and worked with through the doorway of self-compassion; it is the first step in the process of healing shame. It seems paradoxical that we practice self-compassion not to get rid of unwanted feeling states, but *because* we are suffering. It's a subtle shift of motivation away from the fantasy of being able to evacuate a painful feeling, to allow it to shift organically by softening into it with warmth and kindness. We are deserving of this kindness simply *because* we are suffering humans.

Research shows that we are more capable of giving compassion to others than to ourselves.

Research shows that we are more capable of giving compassion to others than to ourselves. It takes courage to move past our shame toward the realization of our goodness, despite our flaws. Learning to practice self-compassion can free us from a compulsive seeking of mirroring from the outside. In fact, self-compassion promotes emotion regulation and self-soothing, which are key therapeutic actions. We can be comforted in our *common humanity*, a core healing component of self-compassion practice, in that shame is shared by all.

However, this path is not a quick fix. Just as practicing meditation doesn't guarantee enlightenment, working with shame can be a life's work.

## Astrology as Cosmic Mother

Astrology's mythopoetic lens can be fundamentally compassionate, like a nurturing Great Mother. The highest guidance from our astrological chart communicates a deep level of permission for us to be wholly ourselves. People come to us to be nourished by a cosmological model that says, 'I see you,' 'you are not flawed,' ... 'you belong and are meant to be exactly as you are'. Our spiritual DNA is a microcosm of the solar system which means we are good, just as the cosmos is good.

When we work with a client, we are always confronted with various questions and problems. But beneath it all, our client's unconscious question may ultimately be, 'am I still loveable even though I am also a flawed human?' We can meet this essential question with astrology, that when used as a therapeutic tool, amplifies our energies. It encourages us not to skip over difficulties but to bring compassionate awareness to them. Therapeutic astrologers need to engage with the issue of shame because it can so block the flowering of our potential. Even if we don't use the word explicitly in

the client setting, we can be aware that we are helping to heal underlying shame.

### Astrology as Cosmic Mirror

As one young and troubled client implored, “*tell me who I’m supposed to be!*” To see oneself in astrology’s cosmic mirror can help orient our lives. Mirroring is a *relational nutrient* that is foundational to our selfhood, and if our mirror is contaminated by harshness, criticism, or abuse, shame will grow. Seeing oneself in astrology’s cosmic mirror softens the bite of shame. When we can label the dynamic of shame for our clients, we bring it out of the darkness where it festers.

Astrologers who practice non-judgmental witnessing can be accurate teachers of self-compassion with our laser view into the psychic structure. “*All psychotherapeutic approaches, in the end, depend upon an individual making peace with what he or she is in order for any healing to take place.*”<sup>2</sup> As counseling astrologers, we aspire to give people a feeling of being found but not overly exposed.

The illuminating nature of astrology is beautifully articulated by Dane Rudhyar, who wrote:

“*What astrology can help us do is to discover consciously what our thwarted instincts are no longer able to reveal...to our confused ego.*”<sup>3</sup> We can bring restoration to the self.

### The Usual (Planetary) Suspects

While there are many ways that shame could appear in the chart, I’ll focus on the key planets of **Saturn**, **Pluto**, and **Chiron** because they are most strongly associated with shame.

Our natal **Saturn** placement may harbor shame because it is often where we’ve experienced insecurities, failures, and deprivation. Whenever we are tasked by Saturn, there is always the possibility of falling short. Where Saturn lies, we may feel like we’ve gone through the school of unrelenting hard knocks. It can help people to know that we’ve all got this thorny place we’re working on throughout life. When a person recognizes the universal humanity of Saturnian lessons, it can be easier to heal the wounds of shame with self-compassion. With experience, wisdom, and consciousness, Saturn becomes the foundation of our Great Work.

**Pluto** relates to shame in a very different way. Where Pluto lies, we can be twisted by shame. It can indicate where we have experienced injury or violation. For example, several of my clients have strong Sun/Pluto contacts, and the therapy has centered on healing injuries to the sense of self. A Sun/Pluto contact likely

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resonates with a lifetime of buried need to be valued and validated. It might even be inherited. Unconscious feelings, passed from generation to generation, can feel like a family curse! A Sun/Pluto contact can be a curse-breaking aspect.<sup>4</sup> Our Pluto placement is not empowered until we’ve done work to cleanse the shame or trauma concealed there.

### Shame as a Multigenerational Legacy

A recent emergence in the contemporary conversation around healing is the realization that we carry the unresolved wounds/trauma of our ancestors, both on the collective and the individual level. The past is present in our genes and in our ner-

vous systems. Pluto issues point us back to our family ancestors — to elements in the family psyche that have begun to poison us<sup>5</sup>. It says —now it’s our turn to clean something out from the ancestral line. Strong Pluto aspects to the Sun or Moon suggest the need for this transformative process.

It is helpful to broaden the context of a painful dynamic within us. We can realize the wound is something we carry, but we don’t have to over-identify with it. It’s a burden that affects only a part of us. This, too, is *common humanity*. It’s not a problem; it’s part of the human experience.

With **Chiron**, we come to a more idiosyncratic wounding. Just like in the Greek myth, our Chiron wound is accidental. To be wounded so makes us feel like we’ll never get over it. Where Chiron is, we can feel misshapen like Quasimodo in The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Yet, paradoxically, there’s freedom and authority in that. Working with the wounding expands our horizons, even as it makes us work with our limitations. We can work with Chiron by becoming more objective and accepting the flawed nature of the human condition<sup>6</sup>. We might become wise healers and teachers, like Chiron in myth.

We serve our clients well when we empathize with their Chironic wounds — ones that can so easily result in shame. For instance, if we see a Chiron/Moon interaction, it can indicate shame from not being loved or nurtured as was needed to thrive.





## ASTROLOGY OF SHAME

We can set a workable frame for healing this by understanding that *feeling* there is something wrong with you is not the same as there *actually being* something wrong with you. We can also reflect that the beautiful potential in a Chiron/Moon interaction is a deeply empathic nature, with a capacity to profoundly relate to and understand other people's pain.

### Shame-Prone Signs

While shame can correlate with many signs, I'll focus on two that are particularly problematic in our superficial culture — Virgo and Scorpio.

While shame can correlate with many signs, I'll focus on two that are particularly problematic in our superficial culture — Virgo and Scorpio.

Virgo is an essential and integral part of our life, with its drive for excellence through clear perception. However, it is also a sign that is prone to self-criticism and self-judgement —the core hallmarks of shame. Virgo's laser beam of analysis can be mercilessly directed inward at the self. Of Virgo, Steven Forrest has stated, "*you are learning to love yourself, but in the most difficult possible psychological environment —a n honest mind.*"<sup>7</sup>

Scorpio, too, may be shame-prone, because it lives in emotional depths which are often pathologized in our superficial culture. Likewise, the sacred quality of our Scorpionic sexuality has been a particular target of shame through the ages. It's important to remember, however, that shame is a universal emotion and is present in people with little to no Virgo or Scorpio planets.

Astrology allows us to identify and work with a dynamic instead of being blindsided by unacknowledged and unwanted feeling states. The symbols of astrology bring guidance and meaning so we can work symbolically with challenging emotional states.

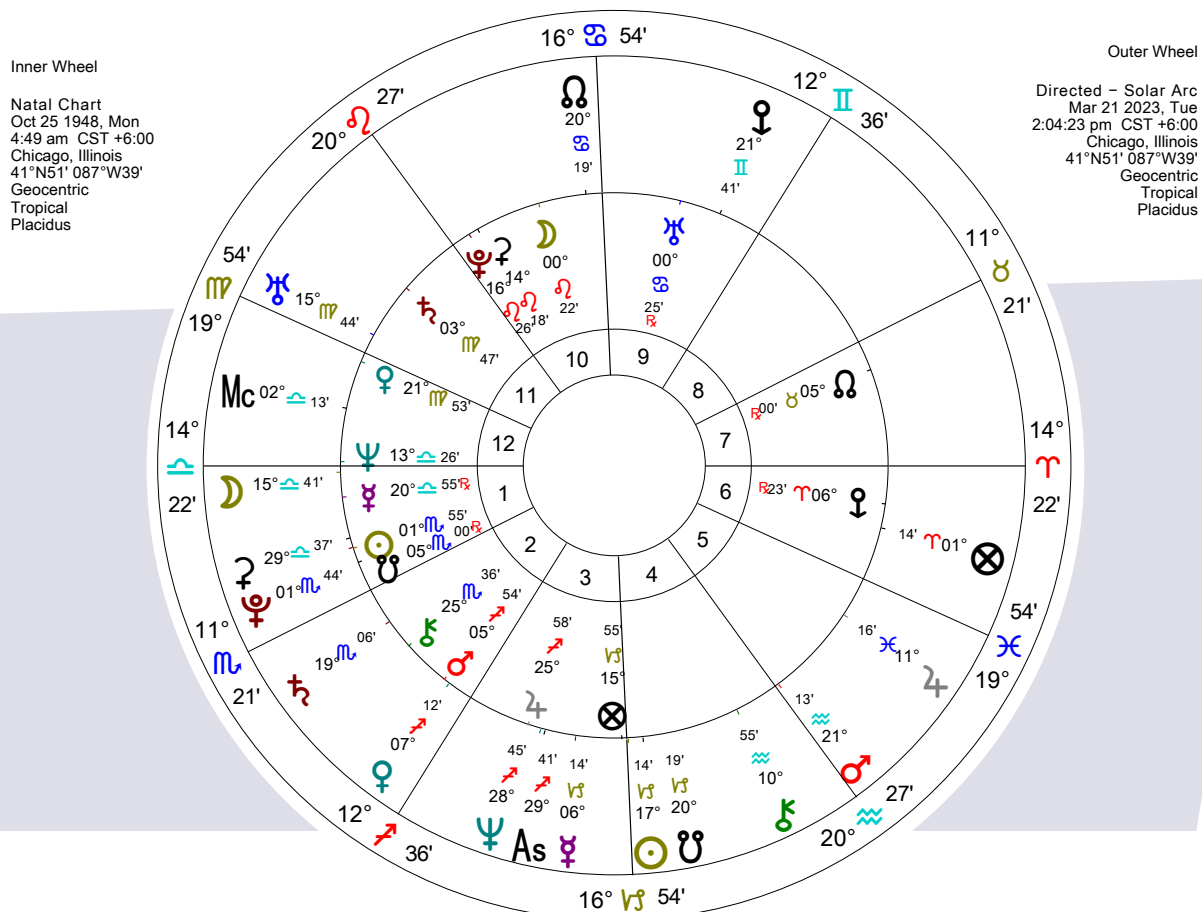
### Chart 1

Here is a chart (below) of someone in the middle of Solar Arc Pluto conjunct a

Sun/South Node conjunction in Scorpio, and in square to the Moon in Leo. Notably, this is one of the most intense Pluto events of a lifetime! This progression is directing her into her psyche to clean out a deep soul wound.

She has described herself as shame-prone, and in childhood, even thought of herself as a 'bad seed'. Sadness can overwhelm her. She finds herself revisiting a depression she often experienced in her youth. There is grief for what might have been, yet hope as Pluto's relentless process of death/rebirth breaks down an old self, and a new self struggles to be born. Although we can doubt ourselves and judge this kind of process, our sacred art helps us see that important inner work is going on. Rather than resist the process, she is learning to practice self-compassion to honor this work and soothe herself.

This chart carries both strong Scorpio and Virgo influences. With Saturn in Virgo in the 11th House, we see that Saturn's Great Work is to develop her skills and offer them to serve the larger community. Virgo's self-consciousness in a group setting can feel raw and provoke shame. But here is where her Scorpio depths and emotional honesty integrate well with her Virgo desire to be of service.



## Grief and Shame

Shame often appears in our lives with other difficult emotions in tow. For example, our clients may be grieving major losses in life — a career, a relationship, or even their own impending death — with features that trigger shame. Deep emotional states are not honored in our culture, so sadness and suffering can elicit shame. How crazy-making, to suffer deeply and then to feel shame for our suffering! This happens in a culture with a wounded feeling function, such as ours, where we're taught to control strong feelings the culture deems shameful.

### Chart 2

Here is the chart (below) of a person who was in grief. As transiting Saturn crossed her Scorpio ascendant, her husband died in front of her in a hospital exam room. Death is often so messy! Here, a new extremely fraught cycle of self-identify was inaugurated where she instantly became a widow and single mother. Transiting Saturn brought a heavy burden of responsibility. Complicating things, the marriage had likely been headed for divorce. She felt both relieved that he was gone, and also, remorse for how she had treated him. Her

Her feeling of 'badness' was extreme, and that is when we know we're in the territory of shame. We make space for all of this intensity with love and acceptance.

feeling of 'badness' was extreme, and that is when we know we're in the territory of shame. We make space for all of this intensity with love and acceptance.

### Conclusion

As Brian Swimme said, "all our disasters today are directly related to our having been raised in cultures that ignored the cosmos for an exclusive focus on the human."<sup>8</sup> This is true of our internal/mental disasters also. Astrology speaks the language of the soul and is an antidote and tool to help us love ourselves just as we are now, not when we're 'better.' As it has worked healing

magic in our own lives, so we seek to pass on the gift. We are cosmically informed empathic companions to our clients.

As astrologers, working with shame is some of the deepest work we do with our clients; it is a hero's journey. Although difficult, being part of that journey provides rich rewards. As Shakespeare might have said, the quality of this collaborative healing is *twice blessed; it blesseth him who gives and who receives.*

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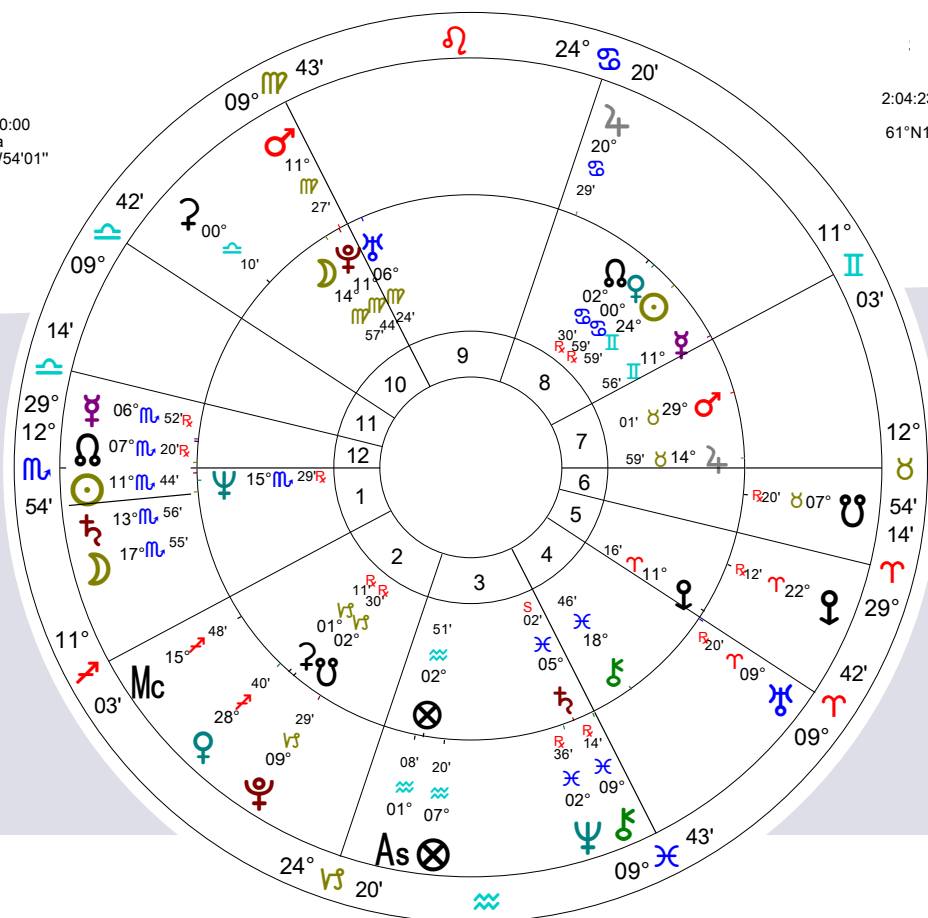
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Inner Wheel

Natal Chart  
Jun 15 1964, Mon  
5:07 pm AHST +10:00  
Anchorage, Alaska  
61°N13'05" 149°W54'01"  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus

Outer Wheel

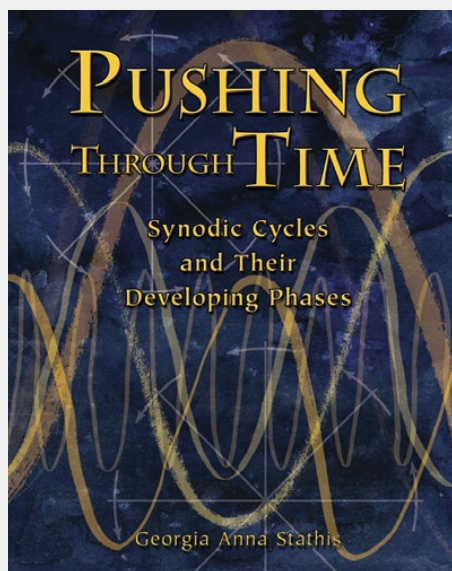
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2:04:23 pm AHST +10:00  
Anchorage, Alaska  
61°N13'05" 149°W54'01"  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus







# Book Review



## PUSHING THROUGH TIME SYNODIC CYCLES AND THEIR DEVELOPING PHASES

BY GEORGIA STATHIS

This book is a must-read about synodic cycles, including how the cycles of slower-moving planets are punctuated by simultaneous cycles of other planets. A key rule to remember, **Georgia Stathis** writes, “*is that nothing is ever isolated nor is there just one circumstance that affects markets or individuals.*”

The book begins with a note about the distinction between *synodic periods* — the

length of time a celestial body takes to make a full revolution of its orbit — versus a *synodic cycle* which doesn’t involve the Sun or Moon but is measured by “the interval between two successive conjunctions of any two planets.” Mundane astrologers study synodic cycles to understand historical developments and trends in business and financial astrology.

