ASTROLOGY and DIVINATION

plus JUPITER IN PISCES
ASTROLOGY AND DIVINATION

22 Why Magic, And Why Now? 
   Michael Ofek

28 Palmistry as a Divination Tool 
   Anne C. Ortelee

32 Astrologers in a World of Omens 
   Alan Annand

36 Will she Come Back to Me? 
   Vasilios Takos

39 Magic Astrology and a 
   Talisman for Success 
   Laurie Naughtin

JUPITER IN PISCES

64 Jupiter in Pisces 2021-2022 
   Attunement to Higher Truths and Healing 
   Peggy Schick

68 Neptune In Pisces’ Scorpio Decan 
   Amy Shapiro

71 Astrology, the Common Belief of Tomorrow 
   Michael Kiyoshi Salvatore

76 Jupiter and Neptune in Pisces: 
   Crystallising Emerging Awareness 
   Robbie Tulip

Features

11 OPA LIVE Introduction

12 OPA LIVE Vocational Astrology 
   OMARI Martin

17 OPA LIVE Grief Consulting 
   for Astrologers 
   Magali Morales

Columns

6 TRANSITS OF THE SEASON 
   Anne Sundell

46 Breaking the Fourth Wall 
   Russ von Ohlhausen

52 The Business of Astrology 
   Stormie Grace

56 Saturn: Our Great Galactic Teacher 
   Anne Redlich
Welcome to our June Solstice edition. We’re halfway through 2021, dancing in the square of Uranus and Saturn, weaving together a rich tapestry of innovation and progress, synthesized with the urgent need for a sustainable earth, and our collective need to be more personally grounded in our choices in this ever expanding technological age.

We are working through this complicated integration within OPA. We have morphed permanently into virtual offerings of our conference and certification trainings, while we still plan to also offer personal retreat conferences in beautiful nature settings when it’s fully safe to travel and mingle.

As a result of the ease and affordability of Zoom trainings, we have a record number of OPA Members pursuing certification—plus over a 30% increase in membership during the past year.

We are proud of our fantastic April virtual conference and are hopeful that at least part of our next conference will be in person. We will find the balance of earth and technology.

So much change!

I am personally very excited about the fabulous Stormie Grace joining our board this month, while several talented individuals have stepped forward to volunteer their time and expertise as we expand into the next year. More on this soon.

Happy PRIDE Month! We send heartfelt wishes to all of our LGBTQ+ members and friends. It’s taken a long time to get here, speaking of radical change, but through the courage of all who “came out” when it was particularly risky to do so, we are in a whole new world in terms of freedom to express one’s sexuality and gender in most countries throughout the globe.

Happy Juneteenth! A worthy celebration, and a reminder that so much more needs to be done to create true equity.

May your Solstice season be sweet! We value your support and membership.

In gratitude,
Kay
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SECURE YOUR SPOT NOW
Horatio:
O day and night, but this is wondrous strange!

Hamlet:
And therefore, as a stranger give it welcome.
There are more things in heaven and earth,
Horatio,
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

Hamlet Act 1

Jupiter represents where we have or are called to faith, and it is an act of considered faith to trust in a synchronistic cosmos, one where planetary motions, colors, plants, palms, birds, and anything at all, conspire in a moment to convey a truth not accessible to our purely rational philosophies and narratives.

It is also faith, to not only hear and heed that very particularized truth, but to receive a course of remedy that can mitigate or avert one that is potentially harmful to body, mind, and soul, as it is, as well, to augment advantage and opportunity in life by using similar methods.

The “history” of divination transcends prosaic history, going back beyond our written speculations to ancient oral traditions and even earlier, to indigenous practices that saw and continue to embrace Nature’s fantastic web of effects and appearances as one great omen, magically interconnected.

Planetary and stellar influence, as reflected in our charts, our palms, our faces, and in the myriad animals, plants, gems, natural formations, synchronistic events—all can give us, with study, cues to the challenges and the benign invitations of the moment.

In this issue, we explore horary, magical elections and talisman creation, palmistry, and other divination practices from both the Western and Eastern traditions, all of which reference what is going on “above” to what is going below, around, and within.

Jupiter in Pisces’s natural propensity to bless, —blesses, then, our investigation.

To be clear, Jupiter doesn’t always bless; he can create trouble, like the rest of his stellar family.

We know his excess well — spreading what needs to be limited, over-extending faith where verification would serve better, and reaching to the stars at the expense of cleaning the messes in our finances, sock drawers, and relationships.

Still, he remains a ready ally in our search for meaning, even in application to the most practical affairs of the day.

“Walking the mystical path with practical feet” is the golden center, and all we are really asked is to balance our faith with healthy doses of discernment.

That blend of perspectives should come naturally to us when it comes to the methodologies described in many of the articles, herein. That’s because to proceed with such faith takes rigorous study, practice, humbling, and dedicated collegiate conferencing to “tap the magic” no matter, except in very rare cases, how intuitive or believing by nature one may be.

...And that all said, there’s no harm done, and considerable advantage promised in looking out for faeries, elementals, and Middle-Earth dwellers on Midsummer’s and Midwinter’s Eve.

Certainly, we have been fools for lesser things, no?

Summarized below, awaiting you in this issue, is yet again another impressive array of thought-streams, images, and perspectives on astrology’s multifaceted expressions in our various worlds.

- OPA Live presenters deliver practical insight into:
  * Vocation: OMARI Martin
  * Location: Wolfram
  * Finances: Rachel Lang
  * Grief Counseling: Magali Morales

- Offering perspectives on the Divinatory Arts: Laurie Naughtin, Alan Annand, Vasilios Takos, Anne Ortelee, & Michael Ofek

- The Jupiter in Pisces theme receives diverse treatment from: Amy Shapiro, Michael Kiyoshi Salvatore, Peggy Schick, Robbie Tulip

- And we have this year’s regular columns from, Anne Redlich, Russell Von Olhausen, Stormie Grace

- Our quarterly interview, this time with OMARI Martin

- …and articles from Oner Doser, Madalyn Hills-Dineen, Amir Bey

Welcome to the ride and thank you for being OPA members.
Happy Birthday all Cancers! This period kicks off with the Sun moving into this emotional water sign. It offers to reacquaint ourselves with the realms of this first water sign. When the Sun moves through Cancer, we might get a bit more sentimental and emotional, reminders of how this Sun sign expresses itself. We might want to spend more time with family and loved ones, and what time is better than the gathering of family at midsummer?

Summer Solstice – Sun in Cancer
Trine Jupiter in Pisces (June 20-21)

During summer solstice, the Sun is at 0° degrees of Cancer and has now reached its point of no return, the point as far north as it can go from the Equator during its whole yearly cycle. In the northern hemisphere night equals the day and there is light all around the clock, especially where I live in Finland. Simultaneously, the largest of our planets, Jupiter, slows down and stations retrograde at 2° degrees 11’ in Pisces making a beautiful trine to this Solstice Sun. Jupiter’s retrograde phase will last until Oct 18 this year.

The stationary planets are often perceived to have increased intensity in the chart, making an impact on a global scale. The aspects they make are highlighted and in the Solstice chart, Jupiter is making only one major aspect through the trine to the Sun. This is even more interesting as Jupiter can also be seen as unintegrated when not making any other major aspects. Periods when Jupiter has been stationary have been viewed as significant concerning religious or ideological matters. People who have been instrumental in religious and ideological causes have often been born with Jupiter station. To mention a few examples, spiritual leader Dalai Lama was born during stationary Jupiter in Scorpio, as was dictator Adolf Hitler with stationary Jupiter in Capricorn. It’s time to look back and rethink some of the beliefs and practices that have been established up to this point. How do we find our own truth? As the world is slowly opening up after the pandemic, this might also be a time when limits are fully tested as we proceed into a new and unknown reality.

In the Solstice chart, Uranus is also opposing the Scorpio Moon, while Saturn and Mars square it, adding a great deal of restlessness to the whole picture. This aspect might also add to the feeling of insecurity, call for social change, and a need to challenge the status quo. So, while enjoying the holiday let’s also be careful and stay safe.

You can explore where Jupiter and Uranus will be transiting in your chart during this time, and apply these influences to your personal life.

Capricorn Full Moon – Pluto/Venus opposition (June 24)

The Full Moon in Capricorn on June 24, with Pluto opposing Venus, might bring up more intense emotions. In the sign of Capricorn, the Full Moon highlights the conflict between our sense of duty and our emotional needs which can make us feel vulnerable. At the Full Moon there is a general feeling of restlessness when the energies involved are opposing each other. With Pluto and Venus in the same framework, we may confront issues concerning power and other insecurities concerning ourselves or close relationships.

The stationary planets are often perceived to have increased intensity in the chart, making an impact on a global scale.
It is time for “shadow work”, bringing to the surface what lurks beneath.

For example, you may feel more possessive of your loved ones. Pluto’s influence might suddenly make things seem very black and white.

The Sabian Symbol for this Full Moon degree, 3°27 Capricorn, is “A Human Soul, in its eagerness for new experiences, seeks embodiment”. Embedded in the feelings of power struggle we might also be needing to prove ourselves as this Moon sign asks us to act in a confident and deliberate manner.

We will simply not accept a no for an answer. The sign of Capricorn is challenging us to keep a rational head, take charge of our emotions and help us achieve the goals we have set. This Full Moon time might therefore be a very productive one, finishing personal projects and other loose ends, placing mind over emotions. A reminder of the body parts associated with this Moon sign are the bones, including joints, knees, teeth or spine/back. Perhaps a time for a visit to the chiropractor or massage therapist?

**URANUS – MARS – SATURN T-Square 12-13 degrees Fixed SIGNS (July 1)**

Driving a car with three wheels—

During this period of 2021 we will be experiencing a T-square in the fixed signs of Taurus, Leo and Aquarius that will be exact on the first of July. T-squares have a reputation of being difficult to deal with energetically, especially when situated in the unyielding fixed signs. These alignments also reflect very strong energies that can help us strive toward our goals in a consistent fashion.

If we break down this square, the planets opposing each other are Saturn hitting the brakes in Aquarius, opposing Mars in Leo pushing the gas pedal, while the focal planet, Uranus in Taurus is challenging the status quo of our economies and resources. The primary reoccurring theme for this year will remain the Saturn and Uranus square. Karmically speaking, T-squares in fixed signs refer to very old patterns of behavior that invite reconsideration and improvement.

Mars opposing Saturn describes a confrontation with authority figures, a need to challenge leaders. This is reinforced by the square to Uranus in Taurus which prompts a change in our foundations and the use of resources. This can lead to contentious energies with parental figures or governments. It is worth paying attention to our health during this time, especially the cardio/vascular system (Leo/Aquarius axis).

Someone once described this configuration as driving a car with only three wheels. The T-square containing three planets with a tense connection to each other is not easy to navigate. To be able to better resolve this we might need to add the “missing” point that makes this pattern balanced.

Globally this might express a period of time when frustrating feelings and energies run higher than usual. From the end of June in to early July, we are eager for changes that are not coming quickly enough.

Sometimes the missing “fourth wheel” is the solution to the built-up tension, and in this case, it would be the empty point of Scorpio at 13°-14° degrees.

Sometimes the missing “fourth wheel” is the solution to the built-up tension, and in this case, it would be the empty point of Scorpio at 13°-14° degrees. While there may be irritation, the positive side of this intensity can bring to fruition many successful projects that require determination and strength. It is important to be more conscious of our own personal rhythm, especially around early July. Once we push through and get this fixed energy started, there’s hardly anything that can stop us.

**A Spiritual Cycle – Venus and Mars conjunct at 19 Leo (July 13)**

On July 13, Venus and Mars end another cycle at 19 degrees Leo. These relationship planets form conjunctions in a series of events recurring over a thirty-two year period and are seen as highlights of spiritual growth. It may be of interest to check out where this conjunction is playing out in your personal chart, as this is an area of your life where these symbols can teach you something about how you relate to the world around you. This is simultaneously a starting and an ending point of the feminine and masculine forces, the conjoining of the emotional and passionate sides these two planets represent.
A new energy boost – New Moon @ 16 Leo (August 8)

The New Moon gets a boost of fire energy in the sign of Leo at 16° degrees and daily life kicks off in a grand way. This new start can also propel us into a new direction – relative to the house matters where it falls in your chart. In the sign of Leo, this lunation is square Uranus possibly making us feel restless and impatient as we want change to happen rapidly.

This lunation brings out the gentler side of Leo, perhaps through generosity and heart-centeredness. The New Moon in a fire sign offers the opportunity to commit to new goals, and possibly even represent a new romance. In Leo this is a good time to enjoy the fun things in life and let your inner child out to play. With Uranus on the scene, there can always be a surprise or alteration of plans, so it’s important to be a bit more flexible than usual.

Mars opposing Neptune at 22 Virgo/Pisces (September 2)

A complex configuration aligns with Mars in Virgo opposing Neptune in Pisces. Mars in Virgo aims at precision and strategic action, whereas Neptune often represents a loss of focus, uncertainty, and more difficulty getting a grip on reality.

This opposition can manifest in a number of ways, and as with oppositions, we tend to slide from one planet theme to the other. In a positive way, this can generate inspiration for artistic expression, motivating us to use the practical energy of Virgo Mars to manifest the dreams of Neptune in Pisces.

The challenge is to find the balance between what we can and cannot control. We must be careful not to lose ourselves in the process. This pattern requires a gesture of self-sacrifice and being of service. We must be mindful about maintaining healthy boundaries and how we are asserting ourselves; learning when to fight and when to let go. Possible self-doubt or a feeling of defeat can emerge, prompting us to focus and decide on what we feel is really worth fighting for. Happy Solstice to all!

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A lot has changed over the past eighteen months. For some, it was a complete wipeout of life as they knew it. Others have been hobbling along, while some are busier than ever on the front lines of their fields, including research, technology and healing.

As astrologers we are asked to support people as they reimagine their life in whatever new, post 2020 direction it is going.

And it’s not just clients who need support to navigate intense transitions. Many astrologers have faced daunting choices. Even if we were lucky enough to continue working virtually, we were often caught in the upheaval of family and friends.

To help you deepen your astrological skills in key theme areas, we have asked four expert astrologers to offer their expertise in the areas of personal finances, vocational astrology, locational astrology and consulting skills for grief.

NOTE: The articles by Rachel Lang (personal finances) and Wolfram (locational astrology) are for OPA members only.
Vocational Astrology: Which Way is Up?
by OMARI Martin

What is Vocational Astrology?

Vocational astrology is the process of identifying trends in the natal chart that point towards a particular profession or industry. This would include and not be limited to doctor, lawyer, teacher, social worker, engineer, politician, clergyman, salesman, banker, jeweler, etc. While specific roles or positions have been named, each belongs to a profession or industry. There are some individuals who have a successful career, but they do not like it. Others like their career, but may not be successful especially in terms of dollars and cents. The word successful itself is subjective and has a different meaning for different individuals.

According to Luntz (1962):

“A person of strong will-power, fixed determination, and perseverance may achieve moderate success in a vocation for which their horoscope shows them to be unfitted. But the horoscope also shows the preponderance of fixed signs and other indicators that mark the will that did it. To what heights, however, might this will not have carried them had they followed the lines of their natural aptitude as laid down in the natal chart? Swimming against the current is good exercise but slow progress.”

The profession or industry vocational astrology helps to identify in the natal chart is based on the combination of the four elements — fire, earth, air, and water, which can yield success and satisfaction. Unfortunately, this particular application of astrology is not recognized as having value in corporate or academic settings. However, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator® (MBTI®) personality inventory has as its purpose to make the theory of psychological types described by C. G. Jung understandable and useful in people’s lives. Based on how the questions are answered, one may lie somewhere between the following polarities—extraversion or introversion; sensing or intuition; thinking or feeling; judging or perceiving. Then, there is DISC, which is a behavior assessment tool based on the DiSC theory of psychologist William Moulton Marston, which centers on four different behavior traits: dominance, inducement, submission, and compliance. This theory was then developed into a behavioral assessment tool by industrial psychologist Walter Vernon Clarke.

Vocational astrology is based on objective information, namely an individual’s date of birth, place of birth, and time of birth. The MBTI® personality inventory and the DiSC behavioral assessment tool are subjective and based on how one answers the questions at the time the survey instrument is completed. However, all three can be used to identify a career for which one’s personality and behavior are optimally suited.

Houses of Vocational Astrology
The Rechter Approach

The Second House

The second house is resources. It conveys not only the desire, or lack of it, for material goods (including money), but the natural ability, or lack of it, to obtain or accumulate these things. The sign on the cusp should be considered first. The ruler of the sign on the cusp must be considered second. In dignity or exaltation, there is an ease of acquisition, but the opposite is true of the fall or detriment. When the ruler is afflicted, it is necessary to reach out to and work for accumulation. Third, aspects to the ruler of the sign on the cusp are next in priority. The presence of squares denotes much effort - an overt reaching out to bring in funds and possessions. Oppositions always indicate choices, and, in the case of the second house cusp ruler, this means the mental application to accumulating funds, or good choices in investments, or accounts. The absence of hard angle aspects suggests a good steady flow of resources and insurance against abject poverty at any time in life. Planets placed in the second house are fourth in priority. The nature of the planet lends itself to the affairs of that house.

The Sixth House

The sixth house determines the manner in which one gets along with co-workers, as well as the services rendered. The quality of the sign on the cusp should be considered first.

• Cardinal: Capable of being promoted, desires varied tasks, wants to experience accomplishment
• Fixed: Loyal, capable of sustained concentration, wants to experience security and lack of tension
• Mutable: Detail oriented, dexterous, wants to experience perfection

The elements, as usual, give hints:

• Fire and Earth: “Thing” oriented, would prefer to work alone and be autonomous
• Air and Water: “People” oriented, does not prefer to work alone and needs communication

Dignities and detriments, etc. of the ruler of the sign determine ease or lack of it in performance. Aspects are the second priority. Afflictions to the ruler of the sign on the cusp (squares in particular) would suggest lack of accord with co-workers and difficulty in performing tasks. This can take the form of personality clashes with co-workers in the cardinal signs, complaints about other’s work in the fixed signs, and temperamentality in the mutable signs. Planets placed in the house lend descriptive coloring to the service performed and are considered third.

The Tenth House

The profession is defined best in the tenth house. It is one’s place in the world, and one’s superiors, if that applies. The individual signs found there have much to reveal concerning the particular occupation to which one is best suited, and should be considered first. The nature of these signs on the tenth house cusp can also define the personality of one’s immediate supervisor or manager, and the aspects to the ruler show whether compatible relationships with supervisors or managers are to be expected, and should be considered second.

Take note of the ruler of the sign on the cusp and whether it is in a comfortable placement, just in a sign, or uncomfortable. Aspects to the ruler must be considered third. Squares and oppositions do not deny success, but lend a bit of an obstacle to pursuits and demand more attention to that area of life. Often the square can lend strength, and the opposition a good decision-making ability. In a conjunction, attributes of the planet other than the ruler are superimposed on it. Trines and sextiles, of course, lend ease of operation and smooth professional ability. The attributes of planets placed in the tenth house lend themselves to the affairs of that house and should be considered fourth.

Vocational Astrology: Celebrity Profile, Whitney Houston

Whitney Houston was born on August 9, 1963 at 8:55 pm EDT in Newark, New Jersey. The source for the birth time is the birth certificate according to Kathryn Farmer with a Rodden Rating of AA. Her natal chart really stands out because the Moon and Jupiter form trine aspects to the Midheaven. Also, the Sun and Venus, with a wide orb, form trine aspects to the Midheaven as well. Then, the Moon and Jupiter form trine aspects to the Sun and Venus. Jupiter rules the Midheaven. Does it get any better than this? Let’s see.

Speaking of Jupiter, it rules the Midheaven or 10th house cusp, which is in Sagittarius at 18 degrees 23 minutes. This is the house of Career, Public Standing, Achievements & Honors. In her natal chart, it is found in the first house in Aries at 19 degrees 29 minutes and is retrograde. According to Carbone (1984), one with this placement of Jupiter retrograde in the first house wants to be recognized for the progress made in life. It is conjuncted by the Moon. Being recognized or achieving success in life is something that was strongly desired and, most likely, she felt she could easily achieve it. She was born into a family of famous female singers, namely Dionne Warwick, Dee Dee Warwick, and her mother Cissy Houston. Yes, she entered the family business. There is a trine aspect between Jupiter and the Sun.

With her natal Sun in Leo at 16 degrees 42 minutes, she possessed willpower and determination to succeed. On stage, she was a diva, who commanded the attention of the audience with her gift, style and grace of a queen. Besides, the Sun is dignified in Leo. With this major aspect with Jupiter, she traveled internationally and was known all over the world.

Being recognized or achieving success in life is something that was strongly desired and, most likely, Whitney Houston felt she could easily achieve it.
The Sun is the ruler of the 6th house cusp, which is the house of Health, Work, and Service. The Sun is found in the house it rules. With Leo on the cusp, it speaks to one who could have a long career and in the spotlight. This was certainly the case for Whitney whose career lasted approximately 25 years.

Mars is the ruler of the 2nd house cusp, which is the house of Money, Values, and Possessions, which includes Talent. In her natal chart, it is found in the 7th house in Libra at 8 degrees 29 minutes. While Mars is in detriment in Libra, she was not shy about being social and probably did not experience stage fright. Whitney has shared that she started singing in the church at an early age. It is probably safe to say that at every performance she was able to lead the audience through their experience with her artistry. This applies to her musicians too.

The author admits that it is easy to look at a chart of a celebrity retrospectively to behold how astrology works and planetary energy is manifested in the life of an individual. A good way to verify some of the delineation and synthesis is through taking a look at progressions, transits, and declinations. In theory, specific planetary aspects should signify or align with major events in the life of the native. Next, we take a look at this for Whitney Houston.

Whitney Houston: The 28th Grammy® Awards

The 28th Grammy® Awards stand out for Whitney Houston, because this is when she won her first Grammy®. This ceremony occurred on February 25, 1986 at The Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California. She won the award for Best Pop Vocal Performance, Female. The song was “Saving All My Love for You” from her first album. What were the secondary progressions for Whitney this particular evening?

Progressions

The secondary progressed Moon in Aquarius at 8 degrees Libra 52 minutes forms a trine aspect to her natal Mars in Libra at 8 degrees 29 minutes. Mars rules her 2nd house of Money, Values, and Possessions. The Moon symbolizes people,
who voted for her, or the public, who are her adoring fans, and in Aquarius their ideal image of the winner for this award. The award is a possession and winning one certainly leads to more recording contracts as a singer, which is more money.

Secondary progressed Jupiter in Aries at 18 degrees 38 minutes and retrograde forms an exact trine aspect to the 10th house of Career, Public Standing, and Achievements & Honors in Sagittarius at 18 degrees 23 minutes. This was a big win for her because of the category and, again, it was her first album. As previously stated, one with this placement of Jupiter retrograde in the first house wants to be recognized for the progress made in life. The completion of an artist’s first album is progress. This helped set the bar for her career expectations with Arista Records, her public standing with fans, radio stations, and other female singers, and was a significant achievement as a new artist. The competition was tight that night. She won against, Pat Benatar, Madonna, Linda Ronstadt, and Tina Turner.

Secondary progressed Saturn in Aquarius at 18 degrees 22 minutes and retrograde forms an exact sextile aspect to the 10th house of Career, Public Standing, and Achievements & Honors in Sagittarius at 18 degrees 25 minutes. According to Carbone (1984), one with Saturn retrograde in the twelfth house one could be inspired to work hard. Whitney's self-discipline (Saturn) easily (sextile) paid-off (honors) with a significant boost to her career and public standing (10th house). Saturn rewards discipline. Interestingly, like Whitney, cousin Dionne Warwick also has Saturn retrograde in the natal chart.

**Progressed Declinations**

The progressed Sun by declination is 8 degrees north 26 minutes and is contra-parallel her natal Ascendant at 8 degrees south 25 minutes. The contra-parallel is viewed as an opposition. The progressed Sun cast it rays upon her natal Ascendant and everyone watching was able to see her. The spotlight was clearly upon her, especially as a newcomer. The other nominees previously listed were accomplished singers, especially Tina Turner who experienced her first hit with Ike Turner in 1960.

Progressed Mars by declination is 8 degrees south 54 minutes and is parallel to her natal Ascendant at 8 degrees south 25 minutes. The parallel is viewed as a conjunction. Progressed Mars imbued her with the energy to be courageous and dynamic to sing live on stage. In all probability, this is most likely how she wanted the audience to see her. Without question, she was able to overcome any nervousness.

**Transits**

Transiting Saturn in Sagittarius at 9 degrees 21 minutes is forming a separating sextile aspect to her natal Ascendant in Pisces at 8 degrees 24 minutes. The orb is less than one degree. On this particular evening, she did sing “saving All My Love for You” live on stage. The live audience and those watching from home had an expectation that she would sing the song just like it sounds on the radio. There was very little to no room for her to improvise and missing a note was totally out of the question, not that she would do such a thing. How she looked to the public (Ascendant) that evening was just as important as how she sounded. Meeting the expectations of others can be rigorous (Saturn).

Transiting Saturn in Sagittarius at 9 degrees 21 minutes is forming a separating square aspect to her natal Mars in Libra at 8 degrees 29 minutes. Mars rules her 2nd house of Money, Values, and Possessions, which includes Talent. The orb is less than one degree. That evening, she showcased her talent and she sang the song with the same energy (Mars) like it sounds on the radio. This was not a challenge (sextile aspect) for Whitney even considering it was her first time singing at the Grammys®. With this energy, she engaged the audience in this social setting (Libra) and pleased them all.

The transiting Sun in Pisces at 7 degrees 15 minutes is forming an applying conjunction to her natal Ascendant in Pisces at 8 degrees 24 minutes. The orb is 1 degree and 9 minutes. According to Hand (2001), one will feel as if they have received a new burst of energy and enthusiasm, which substantially renews confidence to

**The progressed Sun cast it rays upon her natal Ascendant and everyone watching was able to see her. The spotlight was clearly upon her, especially as a newcomer.**
MARTIN

face the world and represents a new start for the year like one’s actual birthday. On the next day, the aspect would be closer to exact and she definitely would have had the experience described.

