

THE ASTROLOGER'S APPRENTICE

Issue 1

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THE APPRENTICE NEEDS YOU!

Contributions to The Astrologer's Apprentice are welcomed.

Prospective contributors are advised to write or phone first with an outline of their projected article. They should bear in mind that The Apprentice's bias is towards sound traditional practice. Some charts have a crystalline beauty all their own; we would generally, however, prefer to see charts that illustrate or elucidate some particular point of technique.

We are especially keen to publish informed articles on the historical and intellectual background to astrology.

All submissions should be accompanied by an SAE; while due care will be taken, we cannot guarantee their return. Articles are submitted gratuitously.

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WHAT IS PREDICTION?



"You've just become Thane of Glamis. You'll soon be Thane of Cawdor. You'll then be King of Scotland."

No timing is given; but apart from that, this prediction is as specific as could be wished. The Weird Sisters were apparently unencumbered by the necessity for secondary progressions or even a horary chart. Like us, however, they were in the business of predicting, and their predictions are worth considering.

Once Macbeth had heard this prediction he acted in a certain way. Any of us, had the prediction been made to us, would have acted in a certain way: most of our 'certain ways' would have been to laugh it off or ignore it, doing nothing to further it, but mentally filing it away to see if it came true. If this were all we did, the prediction would not work. But the prediction has not been made to us: it was made to the man for whom it would work.

Macbeth does briefly consider doing nothing, but dismisses the possibility that fate will crown him king without his own assistance. This prediction was made to Macbeth because, once made, he was the person who would act upon it, and act with sufficient power and resource to make the prediction true. Had it been made to someone else - Banquo, for example, who seems a decent enough chap and unlikely to murder the king - it would probably have been wrong. That is, had either the prediction or the person to whom it was made been different, the result would have been different.

The correct outcome of this prediction depended on it being made to a certain person at a certain time: that is, it depended on the reality of the situation. Real, and exactly as it was.

"You'll be quite safe until Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane; and none of woman born shall harm you."

This too is specific prediction, and it too is based in the reality of the situation. The one who is not of woman born is not some hideous monster roaming the highlands in search of prey: it is a man Macbeth has grievously wronged, who happens to have been from his mother's womb untimely ripped. Similarly,



BirnamWood does not come to Dunsinane as a random freak of nature, but as the tactic of a superior army attacking Macbeth's stronghold as a direct consequence of Macbeth's actions.

Real life, as it is.

The idea that prediction is rooted in reality, and can give flower only to whatever seed happens to have been sown in that particular soil is crucial to an understanding of what prediction is - and of what it is not. Horary charts show this clearly: they give an accurate analysis of the present situation, from which the astrologer can draw conclusions about the future, in a manner more akin to Sherlock Holmes than Mystic Meg.

Horary astrologers are often confronted with the question "What if?"- "What will happen if I leave my husband?"

"You're not going to leave your husband."

"But what will happen if I do?"

This question is unanswerable. We cannot deal with the hypothetical, for if anything is changed from the reality that we have, anything can happen. Our chart is cast for a moment in reality: we cannot cast a chart for a moment that does not exist

"If I were in the Olympics, would I win?" As things are now, no - I can't run fast. But if reality were changed, if I could run fast enough to qualify for the Olympics, I might win. We cannot alter just one tiny part of reality: we alter all or nothing.

Lilly and his Fish

The great seventeenth-century astrologer, William Lilly, had ordered some fish and a bag of Portuguese onions to be sent from London to his home, just up-river in Hersham. Instead of delivering the goods, the warehouseman came to Lilly and told him the warehouse had been robbed and the fish stolen. Lilly set a horary chart to find the thief.

In a question of theft, a peregrine planet in an angular house often shows the thief, while the Sun or Moon in the Ascendant in one of its own dignities shows the thief will be found out. Here, Jupiter is peregrine and on the cusp of the seventh, while the Moon, in its exaltation, is in the Ascendant.

Jupiter is the natural ruler of the rich and noble, and Lilly decided that a gentleman wouldn't stoop to stealing a fish, but he did take note of the sign that Jupiter is in: Scorpio, a water sign. The Part of Fortune, which signifies the querent's 'treasure' is in Cancer, another water sign, while Mercury, which rules the second, the house of the querent's possessions, is in the third water sign, Pisces. Considering this evidence

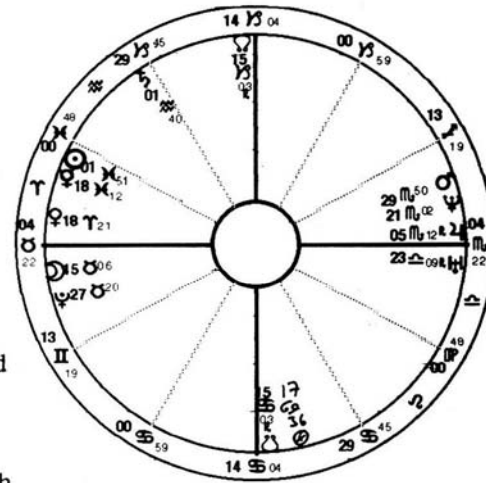
and the circumstances, he decided that the thief must work on water and the fish must be in some moist place (Part of Fortune in Cancer) or a low room, as the Moon - dispositor of Fortuna - is in the earth sign Taurus.

The Moon applying to the Lord of the second house in a theft chart shows that the stolen goods will be found. How much they can be recovered depends on the condition of the two planets. Here, the Moon applies to a sextile of Mercury, ruler of the second, showing that Lilly would hear of the fish. The Moon in Taurus is strong, but Mercury is in both its fall and its detriment in Pisces, making it very weak.

Mercury is, however, in its own terms and forms a trine with the Part of Fortune: this assuages the weakness a little. Balancing the testimonies, Lilly judged that he wouldn't recover the fish intact, but that he would get some of it back. If both the planets had been weak, the fish would have been found, but he wouldn't have been able to recover any of it. So the chart has told him he will discover the thief and recover some of the goods.

Apart from a peregrine planet in an angle, the thief is also shown by the seventh house. Its ruler, and also dispositor of Jupiter, is Mars, which is on the point of leaving its own sign, Scorpio. This suggested that the thief had recently moved house. After making enquiries, Lilly heard of a fisherman with a reputation for thieving who had just moved to a house by the river, as was shown by the emphasis on water signs. His appearance was typical of Mars combined with Jupiter: he was tall and well-built with fair complexion and reddish-yellow hair.

Armed with this combination of astrology and detective-work, Lilly approached the local magistrate, who granted him a warrant to search the man's house. He found part of the fish, at which the thief confessed all, saying that the rest of the fish had already been eaten. Lilly grumbled at the man's wife about the fate of his onions - not knowing what they



*Where are my fish?
Feb. 20th, 1638. 9-00 a.m. LMT
SIN 24
OW 27*



were, she had made soup out of them - but then relented and let them keep the remains of their loot.

The discovery of the thief and the retrieval of the fish are predicted, quite clearly and according to set rules, in the chart; but these predictions depended on certain actions to make them happen. These actions need not, apparently, have been taken.

The chart guided Lilly to the thief. Having found the thief, many people would not have confronted him. This was a small community: Lilly might have been frightened of the consequences of his accusation, or uncertain of his judgement and scared of embarrassment if he had got it wrong. He wasn't. This was the same Lilly who walked from Leicestershire to London to find work, who performed a mastectomy on his master's wife, who risked execution by plying his trade at high level during the Civil War: he wasn't one to back down from a challenge.

To allow the prediction to come true, Lilly had to be in a position to obtain a warrant to search the thief's house. Few modern astrologers would find much sympathy arriving at their local police station waving a chart and claiming to know who had stolen their belongings. Lilly had a strong reputation as a worthy citizen and an accurate astrologer. He was the magistrate's social equal, and he would have found no problem in obtaining the warrant.

Lilly's character and circumstances are an integral part of the chart. Had they been different - had he, for example, been timid, or known for getting his predictions wrong - the chart would have been different. It is reasonable to assume that had the circumstances, including Lilly's character, been different, he would not have asked this particular question at this particular time. If, for example, he were timid, he might have been busy being bullied at that moment; if he were not the magistrate's social equal, he might have been busy digging ditches; if he had a poor reputation as an astrologer, he could probably not have afforded to order the fish in the first place.

The prediction is as much an integral part of real life as any other action: it is not something appearing completely out of the blue, unconnected with either what has happened already or what is going to happen in the future. It follows what has already happened by a natural progression, and if what has already happened - that is the current situation - were different, the prediction would be different.

There is only one possible set of circumstances that could lead to that exact prediction being made at that exact moment. That set of circumstances is the one, and the only one, that has actually arisen. Anything else exists only in the world of hypothesis, and as such is beyond our consideration, for in a hypothetical world, anything can happen at any moment. With an omnipotent deity, this is, of course,

possible anyway, but it does tend not to happen.

The Desire for Magic

For our purposes, making real predictions in a real world, the hypothetical does not exist. The idea that it does, or should, betrays our true interest in prediction. We do not want to know what is going to happen in the future; we want the possibility of shaping what will happen to suit our own desires. We do not want to know the truth: we want one particular answer and we want that answer to shape reality for us, just as I do if I pluck leaves from a stem and find 'she loves me'. I want this to make it true.

This is not what prediction does, and despite our wishes we are well aware of this. The days when the astrologer either could, or would at least attempt to, twist fate on our behalf are long gone. Prediction does not give us a clean slate from which we can form the future that we want; it does not release us from our past any more than it makes us five pounds thinner. It is not an entry into the world of "What if," where all desires are magically fulfilled.

This is probably no bad thing, for our consciousness of our own true will is so patchy that if prediction were able to arrange fate for us, we would be like the people in the fairy tales, forever using their last wish to sort out the disasters they have caused with the first two. The closest we get to a true vision of our own wills is usually the cold, clear overview we are granted by an astrological chart. That with which we usually deal is less will than whim.

That the hypothetical is not granted us is a blessing; that we are aware of it is a curse. Comparisons are indeed odious, and "what if" blights our lives. "What if I were with her instead of my wife?" "What if



I had a Ferrari?"
"What if I'd ordered the steak instead of the fish?" That the hypothetical does not exist is the lesson of prediction: a lesson far more valuable than any individual prediction we may make. There is no comparison, because there is no alternative reality

with which to compare things. There is no such thing as 'what if'.

We are indeed looking into the seeds of time and saying which grain will grow and which will not. And, just as seeds of flower and plant, these seeds too grow only unto their nature. Were it not thus, prediction would be impossible. That it is thus, resolves the apparent conflict between prediction and free-will. For our will is rooted in what we are, and can work only according to our nature.

Prediction is not magic, summoning up the thing desired with none of its consequences. Macbeth forgets this: he has no right to his thing desired, and so can obtain it only by murder, suffering as a result. What prediction is, is a means of selection, by which we can gaze at the infinite array of possibilities and discover which is real. Looking, for example, at a horary chart, the aspect that connects the two signifiers and enables us to judge "Yes, this will happen" is like a bridge thrown across a vast gulf of shadows, the only pathway into the future.