That’s one of the things Georgia specializes in. If you haven’t already, check out the interview she gave to *Career Astrologer* for the September 2022 issue, in which she talks about her 50-year astrology career and other parts of her successful life.

In *Pushing Through Time*, Georgia reviews the 8-fold lunation cycle as the template for working with planetary synodic cycles. Then she highlights two approaches: 1) transit-to-transit; and 2) the less common approach of looking at the transits of faster-moving planets to the original conjunction point of a two-planet synod. Transit-to-transit cycles are highlighted by the 8th harmonic aspects between two planets in motion, from the new phase through to the balsamic. With the second, less common approach,

For each of the outer planet synodic cycles from Jupiter/Saturn on out to Neptune/Pluto, Georgia demonstrates the technique of combining transits-to-transits with the transits of the faster planet to the conjunction phase.

Georgia shows how the faster of the two planets continue to aspect the original conjunction. This secondary “pre-cycle” is a foundation for what is to come in the transit-to-transit cycle.

An example of a recurring cycle is evident between the Uranus/Pluto conjunctions of the U.S. Civil War era and the mid-1960s civil rights era. By 2018/2019, faster-moving Uranus reached the degree of the 1850 conjunction, and Uranus was also in the Full Moon phase to the 1965/66 conjunction. Against the backdrop of a long outer planet cycle, aspects made by the faster-moving planet can be seen as pushing along the themes of the longer-running cycle; in this case, struggles over civil rights.

For each of the outer planet synodic cycles from Jupiter/Saturn on out to Neptune/Pluto, Georgia demonstrates the technique of combining transits-to-transits with the transits of the faster planet to the conjunction phase. She also shows how to add shorter, inner planet cycles as pivotal times within slower synodic cycles. In particular, she points to Mercury/Saturn conjunctions, which occur about four times during each of Saturn’s 2.5-year sojourn through a sign. While Mercury’s conjunction with any other planet brings that planet’s essence more obviously to our attention, a Mercury/Saturn conjunction is an “anomaly” because it “embeds a deeper message, thought process, or change in consciousness.” In the back of the book, she’s got a worksheet for how to track themes of synodic cycles in relation to your own chart.

That makes this book an excellent guide both for forecasting worldly events and for observing how our individual growth cycles are also pushing through time.

Review by: Sara R. Diamond

Author: Georgia Stathis  
Starcycles Publishing, 2018



# The Forrest Center for Evolutionary Astrology

## A Trade School for the Soul

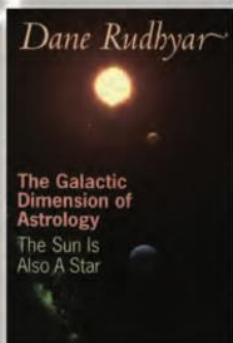
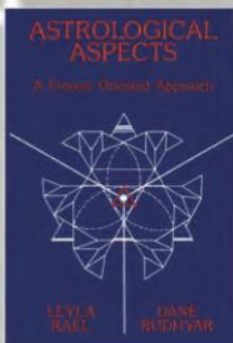
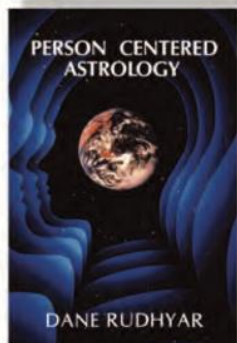
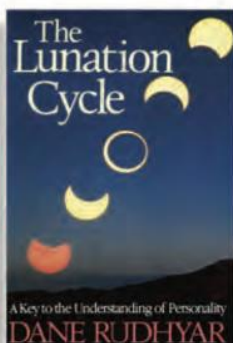
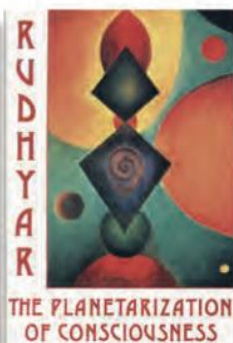
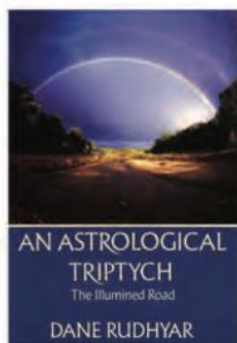


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# Pluto in Aquarius Finding Your Muchness

by Georgina Sierra

*"You used to be much more... 'muchier'.  
You've lost your muchness."*

- The Mad Hatter, in Tim Burton's 2010  
movie 'Alice in Wonderland'.

**O**n a glorious spring day in Sydney, I met with a friend and esteemed astrologer for lunch. The conversation flowed from what was happening in our lives to astrology.

*"How are you tracking with your midlife transits?" I asked. "I finished mine this year, and to be honest, I am a thousand times better than before they happened."*

*"Don't ask," she began. "I have lost all respect for Pluto. He turned my life upside down this year. I'm not the same as I was before."*

It brought a scene from 'Alice in Wonderland' to my mind when Alice questions herself after falling down the rabbit hole. My astrology buddy continued to tell me how difficult the transit was for her, about how Pluto brought her face-to-face with her inner demons and deepest fears.

Pluto transits require  
us to pay attention.  
It is time to heed the  
invitation to a  
divine calling.

Transiting Pluto does precisely that, whether making a major or minor aspect to a natal chart.

Pluto represents "the will of the soul" and "requires the freedom to be and to become." Pluto always makes his presence known, revealing the "deep unconscious need to explore certain core emotional and psychological realities that stem from the higher/deeper self."<sup>1</sup> Pluto transits require us to pay attention. It is time to heed the invitation to a divine calling.

## PLUTO SYMBOLISM

When each transpersonal planet was discovered, the corresponding era flavored astrologers' interpretation of that planet with what was prominent in human consciousness. The discovery of **Pluto** coincided with the time humanity discovered *existentialism*, a philosophical theory emphasizing that by merely existing, we can determine our own development. With free will, individuals choose to face realities head-on, accept the challenges presented, and carve initials on the tree of history.<sup>2</sup> As existentialism rose in popularity, it was a timely call for personal transformation.

## SYMBOLISM FROM MYTHOLOGY

To understand the planet **Pluto** and its symbolism in astrology, I will go back to my ancestral roots in Greek mythology.

Pluto (Hades) was the ruler of the underworld. He was the lord of the dead and the giver of wealth, yet with all that power, he was lonely and wanted a wife. To satisfy his desires, Pluto abducted Persephone, the daughter of the goddess Demeter.

Pluto claimed Persephone as his wife and queen of the underworld. Demeter was so devastated by this turn of events that she abandoned her duties as the goddess of fertility. In turn, the world had no crops. Through these dark times, Demeter was experiencing grief from the loss of her daughter. She decided to face her demon, Pluto, and come to a truce with him.

Demeter and Pluto negotiated and agreed that Persephone would split her time, spending six months with her mother and the rest of the year with her husband. When Demeter was happy with her daughter by her side, the crops were bountiful.



*Abduction of Persephone by Ippolito Scarsella (Called Scarsellino), circa 1550 – 1620 (Wikimedia Commons).*

When her daughter was away as co-ruler of the underworld, Demeter was sad, and the crops were barren. In this way, the ancients explained the seasons.

Both Demeter and Pluto have a link to fertility. Demeter was the goddess of harvests. As the god of the underworld, Pluto was also a giver of wealth, including spiritual wealth. The Greek philosopher Socrates stated that Pluto is the "giver of wealth, which comes out of the earth beneath."<sup>3</sup>

In this myth, each character attains wealth through their transformation. Before the transformative event of the abduction, both Demeter and Persephone feared what was under the earth. They feared the dark and unseen. When Pluto emerged, their fears came to light.

Demeter experienced the mortal fear of loss and learned how to navigate it. Through her grief, she accepted it was time to let go of her daughter. Demeter gained new wealth as she adapted to altered circumstances, perhaps finding new interests. Pluto's wealth expanded with a much-desired wife to share his kingdom and additional responsibilities as a husband.

*What about Persephone?* As a creature of beauty and grace, she may have resisted going into the underworld. Many artists attempted to capture the action and the emotional impact on the charac-

Ancient Greek mythology reflects different values than contemporary Western culture, emphasizing patriarchy, women as property, and glorifying violent triumphs. Yet, wisdom can still be plucked from mythological stores.

ters. In most interpretations, Persephone is shown resisting abduction, but not all. For example, in the *Abduction of Persephone* by Scarcellino (previous page), Persephone's lower body and face are turned toward Pluto, not the mortals tugging at her arms. *Was Persephone attracted to Pluto? Did she want to change on some level and realize it was time to evolve?* Persephone, like all mortals, may have discovered she has a dark side and learned to accept it.

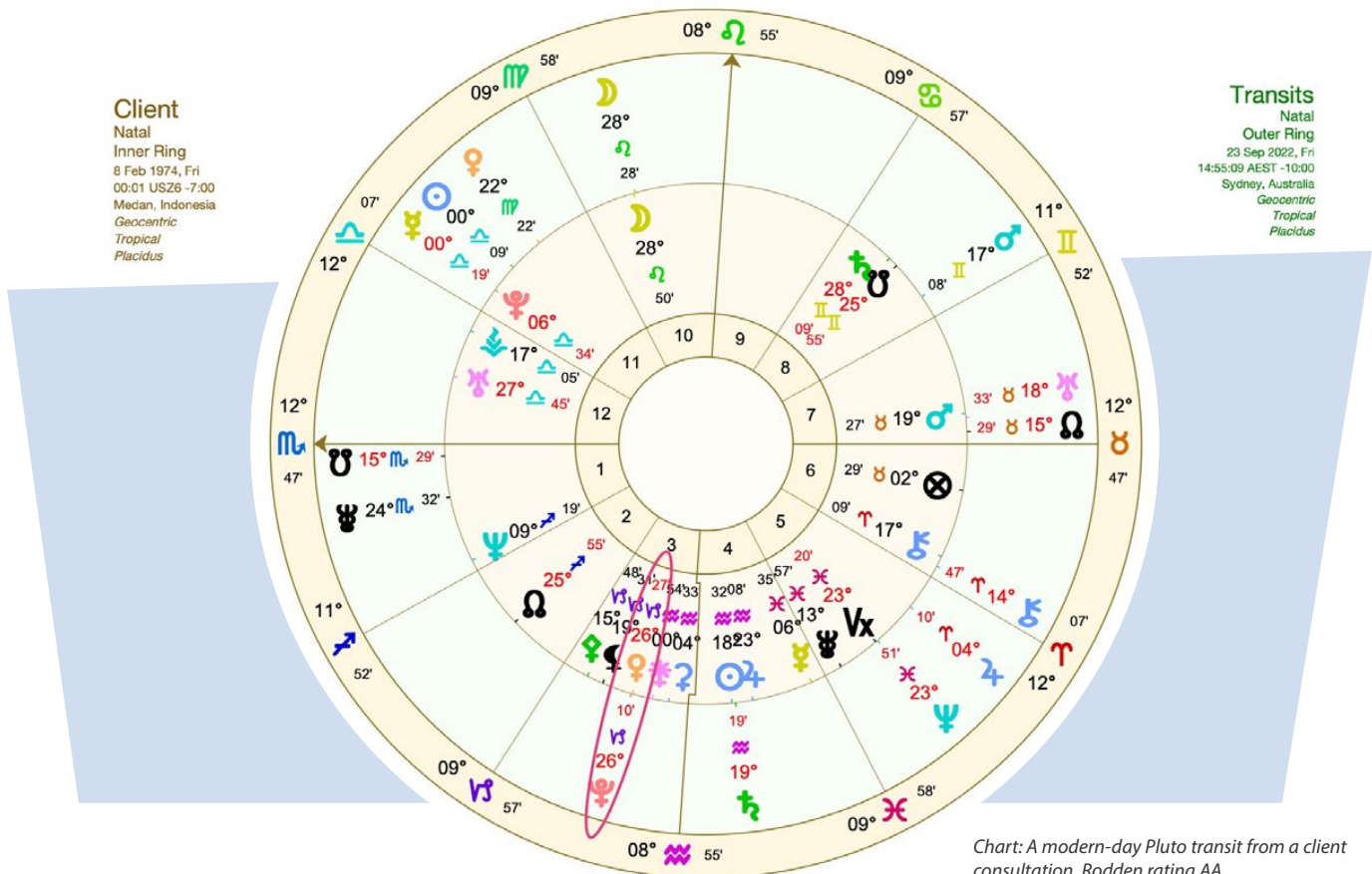
Ancient Greek mythology reflects different values than contemporary Western

culture, emphasizing patriarchy, women as property, and glorifying violent triumphs. Yet, wisdom can still be plucked from mythological stores. Sometimes we must face unpleasant things and accept what cannot be changed. In Persephone's case, I like to think that she used this opportunity to grow, choosing to transform into the queen of the underworld over and over again. Her spiritual wealth was in acceptance and empowerment.

The changes Pluto brings must be embraced. It is a time to face demons and fears as Persephone and Demeter did. Facing dark challenges in life is critical for evolution into the true self. Pluto brings people into truth, forcing each person to be honest with themselves, to find spiritual wealth, and to find their 'munchness.'

## PLUTO IN MODERN TIMES

I have explored how mythology can transform a character's life, *yet what can this look like in modern times?* Pluto transits manifest as significant life changes. For example, a few months ago, I received a phone call from a distressed client. After analyzing her birth chart, I pulled up the bi-wheel with the transits of the day (see Chart A below). Transiting **Pluto** was **conjunct** her natal **Venus** to within 17 minutes of exactitude. I knew something was





## PLUTO IN AQUARIUS

changing in her relationships in a significant way. During the consultation a couple of days later, she confided in me that she had filed for divorce, and her youngest child had completed their gender transition within the last year.

### SCHOOL OF PLUTO — CRAMMING TIME

For the first time in 248 years, soon after the **March 2023 Equinox**, Pluto will take his first steps into the sign of Aquarius. This offers a glimpse into what life may be like for the next twenty years. Pluto stays in Aquarius for only a couple of months (March 24 - June 12, 2023) before returning to Capricorn during his retrograde phase. When Pluto returns to direct motion (October 11, 2023), it will be this final time in Capricorn for another 248 years. He re-enters Aquarius on January 22, 2023.

In March 2023, **Saturn** moves from Aquarius to **Pisces**. The great teacher, Saturn, was like a relief teacher. When he made his way through Aquarius, he gave a taste of the lessons to come. Saturn prepared humanity by bringing Aquarius into our collective consciousness before Pluto makes it a reality.

Pluto will bring an intense cramming session while he lingers in the final degrees of Capricorn. Stephen Forrest has aptly coined it as, *Capricornosis*.<sup>4</sup> Imagine you are a student at the *School of Pluto*. The semester started in January 2008 when he moved into Capricorn. As Pluto moves through the last two degrees of Capricorn, you are cramming at the end of the semester to submit all assignments and finish exams. The marks achieved will be listed, and the results of how you fared will be shown during the following semester when Pluto sweeps through Aquarius.

We have one  
new astrological  
consideration for  
Pluto this time that  
we didn't have during  
the previous transits in  
the astrological  
consciousness:  
the modern ruler of  
Aquarius, Uranus.

## THIS TIME AROUND

Monumental historical events occurred the last few times Pluto moved through Aquarius, and colleagues have wonderfully discussed them in other articles. We have one new astrological consideration for Pluto this time that we didn't have during the previous transits in the astrological consciousness: the modern ruler of Aquarius, **Uranus**. I propose that societal changes will be more enlightened and advanced with Uranus in the mix this time.

Plutonian energies are a source of change and transformation in life.<sup>5</sup> At the collective level, there will likely be a rise in the use of artificial intelligence. The technological innovation and adoption rate is more rapid when Pluto is in Aquarius.

I suspect that the generations incarnated in this century (who have no idea how to survive without a mobile phone) will push for more technological advancements. Yet, society could shift in the other direction. Humans may decide that, as significant as these changes are, we want to reject technology and return to a simpler way of life. Therein lies a potential challenge. *If humanity rejects technology, can we go back to how we were? Or will Pluto stop the march for technological progress and push for a return to nature? How far are we willing to go with technology to preserve our species?* The events of the next twenty years will be stamped as an epoch of significant change.