Vocational Astrology & Electional Astrology

Vocational Astrology and Electional Astrology are two separate branches of astrology. There are some instances in which the two work well together. For example, the latter can be used to identify a favorable time to submit an application for employment, to interview for the position, and when to resign from the position. If given the opportunity to select a start date, use Electional Astrology to make that decision. When possible and practical, avoid any square aspects from the Moon.

The Economy and the Labor Market

Vocational or career aspirations should be considered with other variables. First, assess labor market conditions using the unemployment rate as metric on a national, state, or local level. Second, consider if the industry for that vocation or career is new and in a growth phase or mature and declining. This will help determine current and future demand for that type of work. Third, consider acquiring the required knowledge, skills, and abilities, if they are needed. In some instances, one may have to retool what they know, especially because of changing technology. Fourth, consider the value of both professional and personal networks to make connections to advance.

Conclusion

While Vocational Astrology identifies the profession (10th house), the type of work one may do (6th house), and income potential relative to talent (2nd house), it does not exist in a vacuum. The list of considerations can help shape your plan for a new career. Progressions, transits, and declinations can highlight windows of opportunity, possibly the direction and duration of the opportunity as well. The key is to take action when there is harmony or synchronicity with the planets above and economic conditions below.

As above, so below, as within, so without, as the Universe, so the Soul.
- Hermes Trismegistus

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by Rachel Lang

Location Astrology In The Midst Of A Pandemic
by Wolfram

THE ASTROLOGY OF PLACE
Column by Madalyn Hillis-Dineen

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Grief Consulting Skills for Astrologers

How to best support your clients with their losses in these difficult times
by Magalí Morales, MSW

When I think of how grief shows up in the astrologer’s consulting room, I remember a session I had with a 31-year-old woman from my yoga community I’ll call Sarah.

When I first met Sarah, she had shared with me that her partner had died a year before. They’d had a remarkable relationship, they were both into theater and acting, and had a riotous sense of humor. They were playful and very close. “I felt like Joe could read my thoughts,” Sarah said, “He was closer to me than my skin. And then he died.”

I told her how sorry I was about her great loss. Things like that shouldn’t happen to people her age. I offered a hug, and she cried in my embrace for a while. We developed a trusting relationship. When I saw her at the yoga center and asked how she was doing, she’d tell me the truth.

Then one day she came in for an astrology reading. I love developmental astrology and have always placed emphasis on the Saturn Return, the transits of mid-life, etc. If a client is anywhere in their late 20s or early 30s, we talk about their Saturn Return. When I mentioned the exact date of Sarah’s return, her jaw dropped. “That is when Joe died,” she said, and broke down in sobs, “What does that mean? Did Saturn kill him? Do the stars hate me that much?”

One glance at her bi-wheel showed me that at the time of her Saturn Return, Sarah’s natal Sun was conjoined by Jupiter. There were all kinds of transits that we tend to interpret as positive happening for her in the midst of her Saturnian struggle. I got the sense that there were mysterious, hidden gifts that would come to her from this time in her life, but that was not the moment to push on with my astrological insights. Sarah was heartbroken, truly wounded, by the unexpected loss of her best friend, partner and soul mate. What was required was for me to sit patiently with the profound pocket of grief that I had inadvertently opened for Sarah.

We didn’t do much astrology for the remainder of the session. I’ve heard it said that the only profession that doesn’t slump during an economic crisis is astrology. Although astrology has entered the mainstream and continues to gain respect as a helping profession, I don’t think I’m wrong when I say that some clients seek our help when their circumstances overwhelm their understanding. Sometimes people come to us for help when they don’t know what else to do, when they’re hoping for a miracle.

Given the Coronavirus pandemic and the huge crises of our times, some of our clients are likely to have sustained many losses and be grieving. The loss of loved ones, of work and income, of our usual modes of socialization, and many freedoms we all used to take for granted. Parents are grieving the loss of childcare and young people the loss of in-person schooling. Grandparents are grieving the loss of touch and contact with their families.

What does an astrologer do with a grieving client? We are not grief counselors and we don’t need to be, but we can learn to respond with sensitivity and skill, as well as with discernment about which clients may need additional help from a grief counselor, therapist or support group.

Grief Is a natural and healthy human response to loss and change.
Grief Is not depression.

What is grief?

Full disclosure. I was a trauma-focused therapist for 15 years. My outlook is primarily humanistic. Although I view reality through an archetypal astrological lens, I also view it through the lens of trauma, attachment theory, family systems, and anti-oppression. This means that I am especially biased against the pathologization of grief. I am opposed to the view that we must medicate, control, or eradicate grief.

Grief is a natural and healthy human response to loss and change. Grief is not depression. Depression is a stagnant condition, whereas grief moves and flows. Grief hurts, but it is not harmful. The only thing to do with grief is to let it be expressed.
Like a cup that is overflowing with the water of emotion, when we cry, we let out some of that water, creating spaciousness. The only way out is through.

In times of loss, it is common for us to regress to earlier states of maturity and to lean on older coping mechanisms. Crying ourselves to sleep, or until we are calm is one of our oldest and best coping skills. The other is to be held and witnessed in our pain. A mother will comfort her crying baby by slowing her breath and remaining calm, by making soothing sounds and holding the child until the emotion has been expressed and they have returned to center or balance.

When we witness another person’s grief or pain, we are imitating the posture of that mother who remains calm and centered, unconditionally loving, trusting that the emotion will find resolution—at least for now—if we allow it this safe and non-judgmental space. Some grief is too great to find resolution in one instance of grieving. A person may need to grieve for days, months or years. Some grief returns in full force during anniversary or when something triggers its memory. But allowing a person a moment of grieving while witnessed with unconditional positive regard is a gift that always brings some relief.

In traditional cultures that acknowledge grief publicly and have rituals about this process, grieving individuals don’t struggle as much emotionally. For example, in Mexico we celebrate the Day of the Dead on the eve of November 2nd by placing photographs of departed family members with their favorite foods, as an invitation for their souls to come feast with us again. We eat sugar skulls with our own name on them, we create skeleton figurines that represent the day to day activities of the living. Dia de los Muertos is sad and soulful, but also full of hilarity, it is how we convey that death is just the soul playing peekaboo until the next incarnation.

The Jewish tradition of mourning is equally rich. Cutting one’s hair, tearing one’s clothing, reciting the Kaddish, sitting Shivah for seven days. I’ve never experienced these rituals, but it must be comforting to have a cultural prescription for times when we feel overwhelmed and stranded, a way to signal to our community that we are in that sacred state called mourning.

Sobonfu Somé, a teacher of ritual from the Dagara tribe of Burkina Faso, taught me the most about grieving. She led grief rituals that always bring some relief. Ultimately, grief as a response to loss catapults us into a process of change. We astrologers may be able to discern what kind of change is afoot by interpreting a person’s chart and looking at current planetary influences.

From the Evolutionary Astrology perspective, we can find a lesson even in the most painful of events. Saturn creates a limitation or pressure. We can respond by getting depressed or by enlisting our self-discipline. Pluto takes away a part of our identity. We can respond by being self-destructive or by mourning our old identity and creating a new one. Uranus, especially if aided by Mars, can disrupt our plans and create chaos. Resisting change won’t help, only creative openness will. Chiron brings up wounds of our past for us to heal or resolve them. We can feel victimized, but the lesson is that our old coping strategies no longer work and we must adapt.

In this article, rather than go deeper into the astrology of grief, I offer you a tool-kit to help you make space for a client’s grief when it shows up in your consulting room.

**ASTROLOGERS’ GRIEF TOOLKIT**

**Listen.** The best thing you can do for a grieving client is to listen, listen, and listen some more. Do not be in a hurry to return to the brilliant astrological insights you have for them. Do not jump into fix-it mode. There is incredible value in you bearing witness from a nonjudgmental, unconditionally loving stance. Speak only when you notice a shift in your client. If they are crying, look for the moment when they can breathe more deeply again or make eye contact.

**Listen.**
Offer empathy. I am so sorry. That is so hard. Sounds incredibly painful. These simple phrases go a long way in letting a client know that you believe them, you validate their truth, you care. Do not utter empty platitudes. Some of these culturally common phrases are hurtful, invalidating and toxic. Please no Everything happens for a reason. This too shall pass. If it’s not happy, it’s not the end.

Reflect back. Ask questions. These are ingredients of active listening, a powerful tool of the helping professions. When you listen carefully, you can reflect back the core of what you hear as a question. Don’t assume anything and allow your client to confirm or correct you. The purpose is to let them gain clarity about what they are really feeling. I’m hearing that you really miss your mother. It sounds like you wish you’d done something different. I want to understand, do you feel ________?

Understand there are (nonlinear) stages of grief. Although there is some controversy about the stages of grief as described by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross in her 1969 book On Death and Dying, they are a helpful guide. She identified that when faced with a great loss, individuals tended to move through these stages before reaching acceptance of their loss:

Denial. The refusal to accept there has been a loss.

Anger. Anger at themselves, at others, a desire to find and blame whoever is guilty for causing the loss.

Bargaining. An illusory attempt at control. “If only I had/had they had… then this wouldn’t have happened.”

Depression. Active Grieving. Falling apart. Feeling brokenhearted and sad. Crying, weeping, wailing. Not wanting to get out of bed. Feeling that everything is hopeless and useless and there is no future. Hitting bottom and staying there as long as necessary, until the natural upswing toward…

Acceptance. A state of integration, when we can accept our losses, take stock of what we still have, and recover a sense of future.

Kübler-Ross’s great contribution is that grief is a process. We all move through these stages when faced with a great loss, not in a linear, but cyclical way. Remember grief can be triggered by anniversaries or strong reminders of what we lost.

Most importantly, remember that actively grieving is not the same thing as depression. Depression happens when we cannot grieve and are stuck. As long as our grief is being expressed in ways that don’t harm us or anyone else, it is not pathological. That said, we need to…

Listen for signs a client may need additional support. There are signs and behaviors that may indicate that a person needs additional help with grieving. Traumatic grief happens when a loss is compounded with an event or events that are shocking, unexpected, violent, which overwhelm a person’s ability to cope. In his book, Say Her Name, the Guatemalan-American writer Francisco Goldman describes his own traumatic grief: his young and adored wife died in a surfing accident shortly after they got married, and her family blamed him for her death, and at first, he almost believed them. Any situation in which a grieving person holds negative self-beliefs including guilt, self-blame and shame, could indicate the need for additional support. Other red flags are: rage accompanied by threats of violence; suicidal talk and threats of self-harm; and anything else that gives you the impression that the client is not able to cope with their life circumstances.

Keep a list of professionals, agencies and groups to refer to. Remember not to assume anything or “should” on your client. Ask, “Would you like more support?” If the client says yes, offer a suggestion from your list. I suggest you find out information about psychotherapists (make sure you include therapists of color and therapists or agencies who work with low-income individuals); grief support groups; self-help groups, including 12-step recovery groups; suicide prevention hotlines; support groups for specific populations, like survivors of sexual or relationship violence, LGBTQI individuals, parents, etc.

Encourage self-care and healthy coping. What will you do in the next week to take care of yourself? This is a great question to ask at the end of your session, to encourage the client to be kind to themselves. Coping skills can be healthy, or not so healthy. Crying is better than self-medicating. Talking to a trusted person is better than isolating. If a client cannot come up with some healthy coping skills, you can help by gently suggesting (remember you’re not “shoulding” on them) that they get good food, good sleep, that they lean on people they trust, and engage in soothing activities. I call these “things we do with our hands and feet”: cooking, crafting, writing, walking, gardening, etc.

Do your own work. We astrologers are helping professionals, and subject to the parallel process of dealing with our own human condition, while helping clients deal with theirs. The better we take care of ourselves, the higher the quality of our services. I encourage you to process your own grief and heal your own trauma. This will protect you from compassion fatigue, as well as make you aware of your own triggers and minimize the likelihood of them showing up in your client sessions. Learning anti-oppression and improving your cultural competence are avenues toward treating all clients with dignity, respect, kindness, and sensitivity, especially when they come from a different cultural/ethnic/socioeconomic background than your own. Remember that the crises of our times have shown us more starkly than ever the other pandemics of racism, gender violence and poverty. In this unfair world, some people have more losses and therefore more unresolved grief than others. I invite you to join me in the commitment to end all forms of oppression, including and especially racism. A better world begins with you.

Magali Morales MSW, is an evolutionary astrologer, shamanic healer, writer, mom and climate activist who believes that in order to heal the world we need to begin by healing ourselves. Healing begins at the individual level and continues when we work to heal our societies from oppression and violence and our environment from climate chaos and extinction. Magali has been using astrology to help people fall in love with their highest destiny for 15 years, as well as offering healings and deep spiritual counseling, in English and Spanish, in person and in the virtual space at: www.magalimorales.com
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ASTROLOGY and DIVINATION

WHY MAGIC, AND WHY NOW? 
The Revival of Astrological Magic
by Michael Ofek

“We have lost the cosmos. The Sun strengthens us no more, neither does the Moon […]. Now we have to get back to the cosmos, and it can’t be done by a trick. The great range of responses that have fallen dead in us have to come to life again. It has taken two thousand years to kill them. Who knows how long it will take to bring them to life?”

~ D.H. Lawrence, Apocalypse

In recent years there has been a great resurgence of interest in astrological magic. Magic practitioners, astrologers, and academic scholars have been gradually rekindling the ancient art, and are just beginning to grasp its importance in the history and development of philosophy, religion, and science.

In the astrological community, this was a direct follow-up to the fairly recent, and still ongoing, renaissance of ancient traditional astrology. Since the late 20th Century we have witnessed its resurfacing through the cracks of time, through translations of surviving texts, uncovering ancient theory and practice and astrology’s various phases of development stretching over two millennia. We have learned to appreciate not only the depth and richness of the original system, but also the underlying cosmological and philosophical underpinnings, connecting it to the prevailing schools of its time, as well as the heritage of this archaic wisdom.

The Revival of Ancient Wisdom

To grasp the significance of this revival, and to answer the questions raised in this article, it is important to see this resurgence as a part of a larger cycle. This cycle appears to recur through history every time man is confronted by an anticipated existential crisis, whenever his actions seem to lead him into a blind alley.

In recent decades, many ancient forms of knowledge and practice have been slowly revived and reintegrated. These, together with new ways of seeing and understanding, such as through the modern lenses of psychological and scientific inquiry, have ushered novel perceptions and findings of age-old truths. It is this pollination from the wisdom of the past into the present, which gives us a renewed perspective about our inherent nature, the potential for our growth, and a deeper understanding of reality.

We are now at a very accelerated phase of this cyclic wave, as it crushes on the shores of our unfulfilling cultural structures. The contrast of the pathological nature of our current world climate, whether social, political, economic or environmental, and the intensely growing need to connect back to our origins has never been so great.

This is the soul’s nostalgia for the primal experience, for the vitality and meaning gained from our deep-rooted connection with spirit, nature, and natural powers. This is the unavoidable “archaic revival” that seeks to reunite us with our innate potentials and the wisdom of our ancient ancestry.

This recurring trend is reflective of a deep longing for something we once knew but is now forgotten, this is the collective amnesia and the strive for anamnesis, or “remembrance”. This recollection of the forgotten is our collective soul retrieval, it is the way we heal ourselves from the long and arduous sojourn away from our real home, and our deeply severed connection with the cosmos.

Searching for wisdom and answers in our past, is not only a moving backwards in time, but an analogical movement inwards, or upwards, to our ontological source. It is the search for our authentic identity, our spiritual origins, as well as our ideal embodied primordial state and connection to the natural kingdom.

It is my belief that the revival of astrology and astrological magic has a big part to play in this current wave of re-membering. As man seeks to reclaim his connection with the earth, imperative to his survival, he will also have to regain recognition of

To grasp the significance of this revival, and to answer the questions raised in this article, it is important to see this resurgence as a part of a larger cycle,
For us astrologers, the correlation of heaven and earth is no theory, it is a fact proven by lifetimes of experience.

(6th Century BCE) expressing the general sentiment of his time. "All is full of soul", said Pimander¹ to Hermes and Hermes to his disciples.

This sentiment of a living cosmos full of animating spirits, was shared by almost all ancient cultures around the world.

The more we go back in time, the more the experience of earth and sky was alive and interacted with reverence and respect. For many of the ancient pagan and shamanic cultures...
According to Hermetic philosophy, Man is the most suited of all terrestrial creatures to mirror the cosmos, and has within his individual being all cosmic levels (hypostases) of creation, from the subtle spiritual essence to the dense bodily frame of flesh and bones.

The famous magical text “The Picatrix” spends a whole chapter articulating man’s supreme correlation with the cosmos, which gives him his unique place in bridging spirit and matter and heaven and earth. Man is considered a vital link in the chain of being, downscaling the creative powers of the cosmos, able to perceive, understand and affect mind and matter.

Based on this fundamental correlation, we are at any given moment “breathing together” with the cosmos. Thus, the moving powers in heaven, as in earth, move within us always, seamlessly, both within and without. They sustain and animate our being, compelling us to express them in a variety of ways and align to the cosmic flux, just as the Sun compels us to awaken each morning.

Adding to this foundational concept of astrology, astrological magic assumes that man and his unique stature as bearing the cosmic image, and therefore potentially the creative powers of the cosmos, does not passively reflect the Macro, but can consciously participate, engage and willfully act and create within it. Magic reminds us that because the cosmos is alive and co-responsive, it is therefore interactive. It is truly speaking to us if we know how to listen, and it listens to us if we know how to speak.

“They marvelled at seeing those things which come last in those which come first, and vice-versa; earthly things in the heavens in a causal and celestial manner, and heavenly things on the earth in a terrestrial way.”

~ Proclus - On the Hieratic Art

This correspondence of man and cosmos, on all its levels, is the axis which allows for the human act of magic. Additionally, it is the knowledge of these chains of correspondence within the soul and the kingdoms of nature (minerals, plants, animals etc.) which the magician utilizes to draw and amplify certain creative powers.

The Talismanic Process

The philosophical and practical principles of Talisman making holds many keys for the intentional use of correspondences, for engagement and participation with astrological powers. I will try to elucidate some of these here.

All of the magical operations are based on these invisible sympathetic links or chains (greek - seirá), which connect the planetary Noetic or formal sources (sometimes called “seminal reasons”) to their manifestation through a hierarchy of animating powers, expressed in different levels and scales. These links chain the world from within and without, horizontally and vertically, from the subtle to the dense, and from purer to mixed, as powers in the psyche as well in bodies, natural elements and materials, shapes, colors, sounds, smells, numerical and geometric proportions, and corresponding Imagery.

Drawing on, aligning or participating in a certain planetary chain, is achieved by a right attunement to its intrinsic tone, ideally at the times when the planet’s ‘essential power’ (dignity) is fully manifested in the cosmos, under the right astrological election.

This attunement or harmonization, is done through planetary correspondences and mimesis (imitations) which serve as ‘receptacles’ of its essence.

Talismanic theory emphasizes the need to align - the magician, place/atmosphere, actions/creations, materials, images etc, and the astrological timing - under the same planetary chain, the more levels/dimensions of correspondence the better. This is done in order to maximize the planetary resonance, stand in its light, receive its virtues, and increase its potency and charge in the talisman, which is created under it.
This may be done for a general augmentation of the planetary essence, or for the fulfillment of a specific corresponding aim.

One of the chief conceptual models of the talismanic process is based on the idea of light or ‘stellar rays’, describing the phenomenon of astral light radiated from the heavenly bodies. These rays are inherent in their earthly corresponding elements, symbols and images, which can be used to draw and concentrate their potency, under the right astrological timing. This astral light (which has many levels) is said to be the pneumatic rarefied fire of life, the etheric energy, the spiritus mundi, that charges the cosmos with life and breath. In our modern terms, this is the multi spectral electromagnetic radiation, which is the field animating and sustaining all life, holding the nucleus of our atoms in place.

In its more biological manifestation, this is the electricity that charges our nervous system and bodies, it is the secret fire, the Qi, or Prana that electrifies life into our flesh. This is not an abstraction, it is a very real energy, which interacts with matter in very real ways. For the theurgist, this is the astral or ethereal body or ochema-pneuma which is made of the same essence as the stars.

Other cosmologies put more emphasis on the hierarchy of spirits or daimons, which are invoked to help realize the magic, or ensoul the object.

In my view, one model does not exclude the other, and as light holds within it all potential for life, it holds and animates many levels of being/spirits within it, manifesting through it, and alongside it (like us humans). The term daimon (spirit) in the Hermetica is explained as a ‘power at work’ or ‘manifestation’, which in greek is Energia, the source of our word energy. So, whether the invisible vivifying agent is a sort of light, or spiritual energy, or a type of individual spirit which is akin to a planetary essence, it is still a living agent emanating its unique occult virtues.

To simplify the understanding of the talismanic process, some authors make a division of active spiritual forces and passive material receptacles, following the Aristotelian concept of Hylomorphism (matter and form).

The form is the essence of a thing, it is its soul, and matter its body. Fashioning a Talisman is conceptualized as fusing soul and body - the active formal agent (light/spirit) to the passive material receptacle.

Taking these basic ideas in mind, we can derive many ways of participation with the astrological powers, as we create corresponding circumstances in our lives, internally and externally, to act as mimetic receptacles for the planetary power.

For instance, we can make plans for activities proper to the planetary signification, engaging in corresponding undertaking in the proper times (either for a general election, or an individual transit). We can also animate corresponding images in our minds in meditation. Using our intention with vivid imagination is a very powerful internal receptacle for resonating with a planetary potency, more so if we awaken a corresponding state of being through a recollection of emotional memory.

To simplify the understanding of the talismanic process, some authors make a division of active spiritual forces and passive material receptacles, following the Aristotelian concept of Hylomorphism (matter and form).

One can express the planetary state and amplify it through trance inducing bodily movement, dancing, qigong postures, singing/humming, breathing exercises, shamanic drumming and journeying and a like. One can make atmospheric changes, light, color, smell (incense), music, symbolic objects, drawing corresponding symbols and images, create corresponding artwork, or just write down his intentions. One can eat corresponding foods, wear corresponding clothes, metals or gems, or create/engrave and consecrate them as talismans under the elected times.

All of these and more can serve to initiate and draw the wanted essences, strumming the wanted string in the cosmic harp. But in order to really learn to play it, one should first learn how to hear its music.

This is done through the knowledge of astrology in sync with empirical experience.

Participation is not only in the doing, it is also, and foremost, in the being. it is in learning to become the receptacle, developing the conscious awareness and recognition of the living powers moving within and without, witnessing their inner cycles without an agenda, or specific aim or desire.

Informed by astrological awareness, this is the conscious letting go into the cosmic flow, receiving its intelligent guidance, observing its changing states and internal coloring of thoughts, emotions and energetic movement in the body. Experientially sampling the different cosmic chords as they appear without resistance, slowly paves the way to harmoniously tuning one’s state of being with them, and to finally know how to actively play or transform them when needed.

Reclaiming our Magical Tradition

“The ancient philosophers seem to have brought all their scrutiny to bear on making their life, above all, agree with the heavens.”

~ Marsilio Ficino - Da Vita

In its essence, astrological magic is the art of aligning oneself with the cosmos. It is the recognition of our vital inborn connection with the heavenly bodies, and the conscious participation in their creative powers and cycles.

The corpus of astrological magic is deep and intricate, connecting many disciplines and amalgamating a variety of ancient natural and metaphysical philosophies and cosmologies. With these, it strives to explain the underpinnings of the creative process which astrology describes, and through elaborated descriptions of talisman creations, planetary rituals and astrological elections, it teaches the principles of alignment and interaction with astrological powers.

Astrological magic in general, and talisman making in particular, was considered by many ancient authorities as the culmination of all ancient knowledge.

Consideration of Ethical Uses

Most of the magical texts that have survived are full of recipes for obtaining man’s burning desires for power, wealth, sex, and the like, with a fair share of recipes for cursing and manipulating others - although, the underlying principles, philosophical descriptions, and certain initiatory
The overarching theme of cosmic alignment, or re-alignment, reflects a deep spiritual longing for a harmonization and unification with higher ordering creative powers, manifesting through the movement of the heavenly bodies.

Do you not know, Asclepius, that Egypt is an image of heaven
~ Asclepius, Corpus Hermeticum

This longing is at the heart of the ancient western philosophical and mystery schools. It is the Hermetic model for perfecting the soul, aspired by astral priests and advents. The famous ascension through the spheres of the planets, was the underlying motivation reflected in many astral magical rituals (for instance the ritual of 'perfect nature') and alchemical symbolism. It was a framework for working with the planetary powers, connecting to their essence, moderating/mitigating their extremes, alchemizing their virtues from their grosser aspects to their most subtle tinctures. It is the Theurgic strive for the unification with the 'gods', or monadic creative principles, and the platonic/neo-platonic quest for perceiving the Noetic realm, and ultimately achieving henosis - oneness, or union with the one.

In his dialog the "Timaeus", Plato tells us that when we enter the body, as a young soul, we do not control the push and pull of the powers working in nature and through our body. It takes time and experience to set the cycles of the powers in harmony, and the only way to do it is by syncing the internal cycles with the large cosmic ones, (each one according to his own cosmic reflection or natal chart).

The soul does this by also differentiating 'same and other', seeing the unity, the sameness in everything, by uniting its same with the cosmic same. It is absorbed in a higher ordering creative power, moving with the will of the demiurge, tuning in to the powers, and gaining their rational guidance.

This is the aspiration to become what we are in potential - an image of the cosmos, to consciously embody its powers and aspire to move in concord with them, disentangling their incoherencies in our soul, striving to perfect them through us, and us through them.

Taking the concrete example of our bodies, and the maintenance of our health, we know that our whole bodily system and its internal cycles and clocks are connected to natural cycles, the most pronounced of which are the cycles of the day, the lunations and the seasons. For instance, the circadian rhythm of the body is connected to the day and night, light and dark cycle, which regulates our cortisol and melatonin hormonal cycle. The more we are in connection and alignment with natural light and its cycles the better our energy is balanced, our sleep is deep and rejuvenating, and our health maintained. This of course, is also true for our mental and emotional balance and well-being.

In simple terms - alignment means health, misalignment disease.

So, just as our bodily health depends on concurring with natural cycles, our soul depends on its internal recognition and alignment with corresponding powers and cycles in the cosmic soul. And, although this might not be in agreement with some of the ancient philosophical schools, who preach that we must ascend the body and turn away from the senses, it is my conviction that it is only through nature that we fully express our astral self, bridge heaven and earth, and embody the gods in the world, in our mind, soul and body.