Prediction traces the infinitely narrow pathway of our will, winding like a thread from birth to death, and determines whether or not any particular event falls on that path or not. What does, is real; what does not, is not. It is the mental equivalent of reaching out an arm in a pitch dark room to find what is there. No more; no less.

She Loves Me, She Loves Me Not

For many of us, our first introduction to astrology was the desperate scanning of the sun-sign columns to see if the Embodiment of all Loveliness would notice us today. As an indication of the state of his or her affections, the sun-sign forecast seemed somehow more convincing than the answers given by pulling leaves off flowers or getting a hand of patience to come out without cheating. More convincing, if not noticeably more reliable.



Judging the potential of relationships is today one of the main uses of astrology. Most of the techniques available, however, while they can give a great deal of information about the way a couple will regard each other, are unable to give a clear, yes-or-no answer to the basic question: "will this relationship work out?" Which is what

we really want to know.

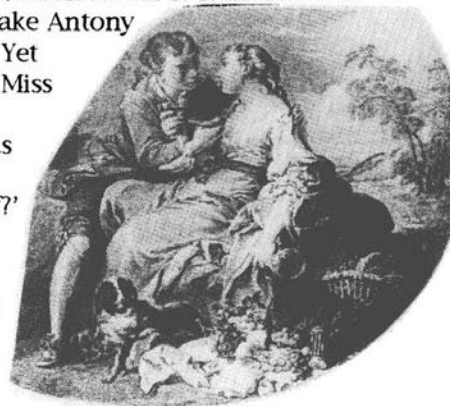
The favoured modern method of judging relationships is synastry: the comparison of the two relevant birth-charts. The examples in the text-books are impressive: Romeo and Juliet and ten thousand close connections between their charts. But what the text-books never show is the synastries between Romeo and 10 million other people for whom he could have fallen, with quite possibly happier consequences than his ill-starred romance with Ms Capulet. Many of these synastries would have had many signs of shared affection.

Certain strong testimonies in synastry can hint at a lasting relationship, particularly if combined; but it would be a brave astrologer who would make a clear prediction "Yes, you will marry this man," on that basis. Connections between the charts may be close, but the motives which draw people into lasting relationships are infinitely various, if not plain perverse. The particular psychological quirks that make me spurn the lovely Ermintrude but fall for her strange sister Esmerelda are no doubt present in my birth-chart, but their confident delineation demands a subtlety few astrologers possess. We do not necessarily form relationships with those with whom we are apparently most suited.

Synastry is capable of infinite ramification. We can compare solar returns, progressed charts, charts based on Venus or Mars or the Part of Marriage and so on for as long as we have patience. They will all tell us more about the relationship.

By the time we have sequestered ourselves away for months on end comparing all these charts - acquiring a great deal of information, but still no answer - the Embodiment of all Loveliness has decided we no longer wish to know them and gone off with someone else - probably someone who knows nothing about astrology. But the very existence of all these charts betrays the other great drawback: any two charts have a synastry.

I can compare my birth-chart with Lauren Bacall's. It indicates a grand and turbulent passion that would make Antony and Cleopatra seem emotionally inhibited. Yet unfortunately - particularly, of course, for Miss Bacall - we have never met; nor, in all probability, ever will. Synastry can show us only the potential of a relationship: the ghostly inhabitants of the lands of 'What if?' It cannot tell us which of these ghosts will be given flesh and blood and brought to life in the real world here and now. Which is, of course, our main concern: it's not



much consolation knowing she might love me, if only....

Once the relationship is established, synastry is a useful tool for showing how the couple will relate. For showing whether or not two people have a future as a couple, it is next to useless.

Composites

There are methods by which we can get closer to this. Composite and relationship charts combine the birth-charts of both people into one, which stands as a chart for the relationship between them. The condition of the seventh house and its ruler can give valuable clues to the reality-level on which this relationship exists. Even if other indications in the chart are very positive, Saturn in the seventh, for instance, suggests a major hindrance to the course of true love: often one or both of the parties is already married, or there is some other material obstruction to the romance.

A chart for the relationship can also be found by taking the time and place at which the couple first met, or, as this is often not remembered, any other significant moment. The instant at which you realise that the peculiar child next door has grown into something rather gorgeous; or when he first asks you out; or a first kiss - though looking at your watch so you can set the chart may take some of the magic out of the moment. These are all valid charts; but, again, just as with any birth-chart, picking the bones out of the great mass of potentials to see which if they will actually happen is a long and demanding job.

If we've really got nothing to do with our lives, we can, of course, do synastries between the two nativities and the relationship chart, or composites between the nativities and the composite or first-meeting chart, with progressions, converse transits, solar returns and whatever else. This can be fascinating, like looking into a kaleidoscope, but with about as much practical use.

The Answer

If we want an answer to the essential question "Will this relationship work?" quickly and accurately, with none of the problems of "Is it potential, or is it real?" we cannot do better than horary astrology. We ask the question; we get the answer: simple.

In horary, we cast a chart for the time the question is asked. The Ascendant, its ruler and the Moon represent the querent - the person asking the question. If the question is about relationships, the seventh house and its ruler show the quesited - the person they're asking about. As a broad general principle, if the planets representing querent and quesited meet, we have a relationship; if they don't, we don't. In

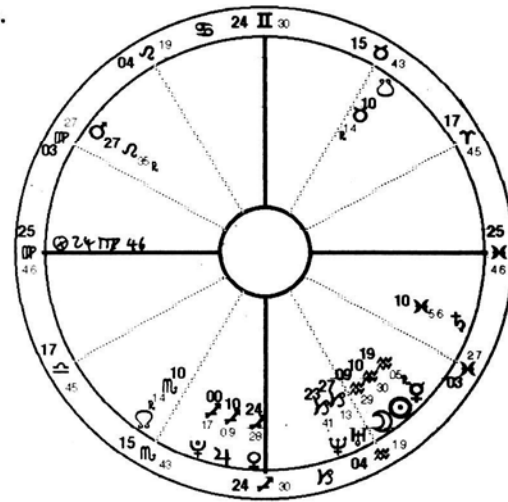
practice, it is a bit more complex than that; but this is the principle, and it can - sometimes - be that straightforward.

Will I Meet Him Again?

Claudia had fallen heavily for a man she had met at a party. Although she had spoken to him only briefly, she had convinced herself that he was the man for her; but even so, she had failed to give him her phone number, address, or any other indication that she might like to see him again.

After pining for some days, hoping that their mutual friends might bring them together, she asked me to judge a horary for the question "Will I meet him again?" I cast the chart for the time of the question, using Regiomontanus cusps.

The Querent is always shown by the ruler of the first house, so Claudia is signified by Mercury, ruler of Virgo, and also the Moon, which is always co-significator of the Querent. As the question is about a close relationship, the Quesited is shown by the seventh house, which is governed by Pisces. In this traditional form of astrology, the ruler of Pisces is Jupiter. Taking the seventh as the man's first house, Jupiter, his significator, is in his ninth, the house of long journeys (ninth from the seventh - the fourth). This is appropriate, as he was in England only briefly and would soon return home.



*Will I meet him again?
Jan. 30th, 1995. 8-58 p.m. GMT
London.*

The fifth house, of pleasure, is sometimes associated with love-affairs, so it could be tempting to locate the man there. But for the fifth to be used instead of the seventh in a question like this, it needs to be the most callous of one-night stands, or an affair as contrasted with a stable relationship.

To give a positive answer, I needed to find a connection between Mercury and or the Moon, showing Claudia, and Jupiter, showing the man. If Claudia had seen this man moving into the flat next to hers with a jar of Gold Blend in his hand, I wouldn't have needed much evidence

from the chart to give the judgement "Yes, you will meet him again." Based purely on common-sense, the circumstances here don't point to a positive outcome, so I would want to see something fairly spectacular in the chart before judging "Yes".

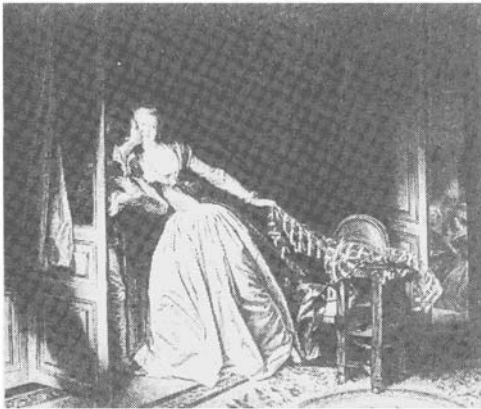
And evidence there is: the Moon at 9 degrees of Virgo applies immediately to sextile Jupiter at 10 Sagittarius. Very positive. But there is serious negative testimony. Within eight and a half degrees of the Sun, a planet is combust: its powers are burnt up and destroyed. Mercury, Claudia's significator, is retrograde and moving backwards towards the Sun, just entering the area of combustion. Her Moon is even worse placed - seriously combust, on the point of New Moon, its very weakest position. All three of these planets are in Aquarius, ruled by Saturn, Lord of restriction. Claudia felt she could do nothing in this situation, except wishing and asking a horary question in the hope that this would somehow make it all turn out well.

To perfect the aspect with Jupiter, the Moon moves to 10 Aquarius: this completes the conjunction with the Sun, leaving the Moon completely without strength. They do not share any dignities: there is no reception between them. Despite the immediate perfection of the aspect, this chart is too weak for anything to happen: the judgment could only be No.

It is as if the aspect between the Moon and Jupiter shows that there was potential for a positive outcome, but the particular natures and circumstances of the two people involved prevented anything happening. The astrology is just reflecting the true situation in life: he wasn't interested and she made no effort, so nothing happened.

Will I Meet My Girl-friend This Evening?

This is a simple example of a relationship horary, although it is on a comparatively trivial issue. Had the question been "Will this relationship work out?" the answer would have been the same.



Peter dropped in on his way home from a visit to his ex-wife and, after a while, asked if he could phone his girl-friend. He explained that he had been trying to phone her all day without success. They had arranged not to meet that evening, as both had other obligations; but as his plans had fallen through, he was hoping they might meet for dinner.

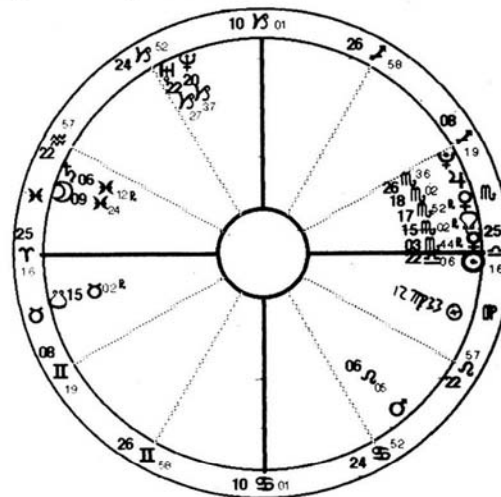
Once again, his call was unsuccessful (Mercury is retrograde).

By now, he was getting hungry and wanted to know if he would be eating with her or if he should make his own arrangements, so he asked me to cast this horary to find out.

As the Querent, Peter is shown by Mars, ruler of the Ascendant, and the Moon. The Moon had just separated from conjunction with Saturn, showing Peter leaving after the visit to his ex. The Moon often shows what the Querent is thinking about: here in the 12th house of secrets, it shows that he had not told his ex of his hopes for the evening or, indeed of the new relationship at all. The chart matches the situation.