## THE DARK SIDE OF PLUTO

As an evolutionary astrologer, I look for the positive in the malefic side of the planets. Each aspect is a challenge that we must face and conquer. Of course, I can't bury my head in the sand as Pluto transits can also signify actual events. Pluto can bring traumatic occurrences like debilitating disease (Pluto square or opposite natal Sun), destruction of property (Pluto in 4th house), and loss of loved ones (Pluto in 8th house). Bad things happen in life, yet I believe that the more we accept these events, the less we feel like victims of Pluto.

When you see Pluto applying to a natal planet, life is about to change. Forewarned is forearmed. It is time to rise to a challenge.

### PLUTO'S IMPLICATIONS BY RISING SIGN

History reflects what this transit can bring on a collective level, which is also experienced on a personal level. Mythology depicts intense encounters that cause significant life changes. Individuals might anticipate Plutonian impacts based on multiple factors, including:

- Other planets in the natal and transiting charts
- The house Pluto is transiting
- Planets in the **Aquarian** house of our natal chart

Due to the elliptical orbit of Pluto, his transit through Aquarius will be extended. The lessons involved are a slow, evolving process. It can be helpful to note the aspect Pluto makes with the natal Ascendant to delineate potential experiences. I have used this method to delineate each rising sign.

**Aries/Aries Rising and Sagittarius/Sagittarius Rising:** Creativity is your focus for the next twenty years. Opportunities may come with ease that will change life for the better. Collaborations will feel like someone is holding one's hand along the way. Partnerships are highlighted.

**Taurus/Taurus Rising and Scorpio/Scorpio Rising:** Pluto's transit through Aquarius may feel like a cross to bear. You may experience an internal conflict between what is done vs. what should be done. This pressure can push you to action, doing what is right for yourself at last. Now is the time to transform into your true self and move toward your life's purpose.

**Gemini/Gemini and Libra/Libra Rising:** In the next twenty years, it may look like transformation is easier for you than for others, at least on the surface. It won't all be smooth sailing if you become complacent. Being too relaxed can be a waste of energy. It is time to achieve what **Pluto** wants you to complete. Now is your time to shine!

**Cancer/Cancer and Virgo/Virgo Rising:** During this transit, there will be things that will feel like they aren't going anywhere. It will feel like there is a blockage of some sort, and it may be hard to comprehend why things aren't working out. There is a reason why. The old ways don't cut it anymore, and it's time to do things anew. Changes you experience will feel foreign. These new lessons are from a soul level, not on the surface or material realm. It is a time to embrace these lessons that will bring you growth and unimaginable potential.

**Leo/Leo Rising:** There will be a feeling of tension in life during this transit. Whether external or internal depends on where this happens in your chart. The psychological pressure may seem insurmountable, but there is a lesson here.

Whatever is causing tension needs resolution. Your challenge is building a bridge between yourself and the cause of the tension, balancing both sides.

**Capricorn/Capricorn Rising and Pisces/Pisces Rising:** A blockage may appear from a hidden source; it's low intensity but persistent. The way to overcome these minor, nagging blockages is to face them and learn the lessons. It won't be evident at first, which will be a source of frustration. You may find that recruiting opinions and advice of others will open your eyes to what isn't visible.

**Aquarius/Aquarius Rising:** This transit focuses on the self. When Pluto crosses your natal Ascendant, you may reshape your entire identity and personality.<sup>5</sup> When you reflect on this period, you may realize it denoted 'finally being true to yourself.' The aspects and planets involved with this transit of **Pluto** will play a significant role in your life over the next two decades.

By the end of our  
astrology lunch, my Astro  
buddy and I realized  
Pluto had pushed us to  
the edge of where we  
feared to tread.

### CONCLUSION

By the end of our astrology lunch, my Astro buddy and I realized **Pluto** had pushed us to the edge of where we feared to tread. Facing **Pluto** transits either in midlife or any other time can be a blessing in disguise. We both appreciated what **Pluto** had done for us. We finally knew who we were to the depths of our cores. We had faced him in our darkest hours to evolve into the light anew. We finally found our 'muchness.'

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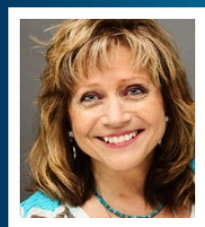
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# THE US PLUTO RETURN AND COVID-19

FROM AN EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE

by Diane Trimbath

**A**s Pluto leaves Capricorn in Nov 2024, the USA Pluto return will wrap up its 248-year cycle. As a result, the United States of America could undergo profound changes in its national identity as it releases deep-rooted traditions of the past.

Revolutionary ideas will likely involve partnerships to address the global management of disrupted environmental, economic, and capitalistic structures. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the USA Pluto return, we may begin to see new forms of intercontinental diplomacy develop. Over the last three years, the global breakdown of capitalism has increased awareness of the importance of protecting natural resources within each nation.

## The Big Picture

Pluto and Neptune are the two outermost planets in our known solar system and define the 'big picture' of the lessons in store for humanity regarding our evolution. Key placements in the charts of the USA (Sibly), the New York stock market, and the first COVID-19 case directly link in and align with the Neptune/Pluto Great Conjunction of Aug 2, 1891. These three events activated the expression of the Great Conjunction story, triggered by Pluto transiting through Capricorn.

The intensity of the USA Pluto return, the unpredictability of the stock market, and the chaotic state of global affairs post-COVID-19 are extreme expressions of great

social transitions within our society. Each offers key 'wake-up calls' on their own, yet the combined breakdowns initiate a shift in human consciousness across the planet. A united transformation of **emotional (in) security is emerging** as we gain a greater understanding of our world's physical and environmental laws.

## The Neptune/Pluto Cycle

The Neptune/Pluto Great Conjunction marks a cultural turning point on Earth every 492 years. Throughout the cycle, the collective psyche of humanity, spirituality, and reverence for life ascends to a higher level of conscious understanding. Our current cycle began at 8° Gemini 37' on August 2, 1891 (see chart 1).

This conjunction in Gemini, involving the Moon's Nodes across the 3rd and 9th Houses, announced a new collective learning age. Our understanding of the environment in which we live is the focus. Global communications, travel, transit, and commerce will likely suffer survival issues, power struggles, and major shifts in attitude before the cycle completes.

The **Neptune-Pluto** conjunction was in a mutable grand square with **Mercury, Saturn, and Jupiter**. This aspect pattern

Neptune/Pluto Great Conjunction  
Natal Chart  
Aug 2 1891 NS, Sun  
7:06 pm UT +0:00  
Greenwich, England  
51°N29' 00°W00'  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
0° Aries  
True Node

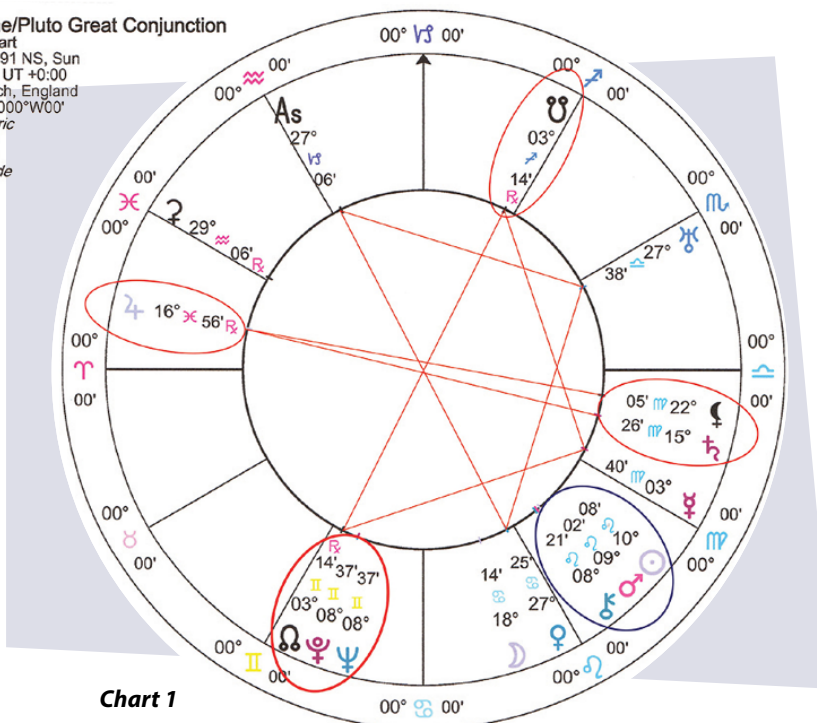


Chart 1

suggests we will likely need to overcome great obstacles, to broaden our understanding of environmental and social consequences, as we explore and evolve our footprint on Earth. By the time the cycle completes, we may establish a united system of management to protect the people and the planet.

### Significant Events of the 1890s

The 1890s heralded breakthroughs in science, technology, and communications. It was a period of stimulating new relations, managing land and transit reforms to increase the nation's productivity from coast to coast, and addressing the challenges that progress created. See the cardinal T-square in chart 1, involving **Uranus** in the 7th House, **Venus** in the 4th House, and the **Ascendant (ASC)** in the 10th House.

**Pluto** rules the masses and demands evolutionary growth. **Neptune** dissolves barriers and invokes new vision. In the 1890s, we began to see the establishment of national parks, breeding animals through *in vitro* fertilization, effective treatments against agricultural diseases, and new developments in anti-toxins to immunize people and animals.

Early computers tabulated census records as the population grew, the development of radio replaced the telegraph, and the telephone facilitated quick, person-to-person communication. The invention of television followed in 1927, becoming the dominant form of mass communication over vast distances.<sup>1</sup>

Nikola Tesla invented the alternating-current power system that provided electricity for homes, buildings, and machines. He also pioneered new technology fields using wireless transmission, remote control, hydroelectric power, magnetic fields, electric motors, laser, x-rays, robotics, turbines, and more.

The 1890s marked the end of the Reconstruction Era within the USA (1861 to 1900), as the country struggled to integrate millions of newly freed African Americans into social, political, and labor systems.<sup>2</sup> The Gilded Age (1877-1900) saw rapid economic growth in the USA, and industrialization demanded an ever-increasing labor force. As a result, an influx of millions of Europeans came to address labor shortages in the railroad, factory, farming, ranching, and mining industries. Public schools at the elementary and high school levels were established.<sup>3</sup>

Until the mid-19th century, no global time system existed. Due to the expansion of railway and communication networks, Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) became Britain's legal standard in 1880. The USA also chose Greenwich as its national time zone system, and 72% of the world's commerce used Greenwich as the Prime Meridian. Therefore,

from 1884, Greenwich became the center of world time, regulating time zones globally.<sup>4</sup>

### The United States of America

Cast the 1891 **Neptune/Pluto Great Conjunction** chart for Greenwich, England, and something interesting occurs. The **Ascendant (ASC)** falls at **27°Capricorn 06'** (see chart 2). Ironically, this is the degree of the USA natal **Pluto** at **27° Capricorn 32'** (see chart 3).

In Sibly's USA inception chart, **Pluto** is located in the 2nd House. Pluto defines the point where the nation's 'known power'

is demonstrated at home and in the world. It also identifies the country's basic security needs. Therefore, the self-preservation of the country requires responsible and fair management of the people's security and collective 'mass' wealth.

As the USA matures, focusing on democratic growth and international diplomacy in business ventures, its global leadership has been determined by its success in capitalism and economic status. By the early 20th century, the USA had become the world's powerhouse, maintaining self-sufficiency by partnering with foreign nations

Neptune/Pluto Great Conjunction

Natal Chart  
Aug 2 1891 NS, Sun  
7:06 pm GMT +0:00  
Greenwich, England  
51°N29' 000"W00'  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node

Chart 2

US Sibly Chart

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

Chart 3



## US PLUTO RETURN AND COVID-19

and becoming the #1 global producer in gross domestic product.

Paradoxically, this placement also shows where the USA is most vulnerable. During this Pluto return, the USA has been struggling with economic self-sustainability. Maintaining protection over the mass wealth of the people, honoring all monied contracts with allies, and operating a fair system of justice are essential challenges.

As of 2022, we are witnessing instability and division, involving standards of democracy, the country's ability to govern, the allegiance of the people, and the maintenance of the wealth, labor, and resources required to run the country efficiently. These issues unravel the ideology upon which the nation was founded.

## Reflecting on the COVID-19 Pandemic

Over the last 132 years since 1891, we have had rapid global population growth, and a blending of ideologies, cultures, geographical origins, and species. This has stressed health conditions worldwide for years, and we have felt an imbalance of available resources. Increased travel, human-animal interactions, expansion of cities, and extended trade territories

have created global interdependence. This has brought health, labor, sanitation, and military challenges to the forefront. The emergence and spread of infectious diseases became a key challenge to resolve.

**Pluto** purges deep-rooted problems that can only be understood through collective pressures. **Neptune** tends to bring loss, grief, or sacrifice—on a personal or collective level—to slowly reveal planetary consciousness.

The last **Pluto/Saturn Great Conjunction** occurred on Jan. 12, 2020, at **22° Capricorn** and prefaced the USA Pluto return. This conjunction heralded final endings, extreme changes within structures defining reality, and psychological unrest.

The first COVID-19 case was reported in Wuhan, China on Dec 1, 2019. The first case in the USA was reported on Jan. 20, 2020, and the USA declared a public health emergency on Jan 31, 2020.

The virus began to spread rapidly across the planet in 2019, mutate, and continues today. Attributes of the virus follow the theme of the **Neptune/Pluto Great Conjunction in Gemini**:

- A viral infectious disease
- Attacks the lungs
- Highly contagious
- Transmitted via airborne secretions or by touching infected objects

The chart of the first COVID-19 case fits like a glove into the **Neptune/Pluto conjunction** chart, triggering the storyline (see chart 4):

**AWARENESS:** The announcement and empowerment of a toxic airborne disease were represented by transiting **Sun/Pallas** (8°Sag 38°/9° Sag 46') in the COVID-19 case chart opposing the **Neptune/Pluto** conjunction (8° Gemini 37').

**A TRIPLE YOD, Great Finger of God or Fate:** A radical point of view dealing with crisis management, control, and responsibility of life and death situations. This aspect pattern involves ten planetary points between the two charts: **N. Node/Pluto/Neptune** (3°, 8° Gemini in 4th House) and **Chiron/Mars/Sun** (8°, 9°, 10° Leo in 7th House) indicate the Conjunction offers a unique spiritual assignment that must be faced to evolve. **Ceres/Venus/S. Node** (5°, 6°, 8° Capricorn in 12th House of loss) opposing the **N. Node** (8° Cancer in 6th House of health) points to the birth of the pandemic.

**REORIENTATION:** Domestic and professional constraints, emotional depres-

Inner Wheel  
Neptune/Pluto Great Conjunction  
Natal Chart  
Aug 2 1891 NS, Sun  
7:06 pm GMT +0:00  
Greenwich, England  
51°N29' 000"W00'  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node

Outer Wheel  
First COVID-19 Case Reported  
Natal Chart  
Dec 1 2019, Sun  
11:45 am AWST -8:00  
Wuhan, China  
30°N36' 114°E17'  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Sun on 1st  
True Node

Chart 4

sion, broken relations, and alienation from others requiring lifestyle changes are indicated: **Saturn/Pluto** (17°, 21° Capricorn in 12th House of isolation) in the COVID-19 Chart opposed by **Moon** (18° Cancer, 6th House of routines) in the conjunction chart symbolizes isolation for the emotional health and safety of the people.

The intensity of the pandemic was not only due to the timing of alignments between the two charts but also to the declinations, measured as the distance between a planet's latitude and the Celestial Equator. Planets in parallel (same declination) act as a conjunction and are greatly amplified. Over the course of three years (2019-2022), four malefic planetary points remained parallel within the range of 20°- 23°S, with **Jupiter** added in the mix **to expand and emblazon the message upon the Earth.**<sup>5</sup> *We have not even begun to understand the long-ranging ramifications of COVID-19 and its influence over the evolution of mankind.*

### USA Pluto Return

As the USA completes its **Pluto return** (27° **Capricorn**)<sup>7</sup>, capitalistic structures that have been deemed 'false, abusive, or tyrannical' have been in the news. Civil demonstrations, changes in public loyal-

ty, and militia groups bearing arms have provided insight into citizens' psychological imbalances. Pluto is demanding a reassessment of the USA's social and moral values.

Internal pressures could further breakdown established laws and institutions lacking integrity. Pluto demands a major shift in authority and bureaucracy.

Economic challenges and shortages could occur, due to the mismanagement of resources. The result could be the ignition of a worldwide recession or an altered perception of global environmental health. Either way, an ideological transformation of the USA's leadership is in store.

Internal security is a must for any country to survive. The Pluto return may require the USA to lose prestige or social position to regain sight of 'who they are', and to rebuild the internal strength and emotional foundation of all within it.<sup>8</sup>

Internal pressures could  
further breakdown  
established laws and  
institutions lacking  
integrity. Pluto demands  
a major shift in authority  
and bureaucracy.

### Ideological and Political Revolution:

**Pluto** will briefly transit into **Aquarius** starting March 2023, ushering in a collective and philosophical rebirth and great social change. This may require a demonstration of broader acceptance, tolerance, and encouragement of differing beliefs, customs, and social norms. By beginning to create change in cultural standards to ensure the country's survival, past values in ideologies underpinning USA will begin to fade away.

**The USA is key to unlocking lessons buried within the current Neptune/Pluto cycle.**

Several partile aspects to the **Neptune/Pluto Great Conjunction** are triggered by the USA **Pluto return**.