If nature is an image of the noetic realms, if the gods are in everything, then the more we consciously enter nature the deeper we see into its essence, its source, its roots. The more we expand to recognize the waves of cosmic radiation through nature, the more subtly we can move with them. The more we learn to listen and tune ourselves to the cosmic music, the more we are actively held together in coherence, elevating the planetary functions in us and remediating our weaknesses.

The more we become the image of the cosmos, through our own cosmic image, (our chart) the more we reflect its intelligence and rise to our ideal place and function within it.

This is the "participation mystique" with the cosmos, and our way to become more than our ego-bound selves, as we are raised to our higher potential as co-creators of our reality. Having the cosmos as our ally, and moving our soul and body in agreement and harmony with the powers and creative cycles of nature, is the deepest healing act we can aspire to for our being in the world. This is the ultimate magical power available to us, and our soul-given right.
It is from this view that astrological magic becomes an initiatory path, it is the path to reclaim the stellar and planetary powers dormant in the soul, and participate in their creative intentions. This places astrological magic as a spiritual path, tailored into the astrological cosmos. In many ways this is the Magnum Opus of Astrology, and the path laid out by the philosopher-astrologers of the past.

In conclusion, astrology shows the way to regain the animistic experience and helps guide us out of our individual and collective ignorance of the powers that shape our lives, but it is the magical aspect of astrology that teaches us how to cooperate with these powers, navigate their currents, and create with their aid.

Astrology is the manual of the cosmic interface, magic is the conscious interaction and navigation within this interface, to advance and improve one’s state of being. Astrology gives us the map, literally, but it is astrological magic that teaches us how to walk the territory.

It is my belief that through the experience and development of this unique form of magical and spiritual work, we may breathe life back into our perception of the cosmos and realize our own cosmic roots, further revealing this deep primordial truth of our being and the inter-connectedness of all things.

This revitalization of our cosmic connection may help orient us for the healing of our individual and collective soul, and pave the way for a deeper understanding of, and engagement with, the living cosmos.

This is in fact, the great promise of astrological magic and the reason why it is so important for our time.

REFERENCES
1 A term coined by Terence McKenna, mostly with connection to the revival of Psychedelics
2 From the famous ‘Emerald Tablet’ Attributed to Hermes Trismegistus.
3 Also known as Poemandres, Poemander is the first tractate in the Corpus Hermeticum. Pimander is a personification of Nous or cosmic Mind the first
4 Book 3, Chapter 6.
5 Quoting the Neo-Platonic philosopher Plotinus (205–270 A.D)

...
Palmistry as a Divination Tool
by Anne C. Ortelee

"Your palm is God's road map to your soul," said my Palmistry Teacher, Ellen Goldberg during an introductory lecture.

Following her lecture, I went up to compliment her on the quality of information conveyed. She said "Stick 'em up!". So, I raised my hands!! Ellen made a few amazing and very pithy observations from a four second observance. I was hooked!! I formally signed up and studied Palmistry with Ellen for over seven years. I've worked with the science and art of chiromancy virtually every day since I met Ellen.

Each of us has unique hands. They are as unique as our astrological chart. Perhaps our hands are MORE unique existing as portable charts tied to our physical body! Our hands reflect where we are in time and space as well as our physical, mental, spiritual and emotional evolution during the course of our life. Our hands show our sensitivities, our blocks, our skills, our talents, where we shine, where we fall down as well as how we relate and work with the world.

Ellen reads your astrology chart and asks to see your hands to check how you are evolving and choices made at crossroads.

J. Edgar Hoover mandated the FBI train Police Departments using one small part of a hand. The FBI installed fingerprinting across the nation when he realized criminals left their fingerprints behind at the crime scene. When you observe someone's hands, you can learn an enormous amount about them.

First up, you observe the consistency of the hand ~ flabby, soft, elastic and hard ~ to determine the nature of the person's energy and vitality. Next, you pay attention to the rigidity of the hand and how it holds itself to see what the hand tells. Fingers spread wide; the person is open. Tightly held fingers makes for a controlled person. And once the hand or the person knows you are observing their hand, it frequently changes to show you a different story.

The seven archetypes used in astrology pertain to the hand. Each of the seven visible planets are located in the hand. By knowing astrology, you already know palmistry!

The Fingers of the Hand represent four Planets. The index finger is Jupiter ruling pride, career, ambition, and faith. Jupiter talks about how bossy you are, indicates leadership abilities, desire to be in charge as well as the ability to plan one's career and know the next steps to take.

Tall Man or the middle finger is Saturn who takes care of finances, security, work or study. Saturn's finger describes the soul's yearning for wisdom, philosophical thinking, tendencies towards melancholy and brooding, research skills and sense of humor.

The ring finger is the Sun focused on ego, artistic expression, reputation and affairs of the heart. That's why we put a ring on the Sun finger to signify the heart is held or taken. The Sun finger indicates creative abilities, fun, risk taking, gambling and spending.

Mercury rules the Pinky and takes care of money, business and family. Crooked Mercury? Watch out the person might be crooked. Mercury describes problem solving abilities, cleverness with money, knowledge of human nature, level of intelligence as well as whether it is hidden or not. Like our astrology chart, the fingers tell the story!

Palmists look at the shape of the fingers to see who works with who? Do they lean...
together? Are they separate? How deep are the fingers set? Who is bent? Who is solid? Hold the fingers together and see gaps between them indicates money flows through the person freely. Whom is taller than who? How thick or thin are they? How flexible? How stiff? Bent? How hairy? Any unusual bends or waists? Smooth versus knotty? What is going on with the knuckles? Thick or thin? All those questions provide information about the person.

The size of the phalanges, the parts of the fingers relative to the other parts, can vary from finger to finger. Each finger has three worlds. The first phalange ~ top of the finger ~ shows the mental world. The middle phalange shows the practical world. The third phalange, attached to the hand, shows the physical and sensual world. All those details are easily observed by looking at their hand.

A friend who reads palms chose her surgeon based on the hair on his hands ~ it indicates attention to detail, the ability to concentrate, strength as well as stamina. The hairs on his fingers indicated his ability to concentrate for long periods of time. Unfortunately, Mercurial people often shave or wax their hands so sometimes that helpful hair indicator is removed!!

Dr Spock on Star Trek "invented" the Vulcan greeting of the V where the Index/Middle and Ring/Pinky fingers are joined but separated from each other. Leonard Nimoy told a story that as a young boy his father told him to close his eyes but the split fingers gesture of the greeting entranced him. He learned to do it because it felt magical. When Gene Roddenberry, the creator of Star Trek, was looking for a Vulcan Greeting, similar to the handshake humans use, Nimoy suggested the V shape. Leonard Nimoy had Jupiter and Saturn forming a t-square to Sun / Mercury conjoined tightly in his astrological chart ~ so the symbolism of the planets in his astrology chart matched the Vulcan greeting!

Fingertips have shapes which can vary from finger to finger. If the finger tips are the same shape, that represents a consistency in the person. Usually, fingertips are mixed which makes sense as most of us are a mix of energy. Tapered fingertips let the life force flow easily while broad finger tips have more resistance to the life force and want to do things their own way. Spatulate fingertips ~ which DO look like spatulas ~ are active, practical, enthusiastic, original, inventive, enterprising, idiosyncratic, independent and obstinate. Square fingertips are practical. Their fingers are methodical, precise, orderly, comforted by routine, resistant to change and perfectionist. Conic fingertips are intuitive, receptive, impressionable, idealistic, heart centered, sympathetic, creative and love beauty. Pointed fingertips are psychic, intuitive, receptive, sensitive, inspirational, impractical, spiritual, connected, idealistic, love beauty. The pointed fingers tend to be dreamers and wish for the moon. If a fingertip seems difficult to classify, it CAN have one shape on one side and a different one on the other. Blend the interpretation for the planet/finger/ archetype to include both shapes to describe the attributes.

One of my personal favorites is "sensitivitiy pads". Turn your hand so you can look at it from the side. Notice if there are any "bubbles" or pads on your fingertips. Sometimes they look like droplets of water. Sensitivity pads amplify the five senses. Under extreme stress, the pads can actually swell! And if they appear on a finger, they heighten the finger’s sensitivity in the finger’s areas. You can have them on multiple fingers or just one.

The Moon is located at the bottom of the hand under Pinky finger near the wrist. When Moon turns red or a deeper pink than usual, that is called a psychic blush. It indicates you are receiving information from your intuition. The Moon part of the hand reports on health matters too~ cuts in the moon from lines can indicate illnesses as well as the severity. The Moon is divided into three parts, similar to the phalanges in the fingers. The upper part talks about stomach and intestinal difficulties. The middle part talks about bones, joints and arthritis. The lower part covers reproductive organs, kidneys and bladder.

Venus rules the section of the palm under the Thumb. It is actually the third phalange of the thumb. Venus can be smooth or grilled (covered with lines). The grilled Venus acts as a sexual magnet, passionate, desirous and attractive to others. Smooth mounds of Venus’s tend towards highly romantic ideals with a sense of esthetics, music, sentimentality. They are warm and charming but not deeply sexual.

Mars rules the entire palm of the hand under the Fingers ~ Aggressive Mars is between the Thumb and index finger ~ a big mound there makes for a potentially violent or aggressive nature while the area between Pinky and the Moon is the refined nature of Mars ~ assertive, direct, gets things done in a strategic manner. The entire plain between the two edges of Mars describes energy, anger, directness, temper and sexuality. Mar’s relates to each location or mount where the finger attaches to the hand. The size, shape and lines on those areas tell a story too about how the planet takes action in the world.

Once in a diner, I was reading a friend’s palm when a man overhearing our conversation came over and asked me to look at his hand. He had a huge deeply grilled Mound of Venus and an enormous Plain of Mars ~ to this day they were the biggest I have ever seen! After he left the diner, the Mars rules the entire plain of the hand under the Fingers.
The entire plain between the two edges of Mars describes energy, anger, directness, temper and sexuality.
KARACOSTAS

waitress informed me he played for the New York Knicks Basketball Team. That enormous Mars brought him wins on the Basketball court and oodles of Venus with his highly grilled mound of Venus — both in dollars and women.

The Thumb represents will — big thumb, big will. Wiggle your thumb if you are trying to muster up some courage! One of my student’s sisters had an enormous club shaped thumb which is actually called a “murder’s thumb”. Her sister had a volcanic, erupting temper and was physically abusive to her when they were children. There could be a whole book written just on the thumb and how important its shape, size, features, flexibility, and indicated skills are to describe how one moves through the world.

Palm lines have various marks, interruptions, indents, islands, breaks and cuts in them that indicate all sorts of events, changes and shifts in fortune. Depending on where the marks occur on the line, you can pinpoint the age of the event described. By knowing the line’s function, you can talk about the area of life affected. When the marks occur at a particular age, you can be as confident of predicting events as you are with an astrology transit.

A friend had a long life promised but wasn’t taking very good care of her health, as signified by her very broken-up life line with separate “islands”. I pointed out the differences in the lines in her two hands to her. She made conscious changes to improve her health. As a result, her life line “healed”. Her life line is now connected, unbroken, deep and solid reflecting the new choices she made in her life. It is back to matching the deep, solid, unbroken line promised in her life line.

Similar to the astrology chart’s first breath capturing the moment of life, babies are born with their hands closed. At their first breath, the hands open to receive and reveal the life force as it flows through spirit into their being.

Our hands change over time. As they change, they mark the evolution of our soul and the impact that our mind has on our consciousness. Hopefully, this brief introduction to the divinatory nature of the hand intrigues you to learn Palmistry and add it to your skill set. I promise you won’t be disappointed at what hands around you reveal!

My teacher Ellen Goldberg’s book, “The Art and Science of Hand Reading: Classical Methods for Self-Discovery through Palmistry” is a wonderful place to start to explore the magic of Palmistry.

REFERENCE

Anne Ortelee is a certified Palmist from the School of Oracles as well as a certified astrologer by OPA, ISAR-CAP, NCGR-PAA Level 3 and PMAFA. Her website is AnneOrtelee.com.
New Zealand astrology school

The Dwarf Planet University is located by

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Astrologers in a World of Omens

by Alan Annand

As astrologers, whose very job title implies that we are interpreters of planetary patterns in the sky, it's easy to forget that we live in a world of constantly-changing omens, of which the planets are merely one set of elements. In effect, we wear blinders like a horse on a road to somewhere, focused on our destination, oblivious to any distractions along the way. But in being so single-minded, do we ignore other non-astrological signs along the road that might substantiate, modify or even disqualify the judgment arrived at by astrology alone?

It's instructive to compare the perceived role of astrologers in the West versus India. Imagine you're at a party in America, where the typical get-acquainted chat invokes that universal conversation-starter, "So, what do you do for a living?" When you say you're an astrologer, there's sometimes an awkward pause where the other person gives you that look, wondering perhaps if you're a kook who should be left alone rather than provoked. But after a moment, their next line is often, "So, can you guess my sign?" And there you are, stuck in sun sign territory, where there are no winners, and in lieu of a better option, you excuse yourself to refill your drink.

Now imagine another social occasion, this time in India. When you announce you're an astrologer, your counterpart beams with delight, nods in respect, and displays their hands to say, "Tell me what it's saying." That's because, to the Indian mind, calling yourself an astrologer is tantamount to saying you're a seer, and a properly-educated practitioner naturally knows more than just one divinatory science. To confess that you know only astrology - absent any acquaintance with palmistry, ayurveda (the science of health), vastu (the Indian equivalent to feng shui), numerology, or nimitta (omens) - would elicit disappointment in the typical Indian, who'd be dismayed that you hadn't received a proper education in the mantic arts.

When I first embarked on my astrological studies, I had approached the subject from a somewhat "shamanistic" point of view. I'd been reading Carlos Castaneda's books about his adventures with a Yaqui sorcerer in the Sonora desert, and was struck by Don Juan's intuitive approach to life, as an observer and interpreter of a natural environment that included animals, birds, reptiles, weather, etc. Indeed, Don Juan often talked about omens, and said that, when the spirits had something to communicate to a sorcerer, they'd manifest as three separate and distinct signs. Now, whether or not Don Juan was a real person or merely an avatar of Castaneda's invention which he subse-

quentlly turned into an empire of publishing and personal power workshops is debatable, but Don Juan's approach was certainly consistent with that of the archetypal shaman. Pay attention to the world around you, and listen to what it's saying.

My formal studies with the (British) Faculty of Astrological Studies were almost 100% astrology. Admittedly, the curriculum included astronomy, history and psychology, but merely to support astrology as the only tool to address the concerns of clients. As for the techniques themselves, the vast majority was dedicated to natal astrology, with the remainder divided between electional and horary work. In hindsight, I wish there'd been more focus on horary, whose utility is often overlooked, but so it goes. Alternative correspondence courses of the day, from the American Federation of Astrologers and the National Council of Geocosmic Research, offered curricula that were very similar. But after two years of correspondence studies, and a year's residency in England that culminated in 16 hours' worth of exams, I earned my diploma.

Returning to Canada, I established a practice in Montreal and began teaching intermediate and advanced astrology to an active local community. At the same time, I began exploring other tools to complement my astrological expertise. During university, I'd learned that Swiss psychologist Carl Jung had been supportive of both astrology and the I Ching, the Chinese oracular system whose casting of sticks had been simplified via the use of three coins. Since I still had Richard Wilhelm's Book of Changes (including a foreword by Jung) with its interpretations...
of the 64 different combinations, I started using it in client readings that required “thinking outside the box.”

A decade later, while still providing full-blown consultations from my home office, I also began spending two afternoons a week giving “quickie” astrological readings for walk-in clients at a downtown esoteric bookstore. This turned out to be good practice for reading horary charts, because walk-in clients typically just wanted an answer to one burning question, as opposed to an overview of their life. And for that focused need, a horary chart is often preferable to a natal chart.

During my time at the bookstore, I met several Tarot card readers who worked the “shifts” before or after me. Although I’d previously explored the Tarot out of personal curiosity, and had purchased the Aleister Crowley deck with its astrological correspondences, I now embraced it more seriously. I took a course from a local practitioner, read several books and memorized the keywords for each card. I was now ready for the occasional hiatus in a consultation, when I felt I couldn’t answer a client’s question using astrology – natal or horary – and could instead lay out a simple five-card Tarot spread or toss the coins for insight from the I Ching. I had no bias for one or the other of these ancillary methods, using them interchangeably depending on how much time (I Ching takes longer than a Tarot spread) I had in the session, and my intuitive sense of which might most appeal to my client.

Flash forward, five years later I found myself at a crossroads. Although I had a formal education in astrology, and had practiced it diligently, I didn’t feel competent when it came to predictions. Interpreting a chart vis-à-vis relationships, career, etc, was straightforward, but I knew that the fundamental reason people came to an astrologer was to know the future. And although I had all the education, techniques, and requisite analytical skills, something wasn’t quite right.

Around that time, a friend gave me a book on Vedic astrology for my birthday. I knew that the fundamental reason people came to an astrologer was to know the future. And although I had all the education, techniques, and requisite analytical skills, something wasn’t quite right.

I knew that the fundamental reason people came to an astrologer was to know the future. And although I had all the education, techniques, and requisite analytical skills, something wasn’t quite right.

One story recounted Mantriji’s attendance at some dinner in Toronto’s large Indian community. On the way there, Mantriji had asked Hart, what do you think they’ll serve for dessert? Hart had shrugged and said, who knows, probably laddu or gulab jamun, two popular Indian treats. But Mantriji said, think of what’s in the sky right now. As it turned out, the Moon and Mars were in Cancer and, because of that, Mantriji said, their hosts would serve khir (a pudding made from boiled milk) but that it would be burned. Indeed, after dinner the khir was served, and when Mantriji tasted it, he said to the hostess, you had an argument in the kitchen this afternoon, didn’t you? To which the hostess confessed that, during a heated exchange with her husband, she’d neglected to stir the khir as it boiled, and had scorched it a little.

Later, another guest asked Mantriji about a career for his son, whose birth chart he’d brought along. Waving the chart aside, Mantriji led the guest into the kitchen and asked him to choose anything from a fruit bowl on the counter. After the guest made his selection, Mantriji used a knife to cut the fruit in half and, based on what he saw there, predicted the son would become an obstetrician.

Although this seems totally bizarre to the Western reader, such things are commonplace in Southeast Asia where oral traditions include hundreds of procedures wherein the seer’s intuition is unlocked for divinatory purposes. In the realm of living creatures, there are rules of interpretation for the movement of insects, flight of birds, barking of dogs, color of snakes, droppings of cattle, and the curve of an elephant’s trunk.

Lest one think this is just a matter of memorizing a body of rules for omens of one kind or another, it’s not that simple. Everything perceived by our senses – whether a horoscope, a person’s hand, the cry of a bird, or the taste of a sweet mango – is essentially dormant until a seer brings it to life through his enlightened awareness. That unique talent, what’s called a siddhi, or paranormal power, is typically not available to the average person, but is developed only after years of cultivation through diet, meditation, study, practice and, ultimately, faith in one’s connection to a higher spirit.

As I embarked upon a decade of studies with Hart, typically via one- or two-week courses in New Mexico, California and India,
I witnessed more examples of different divination techniques. Although Hart was first and foremost an astrologer, he continually exhorted his students to become more than just “one-trick ponies.” By this, he meant we shouldn’t rely on astrology alone, but expand our repertoire to seek corroborating, or alternative perspectives, via other techniques.

Aside from natal horoscopy, he taught expanded versions of horary astrology. One of these courses – *Tajika Prashna* – was of Indo-Persian origin yet very much like what we might have learned from William Lilly, albeit through the lens of Vedic astrology. But another course was on *Sahajana Prashna*, which roughly translates as “spontaneously intuitive horary.” In this course, he introduced several techniques via which to select an alternative “ascendant” appropriate to the occasion, meanwhile using the current planets in their signs to populate the rest of that chart.

This later came in handy when I would give mini-readings at a monthly singles event during my first few years in Toronto. In the course of an evening, one astrological sign might occupy the ascendant for two hours at a time. To avoid using the same horary chart for everyone, which would render an identical prognosis – positive or negative – for all dozen querents regarding their relationship prospects, these techniques allowed me to differentiate among a series of queries all within the same timeframe.

A choice of “ascendant” can be made by any number of methods. For example, the first syllable out of a querent’s mouth can be correlated to a sign, which then becomes the ascendant for that horary chart. Or the “ascendant” can be indicated by the dominant color of the querent’s clothing, or by that part of their body the querent unconsciously first touches. Alternatively, the astrologer can solicit the querent’s active involvement by asking for any number whatsoever and expunging multiples of 12 until a number remains to represent a sign. And so on.

One of the *Sahajana Prashna* demonstrations required a volunteer querent to draw a chart – using lines of white flour on a bedsheet on the floor – complete with planetary symbols and an ascendant derived via a random number from the querent. Hart then answered the horary question by using, not only the chart’s planetary positions, but also the symmetry (or asymmetry) of the hand-drawn chart, the size of the planetary symbols, or any mistakes made in drawing the chart. The idea was, one could use almost anything in the query process to derive an assessment of the situation, as well as a prognosis for its outcome.

After several years of teaching increasingly sophisticated astrological techniques, Hart introduced palmistry, another divinatory art that originated, or was developed to a high degree, in India. No sooner had I completed his one-week introductory course, I began including palmistry in every consultation, whether in-person or distant, with the aid of hand photos. To this day I still regard it as second only to astrology, a complementary technique that’s relatively easy to learn, and which pays immediate dividends. The hands are an intimate part of the individual, while science tells us their nerve pathways are directly wired to the two hemispheres of our brains. Furthermore, the unique individuality of palms, fingers, major/minor lines and fingerprints provides a competent reader a wealth of information about a client.

Aside from contributing its own insights, palmistry acts as a powerful complement to astrology, and when I see the two modalities signaling similar things, I know I’m onto a significant life theme that merits discussion with the client.

Aside from contributing its own insights, palmistry acts as a powerful complement to astrology, and when I see the two modalities signaling similar things, I know I’m onto a significant life theme that merits discussion with the client.
have left the police with no tangible leads. In his investigations, Crowe uses natal and horary astrology, palmistry and fingerprint analysis, facial physiognomy, numerology, vastu, ayurveda, and multiple other nimitta including the flow of air through his own nostrils, the syllables of first words spoken by others, the direction of birds in flight, the barking of dogs, the color and content of street graffiti, and much more.

Steven Forrest has been complimentary in reviewing this mystery series, and in one of his reviews he summarizes the nature of the trilogy in saying, “The coolest thing is that the detective is an astrologer, and the normal clue-following is aided by multiple divinatory arts. There’s just enough technical astrology to make it plausible without ever lapsing into a tutorial. That’s a hard balancing act to get right and Alan nails it.”

Indeed, ever since my teacher cautioned against becoming a “one-trick pony,” I’ve taken that to heart and brought multiple techniques to bear, depending on the situation. Naturally, I use natal astrology all the time, and very frequently horary astrology in the same session to isolate and resolve specific issues too murky to extract from the natal chart. I use palmistry in every client session, and frequently observe similarities between horoscopy and palmistry to form opinions and render judgments. In the back of my mind, I’m also mindful of the client’s name, whose constituent letters can be reduced via Vedic numerology to a single digit that signifies one of the planets. Physiognomy, body language and eye movements, some of which come courtesy of NLP principles, provide additional information. And needless to say, if an urban crow caws eight times from the tree across the street while a consultation is in session, I’ll factor that in too.

As author Paulo Coelho once said, “God has a prepared path for us to follow. We just have to read the omens he has left for us.”

Alan Annand is a Canadian astrologer, a graduate and former tutor for the British Faculty of Astrological Studies, and a graduate of the American College of Vedic Astrology. He’s written several books on Vedic astrology (Kala Sarpa, Parivartana Yoga, and Stellar Astrology Volumes 1-3) as well as two books on western sidereal astrology (Mutual Reception and The Draconic Bowl). He’s also a crime novelist, whose New Age Noir mystery trilogy (Scorpio Rising, Felonious Monk, Soma County) features a Vedic astrologer/palmist whom one reviewer dubbed “Sherlock Holmes with a horoscope.” "www.navamsa.com, alan.annand@gmail.com"
Will she Come Back to Me?
Judged by Vasilios Takos

Will she come back to me?
The querent, a 43-year-old man, had been in a romantic relationship with a woman for around 3 years. They had met through his work, she having been a customer of his business which trades in educational stationary. Both were married to other partners, but he was very much in love with this woman and described her relationship with her husband as a failed marriage that made her unhappy. A few months before the consultation, the woman had broken off their relationship, after her husband found out about it and forbade her to have any further contact with the querent. The husband had since been controlling her movements, to rule out any prospect of their meeting, and the querent wanted to know if the woman would be able to return to him and continue their relationship. The querent also revealed he had consulted with many other astrologers and psychics, and had spent a lot of money seeking spiritual advice on this problem, before requesting I help with a horary.

The querent revealed he had consulted with many other astrologers and psychics before requesting I help with a horary.
JUDGEMENT

The querent is signified by the ascendant in Gemini and its planetary ruler, Mercury, which is placed in Leo and located on the cusp of the 4th house, the lowest point of the chart. Mercury is heavily afflicted by being peregrine and within 1° degree of a separating conjunction with the Sun, its combust state aptly portraying the querent as undergoing some sort of symbolic death which will require a period of purification and abandonment of previous ideals. This helped me understand how painful the situation has been for the querent, and that whilst this may eventually lead to regenerative healing, he is not at that stage of the journey yet; he has first to recognise and work through his grief before being able to realise a state of awakening and rebirth.1

A more positive element of Mercury’s signification is that, being in its superior conjunction with the Sun, it is direct in motion and moving at its fastest speed, presenting the prospect that the querent will be able to obtain a final resolution to his problem and move through the situation relatively quickly. But the combust state of the ascendant-ruler also offers a warning for me to proceed with caution, for as Lilly says “neither the question propounded will take, or the querent be regulated” (CA, p.123). This means the querent will not get what is wanted, or will resist advice that requires a moderation of desire on his part. I assumed this was the reason he had chosen to consult with so many astrologers and psychics before me. Realising I needed to handle this situation with care, I was sensitive to the fact that the querent was desperate to regain the love he shared with the woman and could not believe it was lost, even though everything he did to approach her was painful. As Ibn Ezra explains, a planet under the Sun’s beams signifies someone suffering exhaustion of energies, whose “force is spent”.2

As I proceeded to read the chart, my next step was not to look at the woman (signified by the 7th house) to see the evolution of the relationship, but to explore the symbolism of the Moon. Not only is the Moon the co-significator of the querent and the matter asked about in every horary, it has an especially important placement in this horary, being very close in its immediate application to the Sun and Mercury. So the Moon, which is peregrine, is also combust and preparing to close its own synodical cycle, another indication that the matter of the question is drawing to its end. Themes of a cycle being closed are repeated by the placement of the Moon and 1st-ruler upon the cusp of the 4th house, and their combustion with the Sun which acts as the 4th-house ruler. With both Lights below the horizon and placed upon the cusp of the 4th house which signifies ‘the beginning and the end’; the chart is clear that hopes for any reunion have already started to fade.