Peter's girl-friend is shown by Venus, the ruler of the Descendant. The judgement hinges on the relationship between Venus, her significator, and the Moon and Mars, representing Peter.

Venus is in Scorpio, ruled by Mars, while the Moon is in Pisces, where Venus is exalted. This reception clearly shows the feeling between them. Most importantly, the Moon (him) and Venus (her) are applying to a trine: an easy aspect, with no other planet getting in the way. Mars and Venus also apply directly to a square, reinforcing the judgement. Usually aspects are made when a fast planet catches up with a slower one. Here, Venus is retrograde, so in both of these aspects both of the planets are moving towards each other. If the two planets come together, so will the two people, so there was a clear judgement "Yes, you will meet her this evening." And so it proved.



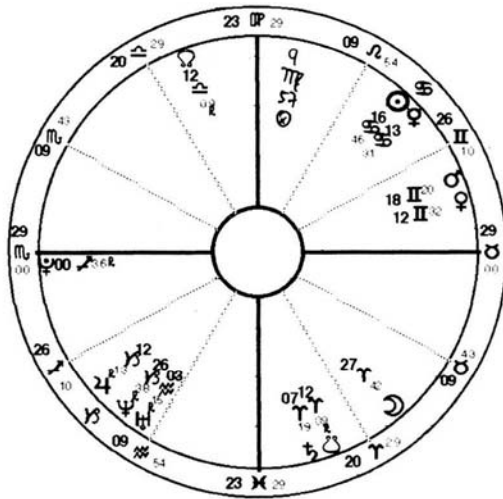
*Will I see her tonight?
Oct. 15th, 1994. 6-08 p.m. BST
London*

A planet retrograde shows a change of mind, and here Venus retrograde is moving away from its conjunction with Jupiter: the girl-friend had changed her mind and cancelled her evening meeting. When Peter reached home he found that she had left a message on his ansaphone while he had been trying to contact her, showing the two planets both moving together.

Husband or Lover?

The beauty of horary is its ability to get straight to the heart of

the matter, dealing with the question quickly and simply. It is like surgery: its principle is to get in and get out as quickly as possible. If we do want to be drawn into a psychological analysis of the situation, however, horary offers this as well.



*Husband or Lover?
July 8th, 1996. 5-29 p.m. BST
London*

Lorna had for some years been torn between her husband and another man. She had left her husband to live with her lover, but had then gone back to him. Their relationship was no better, and she was now thinking of returning to the lover. The chart accurately pictures the situation.

The late degree on the Ascendant reflects the desperation of Lorna's situation: she felt trapped, with no way to avoid hurting someone she was fond of. Pluto applying retrograde to the Ascendant should not be regarded as an affliction, as it is in a different sign: this effectively cuts off its malefic influence.

Lorna's significator, Mars, is very close to that of her husband, Venus. From the chart, this looks a lot more straightforward than it actually was: Venus applies to Mars, all apparently will be well. But this was not the case. Mars was moving very fast; Venus had just turned direct after a period of retrogradation, and so was moving very slowly. Mars is, unusually, separating from Venus: Lorna is trying to get away from her husband.

Mars - Lorna - is moving towards Mercury. Mercury rules most of the seventh house, and so can be taken as significator of her boy-friend. Mars will, of course, never catch up, while Mercury combust and heading deeper into combustion confirms that nothing will come of this relationship. Mercury does, however, disposit both Mars and Venus: the existence of the boy-friend is dominating her marriage.

There is weak mutual reception between Venus and Mars (Venus in the face of Mars; Mars in the terms of Venus) - just enough to hold the marriage together. Mars dispoited by Mercury shows her obsession with the other man; she is forever telling (Mercury) herself how much better things would be with him. Her heart tells another story.

The Moon shows the querent's feelings. In the fifth house, it shows that Lorna is concerned about children: her desire for a baby was

one of the key issues. That the fifth is ruled by the same planet as the Ascendant confirms this importance. The Moon is void of course - it doesn't make any aspects before leaving its sign - and is peregrine: the situation is stagnant; nothing is happening.

Although Lorna is busy telling herself how wonderful her boyfriend is, her heart knows otherwise: although Mercury is dispoised by the Moon (he is fond of her), the Moon is in no dignity of Mercury's. It is ruled by Mars: Lorna herself. Although she feels she is torn in a great passion between the two men, her emotions are really centred on herself. The long-running drama of "What am I going to do?", played out to everyone she knows, is an attempt to provide herself with emotional nourishment. That the Moon is peregrine shows that this attempt is not working.

The Moon is near the end of its present sign. If it could cross the border, it would be in Taurus, the sign of its exaltation. There, it will receive all the nourishment it needs. Taurus is ruled by Venus: her husband. If her head would let her heart go where it wants, she would find the nurturing that she craves. This will not happen while the Moon is stuck (void of course) in Aries: the Moon is ruled by her, and she is busy thinking about the other man. It is a long way off, but Venus and Mars will eventually conjunct. At 25 Cancer, they will be in mutual reception (triplicity of Mars, terms of Venus) and dispoised by the Moon: her newfound emotional strength will bring them together.

The implications of the chart are clear: stop dreaming about him, commit to the husband and the emotions will look after themselves. It is no good waiting for the emotions to move first: the void of course Moon will stick in this same situation forever. Unfortunately, with the Moon in this position, it is most unlikely that this decision will ever be made, so the situation will drag on unchanged for the foreseeable future. Here we have the problem with becoming involved at this psychological level: over the horoscope, just as over the garden fence, knowing what other people should do is easy; knowing what they will do is rather more tricky.



— *Advertisement* —

* * *

STUDY TRADITIONAL ASTROLOGY

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✧

CZECH THIS-THE ASTROLOGY OF EVENTS

Before a ball was kicked, the Czechs were 66/1 outsiders in the European Football Championships. Dumped in the so-called 'group of death' with three of the best teams in Europe, they were duly stuffed in their first match and written off as 150/1 no-hopers. So what were they doing in the final?

For all the theorising in the world, there is no substitute for the study of charts to hone our astrology. And there are few better charts to study than those for sporting events. We have a clear, unarguable outcome - team A wins, loses or draws - and we don't usually have to wait long to find out what this outcome is.

On their way to the final, the Czechs were matched against the Italians and the French: two of the most fancied teams in the competition. Both of these games were regarded as formalities, the Czechs being just minor obstacles on their illustrious opponents' paths to glory. The Czechs disagreed: they won both matches, and these victories were predictable.

The Italian Job

The first of these games, against the Italians, kicked off at 6.30pm GMT on June 14 1996 in Liverpool. Placidus houses give good results for judging contest charts. Give the Ascendant to the favourites - in this case, the Italians - and the house of open enemies, the seventh, to their opponents.

Testimonies in favour of the underdogs are clearly shown. First, Pluto is applying retrograde to the Ascendant. If Pluto were more than a couple of degrees away, or if he were not retrograde, we could ignore him: these applications need to be close. Here, he is powerful. Exactly

what Pluto signifies is - *pace* most contemporary astrologers - still something of a mystery; but he is undeniably malefic, and seems to carry a sense of self-inflicted damage.

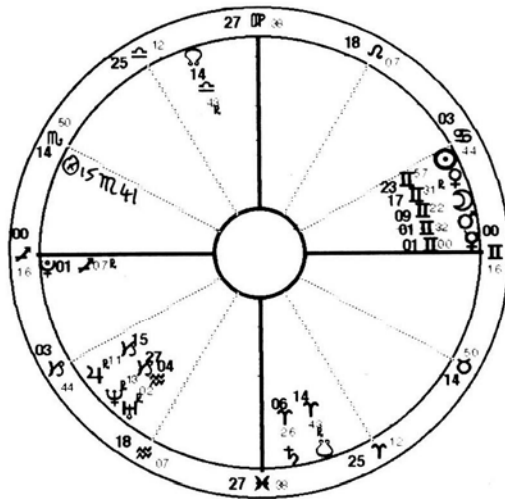
Mercury - ruler of the Descendant, and hence the planet signifying the Czechs - is strongly placed just inside its own house. The Descendant ruler rapidly loses power once it gets more than a couple of degrees inside the seventh house. But here, he too is strong.

Mercury also applies immediately to

Two members of the losing cup-finalists 1872, experiencing their Saturn returns.



conjunct Mars, which rules the fifth house. As we are dealing with a sporting contest, the ruler of the fifth is important. Here, Mercury is much the stronger planet: it is in Gemini, its own sign, and is just inside the house that it rules. Mars, at 1 degree of Gemini, has no dignity at all, so Mercury overwhelms him. Mars is also dispositor of the Part of Fortune, giving even more significance to this mugging by the Descendant ruler.



*Czechs v. Italy
June 14th, 1996. 7-30 p.m. BST
Liverpool*

The Moon's next aspects are important in judging event charts. Here, she applies to quincunx Jupiter. As Jupiter rules the Ascendant, this testimony favours the favourites. But six degrees of separation is at the utmost limit of influence for these charts: this is not enough to balance the testimonies favouring the Czechs.

Clearly, the Italians have no chance. Had the game kicked off just a couple of minutes earlier, things would have looked quite different. The Ascendant and Descendant would then have been in the late degrees of Scorpio and Taurus. Pluto would still have been close to the Ascendant, but in a different sign. The sign boundary, like an electrical insulator, would have kept his malign influence at bay.

Mars would then have been Ascendant ruler, significator of the Italians. He would still have been in the seventh, near the Descendant, but again, the difference in sign would have kept him safe.

The Italians played badly, with a man sent off and some mystifying tactical decisions. Largely by default, the Czechs won 2:1.

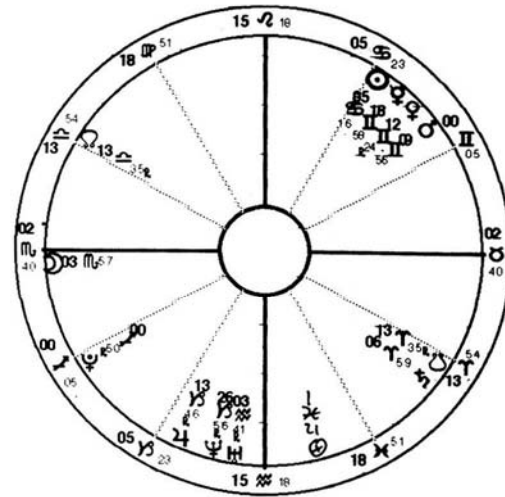
The French Leave

In the semi-finals, the Czechs met the French. Again, they were underdogs.

In this chart too, Pluto is prominent, applying retrograde onto the second cusp. After the angles, the 2nd/8th and 5th/11th axes are important; the 3rd/9th and 6th/12th don't appear to bear much significance. Again, there is the indication that the favourites will shoot themselves in the foot.

Supporting this powerful testimony, is the movement of the Moon.

She is just inside the first house, a position where she is not at all happy - itself a negative indication for the favourites. She applies to trine the Sun, Lord of the MC, which would, if only she stopped there, have been a very strong sign of a French victory. But she moves on immediately to quincunx Saturn, Lord of the IC, the turned midheaven. The Moon carries her influence to the ruler of the Czech's house of success.