Since the USA Pluto conjoins the Conjunction ASC, **the Pluto Return is 'a fundamental trigger' to the T-square energy and expression of this Neptune/Pluto cycle** (see chart 5, following page). The T-square creates relationship pressures at home and abroad. This tension has created unexpected apathy and a lack of loyalty within the labor force and supply chains, great tension in personal relationships, and volatile performance in business and stock markets. Transiting Pluto (27° Capricorn) has been and will continue to square the natal **Uranus** (27° Libra, 8th H) and oppose

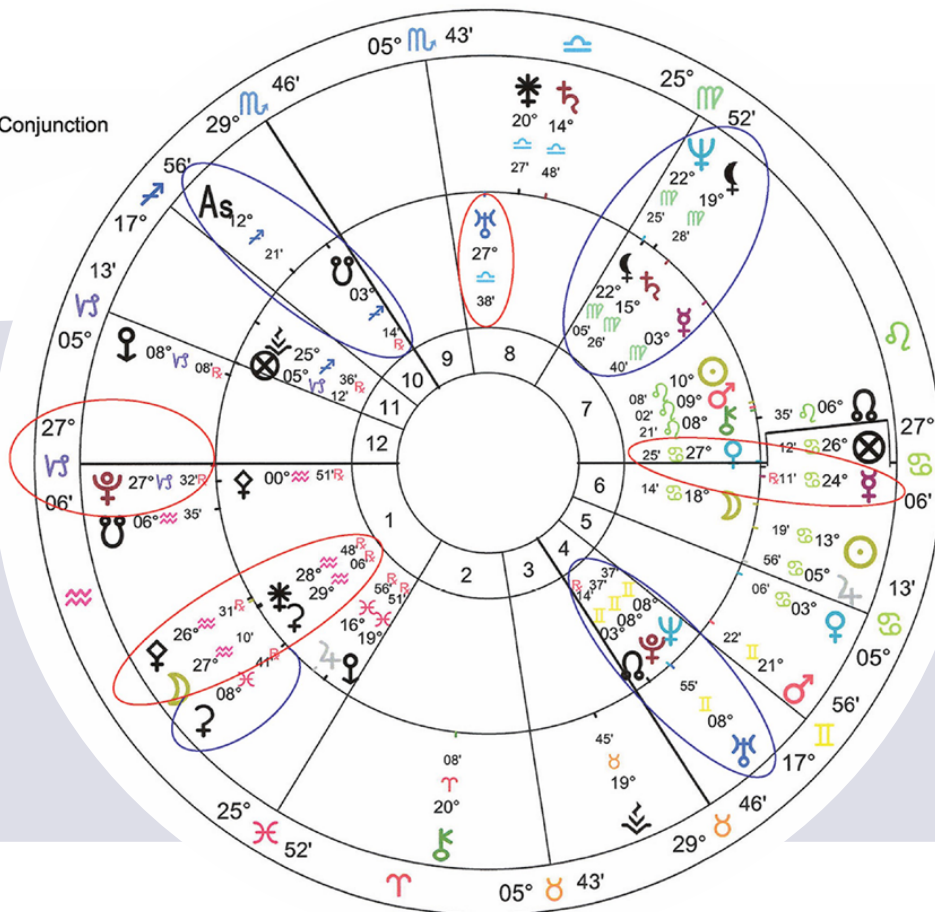




# US PLUTO RETURN AND COVID-19

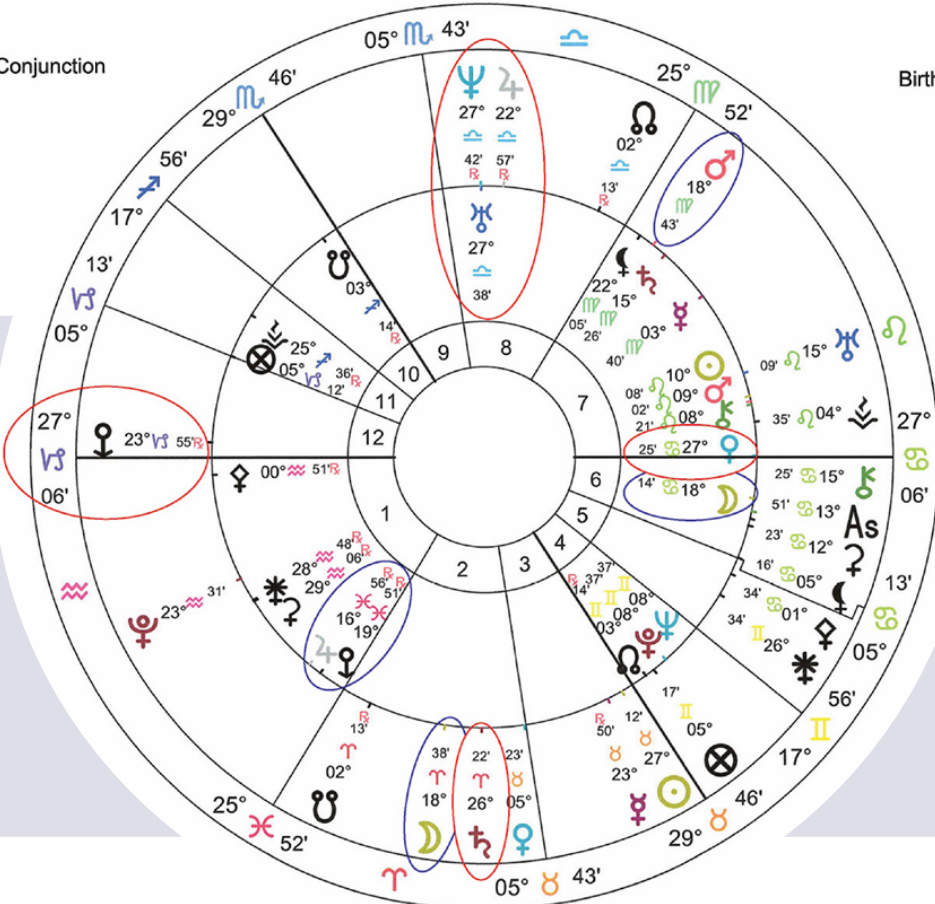
Inner Wheel  
Neptune/Pluto Great Conjunction  
Natal Chart  
Aug 2 1891 NS, Sun  
7:06 pm GMT +0:00  
Greenwich, England  
51°N29' 00°W00'  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node

Outer Wheel  
US Sibly Chart  
Natal Chart  
Jul 4 1776 NS, Thu  
5:10 pm LMT +5:00:39  
Philadelphia, PA  
39°N57'08" 075°W09'51"  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node



Inner Wheel  
Neptune/Pluto Great Conjunction  
Natal Chart  
Aug 2 1891 NS, Sun  
7:06 pm GMT +0:00  
Greenwich, England  
51°N29' 00°W00'  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node

Outer Wheel  
Birth of NY Stock Market  
Natal Chart  
May 17 1792 NS, Thu  
7:52 am LMT +4:56:02  
New York, NY  
40°N42'51" 074°W00'23"  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node



the natal **Venus** (27° Cancer, 7th H) in the conjunction chart throughout Oct 2023.

Significant dates to watch are May 4-8, 2023, when transiting **Jupiter** will expand the T-square tension at **27° Aries** (in the 2nd House of the Conjunction chart), bringing great change in sustainable value (for better or for worse).

During the same four days, **Mars** will travel to **20-22° Cancer** to oppose and trigger the **Saturn/Pluto conjunction (22° Capricorn)** and conjoin the lunar eclipse point from Jan 10-12, 2020 (**20° Cancer**). Powerful events directly linked to the COVID-19 pandemic may offer insight into the bigger picture or aftereffects.

### Pay attention to 8° Gemini

The current **Neptune/Pluto** cycle began with a conjunction at **8° Gemini 37'** on August 2, 1891. Therefore, 8° Gemini marks the underlying purpose, the story in development, and a doorway through which a conscious understanding of 'the lesson' will be revealed.

**The USA natal Uranus (8° Gemini 55') is conjunct this 8° sensitive point and therefore will be a messenger to awaken, announce and unfold the 'theme' of this Neptune/Pluto cycle in the world.** The recent Mars retrograde cycle has revolved around the 8°08' Gemini location (Sept 4, 2022 – Mar 15, 2023). As a result of this redirection, we should expect critical changes in homes, land or base operations (4th House in Conjunction chart), again to be challenged in July 2023.

The USA and the world could encounter great environmental and social challenges, involving turbulent weather, earthquakes, chemical or toxic waste, mass shootings, or mismanagement of data, transit, or commerce to create disruption to the balance of global relations.

We also find a Yod marked by 8° when we combine these two charts. This Yod may indicate hidden burdens involving authorities that may hide a threat of danger to the security, personal health and well-being of the public. [USA Sibly **Eris** 8° Capricorn (12th House) and **Ceres** 8° Pisces (1st

The stock markets took a beating in 2022 as all three major indices had the biggest decline since 2008 (when Pluto entered Capricorn).

House) of the US Sibly and Neptune/Pluto's **Chiron/Mars/Sun** 8°-10° Leo (7th House)]

### New York Stock Exchange

As **Pluto** leaves **Capricorn**, the USA's Gross Domestic Product and stock market are undergoing massive changes and the Russia/Ukraine war has disrupted global supply chains. In 2022, the USA Federal Reserve Bank raised interest rates seven times to curtail climbing inflation, reaching an all-time high of 9.1%. The stock markets took a beating in 2022 as all three major indices had the biggest decline since 2008 (when Pluto entered Capricorn). As we head into 2023, a possible impending global recession, deep depression, or market crash hangs in the air. (see chart 6).

**Pluto at 27° Capricorn ignites the US Pluto return and the bi-wheel chart (previous page) of the Birth of the NY Stock Market around the Great Neptune/Pluto Conjunction as well. Pluto triggers a grand cardinal square of great tension.** The Jupiter/Neptune (22°, 27° Libra 8th H) opposition to Saturn (26° Aries 2nd H) of the NY Stock Market links directly into the existing angular T-square involving transiting Pluto (27° Cap ASC), natal Uranus (27° Lib 8th H) and natal Venus (27° Can 7th H) of the Grand Conjunction.

This **Neptune/Jupiter to Saturn opposition** creates a radical influence, stressing the protection of past profits of public stocks, a "magical illusion" of financial stability, health, wealth, and security of trade contracts. Unrealistic attitudes and swings in public opinion may set the market up for a fall. As 27° Capricorn Pluto triggers this, "The days are over to just be in the stock market to make money. Investors must watch carefully for sector changes and make smart stock picks."<sup>9</sup> This is a very volatile time.

### Conclusion

Although extremely painful, the USA Pluto return and the COVID-19 global pandemic clearly express the Neptune/Pluto Great Conjunction evolutionary theme, awakening a renaissance in our collective human soul.

We have passed the opposition point of this 492-year cycle (Pluto 8° Sag 37'), and are approaching the disseminating trine in 2028 (Pluto 8° Aqu 37') when we begin to absorb the greater message of this cycle. The closing square will occur in 2050, 27 years from now (Pluto 8° Pis 37').

The 492-year cycle completes in 2385, only to begin anew, again in Gemini (12°). Each Neptune/Pluto cycle will continue to occur in the sign of Gemini for 3,942 years (1398-5340), ushering in major epochs in

the understanding and development of civilization.<sup>9</sup>

The challenges in today's world—marked by extreme economic and health crises—bring an acute awareness of how interconnected we all are. We share the same Earth, depend on the same fertile resources of her land, and breathe the same air. If this balance is disrupted, we will all suffer, if not extinguish life altogether. Is this the lesson we are to learn by 2385?

COVID-19 heightened the realization and need for intercontinental diplomacy to develop partnerships in addressing global management for the health and well-being of the people. Will additional future events bring a realization of the need to establish a united system of management via science, technology, and communications to protect the fertility of resources, as well as our planet Earth itself?

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# Blending Relationship Charts AND THE "PART OF UNION" PART 2

by Amir Bey

This is Part 2 of *Blending Relationship Charts and the Part of Union*, which appeared in *The Career Astrologer's* September 2022 Equinox issue, page 46.

**T**he natal charts of two individuals can be combined to examine their relationship as a distinct entity. Composite (using midpoints) and Davison (using real-time and space) are the two most common techniques for producing combined charts. Composite and Davison Relationship charts are helpful in understanding interpersonal interactions.

When the Composite and Davison charts are compared, new dimensions emerge for the two parties. As with all things astrological, there's an inherent geometry of magical patterns woven from celestial rhythms. By combining the two relationship charts, contrasts and reflections emerge from the DNA of their duality.

## A Relationship Triad: Sun, Midheaven, and True North Node

The tapestry of combined Composite and Davison charts reveals three consistent points. The Sun, Midheaven (MC), and True North Node (N. Node) of the two relationship charts are always within 5° conjunct

or opposite to each other. For example, when there is an 8° Aries Sun in a Composite chart, the Sun will be at 8° Aries or Libra in the Davison chart (within a 5° orb and rarely more than 4°). The same consistency exists for the two charts' MC and the N. Node.

The consistency of the Sun, MC, and the N. Node in compared relationship charts led me to explore calculating a Part of Union or Lot of Union if you prefer. The concept is similar to the Part of Fortune or other "Arabic" Parts. From this triad, I composed the Part of Union (POU); its symbol represents two people or entities centered or moving around a mutual point:



The POU reflects the Sun and Nodal phase, with the distance of the Sun/N. Node arc added to the MC location. For example, if the Sun and N. Node are pre-

cisely opposite (180°), the POU will be at the IC.

If the Sun is 45° from the N. Node, the POU will be the same distance from the MC. If the Sun is 45° past conjunction with the N. Node, the POU will be the same distance, 45° going clockwise; if the Sun is 45° before the conjunction, it will be 45° going counterclockwise. When the Sun and N. Node are conjunct, the POU will be conjunct with the MC.

## Applying the Lunar Phases to the Midheaven and Part of Union

Dane Rudhyar delineated eight lunar phases in his book, *The Lunation Cycle: A Key to the Understanding of Personality* (1967). I have found that these lunar phases can be applied to interpret the angle between the MC and the POU.

I use 0° to 180° aspects for the waxing phase and 180° to 360° for the waning phase, in increments of 45°. It is possible to time events by observing when the angle between the MC and the POU approaches within 1° of a phase. The eight phases are:

### WAXING PHASES

- New Moon** 0°-45°  
Emerging/Instinctive
- Crescent** 45°-90°  
Expanding/Expressive
- 1st Quarter** 90°-135°  
Active/Progressive
- Gibbous** 135°-180°  
Surging/Aspiring

### WANING PHASES

- Full Moon** 180°-225°  
Fulfilling/Contrasting
- Disseminating** 225°-270°  
Demonstrating/Distributive
- Last Quarter** 270°-315°  
Reorientation/Idealism
- Balsamic** 315°-360°  
Releasing/Projecting

There is a correspondence between the Sun and Nodal cycles and the POU. When the POU is in a New phase (conjunct the MC) or Full phase (conjunct the IC), it is within a few degrees of an eclipse. As an index for the Sun-Nodal cycle, the POU reflects an eclipse cycle's effects on our personal and social lives.

When comparing the POU and the MC phase between the two charts, it is essential to be *flexible* when judging and comparing the blended relationship charts' phase angles. Use the general "light" of the phase, i.e., by its size, instead of strictly adhering to the degree boundaries for the

eight phases. Aside from the brief characteristics of the keywords above, the delineations that people use should be applied. Keywords by themselves, while helpful, do not fully describe the characteristics of the progressed MC/POU phase.

However, when judging timing for the eight phases, allow only 1° orb or slightly more. That provides approximately 11 months for applying and separating aspects using secondary progressions, with transits having shorter periods.

### Using the Part of the Union

In these examples, the names have been changed to protect the privacy of the individuals. Most prefer to keep their birth data private, so it is not shown; however, it is available upon request.

### Part of Union in Relationship Synastry

The natal and relationship charts are provided for Richard and Sienna Davies.

In Richard's natal chart, his POU is located at 27°41' Cancer and in the 11th House. It is just over 45° from his MC at 11°50' Gemini. Because his POU is tightly conjunct to the beginning of the Crescent Moon phase, the significant nature of his relationships is evident. Richard's Moon rules the POU from Pisces and the 6th House, explaining his relationships' multidimensional and idealistic character. The substantial nature of his relationships is strengthened by his Moon's sign and placement, describing another important characteristic: Richard is motivated to serve others. He will often clean the streets of his neighborhood and devoutly pray daily (his "practice") for people who have passed away, friends, relatives, and loved ones of friends and acquaintances.

Richard's POU is positioned in Sienna's 1st House, conjunct her Sun, which is a powerful feature in their relationship. His Saturn (19° 12' Cancer) conjoins her Ascendant (21°38' Cancer). The synastry between her Ascendant and his Saturn explains why they have maintained a relationship for decades, even though they both had other partners after their relationship ended.

Richard's Moon rules the POU from Pisces and the 6th House, explaining his relationships' multidimensional and idealistic character.