Theophilus of Edessa says about relationship questions: “…for this, it is necessary to see both the underground angle [4th house] and its Lord; and if a benefic is in the house, or its Lord makes an aspect with a benefic, say the outcome will be good; but if a malefic is in it, or its Lord makes an aspect with a malefic, say that the outcome will be the opposite”.3

In this case, the Sun is the ruler of the 4th house and also the planet with which both Mercury and the Moon are conjoined without any mutual reception. The Sun may not be a malefic planet and it may not make an aspect with either Venus or Jupiter, but from the fact that it is located in a place (I.C.) that does not fit its diurnal nature (so is contrary to the sect), and since the planets are in combustion with it, we can assume the Sun will not show the best part of its nature, even though it is essentially dignified in its own zodiac sign, Leo.

The woman is signified by the 7th house in Sagittarius and its ruler, Jupiter. Jupiter is debilitated in Capricorn, its sign of fall, and is peregrine and retrograde in the 8th house, a difficult house, associated with endings, loss or anguish. The symbolism bears out the comments made by the querent in describing the woman as being oppressed by her authoritarian husband who offered little to his wife and children (the querent had been supporting her financially for the last 3 years). We see the woman is facing strong tensions, fear and insecurity.

With the two Luminaries and the 1st-ruler in Leo, and the woman’s significator moving towards a Pluto-Saturn conjunction in Capricorn, I noted the 150° (inconjunct) angle between the 1st and 7th rulers. This is referred to by the ancient Greeks called Asyndeton, meaning something that is not connected, or unbound, reflecting how the querent and the woman have no connection at all, since they could not even talk on the phone due to the husband’s restrictions.4 This aspectual relationship describes disharmony and aversion, and as the querent is represented by a speedy Mercury, in contrast to the woman’s slow Jupiter, the willingness to reunite comes mainly from the querent; unfortunately, without finding any returned response from her.

The querent feels that he has lost a great love and the fact that Venus is placed in the 1st house testifies to his emotional state: he is caring and in love. But he doesn’t know where to channel his emotions, which is shown by Venus being peregrine in Cancer, ruling the 12th house and closely separating from...
a sextile with Uranus on the 12th house cusp, then moving to oppose Jupiter, the woman’s significator, indicating problems and obstacles.

I found it interesting that the querent showed bitterness and frustration by making many references to what he had given to the relationship and how much he had helped the woman and her children, whilst emphasizing the ungratefulness he received. I do not recall hearing the querent tell me how nice he felt when they were together. This may be the result of the combust Mercury, now rapidly heading out of the Sun’s beams, but it was clear the querent was in pain due to the loss of this relationship his forlorn hope that it would be brought on again.

The next immediate aspect of the Moon, before its conjunction with the Sun, is a trine with Mars in Aries, ruler of the 11th (or derived 2nd of the 10th) and 6th house. Mars is strongly connected through square with Jupiter, Pluto and Saturn, all in Capricorn, in the 8th, and since work was a connecting element between them, I judged this to indicate a reason for them to be in contact for professional reasons. There were still some unresolved business issues between them, but I knew that the applying aspect could not provide a prospect for them to be together again romantically, because of the afflicted state of the Moon and the absence of any translated light between the main significators. However, it seemed that this might help to provide him with some answers. I also judged that one of the most important reasons to explain their separation (other than the revelation of their relationship to the woman’s husband), would be her children.

After informing the querent of my judgement that there is no positive sign for a romantic reunion, and explaining the situation that seems to prevail for both of them, I told him that the woman is under strong tensions (due to the combusted state and 8th house placement of Jupiter, which is squared by Mars and conjunct Pluto and Saturn) and advised him to deal with the situation very delicately. I judged that there would be a small opportunity to meet, for business purposes only, before the end of August. The Moon needs only 42’ to perfect its trine with Mars, which suggested that the meeting would happen soon. (The involvement of a cadent and succedent house made me think that this 42’ distance for the aspect’s perfection suggested a half month period, as 42’ is almost half a degree). However, I emphasised that this aspect does not promise any reunion. I was insistent on this, because I was afraid the querent’s combust significator would indicate resistance on his part to fully accepting what I had to say. I felt the only positive outcome of the meeting would be that it enabled them to talk and clarify the situation, which would allow the querent to clarify things within himself.

At the end of the month, the querent called to tell me that he had met with the woman; they resolved all their business issues, and she explained the situation to him, emphasising that her children were of greatest importance to her and there was no longer any reason for them to be together. She stressed to the querent that she has decided to be with her husband and asked him not to contact her. Since then, they have never met again.

REFERENCES
1 Abu Ma’shar in Ex Libris Mysteriorum Apomasaris begins the chapter on the affliction of the planets by saying: “Know that the planets are affected in many ways; and the first affliction of them, is when they are under the Sun’s beams...” (CCAG XI, p.176-177).
2 Beginning of Wisdom, VII.
3 CCAG XI, p.262. Theophilus of Edessa (695–785 CE), also known as Theophilus ibn Tuma and Thawaffi, was a Greco-Syrian medieval astrologer and scholar in Mesopotamia.
4 Ptolemy: “… those that are one twelfth [sign/30°] are like they are disagreed with each other … and those that are five [signs] divide the whole circle into unequal parts, while the other formations divide the perimeter into equal”. Tetrabiblos, 1, 17.

Vasilios Takos runs a multi-lingual astrological consultation service from his home in Thessaloniki, Greece, and offers Greek language qualifying courses in horary for the STA School of Traditional Astrology (www.sta.co). Having pursued a fascination with astrology since an early age, Vasilios initially trained with Noel Tyl and has spent many years researching ancient Greek astrological texts (including the works of Ptolemy, Dorotheus, Theophilus, etc.), with a particular interest in exploring how the techniques in these works continue through to later Persian and Arabic astrological texts (such as the works of Ibn Ezra, Masha‘allah, Abu Ma’shar, etc.). Vasilios has his personal website at vasiliostakos.com and can be contacted by email at bill@sta.co
What is the essence of magic, and what can be its relation to astrology?

When looking at Magic from the traditional point of view (anything before the 17th Century), everything is understood to exist in an interconnected state of Oneness. Within this unified state, are found individual and multiple reflections of our divine world of ideal soul forms.

These forms appear in the intermediate realm of the celestial world through planets, fixed stars, and any other astrological factors. With the practice of magic, we are not focusing on the physical bodies but more on their spiritual essence. In the traditional days, this energy was referred to as coming from archangels or highly developed intelligence forms which then manifest in a less perfect form in the material world of humble, yet flawed, human beings.

In magic, humble beings seek change and guidance from the celestial world. Traditional magic corresponds to the effects we perceive from talismans related to the planets and stars in the heavens who manifest the divine ideas of every potential thing the human so requires.

It is important that when practicing Magic Astrology that we understand the spiritual expressions and interconnections of the 5 elements. Ether is the 5th element, likened to the aura of energy around a being; it is through this element we can connect to the celestial bodies through their magic numbers, stones, colours, and spirits.

A Venus Talisman

For example, a client comes to you — her astrologer — to find love. Immediately we are talking about the planet of love — Venus. It is through a magic ritual to Venus that the astrologer can make a Talisman for the client to keep near her heart, so she attracts the one to love.

To reach Venus, we need to be humble and honour her by using all things that are related to Venus. These include pleasant-smelling incense, the colours of either pink, green, or white, which we can use either with the candles or the cloth on your altar, and respecting the number 7, according to Agrippa. Then, we follow the ritual with a small glass of sweet white wine.

We use our five senses in a ritual: sight for the colours, hearing the hymn you chant, feeling the texture of the Talisman, smelling the incense you are burning, tasting the sweet wine Venus supplies for pleasure.

In preparing a Talisman for love, as copper is the metal ruled by Venus, one could form a copper amulet, or simply include a small picture depicting Venus’s beauty and love, even if it is a picture of her glyph.

A prayer hymn or poem that channels Venus’s virtues of love and beauty can be found on the internet or written by yourself if you are gifted in expression. You can find beautiful poems and prayers in The Picatrix, a traditional book on Magic, written by John Michael Greer & Christopher Warnock. In fact, Christopher Warnock has a brilliant little book called Planetary Magic.

Once all the elements above have been gathered, we need to find the perfect time to pray to Venus and activate her energy into the Talisman for our client. We need to begin with a Venus day and a Venus hour; if the Venus day, which is a Friday, does not have great planets and aspects, we can look at other days, but make sure you do this ritual during a Venus hour.

Luckily, we have our computer programs that can help us find the optimal date and time for the ritual. First though, I recommend you look through the Ephemeris to see when Venus is fortified, and the Moon is rising. From there, we need to make sure the houses we are concerned with are fortified — and in relation to love matters, it would be the 1st and 7th.

The planets ruling the signs of the cusps of the houses used in any talisman are called significators. So in a love talisman, we would look to the cusp of the 1st house our querent… or the person asking for the Talisman, and then at the cusp of the 7th house, the house of the potential lover.
Chart Factors for Timing the Talisman

When we fortify a planet, we aim to make it as strong as possible. We do this first by establishing essential dignity, looking until we find the planet we are using in its own sign or exaltation; triplicity can do, but that may just lead to a friendship and won’t be as strong as the other two essential dignities. I use the Dorothean Table of Dignities as my guide.

Second, we fortify or strengthen the planet by using accidental dignity; accidental dignity will be the house the planet is found in, where angular houses are strong, and where cadent and malefic houses such as the 12th, 8th and 6th will debilitate your planet.

Then, for further accidental dignities, we can look at the speed of the planets, where fast in motion is better than slow. Cazimi with the Sun is great, as then the planet is in the lap of the Sun. To be cazimi, a planet must be exactly conjunct the Sun within 17 minutes, applying or separating.

Aspects can be dignified or debilitated; we need to get our planets applying to each other by a sextile or trine, and even an opposition (depending on the planet), as these are dignified aspects. The square or opposition are not, as they create stress and opposing opinions.

Part of Fortune and the Nodes are also important for dignity, as applying to conjunct either the Part of Fortune or the North Node will give added strength or advantage to the planet.

A planet that is rising is always stronger in dignity than a planet setting.

Then, as the Moon represents the flow of events, it is very important that we fortify (strengthen) the Moon. As with the planets, the Moon needs essential dignity by the sign she is in. She needs to be waxing, and she needs to apply by beneficial aspect to the other significators we are trying to bring together. A Moon fast in motion can speed up the process.

In a love talisman, the significators (being Venus and whichever the Lord or ruler of the 7th house is) need to meet by a dignified aspect or have positive mutual reception.

Mutual reception is once again where we look at the Table of Essential Dignities and see if they are in signs that receive each other by being in each other’s signs, exaltation, or triplicity.

As with the planets, the Moon needs essential dignity by the sign she is in. She needs to be waxing, and she needs to apply by beneficial aspect to the other significators we are trying to bring together.

For example, if we want to cast a love talisman chart, we can have Venus in the sign of Pisces rising; this serves very well, as she is exalted in Pisces and in her triplicity in a day chart. A chart with Libra or Taurus on the cusp will have Aries or Scorpio on the 7th house cusp of lovers. It would be great if we could get Venus applying to a dignified Mars the ruler of the 7th house by sextile, or even conjunction.

This is wonderful, as we get a double benefit by aspect and mutual reception by triplicity. (Is there a chart to refer to, or just an invented example?)

Another positive would be if Mars is found in the first house of our querent or client, which means he is with her, and she has him in her house. If it is a Pisces house, he will exalt her, Venus, and she will love him because he is in her house, and he will be her friend, as she receives him by triplicity.

Now, we need to find the Moon waxing or growing in light, and a great place-time, as you try chart by chart by chart, sometimes up to 50 charts or more.

As you can see, Talisman Magic takes time to not only find the correct election chart, but then set up your Altar, and then, to actually perform the ritual. It is not a casual or idle exercise, so those seeking such remedies should adjust their expectations as to cost, accordingly.

Once you have found the optimal chart, you can time the period these planets all remain in the chosen placements; in many cases, we only have about 10 minutes or so to get the right Ascendant and house placements, but in some cases, longer.

Making the Talisman

On the date and time of your ritual, you can set up your altar. From the minute you begin, light the candles calling to Venus, and then light the incense which supplies the smoke that purifies your Talisman; this method is called suffumigation, and as you perform this you say your prayer while moving the Talisman to and fro through the smoke.

When this is completed, sip some of the wine and give thanks for the honour of connecting with Venus through the magical spiritual realm. Sit quietly at the end and meditate on the positive outcome. Let the candles burn right down till they go out.

Magic Astrologers have an altar ready for use, and it does not need to be a big space. Some of us use a tea tray as an altar, always covered with a cloth the colour of the Planet you are asking favours from.

Before the ritual date, as a Magic Astrologer, you can actually make your amulets such as coins or discs of metals depicting the planets you want to call upon for their favours. It is when you actually enact all the above rituals that you invoke the spirit of the planet in multiple coins or discs, all in one ritual. These artifacts can then be sold or gifted to people looking for the magic they can bestow.

Once you have invoked the magic into the Talismans, keep them covered until they are with the rightful client. Tell the client when to open the package and start to wear or use the talisman, and this can only be done during the planetary hour of the Planet energising the Talisman.

To find out the gifts the Planets can give during their planetary hours, look at what Henry Coley says in his book: The Key to the Whole Art of Astrology. William Lilly gives great examples, as does Al-Biruni and The Key of Solomon.
Saturn for example, is good for buying property, or breaking ground to plant, to bringing focus, but not lending.

Jupiter is to gain favour from Judges or the Law, to take a journey, or to sign a contract.

Mars would be auspicious for action, protection, and bravery.

The Sun is auspicious for recognition, to seek a successful outcome in business, and to be seen as honourable.

Venus is for love and mostly woman related matters.

Mercury is brilliant for buying and selling merchandise, sending letters and messages, and writing a manuscript or book.

The Moon is good when men wish to court women, and regarding most matters of pregnancy and children.

As an example, I will share a Magic Sun Talisman I created and the ritual that went with it. I am also happy to say I can share the positive outcome.

A Sun in Leo Talisman

This is a talisman for courage and a successful outcome as my son-in-law pitches his photography business in England.

“The Sun brings Men to great Dignities, that they grow in Honour and Riches day after day; it makes Men Invincible, Strong, Courageous and Fortunate; it brings great riches; it preserves against Plague and Lunacy.”

(from Hibner, Mysterium Sigillorum, page 170)

I looked at suitable Dates in my Ephemeris:

23rd of July until the 2nd August, 2017 when the Sun is in Leo but also in the 1st face of Leo “A man riding on a lion; it signifies boldness, violence, cruelty, wickedness, lust, and labours to be sustained.” In this election, I am using the Indian (Vedic) Face rulerships in preference to Dorothean rulerships.

I have chosen the 28th of July, 2017 a Friday, as Sunday the 30th Sun was afflicted by a square to the Moon.

Finding the available time period:

It is from 6:35 am as the first decan of Leo rises, and the Sun is in a Sun hour until 6:53 am. This gives me 18 minutes to perform the ritual.

Astrological Factors to Consider:

Sun must be in a Sun hour and preferably on a Sun day.

The image most suited is in the hour of the Sun with Leo Ascending, the form of which is a “King crowned, sitting in a chair,
having a raven in his bosom, under his feet a Globe, he is clothed in saffron coloured clothes; they report this image rendeth men invincible and honourable and help to bring their business to a good end.” (from Occult Philosophy by Cornelius Agrippa book 2, chapter 41, page 300)

Sun or Moon must not be afflicted by an applying square or opposition of any other planet. If possible, have the Sun rising in the first face of Leo.

Chart of Talisman Election

Astrological Factors in Operation:
The Sun is dignified as he is in his sign of Leo, not in detriment or fall. The Sun is rising, angular, and in a house he rules, as Leo is on the cusp. The Sun is in a Sun hour, as well as in the first face of Leo (from Paracelsus Supreme Mysteries, Pg. 144, and the 1st face of Leo A Key to The Whole Art of Astrology, Henry Coley, Book 2 Chapter XIV pg 266 -268)

Sun and Moon are not applying to square or oppose any planet or conjunct the South Node (a malefic), or fixed star Algol (a malefic). As you can see, since the Sun has separated from a conjunction to Mars, though a malefic, it can no longer harm the Sun, but would not in any case, as Mars holds the Sun in his exaltation.

The Moon is waxing.

The Ritual:
According to Agrippa, Lilly, Ramesey, and other traditional authors, 6 is the number of the Sun and saffron or gold the colour. For the talisman, I have drawn the symbol of the Sun with picture of my Son-In-Law cazimi (right on top) the Sun symbol on the back of his calling card. The number 6 has been written on this card 6 times in a gold pen. I have Sun incense and 6 yellow candles together with a Sun Prayer. To complete, I juiced a fresh orange. All has been placed on my golden Sun ritual cloth upon my Altar.

My Son-in-Law actually came to the ritual, where he prayed and participated with me. He then took the talisman and kept it in his camera bag which he takes on all shoots. If a client can attend the ritual, this is the best. Luckily, he and my daughter were lodging with us before immigrating.

The Outcome:
After a few free photographic sessions for clients, he finally got recognition and has been successfully doing real estate photography for lodges in England. Sadly, Corona came along, and his business has gone quiet. But as their lockdown has eased, he has started to receive some business again and I have no doubt that as soon as lodges and eateries start to pick up, he will be back to where he was before lockdown.

Conclusion
The example described above is one of many from my practice of Magic Astrology, using the rules and principles of Traditional Astrology to manifest specific beneficial outcomes to both resolving people’s challenges and creating their desired opportunities.

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She is the founder of the La Brand Creative studio in Ankara, Turkey. Her primary field is logo design, brand identity, and product packaging. You can find some of her designs through this link: https://www.behance.net/tubagok

Tuba began studying with AstroArt Astrology school in September 2019.

I have always believed that our names have a big impact on our lives. As an example, my surname represents the sky and my whole childhood passed with my biggest dream of becoming an astronaut.

This year by coincidence, I realized that astrology is what I actually want to do. I am still at the basic level but I want to thank Maurice Fernandez, who helped me to combine the work that I love with astrology.
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TIMELORDS

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We may experience global cooling, as stated by some scientists. Agricultural production may decrease due to the lack of rainfall with the ensuing drought. As a result, there may be food scarcity and an extreme or volatile increase in food prices. (who and how?)

If the solar activities decrease and affect the temperature on the Earth, we will need to determine energy policies in the short-term. This is what John Casey mentioned in his book “Dark Winter,” which I have been studying during the previous 10 years. I will emphasize Casey’s sentence in his book:

“Mankind’s attempts to more accurately predict future climates on Earth should be primarily based on solar activity cycles, which are caused by the Sun’s internal processes acting in concert with the other planets and our Earth-Moon system.”

According to Casey, we will experience a cold era between 2020 and 2045 and the years between 2031 and 2037 will be the coldest. Following Jupiter-Saturn conjunction in Aquarius, which is a cold sign, Pluto will enter Aquarius at the end of 2024 and will stay there until 2044. We will wait and see if these transits are related to the cold era mentioned by Casey, or not.

Northern countries and Europe could be affected. Perhaps we might experience harsh winters in Istanbul and in the western parts of Turkey and begin to produce staples which are resistant to cold and can be stored for a long time. Of particular importance are the areas of Central Anatolia and Konya delta which are grain silos of our country. Expansion of cultivation in these places can help prepare us for the near future and assist us in developing economic programs that can resist long-term recession due to a potential of economic depression in the coming period. The quantity of crops and harvest decreases during the time when sunspot activities are at lowest levels. So, again I would like to emphasize that we have to pay attention to agriculture, which is in need of far-sighted reform. Water will be one of the important themes of the coming period. Following Neptune’s ingress into Aries, no outer planets will be in water signs until Uranus.
enters Cancer and Pluto enters Pisces. As a result, we may experience water shortage. Additionally, there is a risk of cloud-bursts impacting some regions of the world with flooding. With Jupiter-Neptune-Venus-Mars alignment in Pisces during 2022 spring, cities like Venice and other low-lying metropolises are particularly vulnerable.

The possible outcomes in weather described above invite collaboration among professionals in science, agriculture, and policy-making to establish the best possible short-term and long-range planning and action.

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BREAKING
THE
FOURTH
WALL

Column by
Russ von Ohlhausen

PART II OF IV:
ALL THINGS
GREAT AND
SMALL
A Little Subatomic
Astrology

AN AQUARIAN CYCLONE
APPROACHES

Have you noticed the winds of change
still twisting about after 2020's epic direction-
al shift? If you are not wearing rose-colored
glasses, you would probably agree that last
year's energy has not fully abated, and in
fact, an increasingly divisive pressure system
is settling in over the globe. Some might
even say that we have the makings of a
perfect storm—an Aquarian Tempest—just
over the horizon. I often make mention of
the rise of Aquarian energy on the planet,
the cycles we are moving into, and what it
means for humanity. Many of you will know
that Aquarius is symbolized by the 'water
pouer' and the 'vessel' or the kumbha in
Greek and Sanskrit. Many of you may not
know that kumbha is also the 'storm' and
sometimes connected to the 'storm-god'
Varuna of Vedic myth.

As we anticipate Pluto's transit into
Aquarius, astrologically, we find ourselves
at the beginning of a colossal energetic dis-
turbance rather than at the end of a small
upheaval, as many would hope. In case it
hasn't fully hit you yet, "Kansas is going bye-
bye." We have already entered a new era, yet
the old one is prepared to hang on to the
reality it has created, as the vibrational
fields intensify. A collection of cyclical per-
turbations is building the energy needed
to blow down the monochromatic walls of
the past; walls which are well-constructed
and well-protected. As the title of this col-
umn suggests, the walls of false realities
are destined to fall but I guarantee only
a few are ready for the changes that are
coming, and what it will take to see the
rainbow promise on the other side. And
not everyone's level of consciousness is going
to make it through the storm…

Most people imagine themselves to
be open-minded and colorfully illuminat-
ed (astrologers are no exception), yet they
have actually just fine tuned their personal
black and white thinking. But like Dorothy
at the beginning of The Wizard of Oz, it is
going to take a storm to show us another
world. So, let's put on our own ruby slip-
pers, take a couple of swigs of tequila (or
whatever you need to loosen up), and set
out on our colorful quantum quest with her
and her Oz-bound companions, to uncover
what lies at the edge of the cosmic rain-
bow. Ultimately, what we are to discover is
the power of faith in oneself to sweep away
the old grayscale thinking, to ride the winds
of change into the future, and share with
the world a new technicolor vision.

The Great Reset: Old Breakdowns &
New Breakthroughs

The culmination of antiquated soci-
etal constructs, which we have tried so
desperately to prop up since Pluto entered
Capricorn in 2008, are bankrupt and head-
ed for breakdown. To those who are still
trying to convince themselves in 2021 that
it's all going to “go back to the way it was”
— my hat is off to them for partying on the
promenade deck of the H.M.S. Age of Pisces
like it's 1999, as she starts her final slide into
the depths of her watery element. Though
many are perfectly comfortable with going
down with the ship, some launched their
little lifeboats of Aquarian consciousness
early to get clear of the vortex of divisive
nonsense and to assist those who are just
awakening. Others had the foresight to
wrap up their STO (service-to-others)
duties, call in our otherworldly angelic
and alien brethren, and beam out of this
doomed paradigm early. They are already
watching this holographic dramady play
out from the next dimension, reaching
through, giving us little hints, clues and
guidance from beyond the veil. What we
think of as the physical world is becoming
less and less familiar, and more uncomfort-
able to exist in, which must happen now in
order for this spirit-matter transformation
to take place.

Adjusting your own perspective is the
first step in the transformation. The matter
world continues to reveal its truths—the
inner confessions of the matrices and pro-
cesses of an integrated higher mind. To
continue to grow, we each must discern and
assimilate our portion of higher truth. Are
you broadening your own virtual horizons?
Are we expanding our inner bandwidth
and connection to divinity, or upgrading
our integrated heart storage capacity from
megabytes to gigabyte, or even to tera-
bytes? Are you integrating your little quanta
of information, the qubits of wisdom-knowl-
edge you experience? Are you uploading
the revelations of your personal point in
space-time where the mystery of human-
ity and divinity have merged in the form
of you? Are we able to behold the furthest
deeper edge of what's above, anatomize the inner-
most marrow of that which is below, and
recognize how each flow into and out of the
human dimension? If not, it's time …

Beyond the Yellow Brick Road

In her 2003 research paper enti-
tled Astrology and Research, Astrologers’
attitudes to research methodologies and
the implications of these attitudes for the
contemporary communities of astrologers,
Bernadette Brady imparts this in her opening statement: “...there is a high level of ambivalence amongst professional astrologers towards research. Furthermore, there is a tendency to believe that research could only be scientific and quantitative and that any other form of research is insignificant and of little value.” She also concludes her paper with this in the summation: “The astrological community has been in limbo since the time Placidus de Titis attempted to create an astrological theory, in order to gain acceptance in the new world of science. Furthermore, the community has perpetuated the situation by seeking justification in the eyes of science exclusively and obsessively. As a result, the community is ignoring or ignorant of other methodologies which could empower them to explore astrology rather than prove astrology.”