*Czechs v. France
June 26th, 1996. 4-00 p.m. BST
Manchester*

In these charts, the Moon's movement is considered up to a maximum of 5-6 degrees. She carries victory with her: the last planet which she aspects within that range will be its recipient. The nature of the aspect doesn't seem significant.

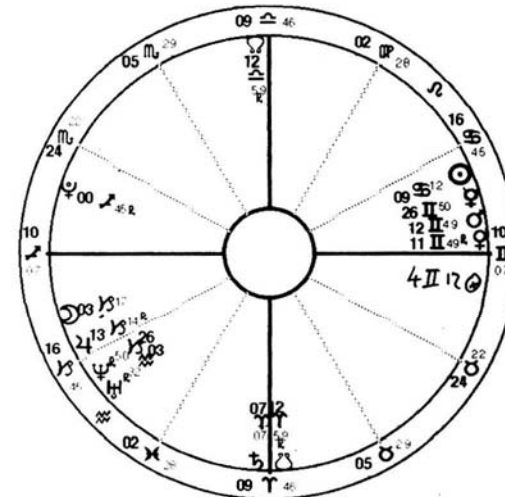
This match ended in a draw, and so was decided by a penalty shoot-out. The self-destructive influence of Pluto manifested in the French missing a vital shot, giving the match to the Czechs.

For You, the War is Over

Was there no one the Czechs couldn't beat? In the final, they faced the Germans, who, having knocked out England, were undeniably the best team in the world. Once again, the Czechs were underdogs.

The key testimony in this chart is the position of Venus, ruler of the MC. She is just inside the seventh house. This would normally show the favourites losing - the ruler of their victory is inside, and so controlled by, the opponents house. On the other hand, however, if the ruler of the MC is applying to the seventh cusp, it is strong testimony of the favourite winning - their victory controls the opponents house.

Here, Venus is retrograde, so although she is inside the house, she is still applying to the cusp.



*Czechs v. Germany
June 30th, 1996. 7-00 p.m. BST
London*

Retrogradation indicates change; so at first the planet is treated as if she were proceeding normally on her way: that is, the favourite losing. The Czechs scored first. Then she goes retrograde and applies to the cusp. This is the change: the favourites come back into the game, equalize and then win.



*Uranus
Rising*

The key to these contest charts is to remember that the chart is mobile. This is one of the great lessons of this kind of astrology. Concentrating on birth-charts, it is easy to forget that the chart is a thing in motion. We do things to it - make solar returns to it, progress it or whatever - but all this gives us is a pile of similarly static charts.

The study of these charts has, of course, its value; but the fact that the positions of the planets at a certain moment have been set, as it were, in concrete by writing them down does not mean that the chart isn't moving. It is a snapshot of a thing in motion, and must be considered as such. That which we are studying, that which makes astrology work, is the constant movement of the planets, the music of the spheres. Stop this movement, still the vibrating string, and there is nought but silence.

THE BATTLE TO OWN TRUTH

This article is indebted to Patrick Curry's excellent 'Prophecy and Power: Astrology in Early Modern England', Cambridge, 1989. Mr Curry should not, however, be held responsible for opinions expressed here.

Isaac Bickerstaff's astrological Almanac for 1708 was apparently just one more book of predictions in an already crowded market. The first among the prophecies of notable deaths that every almanac was expected to contain, however, was that of the leading astrologer - and rival almanac-maker - John Partridge, 'upon the 29th of March next, about eleven at night, of a raging Feaver'.

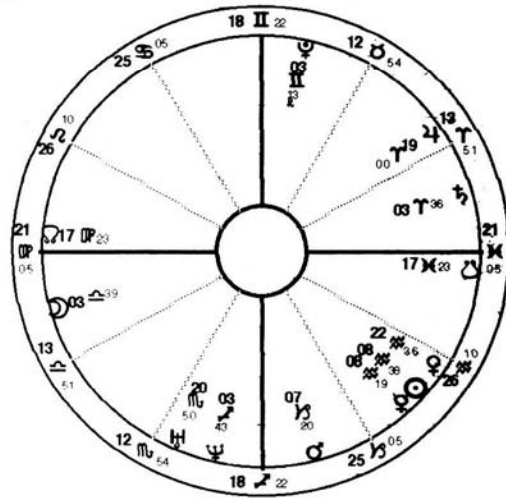
Although he was previously unknown, Bickerstaff's work attracted considerable attention, even being translated into various European languages. On March 30th, an elegy on Partridge's death was published, soon followed by an anonymous letter, describing in great detail, complete with death-bed confession of his astrological sins, the astrologer's last hours.

Partridge's own almanac appeared as usual later that year, including his ineffectual protestations that he was still alive and well. Bickerstaff rushed into print again, defending his own reputation for accurate prediction. Among other evidence, he pointed out that almanacs often continued under the same name long after their putative authors had died - as with Raphael's and Old Moore's today.

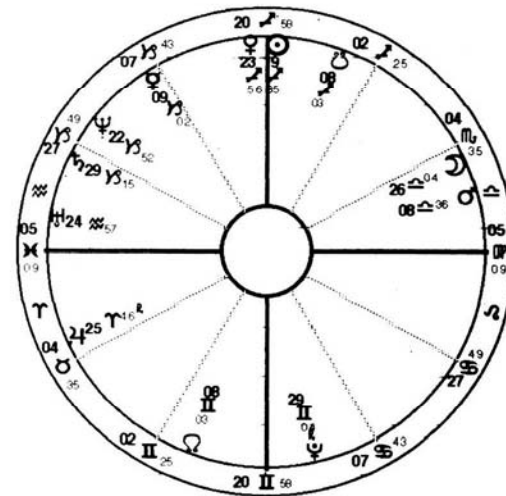
Partridge's attempts to prove himself alive were not helped by his falling out with the Company of Stationers, which prevented the publication of his almanac for the next three years. His public popularity was little affected by his apparent death, but in intellectual circles he was by now a laughing-stock. Jonathan Swift's masquerade as 'Isaac Bickerstaff' had achieved its goal.

Although Swift would see the comparison of their birth-charts as a waste of time, Partridge and ourselves might find it interesting. Swift's chart is cast for noon, so the angles must be disregarded. Their natal Mars are in close square, and both are in mutual reception - by sign and by exaltation - with their Saturns: an obvious recipe for conflict, with neither prepared to bend and both quite convinced of their righteousness. (Partridge we see as defending astrology: he would, presumably, be unlikely to waver in his conviction that he was still alive).

Partridge's Part of Death (8th+♃-♄) at 14 Libra and Part of the Killing Planet (Asc+♄-Asc Ruler) at 16 Taurus are disposed by Venus, who is then the cause of death. His Venus is on Swift's Sun/Jupiter midpoint - death



*John Partridge
Jan. 28th, 1644. 8-40 p.m. LMT
London-East Sheen 51N28 0W17*



*Jonathan Swift
Dec. 11th, 1667. Cast for noon
Dublin*

through Swift's clawing ambition for fame and position - and rules his own ninth house: death through his publications or his learning. The Part of the Killing Planet on Swift's Jupiter/Node confirms Swift's motive. The Part of Death is on the midpoint of his own Sun/Mercury conjunction and the MC: death through his career as an astrologer (Mercury traditionally rules astrology).

Swift's Jupiter, so much the impulse behind this attack, opposes Partridge's Neptune/Node. Here is the overt motive - Swift's conviction of his 'inclination to exploit, deceive and cheat other people' (Ebertin) - while Partridge's Part of Fame (by night: Asc+☉-4), at 11 Cancer opposes the antiscion of Swift's Sun: his fame is almost a personal affront to the satirist. Swift's Saturn/Pluto on Partridge's eighth cusp reveals Swift's closed-minded principles as the murder weapon. How unlike our contemporary sceptics.

Their composite chart has Mercury closely conjunct Venus and square Mars, on which aspects Rob Hand ('Planets in Composite') says: "Go ahead & say what you feel...Don't hold back...You are likely to express your feelings to each other quite forcefully". Not an inaccurate judgement.

Theirs was not just a personal squabble, however. It demands to be seen as part of a continuing battle for truth that is still being fought today.

The Old Order Changeth...

The execution of the king in 1649 symbolised the collapse of the old order. After the confusion of Protectorship and Restoration, the Glorious Revolution of 1688 saw power pass to what the historian Eric Thompson has described as 'the agrarian bourgeoisie'. Power could no longer be sustained by the idea that God had ordained it unchangeably thus: killing a king not because a rival claimant had more divine a right, but because kingship itself was no longer welcome had swept that idea irrevocably away. Kingship could be restored; its divine justification could not. A new justification for the realities of power was essential.

Swift's and Partridge's warring Mars are both disposed by Saturn: their conflict was about boundaries. Swift was part of a new union between power-holders and intelligentsia that allowed each to maintain the other in the unassailable positions of privilege that they still hold today. Where once the Church, as interpreter of God's intention, had been responsible for justifying the structures of power, this task had now been passed to Reason, in the persons of the 'wits' and the newly-born press. The rise of modern science, far from being either inexorable or inevitable, must be seen against this social background - the cultural hegemony of a particular ruling class - if its

place in our contemporary world is to be understood.

Were Swift alive today, he would no doubt be exercising his wit in one of the daily broadsheets, reassuring us that there is no possibility for structuring society other than that which we now have. If we sail beyond the limits of knowledge by attempting to even consider anything else, we will simply fall off the edge of the world, because there is nothing else there. Instead of power existing by divine right, it is now seen as existing because that is the way things are: Reason has ruled anything else to be inconceivable.

These limits of knowledge, however, are those mapped out by the intelligentsia to secure the power of those whose favour they seek. One of the key acts of the new order after 1688 was the enclosure of commons. Land that had before been available to the many by ancient right and custom was parcelled out into the possession of the few. As astrologers, we are well aware that events do not happen on just one level of reality without having their resonances elsewhere. Just as the common land was fenced and divided, so the common land of thought became strictly delimited. The riffraff were no longer to be allowed to graze there: the self-appointed bailiffs of the intellectual world, such as Jonathan Swift, were now there to keep them out.

Swift's greatest complaint in his polemics against Partridge was that Partridge had once been a cobbler. This apparently proves that astrology is rubbish. Truth has become something available only to those from a certain class or background; it is most certainly not available to the vulgar. Truth, like land, was now the private property of the ruling classes.

Here we have the connection between Swift's attacks on Partridge and the critical assault on John Keats a hundred years later. Just as Swift's main concern had been with Partridge's social background, so the wardens attempted to see Keats off the intellectual estates with the advice to go "back to the shop, Mr John, back to the 'plasters, pills, and ointment boxes.'" His having been 'bound apprentice some years ago to a worthy apothecary in town' had marked him for life: one from such a station could not possibly understand anything about poetry.

Nor is such reasoning dead: we hear still today the perennial argument that a low-life like Shakespeare could not have written those plays.

Astrology and poetry both concern themselves with truth at a deep level: a level deeper than that of Jonathan Swift, most modern scientists and those on the line of descent in between. Like poets, astrologers can be the unacknowledged legislators of our time. In an age whose structure is divinely ordained, unacknowledged legislators can be accommodated. When the lineaments of power are laid out by man,

those who hold the power prefer to keep all legislation, acknowledged or otherwise, firmly within their grasp.

Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted

One major consequence of enclosure was the distancing of the rulers from the ruled. Property became much more closely defined: you may not walk on what is mine, and I shall build walls and employ wardens to keep you off. The aura of divinity having slipped from the rulers, too close a contact with their subjects threatens the realisation that they are just as vulgar and unspeakable as the rest of us. In the same way, the intellectually unspeakable, such as astrology, is resolutely excluded from the grounds of respectable thought. Once we are allowed within the palaces of intellect, the possibility will inevitably arise that all need not necessarily be just as it is - a possibility with effects not merely in the intellectual sphere.

It is probably worth extending consideration of the social and economic milieux of the great assault on astrology to the massive expansion in both the scope and volume of world trade that happened at this time. So swift and so vast was this expansion that the hundred years from the beginning of the Protectorship is known to historians as the Century of Trade.

Most of this trade went by sea: a hazardous enterprise at the best of times; all the more so in time of war. Since antiquity, one of the uses of astrology has been to help merchants reduce their risk by forewarning them of dangers, natural or man-made. Every port had its resident astrologers, who would be consulted before a



*THE VULGARIAN KEATS,
UNACKNOWLEDGEDLY LEGISLATING —26—*

voyage, as well as advising the time and place at which arriving cargo should be sold.

The risks of wave and war do not, however, fall on rich and poor alike. John Smith, the modest merchant with a couple of ships, is ruined by the loss of one or both. Sir John Smith, his wealthy rival, can lose ships from his fleet and still grow richer from the others that survive. Misfortunes helped the larger players increase their market share at the expense of their smaller rivals. The awareness of this fact probably contributed to the length and frequency of the wars between the trading nations; if it is an exaggeration to claim that it was a conscious motive in the attacks on those who could help the smaller traders avoid misfortune, there can have been few among the wealthy who wept to see their rivals denied this valuable advice.

Society was changing radically and fast. The old order of society, 'characterized by mutual obligations, reciprocity and deference',¹ fitted well with the assumptions of astrology, whose principles are much the same, in a way that the brave new world of irresistible and omnipotent market forces could not. This does not, of course, reflect at all on the truth or otherwise of astrology, merely on the ability of inhabitants of a certain society to comprehend it.

Things do not happen on just one level, and another key change in this same historical period was the growth in imperialism as a deliberate policy of state. It is perhaps not fanciful to extend our comparisons to a typical imperialist scenario.

The rulers of the nation can be seen as an imperialistic power; the world of thought as a poor, foreign country, of no immediate interest to them, but producing the raw materials that enable them to maintain their own prosperity. This impoverished land of thought is ruled by a corrupt and blinkered aristocracy (the scientists and wits), kept in power with the connivance of the imperialistic nations, to the detriment of the people that live there. When the people become too troublesome, their rulers cry out for direct intervention from the imperialists to sustain their rule: this is not dissimilar to Dawkin's desperate appeal that the nation's rulers should wade in and start prosecuting astrologers. Unfortunately, we representatives of what might be seen as the intellectually oppressed masses fall into the classic revolutionary trap: too busy squabbling among ourselves to concentrate on our immediate goal.

As astrologers, operating beyond the pale of civilisation, we are, like it or not, potential revolutionaries. It is not of immediate concern whether this school or that school of astrology is of more value: today's battle is to establish that there is more in heaven and earth than is

¹ Marcus Rediker, *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea*, Camb. 1987.

dreamed of in Swift's or Dawkin's leaden philosophy. We cannot stand by starving while those who have fenced in the fields of thought as their own let them lie fallow for want of knowing how to farm them.

THE CALCULATION OF FORTUNA

- a note by Louise Hutson.

There is controversy over how the Part of Fortune should be calculated. Ptolemy writes: "Take as the Lot of Fortune always the amount of the number of degrees, both by night and by day, which is the distance from the Sun to the Moon and which extends to an equal distance from the Horoscope in order of the following signs in order that, whatever relation and aspect the Sun bears to the Horoscope, the Moon also may bear to the Lot of Fortune, and that it may be as it were a Lunar Horoscope."

That is, count the number of degrees from the Sun to the Moon and extend this number from the Ascendant. This is the same as adding together the number of degrees of the Ascendant and the Moon, and then subtracting the number of degrees of the Sun from that.

Conversely, Arabic scholars like Albumassar favoured the following method: when two planets involved in the extraction of a Part are equal in signification, the extraction is begun, in a diurnal figure, from the diurnal planet, because then the day prevails over the night and ought to be preferred to it. The reverse is true in a nocturnal chart. Hence, regarding the extraction of the Part of Fortune from the Luminaries, because the Sun is a diurnal planet, calculations begin from the Sun in the day. Similarly, because the Moon is stronger in nocturnal charts, calculations are begun from the Moon at night.

I prefer the method advocated by Ptolemy, using the same calculation by night and day, not least of all because, unlike the Arabic scholars, I am not of the opinion that the Sun and Moon possess equal strength for good. In instances where the planet is combust or under the Sun's rays, the Sun displays too many of the qualities of a malefic to be considered wholly beneficent in influence. It is also interesting to note that in Hindu astrology the Sun is unequivocally considered a malefic.

The Moon, although strongly influenced by aspecting planets,

exhibits a generally a more benefic influence, and for this reason should be first considered when calculating the Part of Fortune. Furthermore, the Part of Fortune is otherwise known as the Part of the Moon or Lunar Horoscope, a strong indication that the Moon should take prominence in its calculation.

When assessing the strength of Fortuna, it seems reasonable that, as the Moon is seriously afflicted in the Via Combusta (15 Libra - 15 Scorpio), her Part should be considered debilitated here as well. On the rule of thumb scale given by William Lilly, I would suggest this warrants a score of -5, a suggestion that awaits confirmation in practice.

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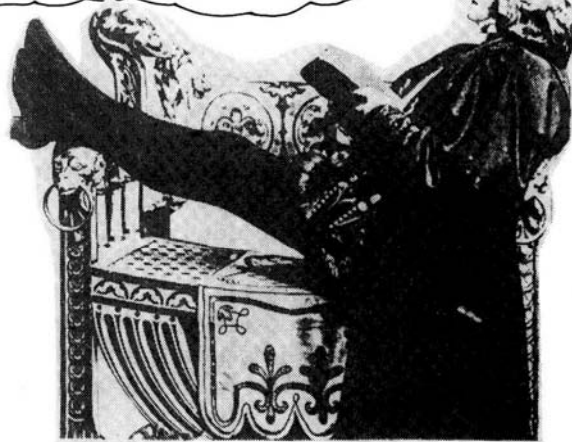
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THE MALEFIC SUN

Through most of astrology's long history, the Sun has been a planet to be viewed with some caution: it can be more destructive than either Saturn or Mars. Anyone who has ever spent an hour too long on the beach will well understand why.

When a planet is close to the Sun, it is weakened. By how much depends on how close it is and whether it is getting closer or farther away. The exception is Mars, who shares the Sun's hot and dry nature, and revels in being near his fiery rays.

Within eight and a half degrees of the Sun, a planet is *combust*, provided that they are both in the same sign. If the Sun is at 28 Aries and Jupiter at 2 Taurus, Jupiter is not combust. Combustion is the most serious debility a planet can suffer. If within seventeen degrees of the Sun, a planet is *under the sunbeams*: debilitating, but much less so. If the distance between planet and Sun is diminishing, the planet is weakened more than if it is increasing.

Opinion differs over whether a planet can be under the sunbeams in a different sign to the Sun. The argument against, which seems prevalent, is that as the ancient authorities did not mention this, they must have taken it for granted. With reasoning like this, it is easy to see why astrologers are not taken seriously. The ancients are careful to mention that combustion takes place only within the same sign; while there is no reason why their uniform silence should not mean that they took this for granted with the sunbeams, it is far more likely that they didn't mention it because it simply doesn't apply.

The Orbs

The dimensions of the various orbs around the Sun do not, as is often suggested, have anything to do with whether or not a planet is visible at a certain distance from the Sun. A rule by visibility would not be affected by sign boundaries, would vary from planet to planet - Venus being visible much closer to the Sun than the others - and is difficult to reconcile with the varying levels of debility: a planet is either visible or it isn't.

These orbs are determined by the Sun's size. Ben Ezra gives 35 minutes of arc as the visible size of the Sun's disc. This obviously varies: his figure is presumably a typical one. A planet within seventeen and a half minutes of the Sun, that is, within the Sun's disc, is *cazimi* or *in the heart of the Sun*: it is greatly strengthened, like a man raised up to sit beside the king. The figure usually given for the outer limits of the

Sunbeams is 17 degrees. It seems reasonable that this is based on the Sun's orb being 35 degrees, stepped up from the size of its disc at 35 minutes, so its moiety (half of the orb: the distance the orb extends in any one direction) should be seventeen and a half degrees. The area of combustion is half this, and so, to be pedantic, should be eight and three-quarter degrees. The tradition quoted by Ben Ezra in The Book of Reasons - for translating which we must thank Project Hindsight - was probably forgotten, hence the slight rounding off of the figures.

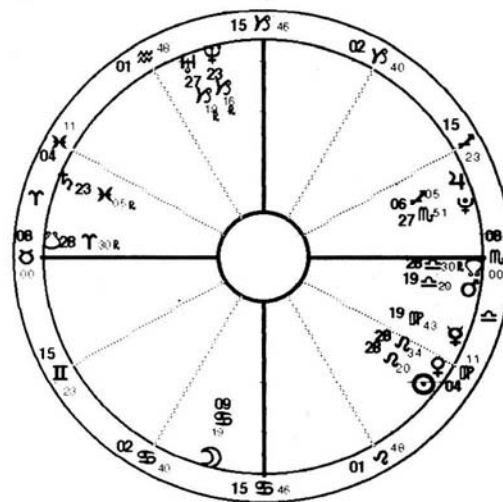
When will the dry spell end?

During last summer's drought this horary chart was cast for the question "When will it rain?" The chart shows the picture perfectly. The querent is not personally involved in the question, so the first house shows the country or general state of affairs. It is ruled by Venus, which is right next to the Sun in hot, dry Leo. The country was in an oven.

The Sun, in Leo, is at its strongest, while Venus is *cazimi*. It can't get much hotter - at least, not in England. Venus herself is moist - this is the general nature of the country - but this closeness to the Sun in a hot, dry sign leaves her unable to manifest this moisture. *Cazimi* may be strengthening, but this strengthening can manifest only within the context of the situation.

But Venus and the Sun are fast approaching the end of Leo. Venus is one and a half degrees from slipping into Virgo, so taking one degree to show one day, there will be some change the day after next. Virgo is also a dry sign, and Venus is in its fall there, so her moist nature will still not be strongly evident, although she will no longer be combust.

Moving out of combustion brings some relief; but it will be only slight. Venus is, as we have seen, still hampered, and it is reasonable to assume that she will still be under the sunbeams, despite crossing signs. She is still weak and heavily influenced by dryness. Virgo is cold as well as dry, so we can judge that the day after next



*When will it rain?
Aug. 21st, 1995. 10-10 p.m. BST
London*

there will be a drop in temperature and a small amount of rain, as Venus struggles to manifest her moist nature. This is what happened: it was one of those days which forever promise rain, but provide only a few drops.