Chart 1  
RICHARD DAVIES

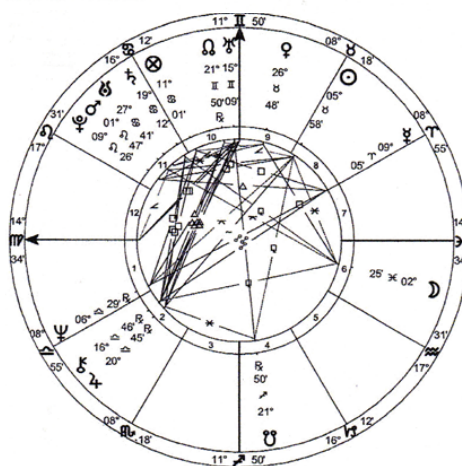


Chart 2  
SIENNA DAVIES

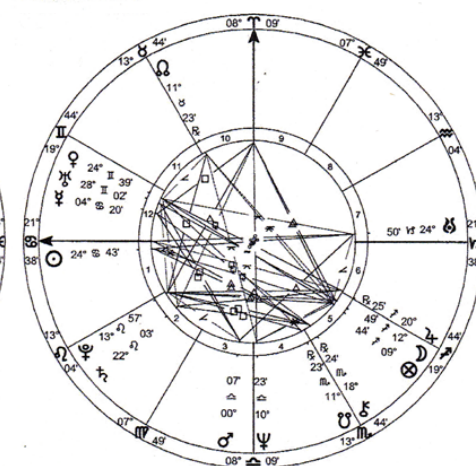


Chart 3  
RICHARD DAVIES - Natal  
SIENNA DAVIES - Natal  
Relationship - Davison  
Jun 7 1947, Sat  
3:17:29 am GMT +0:00  
Midpoint, in Space  
38°N11°06' 085°W09'  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node

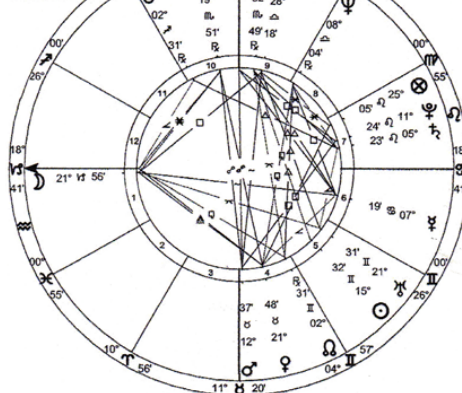
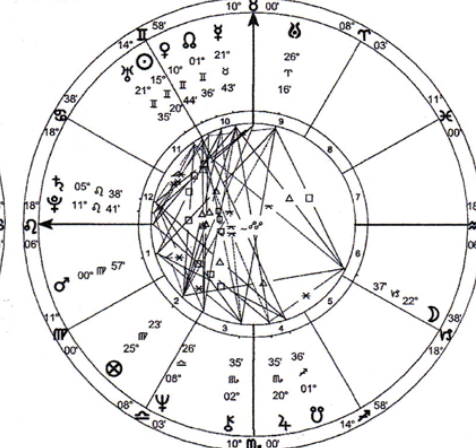


Chart 4  
RICHARD DAVIES - Natal  
SIENNA DAVIES - Natal  
Composite - Midpoints  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node



Sienna's natal POU quintiles her MC, suggesting a creative yet challenging character in her relationships. Strikingly, Sienna's POU (24°50' Capricorn) is 7' from being exactly opposite her Sun (24°43' Cancer), and the POU is in her 7th House, indicating a pronounced relational capacity.

Multiple factors in the synastry of the two natal charts reflect their relationship's significance.

- Sienna's Sun conjoins Richard's POU within a 3° orb
- Sienna's POU opposes Richard's POU
- Sienna's POU in Richard's 5th House, the place of children, manifested in their having a son.

As a side note, the potential for children was indicated in multiple ways. Sienna's Ascendant and Sun are conjunct with Richard's Saturn, ruler of his 5th House. The Composite relationship chart has a Leo Ascendant, while the Davison has the

Sienna's natal POU quintiles her MC, suggesting a creative yet challenging character in her relationships.

Moon conjunct with the Ascendant (1st House), and the Sun is in the 5th House.

Interestingly, while their natal POUs are in Cancer and Capricorn, the POU in Composite and Davison charts is at 26° Aries and 28° Libra, respectively. This creates a cardinal cross pattern between their natal, Composite, and Davison POU placements. A grand cross's challenging aspects can contribute to a relationship's longevity as the parties surmount difficulties during long-term interactions.



## BLENDING RELATIONSHIP CHARTS

In the combined charts, except for Chiron, the POU does not have tight aspects with other planets and points. There is a POU opposition with Chiron in the Composite and conjunction with Chiron in the Davison chart. Both relationship charts reflect the POU in the 9th House while Chiron is either in the 3rd or 9th House, indicating a need for honest, constructive communication and understanding.

### Part of Union – Timing with Secondary Progressions

Secondary progressions for the POU can indicate the timing for critical personal developments when the POU is exactly at one of the eight lunar phases within a 1° orb. This translates to 45° angles from the MC (0°, 45°, 90°, 135°, 180°, 225°, 270°, or 315°) and is especially notable at Full, New, or Half Moon phases. The POU phase indicates critical times that involve relationships with other people. I selected three client examples when aspects were within 1° orb.

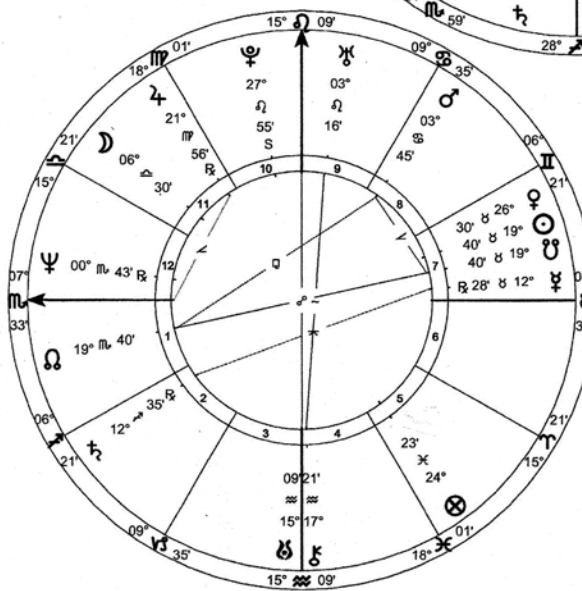
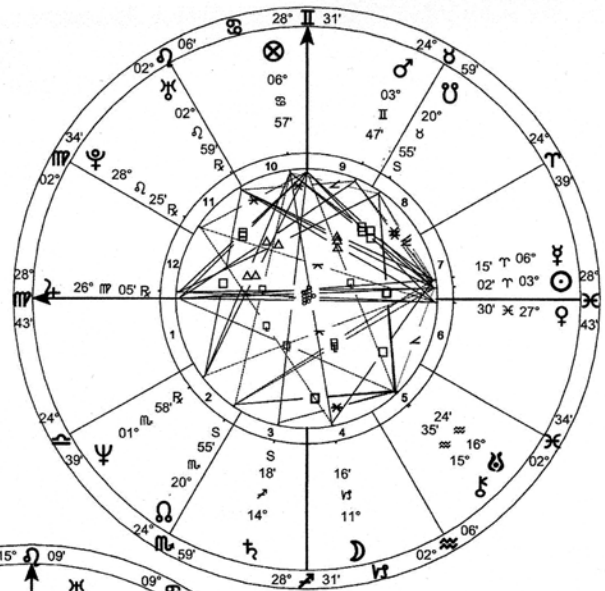
#### FULL PHASE EXAMPLE

Natal and secondary progressed charts are provided for Michelle. In the secondary progressed chart for Michelle, her POU is at 15°09' Aquarius, conjunct with her IC (IC/POU). Since the POU is 180° from the MC, this is the Full phase. The POU opposition to the MC coincides with the opposition of the Sun and N. Node.

When positive, the Full phase can mean gaining an awareness that often comes through challenges. It may indicate a pulling apart, polarization, or separation. Property and security may be emphasized with the POU at the IC and 4th House cusp, which happens at the "Full" phase.

During this period, as the Sun/S. Node conjunction was in Michelle's progressed 7th House, she was romantically involved and living with a man who, unbeknown to her, was still entangled in another relation-

Upper Right  
**MICHELLE**  
Natal Chart  
Mar 23 1957, Sat  
5:45 pm EST +5:00  
NEW YORK, NY  
40°N42'51" 074°W00'23"  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node



True Node  
Placidus  
Tropical  
Geocentric  
40°N42'51" 074°W00'23"  
NEW YORK, NY  
8:47:57 pm EST +5:00  
Nov 23 2004, Tue  
Sec.Prog. SA in Long  
**MICHELLE**  
Bottom Left

ship. Before he and Michelle connected, he had a child with a former partner. This woman sued him for child support, and Michelle was brought into the litigation because of the living arrangements. Michelle's relationship with this man became untenable due to the legal stresses, and it ended when she discovered that he was involved in still another relationship. Michelle wound up paying thousands of dollars in legal fees.

Not all Full phases of the POU have these effects; however, Full phases are oppositions and can bring tension. Michelle has a stellium of her progressed Sun, Mercury, Venus, and S. Node in the 7th House, and her solar arc progressed 7th House Sun is a long-term factor in her life experience.

#### DISSEMINATING PHASE EXAMPLE

In KB's natal chart (following page), her 6th House Sun is conjunct with the S. Node

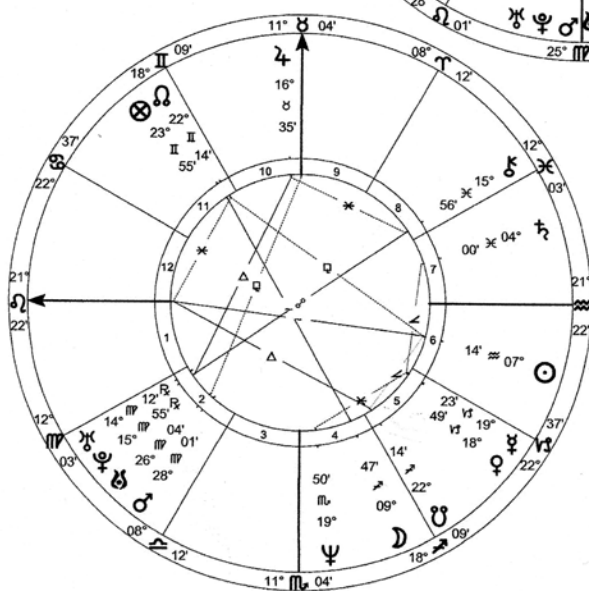
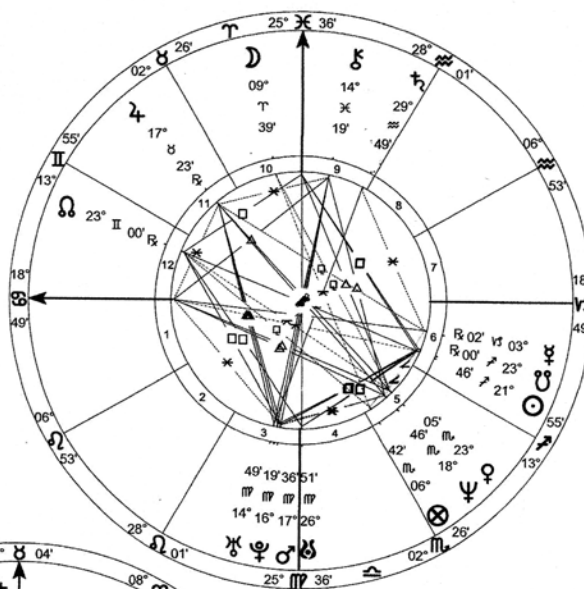
and opposite the N. Node, resulting in her POU approaching a conjunction with the IC. Her natal Sun (21°46' Sagittarius) widely squares her Uranus/Pluto/Mars stellium in Virgo while tightly squares her POU/Mars midpoint. This gives a dynamic, challenging quality to her relationships.

The tense aspect between her Sun, Nodes and POU accentuates her sensitivity and the internal impact of relationships on her. In August 2009, KB's POU reached the progressed Disseminating phase (225°-270° from the MC). The MC was 11°14' Taurus, and the POU was 26°04' Virgo. When I inquired about her experience, she described that time:

*"I had an instant flash/image of where I was on this date [August 5, 2009], only I thought this was just too weird [that it was so precise], so I had to be sure this was the date... I was journaling back then... I'd say between June and October was a very rich*

When positive, the Full phase can mean gaining an awareness that often comes through challenges. It may indicate a pulling apart, polarization, or separation.

Upper Right  
KB  
Natal Chart  
Dec 13 1964, Sun  
6:48 pm CET -1:00  
MOUTIERS, FRANCE  
45°N29' 006"E32'  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node



True Node  
Placidus  
Tropical  
Geocentric  
45°N29' 006"E32'  
MOUTIERS, FRANCE  
8:45:18 am CET -1:00  
Aug 5 2009, Wed  
Sec.Prog. SA in Long  
KB  
Bottom Left

KB's description of that time included descriptions of a time that was "transformational," with "intense revelations" and a "catalyst."

*transformational time, maybe the beginning of a new cycle. But this exact day I remember vividly. My first meeting with SH that night was the start of an off-and-on relationship in the sense that it has consistently brought*

*me some intense revelations on myself that are often cathartic, very symbolic, and has often been a catalyst and mirror pushing me to unite with myself. I'm very surprised at the accuracy of this date and curious as to why the date comes up now; it's no coincidence, I'm sure, as it was very enlightening to read now. I'm still processing."*

KB's description of that time included descriptions of a time that was "transformational," with "intense revelations" and a "catalyst." Her memories are consistent with the natal and progressed character of her Virgo stellium (Uranus, Pluto, Mars) in aspect to her natal Sun and POU. The reader may notice that KB's recollection does not completely match the keyword for the Disseminating phase, 'Demonstrative/ Distributive.' Keywords can help teach concepts but are not always inclusive of the range of possibilities for an experience.





## BLENDING RELATIONSHIP CHARTS

### CRESCENT PHASE EXAMPLE

Here are Vera's natal and progressed charts for June 25, 1986. In the natal chart, Vera's POU is located in the 9th House, related to international travel and foreign countries. Her natal POU is in wide opposition to her 3rd House Sun, along with Neptune and Mercury in that house, describing her work as an interpreter. The natal POU is in a tight square with Saturn in Capricorn, ruler of her 7th House.

In June of 1986, her progressed POU was in the transformative 8th House. On the progressed chart, the POU is at 10°30'

With Vera,  
the Crescent phase  
denoted an  
emergent activity or  
consciousness, which  
coincided with a  
decisive pulling away  
from the past.

Aries, and the MC is at 25°30' Taurus. During this period of her progressed Crescent phase (45°) POU of Vera recalled:

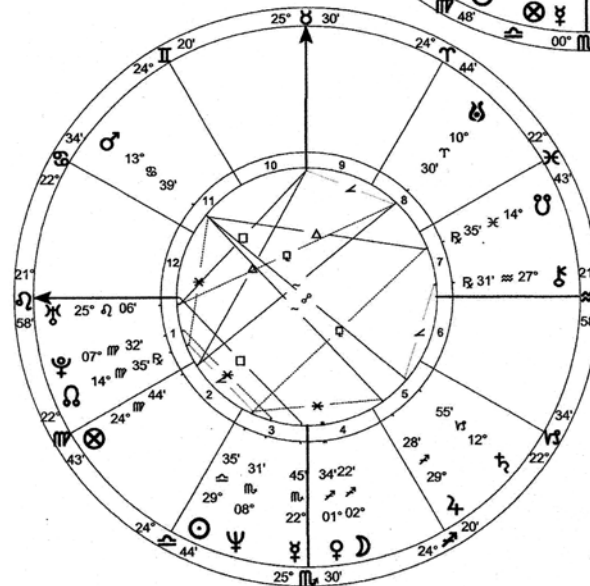
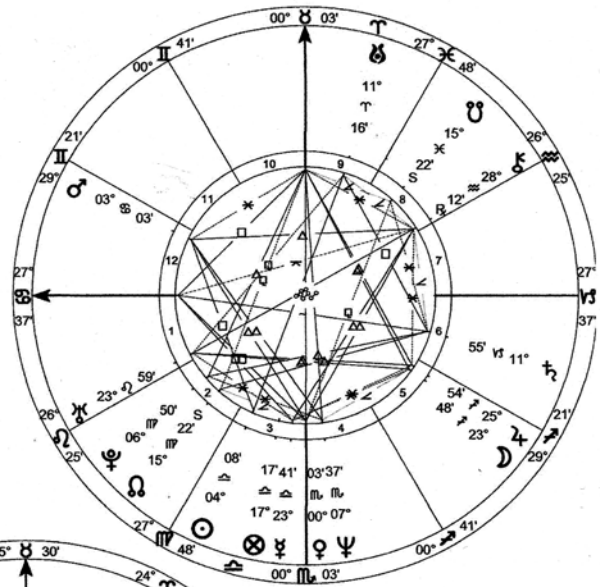
*"If I'm not mistaken, I was at a point of great turbulence; my first relationship — where art, work & love were encompassed — was crumbling. I was in the process of preparing to leave Paris to move back to New York City. I finally left the marriage for good on July 4th, 1987."*

Again, I want to emphasize that keywords can be used as guides, but astrologers should refer to their experience with phases and progressed timings. With Vera, the Crescent phase denoted an emergent activity or consciousness, which coincided with a decisive pulling away from the past. Even if her relationship ended, the emphasis is that she was emerging, like an early Crescent Moon.