I offer her statements as a re-energizing challenge to those of us in the established astrological community. With her pronouncements in mind, I would like to re-envision our approach to astrological research, or at least how we find a better coherence within the collective understanding of the greater physical and metaphysical worlds around us. This article is less of an information piece and more of a summoning, inviting a friendly competition of passionate minds and true voices, to unite in the continued pursuit of ancient and future truth. Though most have forgotten, it is part of the scientific mandate to go outside the path laid before us, to seek what lies beyond. I’ve heard, that if you go far enough, you’ll find yourself there behind a curtain, pulling all the strings...

We Aren’t in Kansas Anymore, Toto

Just a few generations back, most people existed in a WYSIWYG world, where ‘What You Saw Is What You Got’. Newtonian physics laid out the mechanics of the material Universe and all was right within tangible reality. However, with the harnessing of electricity and the advance of technology, we’ve extended our senses to perceive the ultra- and infra-realities, the higher and lower domains we exist within. Vanguard science has progressed exponentially by evolving and refining its mathematical language and has superseded the ordinary scholastic domains. Physicists have become an elite class, even within academic society. They function as high priests who propagate pseudo-scientific heretics out of their wheelhouse. They profess the stories of imperceptible yet powerful characters, which exist in imaginary realms above and unknowable worlds below. Their messages equated in a grammar, which only the calculating clerics and enumerating rabbis can transcribe; in edicts expressed in a code only they can decipher, with a cannon formulated in a language agreed upon by select arithmetical mahatmas, interpreted by their tightly chosen priesthood. They pass on mathematical abstractions as uncontestable proof of the myths of the primal creative forces, the fractured particles of god, and a census of their incarnating material generations, in narrations they can barely comprehend, and which no two ‘clergy’ can agree upon. And everyone else takes their distilled summations and interpretations as the authority of gospel truth. This sounds pretty much like all other religions. So now they tell us this is a YCSIADG world, where ‘You Can’t See It, And Don’t Get It’.

Do You Believe in Grey Rainbows?

Buckminster Fuller, stated that 99.999% of all known physical phenomena occur within the macro and micro ranges of the electromagnetic spectrum, which are entirely imperceptible to the human senses. Let that sink in as astrologers, that we experience less than 0.001% of what is actually happening around us. Nearly all interactions and energies in which you participate, you are not even able to perceive, let alone consciously comprehend. Almost entirely blind, we guide our lives based on a thin spectrum of light information, which connects our feelings, thoughts and behaviors. As astrologers, we at least get the added benefit of some ancient wisdom, yet, every new scientific discovery contains or describes a spiritual concept or quality of our cosmos which the current scientific culture is not equipped to recognize nor capable of communicating. Conversely, the majority of astrologers and metaphysicians have not readied themselves to recognize and communicate the spiritual texture and qualities of what the theorists and physical scientists are discovering.

I believe attempts should be made to directly translate astrological fundamentals and spiritual dynamics to analogues in the physical dimensions; and so too, the equivalent material behaviors which comprise patterns and modes of consciousness. Tossing out a few general statements about “quantum weirdness” somehow relating to astrology is no longer enough to say we’ve made an effort towards transcribing the scientific dialect. To be able to create this bridge, we must first be open to new information, ideas, methods and technologies ourselves. So, let's now relax our gaze of this other world, and peer below, into the bottomlessness of the void reflecting above the endless manifestation of creation which beckons us to reveal its mystery. The previous sentence is deliberately ambiguous as to which part may be reflecting the other and where it may ultimately reside, so let's explore.

Nearly all interactions and energies in which you participate, you are not even able to perceive, let alone consciously comprehend.
BREAKING
THE FOURTH WALL

What’s Underneath the ‘As Below’

The fundamental axiom “as above, so below”, is a deeply rooted principle of astrology. But where does above end and below begin; and where does above begin and below end. We usually think of this principle in terms of human perception, the celestial planetary bodies we can see in parallel with our human physical interactive terrestrial forms here. Astrologers and alchemists take into consideration the counterparts within the plant and animal kingdoms; some will consider crystal, mineral and metal complements in how they generally survey the bounds of the ‘below’.

But what about the correspondences to the realms, domains and dimensions below that. What’s underneath ‘the below’ that we think we know? Essentially, nothing…

THE ASTROLOGY OF NOTHING
Zeta Zeros: The Roots of Quantum Mechanics

Born on the 17th of September 1826, Bernhard Riemann, was a mathematician whose contributions to differential geometry and complex analysis laid the groundwork for Einstein and General Relativity, and subsequently all of quantum mechanics. His natal chart is quite revealing, with Sun and Jupiter exactly conjunct in Virgo, along with Mercury in Virgo sextiling Saturn giving him a very focused mind by which he was able to firmly grasp the details of the larger cosmic picture and to communicate them with single-minded vision by contributing a new mathematical lexicon by which to do so. In 1854 he delivered his theory of higher dimensions of space and in 1859 he published his paper entitled, “On the Number of Primes Less Than a Given Magnitude”, regarding the prime number-counting function, which contained the tools for modern analytical number theory. Don’t worry, we are not diving into this, but I will give my take on the Riemann Zeta Function, as I do believe it is a question that astrology will eventually be curious about as well. So, bear with it a moment and watch for keywords.

A Primal RoZETA Stone

The Riemann-Euler zeta function plays a pivotal role in analytic number theory and the distribution of prime numbers, and has applications in fundamental physics, probability and statistics, areas which you may not realize are integral to astrology’s rudiments. (When I finally grasped the fundamental nature of this hypothesis, my ‘mind was blown’ by how simple this complexity actually is, and how astrology could benefit from understanding its implications.) The importance of this theory will affect the foundations of all the sciences and cannot be understated. It is considered by many to be the most important unproven problem in all of mathematics. Riemann expanded the concept of Euler’s zeta function through analytical continuation of complex planes, in his now famous Riemann Hypothesis and unproven conjecture.

It’s Either All or Nothing - Or Both?

Fame and wealth await whoever can determine the proof of why nontrivial zeta zeros exist at the halfway point of a complex plane of less than one but more than zero, called the critical line. The critical line is the midpoint, 0.5, of an infinitely extended plane, called the critical strip between 0 and 1, where these root zeros exist. These integral root zeta zeros should hypothetically be distributed throughout the strip on the plane, but they are not. What we find are ALL non-trivial roots existing in a strip at the center of all other trivial roots. These roots radiate from a single central axis, in the middle of an infinite plane of nothingness and itself is surrounded by ALL of somethingness. Placing everything inside a zero dimension generates the illusion of infinite reflection – divided endlessly by increased degrees of separateness while ultimately preserving wholeness as one thing. That all of infinity could mathematically be shown to lay along one single line has profound implications in contextualizing many of the world’s spiritual precepts of a central Oneness. Oneness surrounded by Zero-ness surrounded by Everything-ness. Now that kind of mathematical mind spin sounds a lot like metaphysics to me.

Smoke & Mirrors, Fire & Light

Where there is smoke, there is fire, and where there are mirrors, there must be light. When someone says ‘that’s nothing but smoke and mirrors’, what they are referring to is something, which examined ever more closely, proves to be an illusion. The basis for quantum mechanics is along the same lines. The closer we examine this reality, the less real it appears to be, yet another cosmic paradoxical symmetry. What we are beginning to realize is that reality is more likened to a funhouse hall

![Diagram of Riemann Zeta Function](image)
of mirrors, with light frequencies bending and curving, energies twisting, constricting and contorting, multiplied reflections concaving and convexing, a reality stretched inside-out, through itself, warping around and weaving together the dimensions. Mirrors are dead in the darkness; they only draw life where there is light, even a single candle can become infinite and eternal. You may even start to think our Vedic ancestors were on to something when they proposed the concept of Indra’s Jeweled Net as a metaphor for the structure of reality.

There Are No Planets Only Planes

As astrologers, we may tend to think of people as an array of quantities and qualities of the physical and the spiritual domains, the composite layers of the body, and its overlays of the supporting energies. Yet we don’t often relate to the planets — those things we refer to in the “as above” — in similar terms. The distribution of atoms, quantum particles and energies which make up these bodies are the same as those of which we are comprised (though not occupying the same states). Instead of looking at planets as bodies, we might look at them as planes, more specifically complex planes, interlaced strata of oscillating energies and vibratory fields. In fact, you could look at everything that way and you wouldn’t be wrong. Just as a 2-dimensional line is projected as a point in one dimension, a 3-dimensional object can be projected onto a 2-dimensional plane, so too are 4-dimensional objects, projected onto 3-dimensional space, and so forth.

A planet is a concentrated nodal point of intersecting complex planes, entangled fields of frequencies, energies and information, at a given set of spacetime coordinates, spinning along a trajectory. Basically, creating something out of nothing, somehow, right in the middle of everything. The fusion of these qualities constitutes the illusion of shape and solidity, from the singular quantum of a particle to the composite quanta of a planet. As a mental exercise, one might experiment with visualizing spheres as planes, and vice versa, planes as spheres, while scrutinizing your subtle perceptions of this dual particle-wave reality. You might even adopt a belief that all of this is a kind of dream of Brahma, resting on the single stem of a lotus emerging from the navel of Vishnu, manifesting a holographic reality out of spiritual energy. Entire areas of the sciences are beginning to seriously suggest that there is an illusory or virtual quality as a core fundament of nature. Once thought of only as the domain of spiritual fiction, the mathematics, in many ways, now supports the hypothesis that we really do exist inside some type of energy hologram in which scalar micro singularities project across dimensions. Points which cast, lines ripples and waves, creating subsequent interference patterns as 4 dimensional images projected from the other dimensions. If that line of thinking starts to sound repetitive, that’s the point…

THE ASTROLOGY of SOMETHING
A Horse of a Different Color

Long before the modern stage was set, reality hinted at something quantum which bridged the relationship of higher and lower orders. Science gatekeepers have deemed the ‘quantum realm’ off limits to spiritual seekers, exclaiming there are no truths in there which could pertain to us and that we wouldn’t really understand them anyway. Though it seems to me humanity has found some way to consciously explore these realms before, and that there are a lot of reasons why we should explore them again with an eye toward the divine. And we, astrologers, are not alone. Trailblazing modern metaphysicians, like Deepak Chopra, Greg Braden, Lynn McTaggart, Bruce Lipton, Dr. Joe Dispenza, Nassim Haramein, and others whose insights and research have been leading the way, are setting up new framework for metaphysics, which will need to include astrology. The term quantum mysticism has been put forth to describe and denigrate attempts to reconcile metaphysical concepts with the quantum sciences. Essentially, it is heresy and treason of the highest order in the scientific paradigm. Labeled as quantum mystics, we are criticized for not manifesting the material resources to rigorously seek proof of astrology’s mechanics, and at the same time ridiculed if we draw parallels to existing knowledge of the mechanics of the natural world. Damned if we don’t; damned if we do. And here we are, at it again.

Particles of the Subatomic Rainbow

What is “quantum”? A quantum is the minimum amount of any physical entity/property, described as consisting of a complete value in itself, e.g., a photon is a single quantum of light. It implies the quality of discreteness, the single quantity of a thing. In its very meaning it gives a minimum boundary between a thing and another
BREAKING THE FOURTH WALL

thing (a quality which generally disagrees with Pisces). Something separated one integral from one thing, the smallest separations possible near the smallest scales; it implies a natural prime increment within the cosmos. Like a specific color frequency, it has both distinct energy and explicit value with can be quantized. You may not think that on infinitesimally small scales

Just like Dorothy explaining her adventure back in Kansas, as crazy as it may sound, we really are complex layers in an infinite "rainbow sandwich" filled with ever smaller bites of the rainbow, always creating and consuming itself.

these structures, effects and behaviors would be perceivable to us in this reality, but they are. You can see and analyze the structure of quantum fields in the patterns of sunlight – meaning the effects of quantum patterns are active and discernible in everyday reality. And being patterns of celestial light in space-time, they are also of interest to astrology, no matter how far down the ladder into ‘the below’ the pattern might go. With that in mind, let’s compare side-by-side the quantum level with the celestial.

Crossing the Rainbow Bridge of Light

Both diagrams describe 12 essential archetypal energies which are fused by ratios of 4 elemental forces, explained as models of structure, energy and movement. With this chart, I am implying a direct pattern connection, frequency correlations and time function between the fundamental model of the quantum particles and the functions of the Zodiac, a true rainbow bridge between worlds. One side of the bridge was built by quantum physicists and the other by metaphysicists. Though neither side is whole in itself, there is a lot of trans-symmetry already in place to build upon. And there are layers of bridges above and below these, which we will save for another time.

THE RAINBOW SANDWICH There’s No Place like Home

Having just now returned from the other side of the rainbow, hopefully we find our constitution a bit altered by our little taste of a chroma-color dream. Just like Dorothy explaining her adventure back in Kansas, as crazy as it may sound, we really are complex layers in an infinite "rainbow sandwich" filled with ever smaller bites of the rainbow, always creating and consuming itself. These intertwined patterns of hierarchical energy fields create the interconnected pockets, little gems of reality, through which we manifest. This recursive and symmetric field of potential where spir-
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www.astrologicalassociation.com
It has been my experience that to have a successful practice, you have to be able to balance the empathy and sensitivity of astrological consultations with specific strategies and skills that offer agency in working with more demanding customers in a thorny exchange.

SESSION GONE SIDEWAYS

In a synastry consultation, the man and the woman seemed to be enjoying their consultation immensely and were giving wonderful feedback as the session moved on. As we discussed the harmonious aspects in the chart, they both lit up with excitement and joy. As we discussed some of the challenging energy from his aspects to hers, they both responded very well and the woman continued to confirm that these were dynamics they did experience in the relationship. However, when we dove into some of the harder aspects of her chart to his, including a square to his Moon, and his Venus from her Saturn, I got about six sentences in and it turned into an explosion from her.

The look on their face was sheer horror, and what was running through my mind was fear, panic and doubt as I was questioning my own competency. One hostile client had me in fight or flight mode. The boyfriend did step in, and before the session had ended, we were able to bring some repair to the situation, but at the end of that consultation, I realized I needed a plan in place in case this ever happened again. I also realized I could not be the only person having these experiences.

Astrology is a wonderfully informative craft and practice, but we are also dealing with people who are at different levels of awareness; “I could not possibly be alone experiencing this,” I thought. Through this experience, I was pushed to grow and establish different strategies within my own business plan for how I would practice handling challenging clients. So, consider the tips and tricks below for dealing with the more formidable clients that may come your way, however infrequently that may be.

HAVE A PLAN

In the day to day running of your business, customer service confidence begins with the foundation of creating a safe and professional space for you and your client by understanding what your plan of action is when threatening, unpredictable or off behaviors present themselves. For example, if a session begins to go sideways, it’s my practice now to go into high gear listening mode, and allow myself to take five deep breaths to calm my fight or flight system.

A client who is agitated or defensive when meeting an astrologer can create more of a problem as opposed to a mutually beneficial growth opportunity. By taking the listening position, you can also enable yourself to hear what’s going on, and sort out if your client is actually having a problem with us, the session, or they’re presenting something else that may be alive and active in their chart.

Often I find that if a client is being difficult they do have some active aspect in their chart that is prompting them to lash out in some way. While that has nothing to do with me, I do have the opportunity to listen and defuse the situation. By being able to listen and being knowledgeable about what is going on, I become proactive instead of reactive in situations. Plan ahead, what will your strategy be to handle this type of client?

Be open to including training or education outside of astrology that helps you shape your customer service and dispute/conflict management skills. This can pay dividends in the long run. Plus, professional education is tax deductible!

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Making time in the morning, before beginning your day, and also leaving buffer time in between sessions to take on some mindfulness or meditation is a way to take care of yourself. I believe it puts you in a position to experience a lot less frustration, anxiety or anger that taxing situations can present. It’s fantastic to have this idea of taking five calming breaths in times that are stressful, but if there’s no foundation of actual practice in our lives, it’s really hard to enact that in real time. By having a calming practice in your daily routine, you can feel when the body is reacting to a situation and allows the mind to release the judgment, focus on solutions and express the empathy that is needed in the situation.

Astrology is a wonderfully informative craft and practice, but we are also dealing with people who are at different levels of awareness; “I could not possibly be alone experiencing this,” I thought.
A mindfulness practice can also help to bring clarity to the situation. If empathy is needed, I can apply it, or if I simply need to admit that I was wrong, or apologize, this becomes easier with greater clarity!

**LEARN FROM WHAT’S GOING ON**

The nice part about difficult situations is that if you are willing to pay attention and recognize the opportunity, you can almost walk the situation backwards and see where things went off-track and LEARN! Where did the situation go wrong from the beginning? In heightened moments of professional crisis, if you are willing to slow down, listen and see the wisdom in the situation, there's an opportunity to not only stay grounded in the solution, but learn, while also creating loyalty with your client.

The synastry client mentioned earlier, has been a client for over four years now. They consistently rate me with excellent client feedback. When I had the opportunity to connect with her during the session that was an explosion, and asked her what happened for her, or what I could improve, it turns out that when I used the word “cold”, regarding the energy of Saturn, it triggered a memory for her with her mother, and how they had a very cold loving nature with one another. In addition to other things that were going on in her life at that particular moment, that one word created that reaction.

By the end of that session we had created a wonderful conversation. When talking about particular aspects, even though I had familiar terms and words that I use, I had to consider expanding my range to think about how to express certain concepts with clients. This potential failure birthed a growth opportunity for me and a lovely client relationship for the last four years.

**EMPATHY, COMPASSION, BOUNDARIES**

I think you can be a phenomenal practitioner though it is sometimes difficult to hear someone saying rude, hostile or unkind things to you. It's an abrasive experience. We are dealing with people in various stages of growth and with potential psychological challenges in their lives. Conducting yourself with empathy and compassion while also maintaining strong boundaries is vital.

My practice is to acknowledge an emotion that may be causing a client to lash out or stimulate some pattern they have – while making them aware that I cannot tolerate abusive behavior, no matter how justified they may feel. I let the customer talk and listen to what is being said, then pause them and ask if I'm hearing what they're saying correctly by saying it back to them. Typically, this action alone is enough to allow the situation to begin to mend and turn the corner.

Once the tension is diffused, I have the conversation about where my boundaries are, as the astrologer. I am not the punching bag, I am not the psychologist, I am not the doctor, I am the astrologer.

Once the tension is diffused, I have the conversation about where my boundaries are, as the astrologer. I am not the punching bag, I am not the psychologist, I am not the doctor, I am the astrologer. And by knowing and understanding my role and where I can be helpful, it creates a steady trust between myself and my clients, while also supporting them to be accountable for their own behavior.

Beyond that, I believe it allows me not to take on all of the energy of my client, which could lead to burn out by trying to be everything for everyone, or spending day and night in fear questioning my competency based on someone else's bad day.

Next, be willing to cut your losses. Some sessions and some client relationships will never be successful. You have to be willing to do what you can to bring healing and positive solutions, but you must also be as equally willing to let it go. I worked with a client for a year, and she would often tell me how open and ready she was for change and growth. However, every time we had a consultation, she only met me with defensiveness so informed me that I was wrong. We would talk about upcoming energies in her life, I would tell her my interpretation, she would tell me I was wrong. During our last session of the year, she agreed with me that mostly disagreed with all of my interpretations, and that it may be best for her to find an astrologer that she can connect with and trust the interpretation.
The BUSINESS of ASTROLOGY

My willingness to both discuss this openly with her as well as cut my losses by not having her as a client anymore, made it so that we could end the relationship peacefully. Since then, she has referred three other people to me who have worked out well. I’ve adopted this idea and belief that by remaining open to clients staying or leaving my practice, I let them choose and allow for the universe to intervene on behalf of both of us to make sure we are in alignment with one another.

GET SUPPORT FROM YOUR TRIBE

After a challenging interaction with a client, it’s meaningful to have a friend or a group of people who can support you. They can offer meaningful advice and make you realize new things about the situation.

More than anything, I can’t tell you how wonderful it is to talk to another astrologer or group of astrologers and share experiences. Because the truth always sets you free. Being able to lean into some support reminds me that I am not alone. And we will all experience setbacks at some point.

In the end, no matter how infrequent these problems may be, or whether no problems have emerged yet, we are all vulnerable to experiencing challenging client situations. Having a strategy enables you to step on to the terrain of consultation better armed with compassion, enabling you to give the very best you have available to your client(s), your own practice and your own business.

Regardless of what comes our way, being an astrologer can sometimes feel like a very solo career path. My hope in reading this article is that you’re not only able to gather some ideas and practices to implement in your practice, but that you also know that you are not alone. There are a tribe of us out there walking, working and waiting to connect and support you. All my love, xoxo.

Stormie Grace is a practicing Astrologer at Stormie Grace and houses her own show on YouTube producing learning, weekly, monthly, and yearly content. Practicing in Colorado and around the globe since 2014. Holding a Doctorate of Business enables her to apply those skills to business and mundane astrology, as well as personal chart work. She specializes in teaching groups, one on one sessions, and personal readings. Under the study of Steven Forrest and with guidance of other Astrology mentors, she continues to expand the astrology skills and practice in Evolutionary Astrology. A Member of OPA, AYA, ISAR, NCGR, AFAN, contributor to Astrologyhub.com, Midheaven Magazine, and faculty member for the Portland School of Astrology.

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rather than facing Saturn's transits with fear and trepidation, we may place our faith in the wisdom of life's unfolding drama—a drama that compels us to learn the deep lessons that Saturn's role as the Lord of Karma brings into our lives.

To begin, I will provide a short review from my Spring 2021 article. In their book, *Reincarnation, the Phoenix Fire Mystery*, Sylvia Cranston and Joseph Head demonstrate that there has always been a strong belief in reincarnation and karma across cultures. Thinking from an astrological perspective, like the many blood cells pulsing through our veins, we are part of the great circulation of cosmic energy pulsating through the galaxy. As our solar system travels and evolves, so do we. Saturn plays a formidable role as our galactic teacher of self-discipline and wisdom.

When discussing Saturn with clients, it is essential to educate them briefly regarding the meaning of Saturn transits. As explained in my first column, my protocol is to begin by reciting a short narrative that serves as a metaphor for Saturn's symbolic meaning. For instance, I like the lines from Pete Seeger's song, *Turn, Turn, Turn*, "There is a time and a season to every purpose under heaven."

### Saturn's Journey Continues

Saturn's transit through the second quadrant continues Saturn's journey through the areas beneath the horizon. As the houses under the horizon speak to issues of a personal nature, and the houses above the horizon symbolize collective experience, Saturn's journey through the second quadrant continues to herald a time of inner development and a more introverted time of life. To continue the metaphor of Saturn's journey through the horoscope to the seasons of agriculture, his conjunction to the nadir and movement through the houses 4, 5, and 6 can be imagined as the last thaw of winter and the preparation of the ground for the planting season. It is the time to clear the fields, start the seeds and then to plant the saplings for the harvest that will arrive when Saturn reaches the top of the chart.

#### Fourth House

As Saturn comes to a conjunction to the nadir, he touches the deepest, innermost point of the chart, symbolic of the most profound aspects of the self. Traditionally, the nadir and the fourth house, ruled by the sign Cancer and the Moon, represent the home, land, mother earth and the parents as well as the basic self or "base of operations."

There is debate amongst astrologers about whether the fourth house denotes the mother or father. I do not prefer to separate the symbolic nature of the fourth/tenth house axis along pure gender lines. I feel that the functions delineated by these houses can be performed by both parents, regardless of the sex. The issue of birth experience, as well as death, can be activated by Saturn fourth house transits, so the nature of the Moon must be considered.

In the Theosophical literature, the Moon is considered to be the deteriorating shell of the earth's last incarnation. She rules the three Fates who are symbolic of the things in life over which we have little control — the rhythmic processes of the earth, birth, death, excretion, etc. — the pre-verbal and primitive realm of the Mulhadara Chakra. Saturn's conjunction to the nadir often pulls us in a fateful way to issues related to our origins — to the experience of occupying a body, childhood trauma and family. These issues cause us to burrow into ourselves for the purpose of becoming more conscious so that, like the phoenix, we can rise out of the ashes of the challenges of life. For this reason, Saturn's transit through the fourth house is a good time to seek psychotherapy in order to create a strong foundation to function successfully in the world.

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**SATURN, Our Great Galactic Teacher**

Column by

**Anne Redlich, LCSW**

**PART TWO**

**Saturn in the Second Quadrant.**

To everything - turn, turn, turn
There is a season - turn, turn turn
And a time to every purpose under heaven
— from the song, *Turn, Turn, Turn*, by Pete Seeger

As I continue the series, Saturn, Our Great Galactic Teacher, I will discuss Saturn's transit through the second quadrant of the natal horoscope. Conceptualizing Saturn as a wise, yet stringent teacher who challenges the native to learn from life's difficult trials, we can place Saturn into a constructive context. And
Once a strong sense of self is established through the experiences of the first four houses, Saturn’s time in the fifth house is a call to creative expression.

Developmentally, Saturn’s first visit to the fourth house occurs between the ages of seven and nine and a half. It is the start of what Freud termed “the latency stage.” A stage where there is a pause before puberty begins and the adolescent is awakened in a conscious way to their sexuality. During this time, the child has a chance to gain a stronger sense of who they are as a human, living in a body. As they continue past the kindergarten games of earlier years, the soul becomes more grounded in its identity with the Self. This shift heralds the possibility of taking a more conscious look at who one really is in the world in relation to parents, siblings, heredity, ethnic identity and what is found outside the home.

Fifth House
As Saturn, transits into the fifth house, Leo’s house ruled by the Sun, the challenge becomes personal self-expression; how one shines in the world. Leo and the fifth house rule the children of the body and the mind. Once a strong sense of self is established through the experiences of the first four houses, Saturn’s time in the fifth house is a call to creative expression. The fifth house experience challenges the native to give generously of the self and “to warm” the world with one’s original expression and creations.

Developmentally, Saturn’s transit through the fifth house constellates the age of nine and a half through twelve. Still in latency yet nearing puberty, the child is called upon to express themselves in a personal way, —in a manner that reflects something of themselves and their identity. Pre-teens are discovering music and the performing arts. It is the time of identifying with one’s favorite stars and feeling the first pangs of romantic experience through projecting adoration onto a teen heartthrob. All of these activities aid the pre-teen in defining the self.