The day after that, the Sun joined Venus in Virgo, so she was back to being combust: dry again. Venus then applied to square Jupiter, god of rain. He is strong, in his own sign. Still taking one degree to show one day, this gives us storms on the eighth day after the question was asked, which is what happened. Venus was still combust, however, and still in a dry sign, so this was just an isolated outbreak and the heatwave continued.

The usual image applied to proximity to the Sun is that of illness. A planet combust is like a man seriously ill on his sick-bed. A planet under the Sun-beams is unwell, but not so badly. Now, it is quite possible that Venus in this chart suddenly felt completely cured, leapt off her sick-bed and behaved as normal for one day before just as suddenly relapsing. It is more likely that she had one day when she felt a little bit better, sat up in bed and had some toast and beef tea, after which she felt thoroughly unwell again. Obviously, one example chart proves nothing; but this reading of the rule about under the Sunbeams does, in this case, provide a correct and verifiable judgement.

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John Frawley is a Qualified Horary Practitioner and member of the Association of Professional Astrologers. He is tutor on the Qualifying Horary Diploma Course, editor of *The Astrologer's Apprentice* and writes for several other astrological magazines. His fees are from £25 per question, and his phone number for consultations is

0181.365.2553.

THE ACID TEST



When we consider the mighty ebb and flow of history, we tend to neglect the massive influence that drugs have had on society. The age of astrology's decline, the 17th-18th centuries, was the age when caffeine culture supplanted what had previously been an alcohol culture in our society. Caffeine is the defining drug of our society today.

Of course, our society still consumes a great deal of alcohol. But drinking is something a bit special: it is remarked upon. Caffeine is the drug we take all the time, without even thinking about it. It is the drug we least regard as a drug. There is not even a word in common parlance for being intoxicated on caffeine, which shows how prevalent is its use: it is assumed that we all are, most of the time.

Alcohol is, in its usage if not its abuse, a uniting drug. It draws people together. Caffeine is strongly individualising, driving users away from their feelings into their heads. It was presumably the drug of choice among the builders of the Tower of Babel. Without implying direct causation, it is certainly not co-incidental that the rise in the use of caffeine accompanied the decline of astrology, and one way of framing the problem we have today in presenting astrology to the public is to see it in terms of presenting deep modes of thought in a caffeine culture - a culture where the word comes before the thought, and thinking among even those our society regards as intellectuals is notable mainly for its superficiality.

The influence of LSD on our society has been immense. To give two very obvious examples: since the sixties, there has been no aspect of visual design which has not been influenced by LSD; while the world

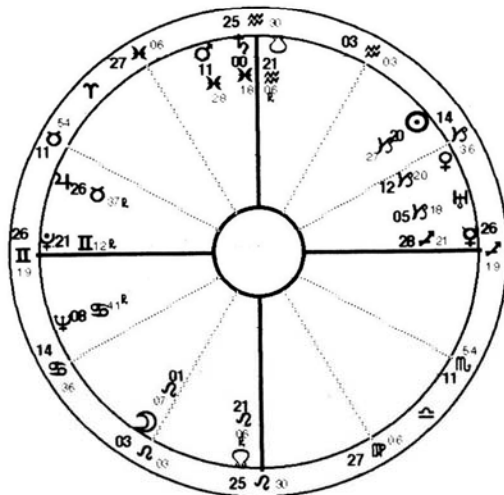
of the computer, in both software and hardware, is LSD driven. To use a blasphemous metaphor, it is almost as if computers as we now have them are the Word of LSD made flesh. As LSD seemed once to be every individual's private space programme, the computer seems now to be the individual's legitimised acid trip. And the importance of computers in our world is, of course, growing by the day.

The Birth of a Problem Child

Albert Hofmann, the Swiss chemist who discovered LSD did not, we are assured, deliberately set out to get wired. He was looking for a circulatory stimulant - at least, that's what he told his parents. But it was he who discovered acid, while other chemists discovered penicillin or paracetamol. It is this that he will be remembered for, and he has revelled in the role of the Father of LSD, so there should be a clear signature in his birth-chart. He was also the first person to synthesise psylocybin - though what he claimed to be looking for when he did that has not been recorded.

Disciplined Saturn, Lord of the 9th house of knowledge, learning, exploration, in the 10th house of profession shows Hofmann working in science. Saturn has just entered a new sign - his learning is breaking new ground - and is dispoited by Jupiter - it is to do with expansion. We shall be seeing a lot of Jupiter.

Hofmann's Part of Fame (Asc+4 -☉) is at 2 Scorpio: this is completely ruled by Mars - sign, triplicity, terms & face. In its unrefined form, as ergot, a disease of grain, LSD has been around forever. Its effect was known as St Antony's Fire - even in the 1950s there were outbreaks in France. This name is a clue to its essential



Albert Hofmann
Jan. 11th, 1906. 2-00 p.m. GMT
Basle 47N33 7E36



Hofmann brews up.
One lump or two?

nature: LSD is ruled by Mars. Someone who takes acid' - again, Mars - gets smashed, stoned or wrecked: all good, violent Mars imagery. So Hofmann's fame is through Mars. The Part of Fame is on the midpoint of Neptune (generally associated with drugs) and the MC - fame through drugs, or through illusions - and is on the Fixed Star Princeps, associated with scientific research.

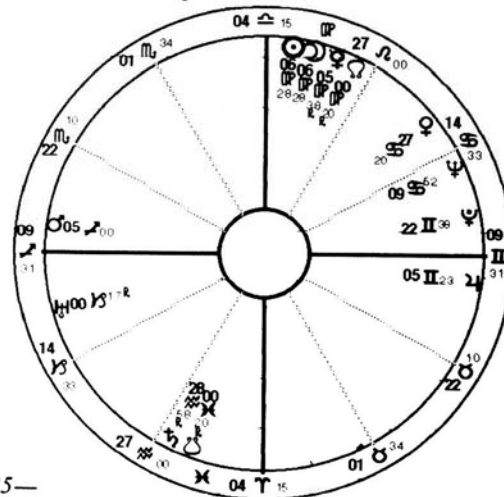
Hofmann referred to acid as his 'problem child'. The Lord of his 5th, the house of children, is Mercury: very strongly placed, his most angular planet, in a very ambivalent position so close to the Descendant, in the house of lovers and enemies. Mercury, the planet of the mind, is in Sagittarius, ruled by Jupiter, planet of expansion. This wrestling between Mercury and Jupiter is going to be a recurrent theme in these charts. The word 'psychedelic' means literally 'mind-manifesting'. The mind, Mercury, is being manifested - in the sense of displaying or showing - by Jupiter.

What else can we find out about this problem child? The cusp of Hofmann's 5th house is on the Mercury/Ascendant midpoint: according to Ebertin, the biological correspondence of this is "the reception of stimuli through the sense organs." This is what the child will be concerned with. In Sagittarius, Mercury is in its detriment, so we have a stimulus, and we have a mind that is adversely affected, suggesting that it might be overwhelmed by this stimulus. Mercury is also conjunct the fixed star Sinistra, which is connected with poisoning. The picture begins to build up. There is a lot of poisoning in these charts. The 5th cusp is also conjunct the fixed star Markeb, connected with voyages. Markeb is of Jupiter nature, but mixed with Saturn: already, inbuilt in the birth-chart of LSD's father, is the signature of the bad trip.

The midpoint of Mercury and Jupiter, the focus of the tension between the mind and the principle of expansion, the 'mind-manifesting' or psychedelic point, falls on Mars, the dispositor of the Part of Fame and significator of LSD. This is where Hofmann found his fame: the psychedelic experience of Mars - St Antony's Fire.

An event that has had as much influence as the discovery of LSD will be presaged in the chart for the previous eclipse. The eclipse was at 6 Virgo. In this chart, Mercury is in Virgo, which is both its sign and its exaltation, and is also in its own terms. It is ruler of both the day and the hour. It would be hard to find a chart with Mercury more emphasised. But it is

*Pre-birth eclipse
Aug. 30th, 1905
1-13 p.m. GMT. Basle.*





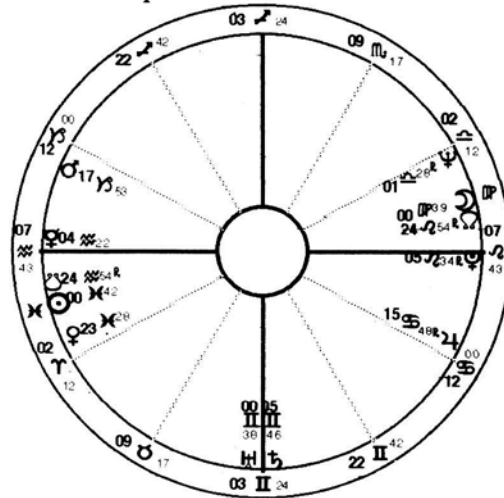
retrograde and seriously combust. There is a great emphasis on the mind, powerfully stimulated, yet malfunctioning. It seems to be fusing, burning up. And there is an immediate square to Jupiter, to which both Mercury and Jupiter are applying: this great principle of expansion is coming out of Gemini, in the terms of Mercury as well, harping on this Mercury chord, and blowing it apart. The eclipse falling at the same place - in the sign, exaltation and terms of Mercury - emphasises this still more. And Mars - LSD - makes the T-square, also immediately applying to the square with Mercury. As an astrological picture of Blowing the Mind, this could not be bettered.

The degree of the nodes emphasises the Jupiter/Mercury tension: just into Virgo, the most emphatically Mercurial of the Mercury signs, and Pisces, the most expansive and dissolving of Jupiter's. This early degree gives emphasis to this tension, and will run like a theme through other related charts.

By the time Hofmann was born, Saturn, which we have seen indicating his choice of profession, has come onto the degree of the node: he is picking up on the promise of this eclipse.

The time at which that promise was realised is given by the eclipse before the discovery. This fell right on the sensitive point, 0 Pisces / 0 Virgo. Saturn - Hofmann's science and profession - is at 5 Gemini, on the Jupiter of the pre-birth eclipse. So this eclipse governs the period at which the promise of the pre-birth eclipse, encapsulated in Hofmann's work, is to be fulfilled. Mercury, the mind, is peregrine, wandering first, by mutual application, into opposition with Pluto - mind, how you go! - and then to trine Saturn, with mutual reception by sign. So the particular channel through which Hofmann's work is manifesting is through the mind, and, opposed Pluto,

something extremely disruptive to the mind. Mercury is conjunct the fixed star Bos - 'clever and piercing intellect' - though, being peregrine, this intellect will be disordered.



*Pre-discovery eclipse
Feb. 20th, 1943
5-38 a.m. GMT. Basle.*

The Mercury/Saturn trine is emphasised, as Saturn is conjunct Prima Hyadum, a star of Mercury/Saturn nature: it is as if this is the whole drive of this particular chart. The angularity of these three planets pins down to Hofmann's location the place where this potential would manifest. Prima Hyadum is also associated with poisoning - and wounds to the head. Blowing the mind. According to Ron Davison, this Mercury/Pluto aspect indicates that travel is likely. The world was getting ready for a trip.