### Conclusion

The Part of Union (POU) is derived from the constancy of the triad of the Sun, Midheaven (MC), and True North Node (N. Node) in relationship charts. The triad shows how purpose, identity, and destiny are primary and objective components woven into relationships, along with other astrological fundamentals like the passion, attraction, and subjectivity of the Moon, Venus, and Mars.

Upper Right  
**VERA**  
Natal Chart  
Sep 27 1960, Tue  
1:24 am EST +5:00  
BOGOTA, Colombia  
04°N36' 074°W05'  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node



True Node  
Placidus  
Tropical  
Geocentric  
04°N36' 074°W05'  
BOGOTA, Colombia  
5:51:35 pm EST +5:00  
Jun 25 1986, Wed  
Sec.Prog. SA in Long  
**VERA**  
Bottom Left

The Part of Union is a key to understanding interactions between any two entities with reliable birth or inception times for humans, animals, and nations.

In secondary progressions, when the eight 45° phases are reached between the MC and the POU, times of social development and critical personal periods are indicated. Transits contacting the POU can trigger social changes. For example, conjunctions with Uranus can open up new possibilities, or with Saturn, aspects may refer to a significant commitment or crisis between people.

There seem to be "relationship cycles." These cycles can be seen in secondary progressed charts and transits. Transit-wise, because of the POU correspondence with the Sun/Nodal cycle, the POU's Full and New phases occur within days of solar eclipses. Might eclipses, then, coincide with the evolution of a relationship? As I write this article on January 28, 2023, the Sun squares the

Nodal axis. How might we gauge its current connection with relationships?

I encourage you to experiment with the Part of Union. Follow this key, whose cycles are simultaneous with social interactions, and see where it leads.

### REFERENCES

Rudhyar, Dane. *The Lunation Cycle*, 1967

**Amir Bey** is a New York City-based visual artist, curator, performance artist, teaching artist, and art writer. He began studying the occult arts with tarot in 1968, while Dane Rudhyar's *The Astrology of Personality* inspired him to study astrology in 1971. His Equinox Celebration Tarot (<https://www.equinoxcelebration.com>) is an original design for a decan-based tarot derived from his stone carvings, and possibly the only tarot deck based on 3-D imagery. Amir has organized over 100 exhibitions and performances, has exhibited and engaged in occult activities internationally, including in Japan, Turkey, Martinique, and France, and his published writings include astrology, art, reviews, and interviews. Learn more about his work at <https://www.thenewtimesholler.com>.



art

### Saturn in Pisces

**Lyndal Walker** is an Australian artist who has exhibited in Europe, Central America, USA, Asia and Australasia. Her explorations of themes including time, gender and textile culture have taken the form of photographs, collage, installations and writing. She has studied astrology since 2005 and her art practise is also informed by ancestral healing, shamanism and animism. She lives and works in Berlin. Lyndal was an award-winner in the art category at the 2022 I-Astrologer retreat/conference.



# HORARY corner

## Two Questions in One Horary

WILL THE PAIN GO AWAY,  
AND WILL I CLIMB UP A LEVEL  
PROFESSIONALLY?

by Tanja Ristovski

received by Jupiter. That would typically mean that the querent would acquire the position she desires, with the change of signs symbolizing a necessary alteration of some conditions before she can attain what she wants.<sup>2,3</sup> But that aspect is formed in a cadent house, while the crowded western angle symbolizes the competition for the job. Retrograde Venus on the 7th cusp is combust and makes a partile sextile to the 10th cusp and Neptune. I judged that someone who has already worked in that position has either returned to it or will get it and that the hiring has been done with secrecy or was simply out of querent's sight.<sup>4,5</sup>

The Moon shows the focus and development in the horary chart. It has previously separated from Mars on the cusp of the 6th, indicating that the health situation is related to the job question. Jupiter corroborates the link between work and illness by its simultaneous rulership over the 10th

I received two questions via email from a woman in her late 50s:

1) I have been having problems with a fractured vertebra due to osteoporosis for months, and I have gone through numerous treatments, but my pain is still massive. I wanted to know if this will finally resolve during the spring - according to the doctor, the effect of the medication will not be noticeable for a few weeks (February?).

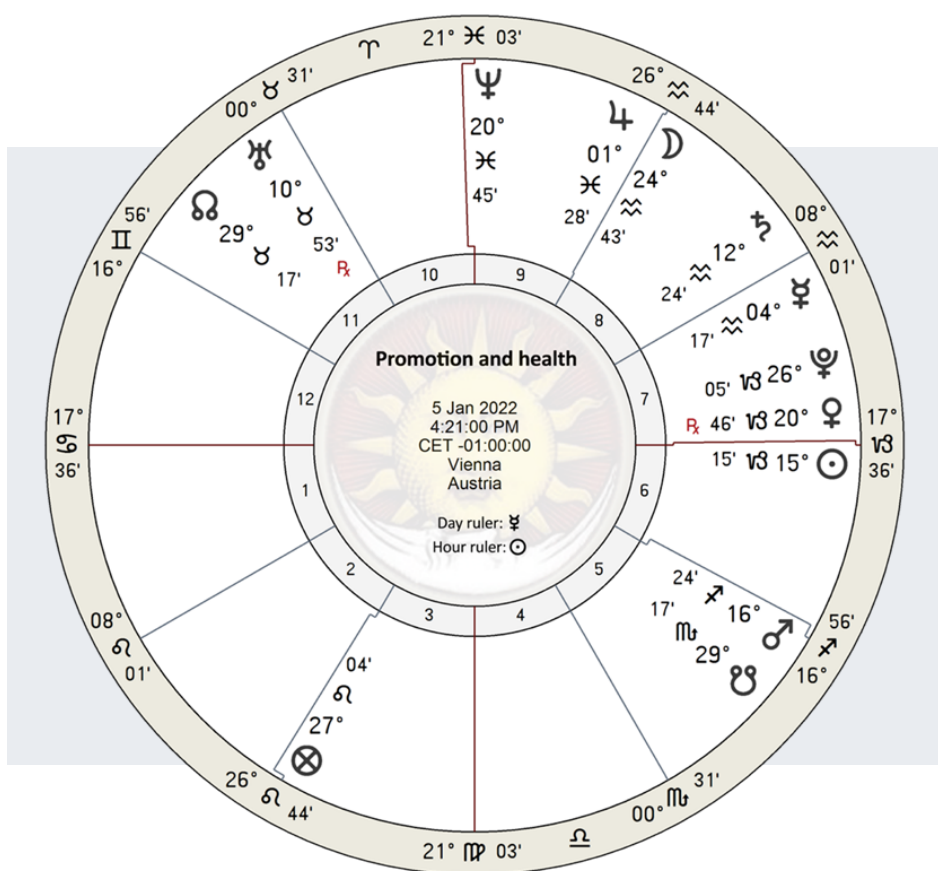
2) I work professionally in a managerial position. It might be possible in the next few months to climb up a level if I apply for it. Will that work out? I would like to note that I have already been "promoted" in July 2021 after a long corona-related "waiting period", but now I might still get my desired position.

At this point, the information in the question seemed sufficient to begin analyzing the chart.

The first thing that struck me as confirmation of radicality in this horary chart was Mars on the cusp of the 6th house, which signifies pain. An elevated Neptune was an immediate warning sign of ambiguity in both questions. The Moon rules the Ascendant and symbolizes the querent as a person led by emotions. Because the Moon

has just separated from Saturn in the 8th, it suggests a question asked from a place of fear and anguish.

The next aspect the Moon builds is the conjunction with Jupiter which rules the 10th house and signifies the desired promotion. The Moon is in Aquarius and must change signs to complete the conjunction.<sup>1</sup> Once it enters Pisces, the Moon will be



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that struck me as  
confirmation of radicality  
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Mars on the cusp of the  
6th house, which  
signifies pain.

and the 6th. Mars in a fiery sign suggests that the pain is caused by inflammation.

The Moon also represents the vitality of the querent. It has only a weak dignity by face and is in a cadent house, which means that the querent is on the verge of total exhaustion with limited courses of action.<sup>6,7</sup> When the Moon enters Pisces, it becomes peregrine and enters the triplicity of Mars. Mars on the cusp of the 6th signifies the pain, so Moon's ingress suggests querent's vitality will become even weaker. The 6th-ruler Jupiter is essentially stronger than the ascendant-ruler and is a superior planet. It also disposes Mars and the 10th cusp.<sup>8</sup> Although reception by the 6th house ruler should typically indicate that the illness makes concessions to the demands for health by the ascendant ruler, this instance points to a prolonged ailment.

In matters of health, the 10th house symbolizes treatment, and the 7th house represents the physician.<sup>9</sup> Essentially dignified Jupiter represents the current medication in this chart. But Jupiter's placement in the 9th, the 12th house from the 10th, symbolizes hostile or destructive components of medicine and possible harmful effects. Jupiter's rulership over the malicious 6th house underlines that. I judged that the medication querent takes, although probably of good quality, will not cure her pain by spring. Neptune on the MC and Mars, as intercepted ruler of the 10th house in the 6th, support this.

The busy 7th house indicates the involvement of several doctors, with Saturn being the ruler of the 7th. Since the Moon has separated from Saturn, and Saturn has separated from Mars and Uranus, I concluded there was a breakup with a doctor signified by Saturn. Sun and the retrograde, combust Venus in the 7th represent doctors now treating the querent. Because both planets lack essential dignity and Venus is additionally accidentally afflicted, the symbolism suggests doctors who didn't grasp the problem entirely or didn't know what to do.<sup>10</sup> The likelihood of ineffective treatment and prolonged ailment is underscored by the mutable sign on the 4th cusp and the 4th-ruler Mercury applying to Saturn.<sup>11</sup>

### As regards health

In the conversation, it turned out that the querent had indeed left one doctor because she was not satisfied and did not think the therapy was right for her. So now she was receiving treatment from two doctors. She confirmed that inflammation caused the pain and revealed that she had spinal cord inflammation (myelitis). I shared my impression of the chart regarding health and medication. Because Mars rules

the 5th and is in the 6th in this chart, diet may be part of the problem.<sup>12</sup> The Moon's position in a fixed sign describes the querent as someone generally averse to change. But I saw an opportunity for reversing the negative flow by acting immediately, before the Moon enters Pisces to join the 6th-ruler, rather than waiting for the results of the current medication. I suggested she rethinks her whole approach to healing and gets more opinions on available treatments as some changes are needed

Since the Moon has  
separated from Saturn,  
and Saturn has  
separated from Mars and  
Uranus, I concluded there  
was a breakup with  
a doctor signified  
by Saturn.

(e.g., adapting the diet to promote anti-inflammatory foods, etc.). She agreed and confirmed that she had relied only on the prescribed injections.

### Regarding the position desired

The querent revealed in the consultation that the position she wanted was never advertised! She assumed the place would become vacant because she believed the colleague who held the position would retire in the spring or fall. But she had never heard any rumor about this or talked with the colleague. That clarified the meaning of the combust Venus in tight sextile to MC as the unknown plans of the colleague. I told her I didn't believe the person would retire at the time envisioned.

The querent persisted, hoping to learn if she would have a chance of getting the job when the person eventually left. I informed her that she doesn't seem to be the ideal candidate at the moment, seeing that the Moon is in the term of Jupiter, where the affinity is only partial. But, noting the reception that will happen after the sign change, I suggested that if some circumstances in the querent's life are changed, she might be an excellent candidate. Hence, I explored the symbolism of change and wanted to know if the querent would need to learn new skills or if the shift in circumstances had anything to do with travel because of Moon's position in the 9th house. The querent stated that the job requires travel, and she needs to be in bet-

ter health to work in the desired position. I reiterated that the whole symbolism of the chart strongly indicated the priority of her health, which she agreed to.

### The querent's financial situation.

The querent then disclosed that she works in several-month intervals for an offshore company and is being paid in intervals. Also, she needs to travel for her job assignment. She feared that if the pain stayed longer than spring, she wouldn't be able to work, which would drive her to financial ruin. Subsequently, my attention went to the angular, peregrine Sun, ruler of the 2nd house. The Sun opposes the ascendant, makes a wide sextile to Jupiter, and conjuncts Venus. Unfortunately, the cadent house placement and combustion weaken Jupiter and Venus respectively; therefore, they can offer only moderate support. I told her that she still seemed to have some financial strength, given the angular position of the Sun. However, expenses are also indicated because of the Sun's rulership over the 2nd and its placement in the 7th. The querent replied that she had bank debt and was afraid she wouldn't be able to pay her installment obligations. Mercury is on the cusp of the 8th, and because it rules the 4th and signifies immovable goods, I asked if the installments were related to her home. She confirmed. The 8th house and Saturn opposing the cusp of the 2nd indicate debts and the harm that can come from them. Saturn has rulership over the 7th and 8th house (turned 2nd from 7th) and receives Mercury in applying conjunction. That appropriately symbolizes the party to whom the querent owes and which disposes of the house – namely, the bank. I told the client that her financial situation is depicted as neither wholly good nor wholly bad and that she will be able to find a solution if the going gets tough.<sup>13</sup>

The consultation ended with the client fully agreeing that she needed to prioritize her health and put her ambition on hold for some time. She also asked for additional information about functional medicine, which I mentioned during the conversation.

I reiterated  
that the whole  
symbolism of the chart  
strongly indicated the  
priority of her health,  
which she agreed to.



In her email immediately after the consultation, she reiterated her insight and willingness to initiate changes, including her sedentary lifestyle and daily business cocktails. The email ended with: "And I should just work less — I need to initiate that now and slowly make changes."

## Resolution

Six months later, the querent wrote that she did not try to extend the healing methods but continued with the conventional therapy. Finally, as summer came along, the pain started to lessen, and she could now move almost without pain. Considering her desire to be free from pain by spring, her feedback corroborated the Moon's fixed sign and placement in a cadent house, signifying the propensity to resist change or be ineffective. She also wrote that her desired position was unavailable because her colleague hadn't retired. But there were personnel changes in the department, and she got a new project to work on. She was satisfied to have it, as that was "better than being completely unemployed."

Pisces, a fertile mutable sign on the 10th cusp, would corroborate the possibility of more options than the querent first imagined

I realized that the anticipated change that could lead to a positive resolution at work, symbolized by the Moon's shift of the signs, was the change of personnel. Pisces, a fertile mutable sign on the 10th cusp, would corroborate the possibility of more options than the querent first imagined. The Moon's application to Jupiter with reception accurately reflects the acquisition of the new position within the company. Although that was not the position the querent envisioned and asked about, the solution was acceptable for her.

The wishful thinking, resulting in incomplete information that querent initially shared with me, was also represented in the chart. Both key significators of communication warn of weak or unreliable information: Mercury is afflicted by Saturn, and the Moon is cadent. As for a general theme, the horary chart reflects the emotional turmoil and blind spots behind the question through angular Pluto and elevated Neptune. Angular but afflicted Venus implies the possibility of not wholly satisfactory yet an acceptable resolution.

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- 1 Bonatti's 31st Consideration says that an aspect can perfect over sign boundaries if the applying planet is within the orb of the applied-to planet, provided the applying planet doesn't first enter into an aspect or bodily conjunction with an interposing planet. Bonatus, G., *The Astrologer's Guide*, translated by H. Coley and W. Lilly, Cosimo Classics (2005); p.19.
- 2 *Ibid*, consideration 20, p.17.
- 3 In the chapter on searching for a thief, Lilly refers to the significator changing sign as a "change of lodging or removing". In the chapter on the birth of a child, he connects the change of circumstance or condition with the planet's change of sign. Lilly, W., *Christian Astrology* (hereafter CA); Astrology Center of America (2004); p.345 & p.231.
- 4 Lilly attributes the symbolism of returns to the retrograde motion of a ship's significator in his passage on the safety of ships. CA, p.160.
- 5 A combust planet becomes invisible under the Sun's rays. For this reason, Lilly, in the chapter on

- rumors, attributes secrecy to a combust planet. CA, p.193. Ibn Ezra builds on this same principle in his book on elections. *Abraham Ibn Ezra on Elections, Interrogations and Medical Astrology* (1092-1167); translated by Shlomo Sela, Brill (2011); p.65.
- 6 See Ramsey's description of Face dignity. Ramsey, W., *Astrology restored* (1653), modernized edition by Kim Farnell (2014); p.117.
- 7 Bonatti writes that cadent houses are not promising any good due to their weakness. *Bonatti on Basic Astrology, Treatises 1-3* (1491 & 1550); Translated by Benjamin Dykes, The Cazimi Press (2010); p.94. Lilly also says that cadent planets cannot act efficiently. CA, p.47.
- 8 CA, p.248.
- 9 CA, p.282.
- 10 Peregrine planet is outside a sign or degree where it can exercise rulership. It implies navigation of the foreign territory where the person or thing signified by the peregrine planet cannot exercise the power of control because it occupies an uncomfortable place while undertaking some action. Ineffectiveness is a common complaint.
- 11 CA, pp.282-284.
- 12 Abraham Ibn Ezra, *The Book of Reasons*, translated by Shlomo Sela, Brill (2007); p.67.
- 13 Lilly writes that the ruler of the 2nd house angular augurs a good financial situation (CA, p.167), but also notes that the Sun in relation to the 2nd house signifies a diffusion of wealth (CA, p.52).