Sixth House
Saturn’s transit through the sixth house concerns the hard work and skills necessary to realize the creative visions imagined in the fifth house. The sixth house is Virgo’s house and ruled by Mercury. But mythologically, it is also connected to the Demeter/Persphone myth and concerns itself with issues of fecundity and abundance. The sixth house defines issues of health, healing, medicine and the serious routinized activities related to nutrition, cooking and the care and feeding of the body. Saturn’s transit through the sixth house challenges the native to gain skills that will help to sustain them in the world through work and service. It is a time when health becomes a focus and the native is thus compelled to pay attention to how they tend to the body through nutrition and daily habit. Finally, the sixth house also symbolizes the abundant gifts that we give to the world through our labors.

Developmentally, Saturn’s movement through the sixth house is marked from the ages of twelve and a half through fifteen, the time of puberty. At this time, the child becomes the adolescent.

Saturn’s journey through the second quadrant continues the symbolic Hero’s Journey of life. It is a time to solidify the inner foundation of the Self in order to live out the promise of Saturn’s journey above the horizon.

Anne Redlich is a psychotherapist and astrologer living in Chicago. Anne has practiced both psychotherapy and astrology for over forty years. She is also a writer and an untrained artist. www.anneredlich.com
This article is examining the place the performing arts have in astrology. I thought about how astrologers who are artists are inspired by and communicate astrology through art. Initially, much of the imagery and artistic renderings conveying astrological concepts were often Greco-Roman or medieval in style. Now, we are in a period where inspiration comes from a much more diverse culture and eras. There is an evolving awareness by contemporary astrologers of the broader cultural context of astrology as a universal art and science.

Many artist astrologers will not necessarily create astrology related art. For example, Basil Fearrington is an astrologer with an international clientele who has taught in South Africa, and is also a recognized professional bassist, featuring on albums by Chaka Khan, and Roberta Flack, among others. Basil was a protégé of the late astrologer Noel Tyl, a bass-baritone opera singer who performed Wagnerian roles.

After many years of studying Dane Rhudyar, to hear his compositions, I was amazed to read his writings on music—modernistic pieces that were on a really high level. Truly prolific, his titles revealed how his philosophy, music, and art are entwined: Third Pentagram, Stars from Pentagrams, and his writings on Claude Debussy and His Work, and the Magic of Tone and the Art of Music, along with his fictional novels and transcendental art, is testimony to the breadth of his artistic and cosmic vision.

Ritual, and Happenings, engage the beholder in the magic and wonder of astrology, perhaps more deeply than casual mental astro-jargon. Participants can be engaged through experience when performance art, multi-media, and interdisciplinary collaborations create pageantry. Tarot is another example of a visual source that expresses astrological concepts. It was the foundation for my early studies in astrology. Yet, although tarot’s origins were outside of Europe, much of it still harkened to Eurocentric concepts until Alistair Crowley’s The Book of Thoth, The Egyptian Tarot. Crowley’s deck drew from international sources and philosophies:

Seed Flight, Dane Rhudyar, 1947

Astrology, when experienced through the visual and performance arts allows the receiver to absorb its meanings in personal, multi-faceted impactful ways. In performance planetary configurations manifest directly through the spontaneity of music, dance, and poetry. The cosmic energies that are inherent in any act have avenues in performance. In visual art we see the result of those energies in a single work, a static snapshot of a living moment, the same way that a chart is a unique moment. In performance, we experience those celestial currents as they unfold.

ELEVATED MOON

Over the years I have created commissions for people wanting their charts carved or rendered in mixed-media; I have created charts in silkscreen, or painted them as murals. In 2014 I began a series of collaborations with composer, reed player, and percussionist JD Parran. Our first performance opened when the Moon was elevated, thus we became Elevated Moon. This collaborative ensemble later included dance by Chihiro Cute-Beat Kobayashi, Michael T.A. Thompson (Sound Rhythium) on drums and percussion, and Bill Toles,
lighting (I see his work as Lightning!). The performances focused on the planets that were at the angles during the actual performances, with costumes created for those moments; segments might call for a change of costume, or a part of the installation would be interacted with when a planet would enter an angle.

**QUEEN OF THE UNDERWORLD**
Queen of the underworld!
She brings majesty to the commonplace
Nurturing the populace
She raises what is low:
Seeds buried
in furrows
Know her.

**COMET**
Approaching: a Comet, origins unknown
With pulsating phosphorescent tail aglow;
Burning brilliant, bearing cosmic elements,
Its fading light receding, illuminates!

**COMET** was recited as a chant, with the dancer as the comet; the phrases were randomly repeated in different combinations.

Amir Bey holding the **Lunar Disk**, while reciting one of the Moon poems, from a performance by **Elevated Moon**, costumes, performance, Amir Bey, 2017
*Photo by Kosman Parran*

Here are two Poems to the Moon, and one for Comet Borisov, that passed through our solar system in 2019. These poems were originally for performances by Elevated Moon, which included music, and dance at their recital. All poems written by Amir Bey.

**THE POWER OF THE MOON**
The power of the Moon
is
Not like the Sun at noon
is
Blood that runs in the veins
As an unseen flood, she can erupt.
Displacing
What once stood
**Extreme** in her
Risings and Settings that change,
Calling for renewal
Like the waves
That swell at
High-tide
Then
Crest and fall

**COMET** Performed by Chihiro Cute-Beat Kobayashi, at Roulette, Brooklyn, NY. Costume and installation by Amir Bey, 2019

**ASTROLOGOS**
Many philosophies and religions have a symbol: I wanted to design an image that symbolizes astrology: the Astrolgo. This symbol combines many aspects of the Earth and Sky relationship. A chart, or any moment in the sky is alive, the Astrolgo can be seen as an organic living entity, and not merely an intellectual concept: The circle in the center is the Sun, the Full Moon, and the Earth; there are two crescents on each side of the Sun/Moon/Earth disk, representing the phases of the Moon: the waxing Moon is the crescent on the right, the waning Moon crescent on the left. There are six points forming a line crossing the circle that represents the Equator; its angle represents the 23°-degree axial tilt of the Earth, and the six points are six signs, one half of the zodiac as seen from one side of the Earth. The North and South Poles (top left and bottom right in the images) run perpendicular to the Equator. There are four sections - quadrants - that have six lines each are the 24 hours of the day. Each quadrant has 7 notches on the outside rim for the 4 weeks, 28 days. Dividing them on each side are two triangular shapes cut out representing the Solstices. In the images, the left triangle marks the Tropic of Cancer, the Summer Solstice; the right side is the Tropic of Capricorn, the Winter Solstice. As an ideogram, there are other possible representations: An eye; planetary orbits; wings; and magnetic rays surrounding the Earth. The many stars in the galaxies are depicted in the texturing.

**ASTROLOGOS**, Amir Bey, 2014
*Photo Yusef Jones*
relationships. When preparing for reading, the process of placing the planets, along with the emphasis of the patterns formed is a meditative tool for me, as it is for the client. The planets can be touched and have an engaging impact for the client.

A larger variation of the Wheel concept, in a reading in Minami Boso, Chiba Prefecture, Japan, 2019. The person being read is sitting in the middle of copper planets from the previous Lunar Eclipse oriented to surround her the way that transiting or progressed planets are arranged around a natal chart. Photo: Saco Yasuma

JOHN COLTRANE

I was curious about John Coltrane’s ideas and studies on astrology, and how they compared to Sun Ra’s poetic cosmology and evocative Happenings. I was surprised by how closely Trane knew his chart, and fascinatingly, how his passing was hinted at through his astrological musings, music, and meditations.

He was passionate about astrology and spoke of some of the critical aspects in his planets, such as the opposition between his Mars in Taurus and his Saturn in Scorpio:

“…Mars in Taurus, in direct opposition with Saturn, the deadly planet, in Scorpio, the sign of death!” That may sound fatalistic,

John Coltrane was passionate about astrology and spoke of some of the critical aspects in his planets, such as the opposition between his Mars in Taurus and his Saturn in Scorpio.

ASTROLOGY AND JAZZ

The pianist and composer Mary Lou Williams’ *Zodiac Suite*, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBPePvNVoZqW](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBPePvNVoZqW) was recorded in 1945, featuring compositions for all 12 signs based on 12 individuals of each sign that she knew as subjects for inspiration.

ASTRO-EXPRESSIONISMS

MARY LOU WILLIAMS was recorded in 1945, featuring compositions for all 12 signs based on 12 individuals of each sign that she knew as subjects for inspiration.

MARS

Red for Aries Mars, the *Phoenixes Flying to the Sun* for Scorpio-Mars; *Astrologo Axes*, which are percussive instruments. Silkscreen on fabric, acrylic on layered paper mask, amalgamated metal. Amir Bey, 2014

WHEELS

WHEEL: Amalgamated metal, magnetic plastic (the planets), 3’ Amir Bey, 2017. The Sun and Moon in copper are visible on the sides. The planets were those of a recent client. Not visible: bells at the bottom of the Wheel; the other side has the planets of the client’s son. When being used, as the Wheel is turned from one chart to the other, the bells ring.

In 1980, I began a series, Wheels, inspired by *Native American Medicine Wheels*. They have been as large as 4’ across, with bronze planets, copper, or magnetic, so that the planets can be moved, some have smaller planets for progressions and transits. Others are mobiles than can be turned to view two charts for
As astrological artists, we are already engaged in artistic expressions. What are the ways that astrology can be evoked?
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**EPIDAURUS** - Dream Sanctuary of ASKLEPIOS

**ANCIENT ORACLE CENTER** - of Trophonius (in Livadia)

**KAMENA VOURLA** - Modern Healing Waters

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mid the controlling, disruptive, and potent influences of Saturn, Uranus, and Pluto, enchanting Neptune’s archetypal qualities are often undervalued, and even misunderstood. Especially as it traverses Pisces, 2011 to 2026, Neptune is bit like the sensitive, dreamy, “out there” sibling within the Outer Planet family, disappearing into the background space while the louder, intimidating siblings battle for attention. If there is any mention of Neptune-Pisces at all in 2021 astrology articles and forecasts, it is most likely at the end. Likewise, Jupiter gets attention for its Aquarian work this year, with little-to-no mention of its ingress to Pisces.

This year through next, Jupiter moves in to support Neptune’s selfless cause as it forges its own Pisccean path from May 2021 through December 2022 (with a retrograde to Aquarius and an ingress to Aries in between) and will amplify Neptune’s quiet and sometimes illusive call for divine attunement.

At this critical time of recovery from all the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the world, and at this pivotal moment of healing for the United States as a nation, Jupiter sees to it that the healing gifts of sensitive Pisces will lead us to a higher place.

Steering a Course of Compassion

Jupiter joins Neptune—both in their domicile, in Pisces—in the cause of assuring we humans have set our course for compassion and unitive consciousness, helping to right the ship, in a sense, away from the confusion and delusional chaos of recent times. Neptune, in its more evolved expressions, is the planet we associate with spiritual transcendence, unity, and bliss. It corresponds to the part of us that knows without need of proof that we are part of something much larger and timeless. Neptune attunes us to our higher source, our imagination, our divine inspiration. Neptune is the dream-weaver, guiding us to a higher vision.

As the co-ruler of Pisces, Neptune shares qualities with its sign. Pisces is the sign of spiritual yearning and can correspond to a sense of otherworldliness. It is the sign of infinite love, surrender, and atonement. Neptune in Pisces brings a worldwide atmosphere of fluid reality and heightened imagination.

When Neptune is in Pisces, it can be an ideal time for creative pursuits for deeper spiritual practices to be cultivated. The shadow side of Neptune-Pisces’ boundarilessness can manifest in confusion, delusion, and mass hysteria, as in rampant conspiracy theories, messiah identification, and the attack on the U.S. Capitol. This is especially so when other planetary and Lunar Node alignments are creating aggressive energies. We saw this scenario last summer and fall when Mars-Aries squared Jupiter, Saturn, and Pluto in Capricorn, and, on January 6, when the Mars-Uranus conjunction in Taurus squared Jupiter-Saturn-Pluto on January 6, while the transiting nodal axis squared Neptune-Pisces for the month leading up to the event.

In Pisces, Jupiter is now able to weave a softer course of compassion, free from the squares to Mars-Aries of 2020. Jupiter shows us where we have the potential for greater abundance. Archetypes and archetypal principles are represented by the wise teacher, the seeker, higher mind, meaning-making, and belief in a higher power. Hope. Faith. Trust. Ideology. Justice.

When We Lack Meaningful Spiritual Connection

The difference between whether people experience planetary transits through Pisces in a positive vs. a potentially harmful way, seems to do with whether they are

Neptune corresponds to the part of us that knows without need of proof that we are part of something much larger and timeless.
attuned to their spiritual essence or not. Many people, over the last few decades, have shifted away from the organized religion or faith of their parents, while many are being raised in households with no sense of religious affiliation at all. Those who have not developed a healthy spiritual practice of another kind may find themselves conjuring up a sense of connection to things that cause a false sense of sanctity, and to things that are harmful. A lack of true spiritual attunement can create disillusionment, victimization, descent into substance abuse, identification with savior personalities, and other Piscean shadow behaviors.

As with Neptune, Pisces’ qualities are often misunderstood. I work with many people who are disconnected from this aspect of their psyches. In the introductory astrology classes I teach and in private readings, as we uncover the planetary placements and qualities of their charts, my students and new clients sometimes react initially with a defensive dismissal of their Pisces placements, with a “meh” sort of embarrassment just for having a Pisces signature to begin with. From commercial horoscopes and hearsay, their superficial understanding of Pisces has them believing this watery quality makes them weak, vulnerable, and flaky. I am always happy to introduce people to the notion of feeling great about their gifts of Pisces — their natural intuition, imagination, and oneness with the natural world.

Oneness

I am a Sun-Pisces native with transit Neptune poised in conjunction at 22° Pisces to my natal Jupiter, right now as I compose this article. In my highest imagination, I see Jupiter’s transit through Pisces as one that presents opportunity for the world to revel in oneness with Higher Source, in union with The Cosmos, as human beings born of the universe and of this earth. We, and all living things, share far more DNA than we do not. Jupiter-Pisces encourages us to believe in and surrender to all that is, where we can flow in an abiding trust in the intelligence of the universe and find purpose in our compassion toward one another.

We continue to see this compassion in the incredible efforts across the globe to treat COVID patients and to get as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible. Certainly, there have been economic and political factors driving the charge.

Yet we also should consider the millions of healthcare workers around the world devoting themselves week after week, month after month, to the care of others, often in overcrowded and substandard surroundings. In addition, consider millions of volunteers, across the planet, offering their assistance at vaccination clinics.

Jupiter-Pisces as Unifying Teacher

Across the globe, whether or not we are consciously aware of the synchronicities between human experience and celestial movement, it’s hard to deny the sense that, somehow, higher universal forces are at play during this past year when we’ve shared the experience of being locked down and knocked down by the Coronavirus. Jupiter-Pisces reminds us that there are deeper messages or lessons we’re being asked—sometimes forced—to heed, such as our need to repair national healthcare systems in dire need of improvement, or the fact that we can actually make headway in clearing the air and water on this planet if we significantly reduce our travel worldwide. These essential realizations are critical to our survival. What is our Piscean vulnerability teaching us? To what might we need to surrender?

As we revel in the experience of freely visiting, hugging, and holding loved ones we haven’t seen in over a year, or venturing out to dine without concern about spreading a deadly virus, we who practice astrology are fortunate to understand an ancient cosmological framework that helps us make greater meaning of this difficult time in history. We understand our obligation to do more than simply de-mask and return to our lives and lifestyles. The Cosmos shows us there are greater lessons to be learned from the COVID story. Jupiter-Pisces gives us, and everyone, great capacity for hope.

Jupiter in Pisces, Retrograde

Jupiter spends about one year in each astrological sign and goes retrograde about every 13 months. Its ingress into and retrograde departure from Pisces could have Jupiter navigating potentially difficult currents.

JUPITER’S TRAVERSE THROUGH PISCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Ingress</th>
<th>Retrograde</th>
<th>Reenters</th>
<th>Goes Direct</th>
<th>Reenters Pisces</th>
<th>Reenters Aries</th>
<th>Reenters Pisces</th>
<th>Reenters Aries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pisces Ingress</td>
<td>May 13, 2021</td>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>December 30</td>
<td>May 11, 2022</td>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>November 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retrograde</td>
<td>Reenters Aquarius</td>
<td>Goes Direct</td>
<td>Reenters Pisces</td>
<td>Reenters Aries</td>
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Retrogrades are a time for the “re’s” — retreat, reflect, reassess, rethink, retreat — to experience planetary influences in a more inward and soulful way. Jupiter-Pisces retrograde invites us to attune to the higher wisdom of the collective unconscious. Jupiter-Pisces retrograde will be a productive time for dream journaling, and transcendent practices such as Holotropic Breathwork (the work of Stanislav Grof) and regression hypnosis — activities that allow us to transition in consciousness, where we move from everyday waking consciousness and cross into the deeper soul-mind, to awaken to the messages of our unconscious, higher wisdom.

Might Jupiter-Pisces retrograde also bring an emergence of delusional psychological behaviors? Conspiracy theories at their height? Likely so. Faith and spirituality are great things, unless Jupiter’s potential for abundance leads people to over-functioning and overextension. In that case, we may witness manic levels of self-righteous behavior and dogmatism.

The Previous Jupiter-Pisces Transit vs. the Current One

The last time Jupiter made its way through Piscean waters, from mid-January through May 2010, it was forming a con-
SCHICK

junction with Uranus, in opposition to Saturn. Disastrous events were followed by great acts of compassion and duty:

Haiti’s devastating earthquake was met with aid from around the world.

In reaction to the BP oil-spill in the Gulf of Mexico, hearts bled across the globe and thousands of volunteers arrived to try to mitigate the devastation to marine life.

This time around, Jupiter’s planetary interaction with other outer planets is relatively benign, which in part may explain why most astrological forecasts that I’ve seen for 2021 make no mention of Jupiter-Pisces.

Lots of Amazing Sextiles in Early 2022

In 2022, in the weeks leading up to the February 20 USA Pluto return, we will see Jupiter-Pisces forming a sextile with Uranus-Taurus. Then, these planets position in exact sextile a few days before Pluto’s exact return at 27°, 32’ Capricorn. From about January 22 to February 20, Mars-Capricorn will form a sextile with Jupiter-Pisces as well (and Mars will conjunct Pluto in an 8° orb at the point of Pluto’s return). At this time, too, Neptune will be in sextile with Pluto as well as the Lunar North Node in Taurus.

At the point of exactitude of the USA Pluto return, as the country is immersed in the depths of its shadow, these accompanying water-earth sextiles introduce a notable concurrence of yin energy, serving as active agents of Plutonian rebirth. Yin, in Chinese philosophy, describes the passive principle of the universe. But passive is not the same as inactive. Earth and water are receptive, inward, yin energies. Pluto seeks wholeness on the inside. An abundance of passive energy combined with repressed Plutonian power at its strongest has the potential to become very destructive. The energies could implode in highly detrimental ways and detonate the worst of human behavior.

Alternatively, if we actively engage in the inner work that the earth-water sextiles invite us to do, we can realize Pluto’s healing and transformational power.

If we actively engage in the inner work that the earth-water sextiles invite us to do, we can realize Pluto’s healing and transformational power.

creative, emancipatory, truth-and-values-centered experiences. Jupiter-Pisces in its more evolved sextile expression with Mars-Capricorn correlates to concepts such as compassionate, restorative justice; lawmaking based in principled ideology; and truthful governmental leadership. Neptune sextile Pluto could give spirituality a more powerful presence at this critical time. Neptune sextile the North Node may help us each understand ourselves less as lone individuals and more as an integral part of a much greater whole.

Healing Energy at Work

Sextiles are not necessarily positive in nature, of course. Whether this early 2022 concurrence of yin energies manifests in positive output or activates the darker sides of these planetary influences, either way we will be almost certain to see Jupiter-Pisces’ purposeful expansion of our collective awareness at this time. As the chart affirms, the energies are too strong not to be mirrored by significant shifts in human psychological experience.

Collective grief is the primary way in which Jupiter-Pisces will promote healing. Ecological Intelligence is the brilliant and beautiful 2005 nonfiction book by Jungian Analyst and medical psychiatrist Ian McCallum that interweaves eco-poetry, mythological references, and global environmental data. A theme of the book is that grieving is the prerequisite of all healing.1 What occurred to me, as I recently read passages of this absolutely amazing book, is that Jupiter-Pisces opens wide the opportunity for United States citizens to unite in grief as a prerequisite to healing and transformation that the USA’s Pluto Return empowers. The country can’t possibly heal, if it doesn’t first acknowledge its profound grief.

By and large, people fear the grieving process. It hurts. It’s painful. It’s grief. We go to great lengths not to feel it. This avoidance and denial brings to mind the head-in-the-sand initial stage of Plutonian transformation. Don’t make me go there. I won’t do it. It can’t be true.

Along with the United States’ true and mighty stories of strength and honor, the mighty and horrid truths of its history must
be acknowledged by all citizens if the country is to heal and rebirth itself. These horrid truths include the country’s establishment on lands acquired through the slaughter of millions of indigenous peoples, an agricultural economy built on the backs and lives of hundreds of thousands of slaves, the persistent systemic racism that infects every part of the infrastructure that holds the country together, a governmental structure revered the world over, yet one that controlingly indoctrinates its own people into behaviors and beliefs that undermine their very freedoms.

Just as healing cannot take place without grieving, grieving cannot take place without compassion. Whether it is compassion for other people, or compassion for Self, mourning demonstrates our ability to relate on a deep level. As the last sign of the tropical zodiac, Pisces holds within it the essence and experience of all eleven preceding signs. Jupiter-Pisces graciously presents us with an opportunity to express compassion for all people, and to grieve in unison, world-wide, around the unveiling of dark truths that have remained shadowed in the collective for hundreds of years.

C. G. Jung says, “No new life can arise, say the alchemists, without the death of the old. They liken the art to the work of the sower, who buries the grain in the earth: it dies only to waken to new life.” Mourning, Jungian Analyst and medical psychiatrist Edward Edinger writes, is caused by the loss of something (or someone) that was carrying an important projected value.

“In order to withdraw projections and assimilate their content into one’s own personality it is necessary to experience the loss of the projections as a prelude to rediscovering the content or value within. Therefore, mourners are fortunate because they are involved in a growth process. They will be comforted when the lost projected value has been recovered within the psyche.”

Balancing Grief and Gratitude

Earlier this year, my husband and I bought a painting from an artist in our home state of Maine. She had worked on the painting, intermittently, throughout 2020. She told me a friend had asked her how she was doing, generally speaking, through the trials of 2020, and she responded by saying she felt like she was continually balancing grief and gratitude. At hearing her own words, she finally understood the painting and was inspired to finish it.

The painting is titled “Balancing Grief and Gratitude” and hangs on my dining room wall as a lasting reminder for myself and my family of all that we have endured in these long months of pandemic-related struggle, continue to endure with so much political polarization, and will continue to face through the racial reckoning that has found momentum. I’m grateful for all that is being unveiled.

Embracing Pisces in the Age of Aquarius

In our transition from the Age of Pisces to the Age of Aquarius, and with the help of Jupiter and Neptune in Pisces this year and next, I hope everyone with an interest in astrology will consider Pisces less as a representative of the age of yesteryear and more as an integral and essential part of the exciting awakening we sense and see all around us.

Let’s embrace the higher octave of this time period when the transcendent expressions of Jupiter and Neptune can be evoked in intuitive and forgiving Pisces. The best of Pisces brings unity. A true awakening and transformative process requires our embrace of Pisces’ archetypal principles of oneness, infinite love, atonement, and surrender. When we engage the transcendent wisdom of Jupiter-Pisces, we become the agents of change we are all called to be in the Age of Awakening.

REFERENCES

Peggy Schick is an intuitive astrologer, regressionist, and Reiki practitioner with a clinic in Maine called Soulful Wellness. She has been devoted to astrology in earnest since her Uranus opposition in 2003. She serves as co-chair of the Maine Jung Center, and studies in Jungian psychology inform her work. Peggy’s work is also strongly guided by claircognizant intuition and clairvoyant impressions. She teaches introductory astrology classes, and she offers topical astrology presentations through non-profit organizations. For more information, and to sign up for Peggy’s newsletter, please visit www.peggyschick.com.

"Balancing Grief and Gratitude" By Maine artist, Joy Vaughan
T he Beatles’ lyrics, “I get by with a little help from my friends,” sums up this topic and article, which underwent a major do-over thanks to OPA Editors. Though invisible to readers, the transformation proves, we each need help (Neptune in Pisces) to make changes (Scorpio decan). It’s also a joy to share two more ‘invisible’ helpers here, Isabel Hickey and Dr. Oskar Adler, from ‘the other side.’

As Neptune dipped into the deeper waters of Pisces’ Scorpio decan, (20-29°) in the spring and summer of 2020, a tsunami of crises hit us – a global pandemic, job insecurity, racial and economic injustice, political turmoil and extreme climate-related events. We are now in a 4-year transit of Neptune in this decan from 2/21/2021 through March 2025. The need grows for humanitarian aid and empathy (Pisces) to face the existential realities of death, economic strains (Scorpio), the effects of social distancing, isolation, quarantining, hospitalizations (Pisces), and the push for top medical research, virus therapeutics and delivering vaccines globally (Scorpio).

Since Pisces’ key word is “I believe,” let’s consider what part of belief belongs to its Scorpio decan. Once embedded in our psyches by others, beliefs possess us on a deep level, dictating our thoughts (Air), feelings (Water) and deeds (Earth). An unconscious belief will overpower us, if we cease being its holder with the will (Fire) to freely choose to accept or reject it. We become what we believe. By examining our drives, we can reprogram ourselves to make new choices. The saying ‘sunlight is the best disinfectant’ also applies to our ability to transform our habits. By processing unconscious fears, drives or passions, even due to past-life trauma or debt, we reclaim our power over them. Beliefs can be healing or toxic, and Scorpio’s stinger can inject poison or cures.

The Scorpio decan dissolves the veils between the material and etheric realms. People with a water emphasis or strong Moon, Neptune or Pluto sense this. If you work with psychic energy, it’s vital to protect your aura to avoid unwanted entity attachments. People can be vulnerable to astral entities without knowing it and become drained by them. As we experience loss, confusion and disorientation due to things beyond our control that challenge our faith (Neptune), we also are pulled psychically by departed souls’ unfulfilled wishes. Suicide prevention is a real concern, while, on the flip side, a right-to-die movement is gaining traction.