As an eclipse is timed by the Sun and Moon, the midpoint of the Sun and MC will show what this eclipse, at this particular place, will be noted for: its public face. This midpoint falls on Mars: St Antony's Fire. Mars and Jupiter have just mutually separated from opposition. By the time of the discovery, Jupiter had turned direct and was opposing Mars in this chart, conjunct the star Wasat, which, again, is associated with poisons.

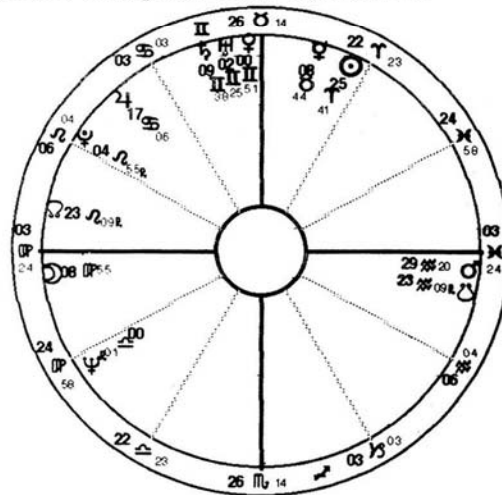
The First Trip



Hofmann's first experience with LSD was accidental. The only time I have for this is 'afternoon', so the angles of this chart must be ignored. The most notable thing about this is the Sun, falling exactly on his natal Asc/MC midpoint: this experience is what he is here for. This is also the midpoint of Saturn/Pluto in the pre-birth eclipse and natal charts, which Ebertin says is connected with scientific research and magical initiation. So Hofmann's vocational

destiny is touched off, and the chart also shows the way in which this destiny was manifested. The Sun crossed this point once a year; but there are other details of timing, particularly around Saturn, which pick out which particular year will be important.

This is also his natal Sun/Moon midpoint: this is the moment when destiny taps him on the shoulder. The whole potential of his life springs out at him in this accident. It works through scientific research, and is defined more closely yet: it is also on the midpoint of Mercury/Jupiter on the pre-trip eclipse - this tension between the mind and the principle of expansion; psychedelia; blowing



*Accidental Trip
Apr. 16th, 1943. Afternoon
Basle*

the mind. Poor little Mercury, on the Mars/Jupiter mid-point, has St Antony's Fire (Mars) and the principle of expansion (Jupiter) ganging up on him: his mind doesn't know what it's got coming.

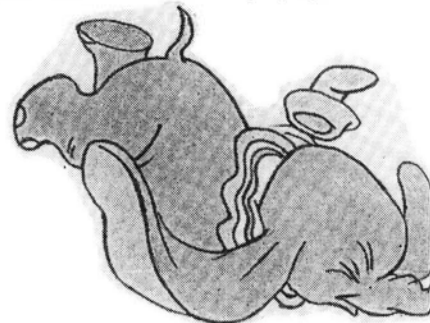


The accidental trip was on the Friday. When he got back to work on the Monday, Hofmann did what any scientist investigating circulatory stimulants would do: he put some in his mouth and went for a bike-ride. He had rather a rough time of it. In this chart for the first deliberate trip, the birth-chart of LSD, the timing is that given by Hofmann himself, so the angles can be considered.

The Ascendant is conjunct Labrum, a fixed star associated with the Holy Grail and said to confer psychic power. The Ascendant axis here is on the antiscion of the MC axis at the pre-birth eclipse, while the MC here is on his natal Ascendant: the promise is coming home. The IC emphasises by conjunction the star Aculeus, which afflicts the eyesight, and is on the antiscion of his natal Uranus: a natal propensity to have his perception disrupted is sparked off by this event.

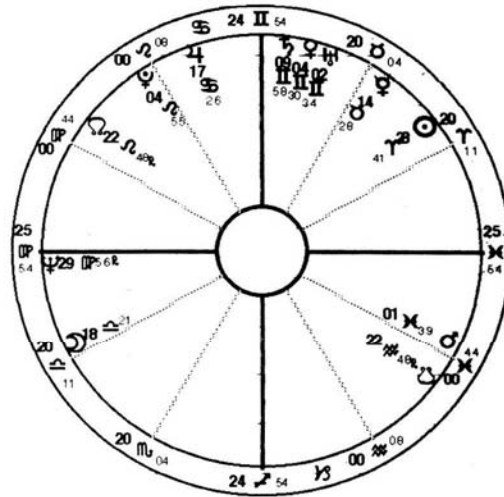
Saturn, Hofmann's work and career, is now conjunct Aldebaran, a star of Mars nature, while Mars - St Antony's Fire - falls on that same sensitive degree at the start of Pisces: the pre-birth nodes, his natal Saturn, the pre-trip eclipse. According to Robson, Saturn on Aldebaran gives 'strange mind'. This is how Hofmann's work and scientific knowledge manifested itself: strange mind. Robson also points out that the magical image of Aldebaran is a flying man. This degree is on the Descendant of the pre-birth eclipse, and is opposed the antiscion of Hofmann's natal Sun, which Saturn disposes, so again we see the promise of the birth being fulfilled here, through the placement of Mars - St Antony's Fire. The antiscion of the Sun here is at 1 Virgo, pulling us back to that same sensitive axis. This shows the timing of the event: within the limits given by the previous eclipse, the Sun (antiscion 1 Virgo) and the Moon - antiscion conjunct the natal Mars - define the hour, and the exact timing is perfected by the angles.

The Part of Fame in this chart - what the event of this particular moment will be remembered for - falls on the Mercury/Jupiter midpoint: the same psychedelic, mind-manifesting point. At 14 Sagittarius this is in the sign of Jupiter and the terms of Mercury. It is also on the Mars Neptune midpoint, which Ebertin connects with narcotics, and also with



the misuse of physical powers. It has obvious reference to illusions (ψ) through LSD (σ). As a Jupiter part (Asc+ μ - \odot), the Part of Fame can be seen as a kind of displaced or idealised position for Jupiter, in the same way that the Part of Fortune can be judged as a displaced Moon. Mars/Neptune on Jupiter gives, according to Ebertin, 'a rich and colourful imagination'. Which is what this moment is famous for.

Jupiter, principle of expansion, conjuncts Wasat - chemicals and poisons. It opposes the antiscion of his natal Venus: Jupiter, it seems from Hofmann's account, was being a bit overwhelming, giving this trip its unpleasant result. And Jupiter is exactly opposed Mars in the pre-trip eclipse, bringing this Mars - LSD - to afflict his natal Venus. The conjunction of Venus and Uranus on Prima Hyadum - where Saturn was before - suggests poisoning and blows to the mind. Venus is ruler of the 9th - going on a voyage - but is besieged by two malefics and applies immediately to aspect Pluto: this particular voyage will be intense, but fraught. Finally, the sensitive OVirgo/Pisces axis that has run through these charts falls on the 12th cusp. In traditional astrology, the 12th is the house of child-birth: this chart shows Hofmann's problem child being born.



*The birth-chart of LSD. First deliberate trip.
Apr. 19th, 1943. 4-20 p.m. MET
Basle*

This article continues in our next issue, dealing with two of the landmarks in the history of LSD: the Acid Test and the turning on of the Beatles. Starring John Lennon, Ken Kesey, Timothy Leary, Sgt Pepper, the Grateful Dead and a cast of thousands. Hasta la vista.

can YOU pass
the Acid Test?

MAKING MONEY

- a horary by Gerasime Patilas

I had a few hundred Swiss francs and wanted to know whether the tourist rate would go up or down by close of market on Friday.

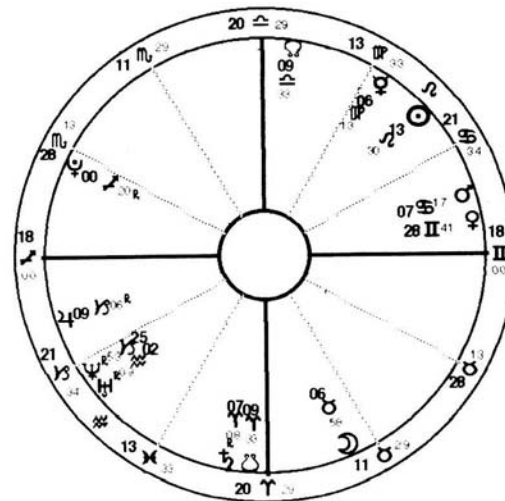
As the querent, I am shown by the Ascendant, in Sagittarius, its ruler, Jupiter, and the Moon. The Moon is in Taurus, a sign connected by Lilly with Switzerland, reflecting the subject of the question.

The question concerns my money. Would it gain or lose in value by the end of the week? My money is a second house matter, and so is shown by the sign on the second cusp, Capricorn, and its ruler, Saturn. I get my information through the newspapers, so Saturn's position in the third is appropriate.

Saturn is in poor condition. Aries is the sign of its fall, a very literal indication that the value of my money would decrease by Friday. Saturn is retrograde, so any upward movement has stopped. Its peregrine status (without any essential dignity) confirms that the franc will weaken. The close proximity to the malefic South Node is not helpful.

Saturn makes no major aspects in the near future, as, although it is applying to sextile Uranus, this aspect is never perfected. This is an indication of stagnation, nothing much happening.

Judgement: The Swiss franc will fall in value, but only slightly.
(And so it proved - Ed.)



Will my money
gain or lose
value?
Aug. 5th, 1996
4-18 p.m. GMT
South London
51n25
0u04

WHERE AND WHEN?

I phoned one of my correspondence students. She had not yet arrived home from work, but her mother asked if I had posted her last assignment of homework back to her, as it was overdue. I had done, a week before; so I set this chart for the question "When will my student get her homework back?" The chart illustrates some interesting points of horary technique.

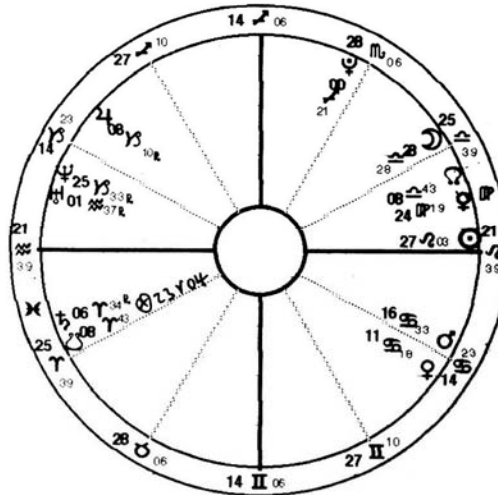
As the querent, I am shown by Saturn, ruler of the first house, and the Moon. Tuition is shown by the ninth house; the student, therefore, as the person receiving the tuition, is shown by the third. This gives Venus as signifier of the student.

Venus is on the cusp of the 6th house, about to enter it. Taking the third house as the student's first, the sixth house is her fourth, the house of the home: the chart shows that she is on her way home.