**Tanja Ristovski** has been involved in astrology since 1989. Since 2009 she has been working as a consulting astrologer. Her training and certifications include the STA Practitioner's Certificate in Horary and Medical Astrology (UK), the Rod Suskin School of Traditional Astrology Certificate (SA), and Noel Tyl's Master's Degree Certification (USA). She is currently completing the Advanced Level Horary Program of the STA. She lives in Vienna, Austria, and can be reached through her trilingual website [www.periastra.com](http://www.periastra.com) (<http://www.periastra.com>)



astrOMG!

by matt boisvert



SATURN IN PISCES

**Matt Boisvert** is a multidisciplinary artist based out of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, who has always been interested in esoteric arts. Over the years, he has produced four albums, music videos, animation, several plays and more. He studied art at the University of Alberta where he specialized in wax painting. He is married to astrology writer and consultant Mel Priestley, and 'astrOMG!' is born from the constant onslaught of astrological information they discuss.



# Transits of the Season



by DENISE HANCOCK, PHD

March 21  
through  
June 21, 2023

*"Listen to the mustn'ts, child. Listen to the don'ts. Listen to the shouldn'ts, the impossibles, the won'ts. Listen to the never haves, then listen close to me... Anything can happen, child. Anything can be."*

— Shel Silverstein

Like the Silverstein poem, this season's astrology whispers, "Anything can happen. Anything can be." Entrenched patterns and structures begin to morph with the sign changes of Mars, Saturn, and Pluto in March. These planetary shifts set the stage for eclipse season in April and May, followed by an action-oriented T-square across the fixed signs, where Jupiter in square to Pluto unleashes powerful, impactful forces of change.

Opportunities emerge in times of instability. With the help of a Jupiter-Saturn sextile in June, we find the energy and will to pursue pragmatic changes. The circum-

stances are ripe to forge ahead toward the 'Anything' of our imagination.

## MUSICAL CHAIRS IN MARCH

The planets play a game of musical chairs in March. Three outer planets remain seated — Jupiter in Aries, Uranus in Taurus, and Neptune in Pisces — while everyone else shifts signs. For us, it means significant developments. Situations resolve. Chapters end. People leave.

Saturn has already moved into Pisces by the Mar 20 Equinox, a powerful and pivotal week. The Sun enters Aries, marking a new zodiacal year. The Moon catches up quickly, starting a new lunar cycle at 1° Aries on Mar 21. Two days later, Mars finishes his 7-month residency in Gemini and enters Cancer. Pluto leaves Capricorn on Mar 25 for his first foray into Aquarius.

Whew.

The strong winds of change can be unsettling for human minds, but Venus offers a balm of pleasure and ease. Venus is strong in her home sign of Taurus from Mar 16 - Apr 10 and free from challenging aspects with Mars and Saturn. It is the best Venus energy we have had in a long time, encouraging us to slow down, find some ease, and enjoy the changing season.

*What brings you comfort and joy?* Schedule it, says the Capricorn. Weave it into your calendar. Play your favorite music, eat your favorite foods, dance, get massaged, cuddle.

March closes with a trio of transits that can offer good news, pleasant surprises, and sudden progress. Between Mar 28-30, Mercury conjoins Jupiter in Aries, Mars trines Saturn, and Venus connects with Uranus in Taurus.

## JUPITER CAZIMI IN EARLY APRIL

Early April begins with Mercury's ingress to Taurus (Apr 3) and square to Pluto. This is the opening square of the cycle that kicked off with the Feb 10 Mercury-Pluto conjunction at 29 Capricorn. It may also be a harbinger for developments when the Sun (Apr 20) and Jupiter (May 16) enter Taurus and make the same square aspect.

On Apr 5, the Full Moon in Libra opposes the Sun with Chiron and Jupiter in Aries. Mercury meets the North Node, forming the apex of a minor grand trine

*What brings you comfort and joy? Schedule it, says the Capricorn. Weave it into your calendar.*

Venus loses power when she moves into Gemini on April 10 from Taurus but is still a benefic influence.

between Mars and Saturn. Venus in Taurus rules the lunation and the Mercury-N. Node conjunction, portending good news for women, children, or other disempowered groups.

Venus loses power when she moves into Gemini on April 10 from Taurus but is still a benefic influence. Where Mars spent seven months heating and energizing situations, Venus can aid with coolness and gentle diplomacy.

April 11 is the annual Jupiter cazimi, but this year it takes place with an exalted Sun in Aries. Renn Butler describes Sun-Jupiter principles as "a warm and sunny nature, dramatic flair and enthusiasm for life, outflowing zest and joy, goodwill and generosity."<sup>1</sup>

Yes, please.

The Moon in Sagittarius will highlight the Jupiter cazimi by trine. This is a beautiful time to begin new ventures, especially related to personal development or spiritual and philosophical studies. There's always the potential for less savory expressions — self-righteousness, arrogance, and entitled behaviors, but I'm optimistic for a feel-good few days.

## ECLIPSE SEASON MID-APRIL TO MID-MAY

Eclipses occur with regularity but still bring an element of novelty and uncertainty into our lives. Robert Carl Jansky used the keywords, *emphasis*, and *crisis*, to describe their impact.<sup>2</sup> Situations arise or depart rapidly. The April-May duo has stout Martial and Plutonian flavors, intensifying the instability.

Using traditional rulership, both eclipses are ruled by **Mars**. The solar eclipse is in late Aries (April 19), and the lunar eclipse is in mid-Scorpio (May 5). By sign, Mars in Cancer squares Jupiter in Aries with mixed mutual reception. Mars is in the sign of Jupiter's exaltation, and Jupiter is in Mars' diurnal home. This relationship provides Mars greater strength than he usually has in Cancer, the sign of his Fall.

The position and pace of **Pluto** (modern ruler of Scorpio) are also remarkable. Pluto stations retrograde on May 1 and hovers in the 1st degree of Aquarius, where the Dec 2020 Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn occurred. Between eclipses, Pluto's location only changes by 2 minutes (00°19' to 00°21')

Aquarius), and the eclipses end with a mutually applying Jupiter-Pluto square.

Eclipses occur in predictable cycles, and each eclipse belongs to a larger pattern known as the Saros Series (SS). Solar eclipses in a specific SS recur approximately every 18 years and express characteristics based on the original eclipse in the cycle. These characteristics help delineate the eclipse's potential impact on mundane events and natal charts.

On April 19, we have a hybrid solar eclipse in the anaretic degree of Aries. This solar eclipse is part of SS 7 North, a pattern that began Oct 3, 1107. The most recent SS 7N eclipse was Apr 8, 2005. Dr. Bernadette Brady describes this series as *"very sensual... can catch people off guard and confront them with their own very deep passion which may have been hidden for many years."*<sup>3</sup>

The following day (April 20), the Sun enters Taurus, joining the North Node, Moon, Mercury, and Uranus, and squaring off with Pluto. Sun-Pluto squares often reflect the dark, violent side of masculine energy. Between the solar eclipse and the Sun-Pluto square, we can anticipate news stories of sex, violence, other crimes, and struggles for power and control.

Each traditional and transpersonal planet has been in direct motion since Jan 22. On April 20, that changes. Mercury begins his retrograde phase at 15°37' Taurus.

It may be interesting to note what forces are at play in your life now. Uranus spent Feb 4 – Mar 14 at the 16th degree of Taurus, the May 5 eclipse is very close, and Jupiter stations at the same degree in September. If you have important placements in the middle of the fixed signs, it's a highly sensitive pressure point in 2023.

The skies are relatively quiet until the first week of May. Mercury reaches his retrograde midpoint on May 1, plunging into the heart of the Sun. On the same day, Pluto stations retrograde. Venus squares idealistic Neptune on May 4 before moving into sensitive Cancer (May 7). On May 5, we will experience the final South Node Scorpio eclipse (14°58') until 2040.

### FIXED SIGN TENSION IN MAY

The North Node is still in the fixed earth of Taurus, and this sign remains a hotspot. On May 9, the Sun conjoins Uranus. On May 14, Mercury finishes his retrograde and stations direct at 5° 51 Taurus. Two days later, Jupiter enters the sign of the Bull.

As Jupiter moved through the last degrees of Aries, he engaged with Pluto in an out-of-sign square. This square has been within a 5-degree orb since Apr 26. After Jupiter's ingress, the square perfects on May 17 (see chart, following page) and lingers within 5° until June 9.

Although out of sign at the perfection of the Jupiter-Pluto square, Mars (29° Cancer) amplifies the tension, forming a T-square with Jupiter at the apex. The New Moon in Taurus on May 19 (28°25') serves as an exclamation point. Mars enters fixed-fire Leo on May 20, opposing Pluto on May 21 as the Sun exits Taurus for Gemini. The Mars-Jupiter square is exact on May 23.

The Mars-Jupiter-Pluto combination has the potential to initiate powerful evolutionary moves, far-reaching and substantial achievements, and increase our enthusiasm and effectiveness. This T-square may correlate with productive and life-enhancing breakthroughs. But there is also a distinct possibility for ruthless, power-seeking behaviors and aggressive tactics.<sup>4</sup>

The Mars-Jupiter-Pluto combination has the potential to initiate powerful evolutionary moves, far-reaching and substantial achievements, and increase our enthusiasm and effectiveness.

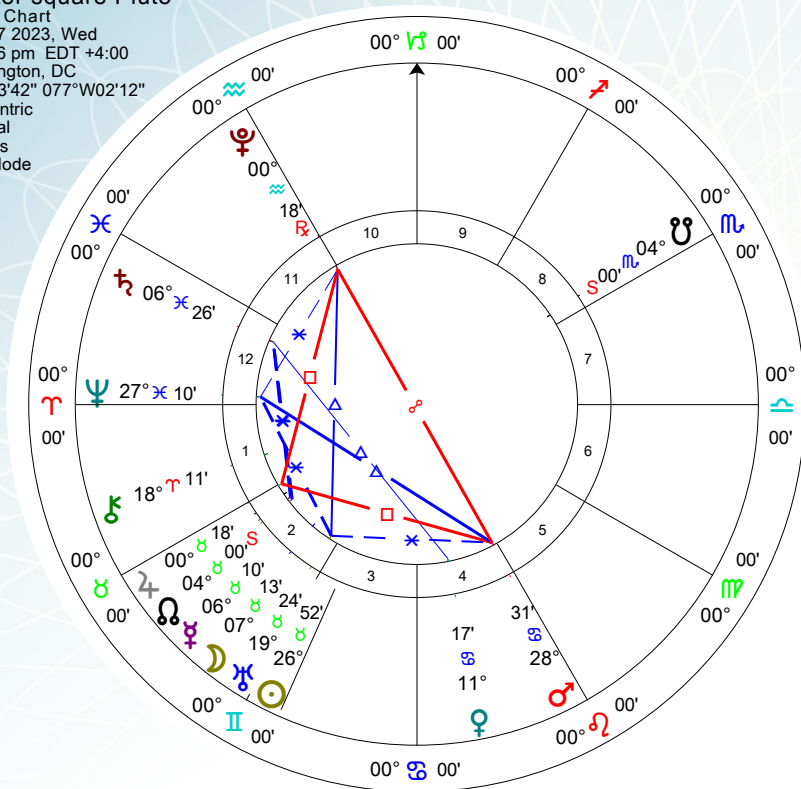




## Transits of the Season

### Jupiter square Pluto

Event Chart  
May 17 2023, Wed  
9:20:36 pm EDT +4:00  
Washington, DC  
38°N53'42" 077°W02'12"  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
0° Aries  
True Node



Wear your safety gear, actual and psychological.

In the mutable signs, the Sun squares Saturn on May 28. This is a defining moment in the annual Sun-Saturn cycle, marking a quarter point since the Feb 16 cazimi (27° 44' Aquarius). This aspect often focuses our attention on limitations, delays, and barriers. After the eclipses and the Mars-Jupiter-Pluto tension, this may be a low-energy, melancholic time. Planning for rest might be your best option for the final weekend of May.

*We all have an obligation to daydream. We have an obligation to imagine. It is easy to pretend that nobody can change anything, that society is huge and the individual is less than nothing. But the truth is individuals make the future, and they do it by imagining that things can be different.*

~Neil Gaiman

### RECHARGING AND INTEGRATING IN JUNE

On June 1, Jupiter conjoins the North Node at 4 Taurus. Astrological perspectives of the lunar nodes vary, but this will likely be a significant moment for Jupiterian matters such as religion, law, banking, or finance. While it's always possible that Jupiter transits can result in excess, a boost of enthusiasm may be just what we need. Our energy and inspiration will continue

to be refueled with the Full Moon in fiery Sagittarius (June 3) and Mercury conjunct Uranus (June 4) at 21 Taurus.

On June 5, Venus ingresses to Leo, where she will remain until Oct 8 due to her summer retrograde. Venus in Leo is warm, fun-loving, and confident. This extended transit uplifts the spirit and stimulates the urge to pursue desires.

Pluto regresses to Capricorn on June 11, and Mercury speeds forward into his diurnal home of Gemini. Expect the pace of daily life to pick up with an energized Mercury. We're ready to communicate, socialize, travel, and conduct business.

Saturn follows Pluto in retrograde motion on June 17, stationing at 7°13' Pisces. We have a New Moon in Gemini (square Neptune) on the same date. The Sun-Neptune square perfects on June 18.

At its best, Neptune's interaction with the luminaries can inspire us with a greater sense of spiritual purpose and connection and heighten our intuition and imagination.

The extended sextile offers opportunities for integration between the expansionary impulses of Jupiter and the prudence of Saturn.

At its best, Neptune's interaction with the luminaries can inspire us with a greater sense of spiritual purpose and connection and heighten our intuition and imagination. Consider a weekend getaway to your favorite scenic natural setting — beach, lake, mountains, desert, etc. — where you can star-gaze and embrace a sense of awe.

Just before the June Solstice, Jupiter forms a sextile to Saturn on June 19. This is the first Ptolemaic aspect to form between Jupiter and Saturn since their Dec 2020 Great Conjunction. Because of Saturn's slowdown and retrograde, the aspect remains within a 5-degree orb between May 25 and July 15.

The extended sextile offers opportunities for integration between the expansionary impulses of Jupiter and the prudence of Saturn. At the personal and collective level, we can balance idealism with realism and are ready to work diligently for the future.

Major archetypal cycles began in 2020, with Pluto, Saturn, and Jupiter conjunctions in Capricorn. This season marks transition points in the cycles, with opportunities for action. The celestial and terrestrial worlds keep doing what they always do: *cycle and change*. But we are not merely passive observers; we are dynamic participants in the process.

*Anything can happen. Anything can be.*

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- 4 Butler (2018), p. 330.

**Denise Hancock** is a nurse and consulting astrologer in New Orleans, Louisiana. She brings the benefits of a full life experience to her client work, with a successful career spanning finance, health-care, education, and management positions. Denise holds a Ph.D. in Nursing and B.S. degrees in both Nursing and Economics. Clients love her for her compassionate pragmatism. She is Senior Editor for *The Evolving Astrologer* magazine and organizer of the New Orleans Astrology Meetup group. You can learn more at <http://www.astrologywithdenise.com>.



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# INTERVIEW *with* Elisabeth Grace

by William Sebrans



*"A reporter with a unique beat—An astrologer for the real world." Elisabeth Grace maintains a thriving practice in New York City, encompassing diverse branches of astrology. She has blended serial careers in the film, television, music, and news industries, (including a stint as a stand-up comic), with the gift of cosmic commentary that only astrology can offer.*

*Let's find out more...*

## PERSONAL

***What's up front and center for you now in your work or personal life? What's a driving passion, professionally and/or personally?***

The astonishing synchronicity of planetary patterns and the news is always front and center! I've been writing about it since 2009, and recently started podcasting about it weekly.

***Share a little of your family/cultural background...How has it influenced you today?***

I'm a typical American mishmash of Italian, English, and Russian, with a wee bit of Greek and Albanian, according to Ancestry.com. As a child, I was quite proud of my diversity.

I am a military brat, born in Japan, and we moved often, with four years spent in Belgium. I was lucky that my parents took me with them when they traveled all over Europe. I learned early on that there's a lot more to the world than America, and for an American growing up in the 70s (before the internet), that was a healthy perspective.

TV started at 6 PM, so I was always outside playing or reading a book. The Flemish channel aired *Star Trek* and *Monty Python* with subtitles, not dubbed, and that was a big influence.

WS *What possibly else could a young curious mind need?*

EG . Exactly, so of course, I would become an astrologer who once did stand-up comedy.

***Spiritual orientation: Do you align with any tradition and/or follow any particular practice(s)?***

No formal religious upbringing. Dad was a retired Catholic; his dad was a retired Jew. Mom was a Unitarian who became an athe-

ist. Her mother, who adored books, joined the Unitarian church because that's where the Literary Club met.

As a child, I was obsessed with fairy tales from around the world. I came to see that they all tell the same human story. When I lived in LA, I would go to the Siddha Yoga Center, and the chants I learned there occasionally pop back into my mind, especially when I'm flying through turbulence.