Neptune is like a dream or a play into which we escape, as Pisces blurs reality, dissolve the limits of logic and reason. The Scorpio decan of Pisces reminds us that death is the ultimate escape from the weights of the world, and sex as a tantric experience lifts the psyche to a euphoric state.

A look at when Neptune was last in this decan (3/7/1857 to 4/13/1861) can shine light for us now. In 1857 the moral, terri-
from the appearance is present with the
Power! We need to see the power behind
the appearance of a situation.
She did not write about Neptune in
Pisces, which she hadn’t lived as a transit. So in creating “Your Cosmic Blueprint: A
Seeker’s Guide” report based on her text,
I wrote on Neptune in Pisces, aligned with
her teachings: “Enormous psychic sensi-
tivity and desire to serve humanity and
dedicate your life to a cause that expresses
your compassion to alleviate suffering.
You understand the meaning and value of
sacrifice for a cause. Your generation will
see advances in hospice care and a greater
understanding of realms beyond the phys-
cal. Your dreams form a foundation for
your reality.”

Isabel’s published writings include:
Astrology: A Cosmic Science, It is All Right,
and Never Mind.
Dr. Oskar Adler, author of The
Testament of Astrology, saw Neptune as
‘meta’ energy, in four transformational ele-
ment-linked ways: earth transforms into
water, water into air, air into fire, and fire
into earth. Neptune in Pisces transforms to
Gemini, so the believer becomes a doubter.
Since Gemini’s 3rd decan is Aquarius, our
challenge is to be believers who know
why we doubt!
In The Critique of Pure Music, Adler
explores music’s spiritual roots and links to
astrology. He expressed this in an original
drawing, on the cover of the English and
bilingual editions:

Adler was a doctor, musician and phi-
losopher in Vienna. He was introduced to
Astrology by Baroness Hamar before WWI.
Initially skeptical, his curiosity (natal New
Moon in Gemini!) led to his becoming pas-
sionate about Astrology. His musings on
music’s power and effect apply to our topic,
in italics below, from his The Critique of
Pure Music, written in 1918 (translated by
Michaela Meiser of Austria, and co-edited
with my assistance), published in 2020.
He saw reproducing artists as qua-
si-magicians whose audiences experience
being mesmerized. Their magical forces
also link to sexuality, as charismatic actors
or magicians appeal to audiences’ sexual
consciousness and unconscious, “reveal-
ing the metaphysical oneness of magic with
the ability to create. Heroes and heroines on
stages become objects of erotic desire.”
As he taught, “magic is only blessed if
not used for selfish or egocentric purposes.”
A magician, “often has no idea of the respon-
sibility that must be accepted, when given
such gifts” and is tempted by “forbidden
fruits that fall onto one’s lap when these
powers are used selfishly.” To contain this
exhilarating power, maestros redirect “the
overflow of magical forces of all virtuoso
pieces and cadences, as a kind of safety valve
to save the concert from exploding or over-
heating from magical tension. A comparable
safety valve exists for actors in the theatre.”
SHAPIRO

As Astrologers, our Scorpio-decan challenge is to become selfless magicians, by helping people see their part in a sublime cosmic whole, not “hypnotize others into worshiping one’s personality” – as is the performer’s temptation. The transpersonal, cosmic character of Neptune, Pisces and Scorpio echo our longings for the beyond. To aid us, Adler suggests imitating nature’s rhythms.

Imitation gives “a first idea of the eternally restless struggle inherent in nature, of its unfulfilled longing of redemption from the permanent fight of opposites, forced into uncompromising repetition. By incorporating rhythm into one’s practice, we learn to express our longing with the language of nature and impress it with a transpersonal and cosmic character.” In so doing, we elevate ourselves from isolated creatures, to speaking the language of the universe.

In The Testament of Astrology, he notes that everything Neptunian appears strange, even its discovery in Pisces, due to disturbances it caused. Neptune reflects our “reaching out into the expanse of the beyond” as a soul longing. He poetically calls it an “internal God-experience, striving to work its way up into clear human consciousness, to comprehend in full lucidity, what it means to be the pore of the universe.” Neptune is our journey to awareness of the universe and our part in it, as in the rest of the message inscribed above the temple at Delphi’s gate: “Know Thy Self” then “And Thou Wilt Know God.” With Neptune in Pisces’ Scorpio decan, we are on that quest.

To receive Neptune’s “meta” gift we must surrender to higher powers! Adler refers to it as “the poet’s power to see experience and embrace in the particular the higher, lying beyond.” This is truly Scorpionian, as a 4-fold metaphor: everything physical (earth) symbolizes something metaphysical. Everything of the soul (water) symbolizes something meta-psychical, everything logical (air) symbolizes something meta-logical, and everything ethical (fire) symbolizes something meta-ethical.

And in today’s inside-out political climate fueled by often malevolent “spin” – a euphemism for lies – what masquerades as “truth” may be its opposite! Adler refers to the Neptune in Pisces metaphor as a: “yearning to overcome doubt, gain faith and rise from intellectuality to intuition. … Something arising in the emotional realm has the effect of emotional skepticism.” He was especially prophetic of our times in predicting: “In this generation, many truly religious individuals deem themselves atheists, and many God-seekers believe or tend to appear to themselves as skeptics.”

Both Isabel Hickey and Dr. Oskar Adler taught that any energy can manifest in a higher or lower way; character and consciousness determine our path. To Adler, the lower Neptune-in-Pisces is seen in people, “ever ready to consider as intuition each inner spark of perception.”

In today’s inside-out political climate fueled by often malevolent “spin” – a euphemism for lies – what masquerades as “truth” may be its opposite!

This leads to “superficiality and unreliability in all intellectual matters.” When we hear weird conspiracy theories – like ‘Q-Anon’ – his cautionary insight begs us to pursue Scorpio’s drive to research what’s behind the brain-washing confusion that conspiracy theories produce, and ask: who stands to gain what by a confused citizenry?

The following came in meditation long ago. I was perplexed as to why Scorpio rules both sex and death. They seemed so opposite! I was shown that the true glyph for Scorpio’s dynamic is a spiral, not an “m” ending in a Scorpion’s stinger! The spiral is energy moving through matter, opposite to Taurus’ coiled-serpent energy. Then I saw why it made sense for Scorpio to rule both sex and death – the two vehicles through which we enter and depart from our earthly vehicles.

As perhaps many of you, this year, I’m seeing themes related to death, personal transmutation and karmic reconciliation with clients. They are asking: what is my life purpose, what karmic issues or lessons are tied to a relationship? How do I heal this wound? Of course, other 2021 astrological factors are Saturn in Aquarius square Uranus in Taurus, plus Eris in Aries square Pluto in Capricorn, pressing us to face hard truths and test of conscience (SA sq UR), and eliminate toxic conditions to deal with radical change (PL sq ER). By “tuning into” Neptune in the Scorpio decan of Pisces, we may hear within our soul a kind of music that creates a passionate mood and reveals to us the secrets (Scorpio) of our soul’s obligations (Neptune in Pisces).

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Amy Shapiro, M. Ed. serves clients remotely from Gloucester, MA. She’s appeared on dozens of radio and cable shows and her own “Good Heavens!” shows; written for Horoscope Magazine, served in NCGR, and other Astrology groups. Besides “The Testament of Astrology,” her Adler biography, “The Critique of Pure Music,” Isabel Hickey’s “Never Mind,” “It Is ALL Right”; her “Cosmic Blueprint” and “Eris” report, her book “Forces At Work: Astrology and Career” and “Inviting Eris To The Party: Our Provocateur in Unfair Affairs” are also available via NewAgeSages.com, as is Amy.
During the Winter Solstice of 2020, a rare astronomical transit took place in the first degree of Aquarius – not only did Jupiter and Saturn’s 20-year Great Conjunction cycle change elements from Earth to Air, a once-every-800-years event, but it was also close by declination, almost appearing as one great star in the sky. This merging of light gained popular interest as a once-in-a-lifetime event, drawing comparisons to the 7 BCE Great Conjunction in the middle of Pisces, associated with the then-imminent celebration of Christmas. Many believe this ancient event was the Star of Bethlehem that led the Magi to Jesus, whose life is widely associated with the beginning of the Age of Pisces.¹

The recent Great Conjunction capped off a year that began with the conjoining of Saturn and Pluto over their nodal axes, an archetypal synthesis that ushered in a global pandemic, a striking demonstration of astrological efficacy. With the world still largely shut down, the closing major conjunction of the year received attention as an omen for an even larger transformation of humanity, the dawning of the Age of Aquarius. Unfortunately, as it’s been for other predictions for the new Age’s genesis, little has happened during Jupiter’s sweep through Aquarius to suggest a catalyzing shift in consciousness. In anticipation for Jupiter’s departure from Saturn and Aquarius for its home in imaginal Pisces, I’m inspired to share some speculation on why a new Age is close and what it could mean.

One need not buy into the concept of the Platonic Great Ages or sympathize with millenarian visions to get the sense we’re approaching major upheavals worthy of a pronouncement of a “changing of the Gods.”² From the Renaissance to the Enlightenment to the Industrial Revolution, Promethean achievement has normalized faith in the individual and reason, leading to unprecedented improvements in the standard of living of millions across the planet, but often through forceful and extractive means that were genocidal and initiated cascading ecological collapse. At the same time, the ongoing technoscientific revolution promises the arrival of general artificial intelligence, nanobots, and genetic engineering could propel us into a post-human existence. All drudgery may end and total liberation unleashed — or else a small minority may be empowered to enslave the world, or perhaps produce machines and microbes of total destruction.

Our material advancements far outstrip our metaphysical principles. Navigating the future requires a serious confrontation with the malaise famously observed by Friedrich Nietzsche and Max Weber over a century ago: God is dead, the world is disenchanted, and we must grapple with the spiritual void left behind.

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In short, things look dire in the medium- and long-terms, without sufficient tools for navigating the many coming storms. But Saturnian necessity is the mother of Uranian invention, and there are many actively experimenting with how to resolve the “meaning crisis.” There are those like Carl Sagan who see the beauty of the natural world as sufficient in inspiring spiritual awe; then there are those like integralist Ken Wilber who work to synthesize the best of pre- to post-modern worldviews into a cohesive theory of spiritual evolution. For all their good intentions, these methods tend to be overly cerebral and individualistic, failing to provide stabilizing collective myths, norms, and rituals, or account for the axiomatic paradoxes of the human condition.

For others, the only way forward is back; for example, psychologist Jordan Peterson advocates for a return to Christianity, the withered root at the foundation of our philosophical heritage. The reasoning is sound: established religions provide a holistic scaffolding for life and society, and perhaps they can again, but it’s more likely that religions of old are dying for a reason. Unprecedented advances in technoscience requires unprecedented spiritual technology. There are lessons to carry forward – Christianity’s emphasis on universal compassion over “might is right” parochial loyalty, for instance – but a new belief system must also contend with a hyperconnected, decentralized world, inspire humility and harmony with the natural world and its processes, and balance the autonomy of the individual with the needs of the collective.

No one should pretend they have the sure solution to meet these needs, but I...
believe the seeds for it lie in a rising yet most ancient of belief systems, astrology, which could re-emerge as the common spiritual foundation for humanity in the coming centuries. To sketch how we may get from here to there, I’ll consider its state of the art in physics, unpack some of its metaphysical implications, and hypothesize how its current applications support the social development and cohesion of individuals and collectives of the future.

Astrology and Physics

While most of human history saw the unity of natural and mythological beliefs on the formation and operations of the universe, the scientific revolution bifurcated these perspectives, requiring a new belief system to incorporate, or at least not violate, the physical and mechanistic understandings of the world. Perhaps this rift is too wide to bridge and may no longer need redress, but in surrendering the ground of cosmological theory, astrology is unlikely to get many converts from fence-sitters and doubters, never mind hard-nosed skeptics. How could this change?

Tests validating astrology are key, but the twentieth century saw many attempts with little proof for astrology’s many claims. However, some notable but nascent findings and theories still stand. Most famous is the work of Michel Gauquelin, who found a connection between certain positions of Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and the Moon at one’s birth and particular types of professional eminence, roughly correlating with the Ascendant-Midheaven axis of the astrological houses. Less known are the tidal effects of the planets’ gravity as they orbit around the sun, generating sunspot activity and affecting the solar winds that hit the earth through heliocentric square, opposition, and conjunct aspects. These changes have contested and limited links to climate change and economic cycles, which astronomer Percy Seymour extends as the basis for evolutionary selective pressures producing life that synchronizes to the observable movements of the wandering stars, anticipating their ecological relevance. The study of biological cycles is relatively young and Seymour’s ideas remain dubious and untestable, though other evidence is mounting that the season of one’s birth predicts one’s long-term life outcomes, including personality, preferences, and physiology, echoing basic tenets of the tropical zodiac.

The differences between these empirical models and astrological orthodoxy shouldn’t be ignored, however; while these studies collectively validate parts of the four major pillars of astrological theory — cycles, signs, houses, and aspect — it doesn’t bode well for the majority of the elegant interlocking systems that make up the practice. This could be a call to do as Francis Bacon suggested, to purify rather than reject astrology, but more often this is where astrologers depart from inquiries into its naturalism to emphasize its judicial, divinatory power. This may be fine for now; a lot of astrology’s audience debates the extent to which they “believe,” but their continued investment in astrology speaks for itself: it is working for people, even if its mechanics are obscure. As long as the practice is alive and evolving, there’s a chance for new discoveries that link it to physical processes.

In the meantime, the coming outer planet returns for the United States this decade could open some minds to deeper inquiry, as it will test the most concrete and universal aspect of astrological theory — the coherence and cogency of planetary archetypes and their cyclical unfolding. Unlike astrological testing that centers on individuals and remains mired in the subjectivity of self-reflection and word games, these long-term cycles offer a natural experiment beyond the control of anyone. Astrology isn’t the only cyclical model predicting a Great Event this decade. The statistical focus of Peter Turchin and generation-al historiography of Bill Strauss and Neil Howe can help uncover the mechanism of this correlation. If it indeed comes to pass, it seems rational to consider what other grains of truth may be found in astrology, a small step that may start a giant leap for humankind.

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Astrology and Metaphysics

Let’s consider the worst-case scenario: if this next decade is smooth sailing, and no cosmological ground for astrology ever emerges, then what value could astrology have? Isn’t it just as the skeptics say, a belief system that brings false comfort in the face of an indifferent, random universe?

Perhaps, though the universe may not be as indifferent and random as ‘scientism’ suggests. The robustness of observation effects in quantum physics may yet be the death knell of objectivity and determinism as the participatory nature of the universe, and the centrality of consciousness, gains acceptance. Then there’s complexity theory, which models the spontaneous, organized emergence of systems contra reductionism and linear causality, modeling the implicit order of the cosmos underlying the apparent randomness.

The latter theory is part of a growing reclamation of two of Aristotle’s “causes” or “explanations” for phenomena that have been denigrated by modern science: the final explanation, the purpose or teleology of a thing, like a heart’s function for pumping blood; and the formal explanation, the patterns that make something a type of thing, like the chambers and valves of the muscle. Both explanations are metaphysical, resisting the quantification and objective analysis of science’s preferred material and efficient causes. The dynamic, living processes explained by type and telos are best understood through analogy, metaphor, and symbol, and help link the sky and the earth as a proxy for relations between the concrete and the abstract, the temporal and the eternal: "as above, so below."

Both cosmic and biological cycles are endemic to reality, interpenetrating wheels within wheels bringing similar types and telos in new forms and causal webs. The complex harmonies and resonances of planetary orbits reflect the interconnectivity of lived experience and the subtle order implicated in its unfolding. Astrology suggests time is not a literal cycle repeating itself, a linear regression or progression of the Christian and Enlightenment worldviews, or pure randomness of the postmodern, but like a spiral that mediates change through ebbs and flows that stretch from the temporary present through the past and future, into eternity. This unity isn’t just through time, either; the fractal-like nature of planetary symbology is evident across scales of complexity, as Saturnian teleology is similar to the cell’s membrane, the organism’s skin, or the nation’s borders, to structure and protect.

The plurality of archetypes embodied in the wandering stars, the sky, and the celestial sphere reflect the many distinct emanations of the underlying cosmic oneness. For example, the planets form a great chain of meaning that connects immanent experience to the eternal and transcendent, from the reactive habits and comforts of the Moon to the divine universal compassion of Neptune. This exemplifies how lived experience is not below or divorced from the numinous, but permeated by it, requiring no leap of faith to step from one facet of life towards a larger or finer picture of the cosmos. Similarly, the zodiacal signs tell a story of development, from pioneering Aries to dissipating Pisces, mirroring the major stages that dynamic systems move through in an unending sequence of birth, death, and rebirth.

The monist tendency towards absolutism, whether under one God or in the Enlightenment belief in a singular Truth, can be overcome with the help of astrology’s pluralism. As Niels Bohr said: “The opposite of a fact is a falsehood, but the opposite of one profound truth may very well be another profound truth.” Astronomical symbols embody paradoxically exclusive yet simultaneously true axioms, dependent on how one participates with the archetypes; a circumstance can call for both Saturnian stability and Uranian rebellion from tyranny. In this way, the multiplicity of manifestations isn’t proof of astrology’s vagueness and confirmatory nature but a reflection of the entangled nature of the cosmos, one’s agency and will meeting the universe halfway. It’s remedial work with Mars to direct irritations away from the chance of combat towards a useful application.

The spectrum of potential constructive and destructive manifestations of each archetype overcomes the mistaken inherited belief in an essentialized nature to Good and Evil. Good and bad are endemic to any Truth, which are better understood in creative tension, requiring dialectical compensation and synthesis towards a homeostatic center — recognizing the best of Saturnian Order and Uranian chaos, their mutual trade-offs, and bringing them in alignment.

This is all heady stuff, but I believe the practice of astrology implies some level of adherence to these beliefs and more, whether acknowledged or not. These values can be traced to some of the oldest beliefs of astrology and remain potent in light of new scientific paradigms, a testament to astrology’s perennial philosophical value, which extends into its better-known applications in everyday life.

Astrology as a Global Belief System

Given we now have a nascent global consciousness, future belief systems will need to balance excess specificity that imposes social categories that violate indigenous systems of belief and living, but also not be too vague and lose its utility bridging cultures. Astrology’s growing popularity, despite its low reputation, suggests it already organically connects with various life experiences without imposition. However, there are many examples of astrological types, mainly Sun signs, used to pigeon-hole people into stereotypes, which, much like race and gender categories, can normalize power differentials across identities. While true and problematic, this can happen with any system that tries to identify types, a problem that goes beyond astrology. Unlike other type systems, astrology is “profoundly egalitarian,” each type sharing equally good and bad qualities and mutually interdependent on the others’ gifts.

Far from reducing people to simple categories, astrology affirms one of the better insights of modernity: each human is a world in itself, a unique unfolding in time and space, while simultaneously a product of a finite set of qualities that are universal to all.
product of a finite set of qualities that are universal to all. Everyone has their ways to get what they want and produce results, their Mars. Everyone has their ways to relate and harmonize with others, their Venus. This goes beyond secular bromides of self-evident truths about humanity and provides more specific tools for individuals to develop a multifaceted understanding of themselves and others. When taken as a whole, the plethora of interpenetrating systems in astrology can produce a combinatorial explosion of interpretation that can lead to the natal chart and timing techniques serving as Narcissus's watery reflection, but this is another unavoidable consequence of types. It should be opposed, but it can never be eliminated; any map can be confused for the territory, and there can't be belief without a map, nor meaning without belief.

Astrology can not only respect cultural and personal differences, but also help oppose the rise of a totalitarian system, as astrology's efficacy is independent of any central authority or dogma and puts the individual in direct communion with the Divine. Traditional religion canon is guarded by a sacred order; astrology has likewise been a practice in service of and protected by elites, requiring advanced knowledge few could access, but with the increasing availability of astrology and interpretations, it has been freed from centralized control, for better or worse. No one can control the sky or the lessons projected onto and taken from it. As time goes on, the whole of astrology may look more like the unbroken Indian tradition and its interpersonal transfer of knowledge, leading to myriad variations on astrology's fundamental precepts: planets, the Moon, and the Sun in relation to each other from the vantage of the Earth.

Mythological stories will likely remain the bedrock of existential inquiry and moral instruction, but where their concrete descriptions once bound a specific time, place, or people, our global media environment has collapsed the distinctions between high and low, indigenous and foreign narrative. With attention becoming ever more divided yet discriminating, the cumbersome cultural peculiarities of traditional myth won't be worth the slog for the eternal wisdom within them. The rise of popular culture mythology is evidence of this shift: for example, Inanna's descent into the Underworld mirrors Elsa's descent into the Unknown, but this isn't a retelling so much as archetypes re-emerging and recapturing public consciousness. A new global myth will have to be equally mercurial, valued for its viral vitality.

Astrology can flourish in this paradigm, as it isn't wedded to sacred narratives of its own, but serves as a Rosetta Stone of meaning-making by which experiences and ideas can be interpreted. Of course, astrology is still mythic; the Greco-Roman deities and stories by which the planets are named help tap into the intuitive reservoir of the unconscious and help embody the symbolism of the sky. Other myths and deities also correlate with the planets, like Pluto with Sumerian Ereshkigal, and Uranus with the Titan Prometheus. Traces of these archetypes are also constellated in the social sciences: Pluto corresponds with the seething instincts of the id and coercive webs of Foucauldian power; and wherever you see Prometheus evoked in the humanities, Uranian revolution, genius, and paradigm-shifting technology surely follows.

In short, the infinite manifestations of astrological symbols and their intuitive meaning makes them uniquely suited for universal adoption without becoming a tool for totalitarian control, instead serving as a common dialectic that can bridge all forms of meaning-making.

**Astrology as a Social Practice**

Astrology currently lacks the mundane structure that a good religion offers for ordering life, but it's not hard to see how it may do so, and at the same time reconnect us with the natural world through personally and historically meaningful ritual and celebration. The discovery of heliocentrism may have cleaved astrology from astronomy, but it wouldn't take much to reunite them in their practical uses. The concept of months comes from the Moon, the year from the Sun. Each day is named after these Luminaries or one of the five visible planets. Astronomy, and therefore astrology, already underlies the vulgar systems of timekeeping we moderns live by, systems of measurement and control through which we exploit the planet and ourselves, conveniences that have exacerbated our collective amnesia to the natural cycles of death and rebirth of which we are part. Christmas approximates the Winter Solstice, Easter the Spring Equinox, Halloween the Autumnal; these Christianized celebrations retain traces of our erased past that could be reclaimed and further developed if their appropri-
ical cycles and trends and unite us with our ancestral past. Cycles of growth and change in the individual and the collective, the historical and the cosmic, are all overlaid and interpenetrating in astrology. It contains the ultimate unitive vision.

Skeptics likely couldn’t look beyond the absence of causal evidence to take these rites and rituals seriously, but recent studies show that one doesn’t have to believe in something for it to still benefit them. Simply by participating in the ritual of receiving placebo medicine, even when known to be fake, many patients still show measurable benefits. Far from being a defect of our confirmatory minds, the placebo effect seems essential to how we function, and that it is better to work with and optimize it than ignore or suppress it. And if nothing else, establishing regular periods and deadlines for self-reflection and improvement is more likely to help than depending on individual will alone.

So Aquarius When?
Of course we are quite far from seeing astrology become a common or dominant belief system, but there are reasons to think it may achieve this status, and reasons to champion its continued rise.

But even if astrology doesn’t come to prominence, it’s naïve to think it’ll ever go away, as astrology is already one of the most universal belief systems. It’s traceable to the time reckoning of our oldest known artifacts and monuments, first formalized into a recognizable iteration in the Hellenistic era, though evidence suggests astrologies sprung up and evolved independently across the world, continually adapting to the changing tides of religious belief. If nothing else, it’s a safe bet that as long as humans can track the movements of the sky, we will seek meaning in it that’s relevant to our lives. Whatever faith may ultimately rise to satiate us, astrology will likely still be there.

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5. For a summary on recent findings, see Chapter 9 of Russell G. Foster & Leon Kreitzman’s Seasons of Life (London: Profile Books, 2009).
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8. According to New Atheist Sam Harris: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aALsFhZKg-Q
9. For an additional example, see my essay “Psychological Type and Astrology” in Archai Issue 7, “Historical Roots and Current Flowerings” (2020).

Michael Kiyoshi Salvatore is a Californian maker and writer. Straddling traditional and archetypal schools of thought, their astrological practice tracers the unfolding cycles of life through personal lunations and collective outer planet transits. This work grounds their research into models on life in pursuit of underlying universal axioms, which can be found at typestudies.net.
Jupiter will transit through Pisces over three periods:
From the 13th of May until returning into Aquarius on the 28th of July 2021.
From the 29th of December 2021 until first entering Aries on the 10th of May 2022.
From the 31st of October 2022 until re-entering Aries on the 18th of December 2022.

Meanwhile, Neptune has slowly moved through Pisces since 2011, where it will remain for a total of fourteen years until entering Aries on 27 March 2025. The relatively fast-moving Jupiter activates the slow-moving and subtle energy of Neptune at their conjunction in Pisces, which occurs on 13 April 2022. These two gas giant planets are the co-rulers of Pisces, and are both at home in this most spiritual of signs. Their coming conjunction is a generational event, indicating potential for profound shift in public priorities and ideas, crystallising emerging spiritual awareness.

As discussed in my article in the December 2020 OPA magazine, titled The Twelfth House of the Age of Pisces, this April 2022 conjunction between Jupiter and Neptune is a defining physical event for the shift of Zodiac Ages. In this model, every Zodiac Age has twelve stages, or houses, opened by the triple conjunctions of Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune that occur in successive signs every 179 years. These triple conjunctions occur in overlapping families. The Pisces family is ending, and the next house in the Aquarius family will begin with the six planet conjunction in Gemini in June 2060.

The Jupiter/Neptune conjunction of 2022 represents the entry into the twelfth house of the Zodiac Age of Pisces. This may mark one of the most Piscean moments of the whole Age, a time when the Piscean energy of the last two millennia comes together at a culminating point. The twelfth house of the Age, lasting for the next 179 years, is both a time of the dissolution of the energy of the Pisces Age, as we transition into the Age of Aquarius, and also a time of recapitulation and recollection, looking back over the history of the Age with new insight and clarity. The central moment of transition into the twelfth house of the Age, the Jupiter-Neptune conjunction, is profoundly reinforced by their bookending conjunctions with Saturn – the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction in 2020 and the Neptune-Saturn conjunction in 2026. These meetings with Saturn, the planet of serious finitude, work to solidify and define the finite meaning of the otherwise infinite mystical possibilities created by the joint rulers of Pisces.