I believe that our life on this likely holodeck is not all there is and that space and time may be illusions. It will be interesting to shuffle off this mortal coil (quoting Shakespeare). But I'm not in any rush to do so.

What's frustrating about being on planet Earth is this human exceptionalism thing — this idea that we should have dominion over everything, like, we're so special. *Why is humanity special — so exalted — compared to narwhals or otters?*

I'm here on a tourist visa, and once that expires, it'll be "So long, and thanks for all the fish." (Quoting *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*).

***If we use the frame of life as having evolutionary lessons, how might you characterize yours at this time?***

I'm still a work in progress. But having just been through a Saturn return, I've proven my worth.

***Formal Education:***

Skipped kindergarten and started first grade at a Quaker school. Living overseas and my own fast mind got me into Wellesley College at 16...too young, frankly, but nothing else made sense. I majored in philosophy because I wanted to know WHY, but philosophy only raises more questions.

***Informal Education: (you can be brief, quippy, and out-of-bounds)***

Hitch-hiked around Europe after college — smart! Studying improv taught me that mistakes are gifts. Wish I'd learned that I when I was a child. Serving as a poll worker for the past seven years fulfills my need to empower others to live to their fullest potential. Your. Vote. Matters! And if you don't vote, somebody else will (and then you'll be sorry).

***What's the best thing about you? If there are several, go for it...***

(Long pause...) My biting wit and humor.

WS: *I definitely witness that!*

I believe that our life on this likely  
holodeck is not all there is  
and that space and time  
may be illusions.

People say I am easy to talk to, especially when sharing the deeply personal issues that inevitably come up in a consultation. I am blessed to have Jupiter in Pisces on steroids, along with Saturn in Aquarius. This is a no-judgement zone.

**What might you say is the most challenging thing about you (for yourself and/or for others)?**

I'm a fast Aries Sun–Mercury processor, and I have an impassioned answer before anyone even knows there's a question. Being ahead of the pack means I'm often out-of-sync, and thus impatient, waiting for others to catch up. This can irritate or intimidate some people, especially Vagon bureaucrats.

Focus can be a challenge. Moon in Gemini wants to entertain all the possibilities, but to get anywhere, you've got to turn off the distractions and prioritize what's important.

Not sure if this is a challenging thing...and I may not seem this way... but am actually a bit shy.



Elisabeth in Boothbay Harbor (previous page), With Family VW, Playing Golf in Maine.

WS: *In the Human Design System, you're what they call a "Projector" right? – the type that needs to be first recognized and invited before you step up fully...*

EG: Exactly, that message from the Human Design perspective totally resonates with my experience.

**You never tried...?**

Piercing – not even pierced ears. No tattoos.

**You can't refuse...?**

An invitation to speak, travel or dance.

A visit to the Olympic Spa when I'm in Los Angeles.

A chance to sing "White Rabbit" in a karaoke bar.

My cousin's blueberry pie.

**What's recreation/ playtime for you?**

A round of golf. A walk in the woods. Summers in Maine. Iyengar yoga. Broadway musicals. Lunch at Le Botaniste, in NYC. Learning languages — and I need to make more time for that. Hosting dinner parties, though Covid put a damper on entertaining, and many friends moved away. Ah, Saturn in Aquarius...you put us all on Zoom.

I can be obsessive about researching astro-logical connections, but I love what I do for a living. Work = playtime. Lucky me!

**Your favorite places on earth?**

Wherever my friends are. I was just in St. Lucia. I'm drawn to islands, like Fire Island and Shelter Island in New York – and of course, Hawaii. Warm tropical weather does it for me. I'm very happy to run around in a sarong.

And Maine, where I have family.

A trip to Snowdonia in Wales years ago was magical — as if I'd lived there before.

**Sun, Moon, Ascendant, MC?**

Aries Sun conjunct Mercury, Gemini Moon, Capricorn Ascendant, and Libra MC.

People thought I was 22 when I was 12. Go figure. But Capricorn types can age backwards and lighten up as they get older. I'm looking forward to 90.

## YOUR PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGY PRACTICE

**What was/were your livelihood(s) before going professional?**

I thought I would go to law school, but I ended up working in film and TV marketing — as a promo writer/producer. I learned how illusions are made real, and what motivates people to act. When I moved to NY, I got into news...NBC, WNBC and CNBC. I've also worked in music publishing.

**Your prime Astrology teachers, influences, and inspirations?**

Linda Goodman's *Sun Signs* when I was 9.

Rockie Gardiner, who wrote a forecast for *LA Weekly* and *The Village Voice*

Bill Herbst, whose work sparked my passion for mundane astrology.

Noel Tyl (No-ELL TILL) — which is an anagram for Tylenol — whose master's course was more demanding than any class I took at Wellesley.

Lee Lehman, for horary and medical astrology...which led me to the School of Traditional Astrology...



**Was there an astrological AHA moment or two when you knew an astrological path was for you?**

First, when I worked at Columbia Pictures, there were massive layoffs, and signs went up all over the building offering free psychological counseling. I accepted the offer and remember having the distinct impression – looking at my therapist sitting across from me — that I would stay in the entertainment industry until I was around 40, and then I would somehow be helping people, as my therapist was helping me.

Second, I read Rockie Gardiner's column religiously when I lived in LA in the 1990s. She was my yoga teacher's friend, so I got

Bill looked at my 3rd house stellium,  
driven by a super-charged Gemini Moon  
and said, "You could have a one-woman  
show — or a blog — and you would be  
talking and talking and never shut up  
about it — still talking about it from  
your bed on the day you die."

to meet her. Her column got me seriously grounded in astrology daily, because Rockie wrote about the planetary Zeitgeist of the day — regardless of your Sun Sign.

Rockie died suddenly on Halloween 2008. It was devastating. I dearly missed her daily forecast and couldn't find a replacement. I'd left the music biz and was back in TV news promotion, but I knew the gig wasn't going to last.

What did I do in this time of crisis? I booked a consultation with an astrologer — Bill Herbst — because Rockie had once told me about him.

Bill looked at my 3rd house stellium, driven by a super-charged Gemini Moon and said,

"You could have a one-woman show — or a blog — and you would be talking and talking and never shut up about it — still talking about it from your bed on the day you die."

As astrologers, we have the power to plant some potent seeds.

A few weeks later, I was laid off from my freelance gig — and with Bill's words ringing in my ears, I screwed up my courage and posted a forecast – the way Rockie might have written it — on Facebook. My one-woman show was going to be about astrology...and soon thereafter, the astrology of the news!

A few months later, I went to ISAR, my first astrology conference. When I heard Noel Tyl speak on the "Magic of Solar Arcs," (which I didn't know how to use), it was like Boom! Boom! Boom!... it all clicked. I wanted to learn everything he could teach me, so I signed up for his Masters Course.

In my next gig in TV news promotion, I started to notice that wow, I'm writing about these planetary patterns in my forecast. And the 11 o'clock story reflects what I'm talking about. I wonder if I can use astrology to predict what we're going to read on the front page of *The New York Times*...and it turns out I could, and here we are today.

**3 (or more) never-lose or give-away-without-replacing astrology books**

Noel Tyl – *Synthesis and Counseling in Astrology*

Robert Hand – *Planets in Transit*

**Do you have areas of focus in your practice, in client work, or in teaching?**

With client work, the focus is on giving them exactly what they need – which is usually a combination of clarity, wisdom, and grace – in a language they can understand. In other words, no jargon! My job is to translate the patterns of the horoscope in a way that is relatable a person's life experience. My focus is on practical application. Astrology is a useful tool, not a belief system!

I am a certified horary practitioner. I enjoy working with the horoscopes of families, because planetary patterns run in families, like DNA — and this is fascinating! I do synastry and composite chart consultations, elections, and astrocartography. I am available for private tutoring, and corporate and private events, etc. etc.

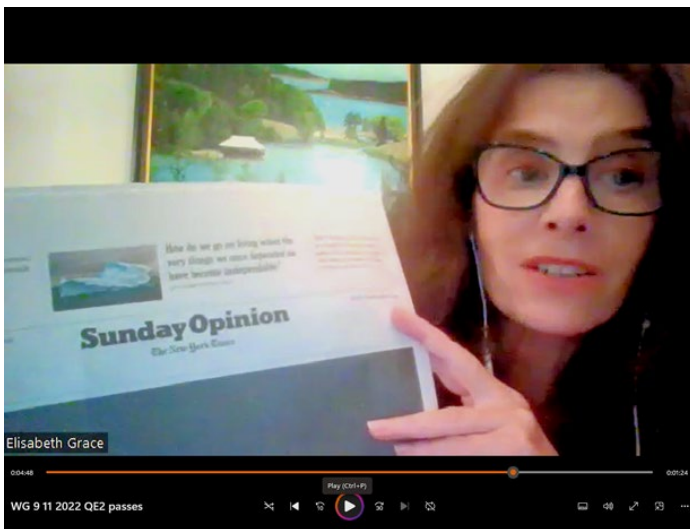
**What do you feel are your greatest accomplishments to date in your astrology career?**

Writing an accurate mundane astrology forecast for 14 years is a great accomplishment! I am thrilled to have been published in *Dell Horoscope* and *The Mountain Astrologer*. Eternal gratitude to Ronnie Grishman and Tem Tarriktar for saying "YES!"

And have I mentioned that *Off the Charts: A Stellar Newscast*, has just gone weekly? It's a creative collaboration with astrologer/journalist Whitney McKnight. Check it out!

I love working in partnership (says Moon in Gemini ruling the 7th house). Astrologer Kathy Rose is another creative collaborator. She produces an annual conference that focuses on the brilliant, efficient approach to analysis we learned from Noel Tyl. I'm delighted to be on the faculty.

In my next gig in TV news promotion,  
I started to notice that wow,  
I'm writing about these planetary  
patterns in my forecast. And the  
11 o'clock story reflects  
what I'm talking about.



Elisabeth with the New York Times



St. Lucia sunset, Halloween in the time of Covid, Pepper at the mic

### ***What do you experience as the great thing ... and the difficult thing about being an astrologer?***

The great thing about being an astrologer is the great privilege of helping people make sense out of seemingly random chaos, in their own personal lives and in the mundane world. It's great to be helping people for a living, as opposed to...say...marketing weed killer. The appreciation I've received from clients over the years is priceless. I will die happy, knowing I have been a positive influence in the lives of thousands of people (thousands, because I'm including those who read my forecast or listen to my podcast).

But helping people chart a course during periods of challenging transits is a serious responsibility – not for the faint-hearted. I put a great deal of time and energy into how I can best serve my clients, often past regular business hours. So, I suppose, ironically, that one difficult thing about being an astrologer is efficient time management, especially if you are a one-woman show, with no support staff.

### ***What are your future aspirations for yourself in the field of astrology... to accomplish and/or to learn?***

Have I mentioned *Off the Charts: A Stellar Newscast*? I would like to see that grow (and it is!). With the 2020 Great Mutation of Jupiter-Saturn in Aquarius, it's imperative to get off the written page and into the airwaves, which means I may never get around to writing a book, but you never know.

My future aspirations involve continued creative collaborations, perhaps with partners who have not yet presented themselves.

### ***Do you have any aspirations/visions for the profession of astrology, as a whole?***

Yes. My vision is that one day we stop fighting about house systems.

### ***What inspires you to be an OPA member?***

It's hard to put a good vibe into words. But that's what I had when I thought about renewing my membership last year and went with it. And here we are having this lovely chat, which is going to be published in a magazine with gorgeous production values and smart, sophisticated articles. And I'm super-psyched to be presenting a talk at OPA's conference in April.

Thanks, OPA!

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

Don't be in a rush to hang out a shingle. It takes time – years of study and practice – to become fluent in the language of astrology. And ideally, when you are fluent, you will be able to have a meaningful discussion with a client about their horoscope *without using one word of jargon*. Astrologers need to be effective communicators, so hone your speaking, writing, and marketing skills. Unless you have a trust fund or a partner willing to support you, make sure you have a reliable income stream while you're building your practice. Think of your gig as a necessary part of your education in the school of life.

## **CONTACT**

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## OPA, The Organization for Professional Astrology,

is dedicated to promoting Accessibility, Sustainability, and Credibility for astrologers. Incorporated on October 4, 2000 at 1:45 pm EDT in Tallahassee, Florida, OPA provides members with opportunities and tools to study astrology and establish or improve their astrological practice. Membership is open to any level of expertise. Among the benefits: free presentations and panels by top notch astrologers, opportunities to be published in The Career Astrologer journal, and being part of a global community of astrologers through conferences and online discussions. Annual dues are \$60.00.

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## UPCOMING ASTROLOGY CONFERENCES

### APRIL

21 - 23 **2023 OPA Spring Virtual**

**Conference: Time for Technique**

[www.opaastrologyevents.org](http://www.opaastrologyevents.org)

29 - 30 **Mayo Astrology Online**

**Conference 2023: Navigating the Future through Astrological Forecasting**

[mayoastrology.com](http://mayoastrology.com)

### MAY

25-29 **39th NORWAC** (Northwest

Astrology Conference), Tukwila, WA, USA.

This will be a HYBRID conference and will be simulcast. [www.norwac.net](http://www.norwac.net)

### JUNE

2 - 4 **Astrology Toronto**

**Weekend Intensive with Jason Holley**

[astrologytoronto.com/events/jason-holley](http://astrologytoronto.com/events/jason-holley)

6/30 - 7/2 **OMEGA Astrology**

**Conference: Astrology, Consciousness, and the Great Shift, Upstate New York**

### SEPTEMBER

dates TBA **Biennial Canadian Astrology**

**Conference** [www.astrologyconference.ca](http://www.astrologyconference.ca)

9/28 - 10/1 **AstroBash Evolutionary**

**Astrology Conference**, Borrego Springs, CA. [www.Astro-Bash.com](http://www.Astro-Bash.com)

### OCTOBER

13 - 15 **15th Annual AAGB Conference:**

**Light Emerging from the Shadows**

HYBRID conference [www.astrologicalassociation.com/conference-2023/](http://www.astrologicalassociation.com/conference-2023/)

OPAastrology.org





## Join OPA's Community Board Group on Facebook

for Astrology Announcements, Blogs, Events, and Musings

[www.facebook.com/groups/OPAccommunity](http://www.facebook.com/groups/OPAccommunity)



## Join OPA's Astrology Discussion Group on Facebook

for great conversations about astrology and current events:

[www.facebook.com/groups/astrologydiscussionsOPA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/astrologydiscussionsOPA)



# CHECK OUT OUR SCHEDULE

## OPA's 2023 Presentation Speakers



Amazing lectures  
from some of the  
leading experts and  
up-and-coming  
Astrologers.

ENLIGHTENING  
INSPIRING



**Free for OPA Members**  
**\$15 for non-members**

*All talks are recorded and  
available for members and  
registered non-members*

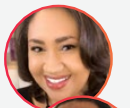
*Get complete  
presentation descriptions  
and updates, and learn more at*



[OPAastrology.org](https://OPAastrology.org)



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023**  
**MOON ZLOTNICK (MN)**  
Identifying Trauma in the  
Birth Chart



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023**  
**TAYLOR SHULER (AZ)**  
**AND OMARI MARTIN (IL)**  
The Divine Nine — and  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity  
and Alpha Kappa Alpha  
Sorority through the  
Lens of Astrology



**SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023**  
**OPA LIVE PANEL:**  
**SATURN IN PISCES**



**SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023**  
**ALPEE LAVOIE (CT)**  
The Importance of  
Eclipses and New Moon  
in Astrology



**SUNDAY, MAY 21ST, 2023**  
**KATHY ROSE (VA)**  
Freedom from Fate



**SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023**  
**OPA LIVE PANEL:**  
**MEDICAL ASTROLOGY**



**SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023**  
**IRIS GILDEA (CANADA)**  
Astrology for Healing  
Trauma: Shifting  
Paradigms with the  
Moon, Chiron & Pluto



**SUNDAY, JULY, 16, 2023**  
**MEL PRIESTLEY (CANADA)**  
Twins and Twelfth Parts



**SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023**  
**SUE MINAHAN (HI)**  
USA Venus Star Point  
Return / Oct 23, 2026



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023**  
**AMIR BEY (NY)**  
Blending: Combining  
Composite and Davison  
Charts and the Part of  
Union



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023**  
**LUCIAN SCHLOSS (MA)**  
The Great Spiral



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2023**  
**OPA LIVE PANEL:**  
**RELATIONSHIP ASTROLOGY**



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**  
**MAGALI MORALES (CA)**  
Using Astrology to  
Empower Parents and  
Help Their Children Thrive



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023**  
**MJ PATTERSON (CANADA)**  
Astrology after 60



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22,**  
**KIRA SUTHERLAND**  
(AUSTRALIA)  
How the Cross of Matter  
Matters: Using Modes  
to Understand Illness and  
Healing



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023**  
**ANTJE SOMMER (NY)**  
The Influence of  
Astrology on Music of the  
'80s, '90s, and 2000s



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023**  
**GAYE ALKAN (TURKEY)**  
A Modern Approach to  
Annual Profections



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023**  
**OPA LIVE PANEL:**  
**2024 – THE YEAR AHEAD**