Jupiter and Saturn are visible together in the sky for several months, rising earlier each night. Saturn is in the middle of the triangular star shape of the sea-goat Capricorn, and Jupiter is moving back and forth across the tropical boundary between Aquarius and Pisces, within the constellation of Aquarius the water bearer. (Due to precession, the tropical signs of astrology are shifted back by one sign from the constellations).
The power of the Jupiter-Neptune conjunction as a marker to open the twelfth house of the Age of Pisces draws from numerous combining factors, beginning with their natural affinity with Pisces as co-ruling planets. This event brings to an end the eleventh house of the Age of Pisces which began with the broad conjunction of Jupiter and Neptune with Saturn in Aquarius in 1843. The ‘House of Aquarius’ has provided a governing energy for our planet for the last 178 years, placing Aquarian knowledge and technology within the broader context of Piscean belief.

Some of the meaning of our time is captured by Robert Hand in Planets in Transit, where he describes Neptune in the twelfth house as a time of reflection and deep inner concern, a time to evaluate if our life has been fulfilling or a shallow spiritual masquerade, when we can work to find meaning in religion and faith through intuition and sensitivity. Jupiter transiting the twelfth house is interpreted by Robert Hand to signify beneficial capacity to learn about the spiritual and religious dimensions of life, bringing dispassionate empathy to heal and help us find truth and wisdom. Our entry into the twelfth house of our Age therefore indicates greater capacity for deep reflection, overcoming the shallow values of technological consumer culture. These transit interpretations have profound meaning for the coming twelfth house of our current Zodiac Age, helping to place spiritual insight within a coherent and consistent system of thought.

Jupiter’s expansive energy of spiritual growth can reinforce the mystical feeling of both Neptune and Pisces to foster an amazing depth of vision back over the two millennia of the Age of Pisces. This moment could enable us to see the history of our Age in ways that then let us look forward to the coming Age of Aquarius in an enlightened spirit of realistic innovation, especially in forming shared understanding to stabilise the climate so our world remains liveable.

This hinge point into the twelfth house of the Age has a deeply religious meaning, possibly opening our eyes to the concealed truths of the Christian message that has dominated the Age of Pisces, and helping us to reflect on how the surface appearance of Christianity has suffused our culture with what I would consider the political and emotional fantasies of Christendom, which often conflict with the deeper wisdom in the message of Christ. In my study, I have identified how astrology offers considerable insight into the symbolic meaning concealed within Christian beliefs. I could argue that the Bible authors have used the Zodiac Ages as their framework of time. My study of such references enables me to place our understanding of Bible stories within the ‘big history’ of the cosmos.

Concentrated Piscean energy also occurred in 1524, when eight planets joined in Pisces at the dawn of the Protestant Reformation, and in 53 AD, when Saint Paul wrote his Epistles, with seven planets in Pisces. (View charts 2 and 3).
TULIP

My model places the dawn of the Age of Pisces in 53-54 AD at the broad triple conjunction of Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune in Pisces, with the Pisces-Aries equinox point on 22 March 54 AD representing the cusp of the year, the Age and the Great Year. The coming Jupiter-Neptune conjunction recapitulates these spiritual energies.

Comparing our time today with these past events shows that the conjunction of Jupiter and Neptune in Pisces brings a deeply spiritual energy (how do you differentiate spirituality and religion? Seems redundant to use both), generating insight into the larger orderly cosmic patterns and all encompassing mysteries of life. This astrological framework provides a natural way to interpret relationships that religions approach through language about God. In my view, this moment indicates the potential for a religious transformation, building upon Christianity in ways that respect astrology, other spiritual beliefs, and modern scientific knowledge.

A complex factor in this coming conjunction of Jupiter and Neptune in Pisces arises from its threshold status, looking both back to the Age of Pisces and forward to the Age of Aquarius. The complexity appears in the relationship between the Aquarian principle of knowledge and the Piscean principle of belief. Sakoian and Acker in *The Astrologer's Handbook* define the guiding theme of Pisces as "mystical compassionate belief" and the guiding theme of Aquarius as "innovative humanitarian knowledge." If we consider these astrological principles as defining the zeitgeists of the respective Ages, we can readily see that the scientific spirit of Aquarius has grown in the womb of the religious spirit of Pisces. But until now, the culture of science has dismissed astrology with disdain, failing to see how our connection to the cosmos is at the core of our shared sense of meaning and purpose in life. Astrology is needed to connect human life to our cosmic context and place our scientific knowledge within a coherent ethical and cultural vision.

Recognition of this spirit of connection can open rich dialogue between astro-
ology, science, philosophy and religion. An astrological framework enables us to see religious ideas in primarily symbolic rather than literal terms, connecting us to the cosmos and enabling discussion of the scientific basis of astrology.

The coming Jupiter-Neptune conjunction in Pisces therefore opens a prospect of liberation from the repressive disdain that has prevented broader social conversation about the meaning of astrology. Combining the emerging power of Aquarian knowledge with the spiritual compassion of Pisces can help astrology overcome the trauma of its isolation from intellectual life, indicating the emergence of philosophical analysis to construct a new paradigm integrating astrology with science and religion.

To illustrate how Christianity coheres with the astrology of Zodiac Ages, one example from the New Testament is the description of the process of the birth of a New Age by Saint Paul at Romans 8:21-2. Paul writes “the creation itself will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now.” What Paul here calls the travail of creation, the birth pangs of a New Age, well describes the energy of this 2022 Jupiter-Neptune conjunction in Pisces. In my view, it enables us to see that traditional Christianity has trapped the world in dogmatic literal beliefs, preventing discussion of the deeper symbolic meaning needed to bring us together into what the Bible calls ‘a new heaven and new earth’. Therefore, the old age now delivers what Paul calls the ‘bondage of corruption’, both moral and legal, while the New Age grows within the womb of the old age, kicking forward with labour pains toward the breaking of the waters and birth. A big part of that bondage to corruption and decay arising from old age thinking is precisely how both science and religion combine to suppress astrology, in a toxic pathology that flatly refuses to engage the scientific problem studied by astrology of how we connect to the cosmos.

The expansive vision called into being by the Jupiter-Neptune conjunction suggests paradigm shifts that can be compared to the old Chinese political story of dynastic cycle, whereby an old dynasty became weak and corrupt, enabling a dynamic leader to conquer the state, acquiring the mandate of heaven through a new vigorous moral vision. This coming dynastic transition imagined in the shift of Zodiac Ages should not be seen in military terms, but it does show how the obsolete visions that now rule world politics have failed to engage the primary security problems we face, such as biocide and climate collapse. To me, the COVID 19 pandemic is a clear signal of how spending trillions of dollars on weapons has diverted the world from a clear strategic focus on planetary stability and security. Our rulers are trying to fight the old wars of the last age when what is needed is a movement of peaceful cooperation to restore and repair the health of the planet, physically, ecologically, culturally, socially and spiritually.

The scale of Piscean fantasy and escapism even affects those who are trying to alert us to the climate problem, in what I would consider a limited belief that just cutting emissions of carbon dioxide could be enough to stabilise the temperature and stop the snowballing feedback systems now in train toward a hothouse earth. I personally believe solutions require more radical measures.

The key issue, as astrologers should well understand, is that perhaps our planet is far more fragile and sensitive than is assumed by prevailing attitudes. Astrology sees the sensitivity of the whole solar system coming together to impact our world with the harmonic energies of planetary alignments, which have provided the stable and orderly context of our complex planetary evolution over the four billion years of life on earth.

Taking the climate crisis as a symbol of the change of thinking needed for the New Age, our prevailing world culture can be compared to The Fool in tarot, treading foolishly along the brink of a climate precipice, liable to fall in at any moment. The urgent need is to step away from the tipping points that could cause a phase shift into a planetary hothouse, but the thinking of the old age is preventing broad discussion of possible ways to address climate risks. I have outlined some of my perspectives about this on my website and other publications. You can contact me if you are interested to further explore this perspective.

The conjunction of Jupiter and Neptune in Pisces in April 2022 offers a spiritual moment of transformation where planetary ideas about the clash between forward and backward thinking can emerge and crystallise into awareness. This moment invites us to look back over the Age of Pisces with new insight into its great advances and its deluded fantasies, and forward into the Age of Aquarius as a time of repair and restoration, of planetary peace and truth, as we gradually seek to build a world informed by shared values of love, justice and freedom.

REFERENCES

Robbie Tulip lives in Australia, and writes on the connections between astrology, religion, philosophy, climate and science at rtulp.net.
PERSONAL

Share a little of your family and cultural background/environment.

I currently live in Chicago, Illinois, on the southside and have family members in Chicago and Georgia.

I am a product of the Chicago Public School system and grew up in predominantly black neighborhoods in Chicago, particularly a public housing project called Stateway Gardens after my parents separated. My parents were not religious. Mother said her mother had her in church so much as a child that she didn’t get a chance to play outside with her friends. As an adult, she took a pass on the church experience. Daddy, who didn’t attend church, took me to a Catholic church two or three times for Easter, and that wafer tasted awful. I would have spit it out had we not been in church.

During the late 70s and early to mid-80s, the gospel music in the Black church was banging! I really wanted to go to church just to hear the choirs sing, and was much less interested in the preaching.

I want the whole world to know that I am still in communication with my 6th grade teacher, Dr. Louise Coleman, and my 7th grade Spanish teacher, Dr. Carmen Palmer. They continue to teach and mentor me. Both of them are Black women, who are accomplished educators.

Can you share if the name Omari is one you were given at birth, or one you chose to represent yourself? Its African/Arabic origins signify God, the Highest, and its Hebrew version signifies “he who speaks, talkative.”

I was born Johnny Lee Martin, Jr., after my daddy. As a little boy and teenager, Daddy would call me Jomar Jun, which was a pet name for me and the short version of Johnny Martin, Jr. I was his first born and a boy, so he was proud and it was a big deal for him, based on his Southern upbringing. Mother wanted to name me Johnathan, which did honor my father. However, he showed up at the hospital after some refreshing beverages with the boys (wink wink) and when the nurse asked, “What do you want to name him?” Daddy said/asked, “What’s my name?”

As a teenager, I participated in Project F.A.M.E. (Female and Male Excellence) Upward Bound. There was a teacher, Cheeke, who would give you an African name at the end of the summer program after you asked three people to write down one word to describe you. I participated in this program for two summers in a row and did not complete this task. At that time, I did not value having an African name. However, my dorm counselors during the first summer were Kwesi and Omari. The name Omari really resonated with me and I liked it a lot.

Then, in my early 20s, I started having spiritual experiences. I would think about someone and a few seconds later the phone would ring and it would be that person. Sometimes, it would be someone who I had not spoken with in over a year and this was before caller ID. Also, I would have dreams about people.

As a result of personal spiritual experiences and completing the Landmark Forum, referred to me by my life coach, I made the choice to be fully self-expressed in all the areas of my life, which included embracing my heritage as a descendant of those of the African Diaspora. This was the beginning of my transformation which included changing my hairstyle from an Afro to locks and changing my name from Jomar Jun to OMARI. I wanted to step from behind Daddy’s shadow and no longer wanted to be called little Johnny or Johnny Jr.

For me, OMARI means the Greatest Follower of Divine Consciousness. It is a part of my legal name, which was changed when the Sun was transiting Scorpio and Mother was in the courtroom with me when the Judge made it official. Yes, I capitalize the name OMARI intentionally. I shall make my mark upon the known Universe, and better yet…the Multiverse!

And then there is your signature Pharaoh Omari -- care to share about Pharaoh Omari?

I have always adored Ancient Egyptian culture. Specifically, it is Pharaoh Amenhotep IV who was courageous and rebellious when he broke from established tradition by introducing monotheism and moving the capital city. He changed his name from his royal designation of Amenhotep IV to AKHENATEN. While the planet Uranus had not been discovered yet, he was a rebel with a cause with a strong sense of independence (being Pharaoh helped) and adopted this course of action for humanity. The high priests did not like this course of action, but monotheistic religion did prevail.

In my family, it seems I broke tradition. I’m a professional astrologer who has at times demonstrated psychic ability or directly experienced psychic phenomenon. The Black Church
as an institution has labeled Astrology as black magic or the work of the devil. I was very secretive and hesitant to share with my family that I liked Astrology in the beginning.

Today, they know all about my involvement speaking at regional, national, and international conferences, serving on the boards of non-profit astrology organizations, and practicing the art and science of Astrology, professionally. Also, both of my fraternities Alpha Phi Alpha and the Prince Hall Masonic Order embrace Ancient Egyptian culture. I adopted for myself Pharaoh OMARI Grand Seer of the Realm of Egyptadise™. In the past, I have hosted astrology parties and invitations were sent from Pharaoh OMARI.

**Did you have a vision for yourself in your teenage or early adult years? If so, what was it and how did it change?**

Yes, I did have one. As a freshman in college, I wanted to graduate with my bachelor’s degree specializing in accounting, become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), join, at that time, one of the Big 6 accounting firms, and make partner one day. Oh well, it didn't happen. After what seems to be a hundred attempts to obtain a position as an accountant, something blocked progress on that path. I changed paths and have been teaching finance and accounting classes for over 10 years. **In addition, I’ve become a professional astrologer too.**

**Educational background?**

I have a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Howard University, a Master of Accounting & Financial Management degree from the Keller Graduate School of Management, and am currently working on a Ph.D. in Business Management at Capella University. I’m a certified teacher with the Church of Light and certified practitioner of neurolinguistic programming (NLP) with the Association of Integrative Psychology.

**Spiritual orientation: Do you currently align with any tradition and/or follow any specific practice?**

No, I do not currently align with any tradition. I do believe in a Supreme Being/Supreme Force. I’m vegetarian and prefer to be vegan.

**What’s the most challenging/difficult thing about you (for others and/or yourself)?**

I am learning how beneficial it is to request assistance, especially when it is needed.

**What’s the best thing about you?... If there are several, go for it!**

I’m willing to coach another when the chips are down to inspire them to see what’s possible and create a new action plan to produce the desired results.

**You never tried…**

- Jumping out of an airplane or skiing…no thanks!

**You can’t refuse…**

- Eating los maduros (fried plantains) and peach fried pies.

**What constitutes re-creation/playtime for you?**

I read DC comic books and my favorite hero is Superman. He’s powered by the Sun. From Marvel comic books, my favorites are Storm – Mistress of the Elements, Magneto – Master of Magnetism, and the Mighty Thor – god of Thunder and wielder of Mjolnir. Yes, I do prefer the most powerful, god-like, and royal comic book characters. I play Star Wars Knights of the Republic role playing game online in which my character is a Master Jedi named Amun-Heru, watch the Superfriends, the Transformers Generation 1, Star Wars – the Clone Wars, vampire movies (the Sun), werewolf movies (the Moon), and zombie movies (Pluto) too. I run model trains. The Santa Fe Super Chief and El Capitan are my absolute favorite trains. This year I went horseback riding and it is my newest outdoor recreation activity.

**Your favorite places on earth?**


**How do you see yourself personally growing/evolving?**

I see myself conducting scholarly research that will benefit astrologers. I want to become a beekeeper and plan to start this in a couple of years. Last fall, I planted red and yellow tulips. The results this spring were beautiful.

**YOUR ASTROLOGY PRACTICE**

**Where do you currently live and practice?**

I currently live in Chicago, Illinois and meet with clients and students via the internet.

**How long have you been practicing?**

It has been 25 years since I offered natal chart services for $40.00.

**What have been your livelihoods as you have transitioned into doing astrology professionally?**

I have worked in higher education for the past 15+ years in two different roles as a dean and currently as a college professor teaching finance, accounting, and banking courses.

**Was there an astrological AHA moment or two, when you knew this path was for you?**

In a moment of reflection to answer this question, it seems that based on my collective experiences as an astrologer this is that moment.

**Your prime Astrology teachers/influences?**

My prime Astrology teachers are Christine Arens, LPTMAFA, NGR-PAA III and Norman Arens, FAPA, PMFA. They taught me how to calculate spherical trigonometric functions so I could erect a chart by hand. While I never met them personally, Marion D. March and Joan McEvors wrote “The Only Way to Learn Astrology” 6-volume set of books, which really helped me on my journey. With Volume 1, I was able to pass the chart delineation and synthesis part of the Advanced Member exam with the American Federation of Astrologers.

**Your Astrology hero/heroes?**

I would give credit to a heroine. The one and only Evangeline Adams! She took a tremendous risk in the court room that day,
Interview with OMARI Martin

and she prevailed for the benefit of Astrology and astrologers the world over! I/we owe her a debt of eternal gratitude.

3 (or more) favorite Astrology books/resources?

“The Only Way to Learn Astrology” by March and McEvers
“Astrology: A Cosmic Science” by Isabel Hickey
“The Only Astrology Book You’ll Ever Need” by Joanna Woolfolk
“The Magic of Electional Astrology” by J. Lee Lehman, Ph.D.
“Sibley’s Astrology” I was gifted with an original copy published in 1784 complete with quill pen autographs.

Do you have particular areas of focus in your practice, in client work or teaching?

Yes, I have particular areas of focus in my practice which include the following: Natal Astrology including progressions and transits, Electional Astrology, Vocational Astrology, Mundane Astrology, and ASTROPRENEURSHIP®.

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

I feel I have a few great accomplishments to date; first, taking and passing two 8-hour exams with the American Federation of Astrologers to become a certified professional astrologer.

Second, becoming the first African American to serve as president of the Friends of Astrology, Inc., founded in 1938.

Third, becoming the first African American to serve as board chair of Kepler College of the Astrological Arts & Sciences; fourth, writing and teaching a course at Kepler College called ASTROPRENEURSHIP® which is also a registered servicemark with the U. S. Patent & Trademark Office.

What do you experience as the great thing ... and the hard thing about being an astrologer?

The great thing I experience about being an astrologer is being an astrologer.

The hard thing I experience about being an astrologer is being an astrologer.

There are times when I have good or great news to share with a client and there are times when I do not have good or great news to share with a client. It is with the latter that I make lemonade with the lemons for the client’s benefit.

What are your future aspirations for yourself in the field of astrology... to accomplish and/or to learn?

My future aspirations are to become a board member of the American Federation of Astrologers, to have my research about astrologers published in scholarly written peer-reviewed academic journals, to earn at least $100,000 per year as a professional astrologer, to film a documentary about astrology that is Oscar® worthy and wins it, to use Electional Astrology to win one of the highest Powerball Jackpots ever, and to write a book about astrology. I want to learn about Financial Astrology.

OMARI, IN THE PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGY COMMUNITY

What aspirations/visions do you have for the profession of astrology as a whole?

I have a vision that Kepler College will become accredited as a vocational institution with an endowment and with an alumni body that moves the profession of astrology forward. This vision also includes Fortune 500 companies hiring certified professional astrologers. For the record, I always take a stand for certification for astrologers. Speaking of which, all professions have standards, such as medical, legal, and accounting. They all have an examination one can take after completion of specific education requirements. Astrology should not be an exception.
Diversity and inclusion are currently central topics, in and outside the astrology community... That given, what has been your experience as an astrologer who is ethnically black? In what ways, if at all, has race been a factor in your training, experience, and practice?

Outside the astrology community, each and every offer of gainful employment and promotion opportunity was always afforded to me by black women and white women and black men. Out of ALL the times I was interviewed by a white man for a gainful employment opportunity, the offer was NEVER extended to me. Generally speaking, I had the same bachelor’s and master’s degrees and relevant professional experience presented to all the interviewers/managers. In my experience, I would go so far as to say this is probably an example of systemic racism and structural racism.

Within the astrology community, I have been afforded several opportunities to continue to grow and develop not only as a professional astrologer but as a human being. I have spoken at NORWAC, UAC, OPA, ISAR, AAGB, the Indian Institute of Oriental Heritage, several chapters of NCGR, and local astrology groups too, namely the Friends of Astrology. Two articles I wrote about astrology have been published in astrology journals. I serve on boards of a couple of astrology organizations. I have a certified professional astrologer, who is my mentor and provides guidance, to help me chart and navigate my career as a professional astrologer. She has never been wrong! I have met some professional astrologers who I looked up to for a few years before speaking at conferences and serving on boards with them.

Do you think that the astrology profession could do more to be inclusive and diverse? If so, how?

Yes, I think the astrology profession could do more to be inclusive and diverse. I suspect a part of the issue is economics. The amount of one’s disposable income can have a direct bearing on the ability to attend astrology conferences when there is the registration cost, a round trip plane or train ticket, hotel costs, meals, and incidentals. Based on what I know, Kepler College offers a diversity scholarship to cover tuition costs and NORWAC offers a diversity scholarship as well. These efforts make a difference. Diversity is something that can be discerned based on what is observed or seen at face value.

Based on my observation, NORWAC 2021 seems to be the most diverse in terms of speakers ever at any astrology conference. This is certainly progress. At the same time, any individual from any category we chose to identify with or label ourselves by must be able to effectively engage in public speaking, professionally interact with an audience with friendliness, and know more than just kitchen table astrology. The conference organizers are stakeholders as well as the speakers and the attendees.

What inspires you to be an OPA member?

The focus on professional astrology, “The Career Astrologer” journal, and the i-Astrologer Conference in 2018 inspired me to become a life member of OPA. Also, I appreciate OPA’s approach to certification which is qualitative instead of quantitative.

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

Yes, I would advise that one identify a professional astrologer who is willing to provide mentorship. Also, identify 2 or 3 peers to grow up with as you become a professional astrologer.

Develop a high level of proficiency with natal astrology. After that, select one or two specialty areas of astrology, such as Horary Astrology. Without question pursue certification with AFA, OPA, NCGR-PAA, and/or ISAR. Some astrologers have 3 of them or all 4 of them. There are a couple of international organizations to consider for certification too.

Be willing to give back to the astrology community through志愿服务。Serve on a board of a large astrology organization or a local astrology group or volunteer to assist at an astrology conference. These are very good ways to build your network.

Learn about how to be an ethical astrologer in all the work you do. Be an asset to our community as a life-long learner. Make a contribution so big that we all experience its benefits. I would challenge you to do something favorable that no other astrologer has ever done before.

May the Great Architect of the Universe continue to Bless You and All that You Hold Dear!

Grand Trines,
Pharaoh OMARI – The Greatest Follower of Divine Consciousness and Grand Seer of the Realm of Egyptadise™

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Thank you for sharing yourself!
The Career Astrologer

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OPA is thrilled to welcome STORMIE GRACE to the Board of Directors in the capacity of Recording Secretary.

We are grateful for Shannon Gill’s contribution to OPA’s board in the past years and wish her the very best on her next steps! She will always remain part of the OPA family.
OPA, The Organization for Professional Astrology, is dedicated to promoting Accessibility, Sustainability, and Credibility for astrologers. Incorporated on October 4, 2000 at 1:45 pm EDT in Tallahassee, Florida, OPA provides members with opportunities and tools to study astrology and establish or improve their astrological practice. Membership is open to any level of expertise. Among the benefits: free presentations and panels by top notch astrologers, opportunities to be published in The Career Astrologer magazine, and being part of a global community of astrologers through conferences and online discussions. Annual dues are $60.00.

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UPCOMING ASTROLOGY CONFERENCES

September 2021
17–19 Embracing the Community: A Celebration of Astrologies
24-26 Astrology, Consciousness, and the Great Shift Conference
Omega Institute, Rhinebeck, NY
https://www.eomega.org/workshops/astrology-consciousness-the-great-shift

October 2021
29 – 31 Astrology Association (UK), Potions for the Future
https://www.astrologicalassociation.com/conference-2021/

March 2022
4 – 6 Vibrational Astrology Conference (Florida)

May 2022
I-Astrologer
(details to come)
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for Astrology Announcements, Blogs, Events, and Musings

www.facebook.com/groups/OPAcommunity

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for great conversations about astrology and current events:

www.facebook.com/groups/astrologydiscussionsOPA
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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10**
**CHRIS MITCHELL (UK)**
How Medieval Astrologers Knew What You Really Wanted

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24**
**ADAM GAINSBURG (VA)**
The Angles in the Chart

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7**
**KAY TAYLOR (CA)**
Relationship Astrology: A Conscious Approach to Love

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**
**STORMIE GRACE (CO)**
Saturn as an Instigator of Trust and Faith

**SUNDAY, MARCH 20**
**ARIELLE GUTTMAN (CA)**
An Astrological Look at The Generations

**SUNDAY, APRIL 11**
**MYCHAL A. BRYAN (Nassau)**
The Magical Heart of Uranian Astrology

**SATURDAY, MAY 8**
**MAGGIE KERR (Australia)**
The Ascendant and the ‘Birth-script’

**SUNDAY, MAY 23**
**BURCU CAKIR (Turkey)**
Mercury, Venus, and Mars as Professional Significators in Traditional Astrology

**SUNDAY, JUNE 6**
**LOUISE EDINGTON (UT)**
Ceres: Bridging the Worlds

**SUNDAY, JUNE 27**
**ELISABETH GRACE (NY)**
Where Do We Start? The Power of First Impressions!

**SUNDAY, JULY 11**
**JULIA SIMAS (Australia)**
Eclipse Saros Cycle Magic

**SUNDAY, JULY 25**
**ANNE SUNDELL (Finland)**
The Life Cycle Charts

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 8**
**KIM AKINTA (Australia)**
Transits to the Personal Midpoints

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 22**
**ALAN CLAY (New Zealand)**
The Blessing of Ixion - Pluto’s New Lawless Brother

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**
**SCOTT WOLFRAM (--)**
Location Astrology in Practice - Illuminating Possibility and Dispelling Myth

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2**
**BARIS ILHAN (Turkey)**
Astrology’s Bad Boys: 6, 8, & 12th Houses

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31**
**MAURICE FERNANDEZ (AZ)**
The Death Chart, a Halloween Celebration

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14**
**MICHAEL OFEK (Israel)**
The Doryphory - Your Personal Bodyguard

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4**
**SHU YAP (Australia)**
Firdaria & Early Childhood Chapters

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