An ordinary letter would be third house; but this question specifies that this is not just any letter, but her homework, so it is shown by the student's ninth house

- the eleventh of the radical chart. This is ruled by Jupiter. At 8 Capricorn, Jupiter has no essential dignity: it is peregrine, classically described as 'like a homeless wanderer'. It is in its fall, so weakened - something is wrong. But it is retrograde: if a missing object's signifier is retrograde, it is a good sign that it will come back, especially as here, where she has sent the homework out and is now waiting for it to return.

This is simple, step by step technique: locate the student in the chart; locate the homework in the chart; now find a way to join them together. Before looking at the chart, I had expected to find the planet signifying the homework applying to the planet signifying the student, but no such luck. They are separating from aspect - in fact, they are both separating, because Jupiter is retrograde. Separating aspects show the past, and so are no use here.



*When will my sister receive her homework?
Aug. 19th, 1996. 7-58 p.m. B.S.T. London*

As the two planets are heading off in opposite directions, there can be no collection of light to bring them together (both applying to aspect the same planet). There is no immediately apparent translation of light either (another planet applying to both of them). The only planet that could do it is the Moon, but she is in a dreadful position.

The Moon, apart from co-signifying the querent, is the main indicator of 'what will happen next'. She is in the Via Combusta, the turbulent area from 15 Libra to 15 Scorpio; she is peregrine; she is in the 8th house and the terms of Mars; and, by most definitions, she is void of course. All of these are debilitating, mostly on a major scale. Had the question been "Will she get the homework back?" such a weak Moon would have been a persuasive indication that she would not. A positive outcome, however, is implied in the question, and also by common-sense, as the mail does tend to get through. The question's inherent implications are often helpful in horaries, though not always reliable - particularly, it seems, with lost object questions.

The usual interpretation of Void of Course includes only aspects made before the Moon changes signs. The theory promulgated by Sue Ward, however, includes aspects in the next sign, provided the Moon is already within orb. Here, the Moon is just about within orb of an applying sextile to Jupiter. She will then continue to trine Venus, where both she and Jupiter are received in strong dignities. This translation of light brings the homework back to the student.



Many traditional Astrology Courses employ their own Postmen.

The distance from the Moon to Venus is just under 13 degrees: this might mean thirteen hours or thirteen days. 13 degrees, however, is the Moon's average motion in one day: saying that the student would receive her homework in about 24 hours from the time of the question seemed plausible, and was correct.

This interpretation of Void of Course is not always reliable; it must nonetheless be considered when it is appropriate. Here, it is the only thing that will make the chart work, and the chart *had* to work: even if I had to send out another copy of the original homework, somehow or other she would eventually get it back, so there had to be a positive answer in

there somewhere. This was clearly it.

With the benefit of hindsight, the delay in arrival can be explained. Jupiter is weak, trapped inside Capricorn, its fall. It is dispossited by Saturn, who is Lord of the second house from the eleventh - that is, the homework's second house. Saturn itself is very weak: the homework didn't have enough money - it hadn't been stamped sufficiently.

A SONG FOR EUROPE

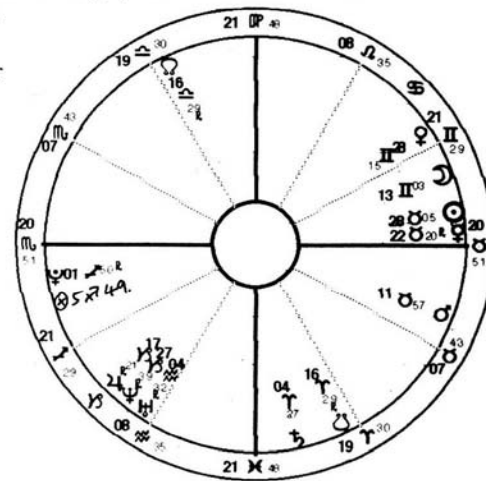
Who will win the Eurovision Song Contest? As Europe holds its breath, it seems an impossible question. The whole field is dark horses: the only song we have heard is our own, and we didn't think much of that. What is this year's criterion for success among the mysterious, invisible judges who hold the fate of a continent in their hands? Is boom-bang-a-bang back in vogue? Or heart-felt ballads about world peace? Or are we back to our folk roots? The chart reveals what even Terry Wogan can only guess at.

This chart is cast for the time and place of the start of this year's contest in Oslo. Deciding the result in a contest between two opponents can be complex, but is in principle a straightforward battle between first and seventh houses. When we have a field of more than two, it becomes much more complicated.

Sporting races, decided by one competitor doing something faster or more often than the others, depend largely on the fifth house. Contests that depend on public acclaim to decide the winner, rather than the winner's achievement of any particular goal, are mainly tenth house matters.

In this chart the Midheaven applies immediately to trine Mercury. This aspect is emphasised as Mercury is retrograde, and so also applies to the aspect, while the MC is in Virgo, ruled by Mercury. More importantly, perhaps, it is the sign of Mercury's exaltation: its place of honour.

*May 18th, 1996
8-00 p.m. B.S.T.
Oslo*



The sign will give us the country. Mercury is in Taurus; the sign associated with Poland, Switzerland, Cyprus and Ireland. This has narrowed down the field considerably. The planet will give us either the singer or the song. Ireland's entry was called "The Voice" - clear Mercury symbolism. And so we have the winner: Ireland, with the song "The Voice".

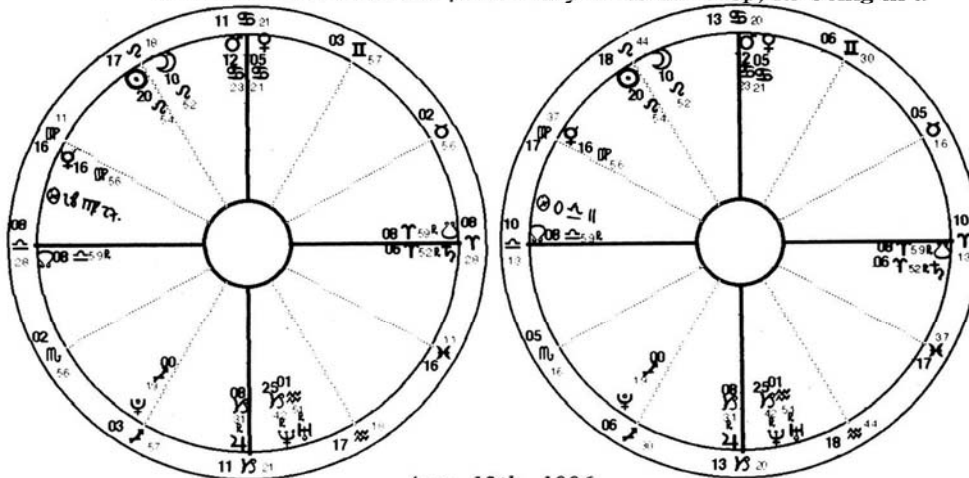
A QUESTION OF CONTROL

These two charts are cast for the same time, one in Manchester, the other in London, and so are very similar. They are the charts for the semi-finals of the NatWest cricket competition. To predict the outcome, the favourites are given the first house, their opponents the seventh. In Manchester, Lancashire were favoured to beat Yorkshire. The key to this chart is Mars, ruler of the Descendant. It is just inside the tenth house, the house of the favourite's glory or success: Lancashire won.

In the London match, Surrey were favourites to beat Essex. Here, Mars *applies* to the MC. The favourites lost.

This illustrates an important point about control. A planet applying to a house-cusp controls that house; a planet inside the cusp is controlled by it. In both cases the effect is greatly reduced once the planets are more than a couple of degrees away. The effects become negligible - for the purposes of judging contests - if the applying planet is more than five degrees off the cusp, or the contained planet is more than thirteen degrees inside the house.

No matter how close the planet may be to the cusp, its being in a



MANCHESTER

Aug. 13th, 1996
10-30 a.m. B.S.T.

LONDON

different sign puts an impenetrable barrier between them, cutting off all influence.

This is true not only of contest charts. A horary on a partnership issue, for example, might have the Ascendant ruler - representing the person asking the question - close to the Descendant, which shows the object of his desires. If they are in the same sign, that is, if the Ascendant ruler is disposed by the Descendant ruler, the querent is clearly fond of her.

If his planet is *applying* to the Descendant, he is taking action, mounting his white horse and riding to carry her off. If his planet is *inside* the seventh house, however, it is up to her to act (all other testimony being equal). Fond he may be, but it is up to her to make the running.

LILY DAY

I met her for the first time at the Via Combusta, the roughest dive in town. You'd have to be a few degrees short of a conjunction not to see this dame spelt trouble. Lily Day, she called herself. What they called her on the streets, I won't repeat. They said she was the one who put the sex in sextile. They weren't wrong. She could progress to my fifth cusp any time.

She smouldered at me from across the room. I could feel something transitting my natal Mars. Something nice. I stood still. "Not thinking of turning retrograde, are you, Toots?" she purred. It would have been the smart thing to do. But I was already under the Sunbeams and heading for combustion.

She had a voice like a grand trine with all the benefics. "Are you pleased to see me?" she asked, "Or is that an ephemeris in your pocket?" I guess I was pleased to see her. She sure had

♀♁♂.

—with mutual
reception?



some parts, and they weren't all Arabian.

Now, dolls like this don't shoot the breeze just because their Mercury's exalted. She had a malefic angular, that's for sure, and it was looking to perfect a square with my 1st ruler. But she had the wrong joe. One look at those lips and I could feel my Venus moving to prevent this square by bodily prohibition.

"You got a mute sign on your third?" she asked. Maybe not, but I sure had a bestial one rising. I felt a hand on my shoulder. It belonged to Joel Chiron. If there's ever anything piscean going down, Joel Chiron's in his triplicity. "Let me give you some converse directions," he whispered. "This is one dame with a Cauda Draconis."

"I've nothing conjunct Caput Algol, Chiron," I told him.

"That's what you think. Watch out for....." Chiron was on the floor and decreasing in light fast. Watch out for what? He was too afflicted by the Lord of his eighth to say. I'd seen some sinister aspects in my time, but this was almuten the lot.

"Guess he's moving off his cusp." Her lips were partill conjunct my ear. I guess she was dexter. I guessed a lot of things. I guessed my Sun was progressing into besiegement. I guessed there were some peregrine planets dancing around in my twelfth; and she was the one whistling the tune. I guessed it was time to move into a new sign to frustrate their applications, but I wasn't that swift in motion.

I glanced down at Chiron's open eyes. That fixed stare would afflict my radix for years to come. "He must have had a weak heart," she said. "Do you ever have your Mercury disposed by Herschel!" I thought. But I don't accept outer planet rulerships, so I kept it to myself.

Then someone slugged me - hard as a Saturn return and not so enjoyable. I went into my fall.

Worried? Perplexed? Neptunia can help. If there's a problem of technique that is puzzling you, write to Neptunia, c/o The Editor, for a caring and sympathetic answer in her column. Neptunia regrets that she is unable to enter into personal correspondence.

NEPTUNIA REPLIES...

Dear Neptunia, Only you can help me. When I came home from work today, I found my boyfriend swapping planets around. He had Mars at 17 Taurus and Venus at 25 Aries, and he said that he could swap their positions because they are in mutual reception, moving Mars into Aries and Venus into Taurus. He said his friends had told him to do it. He said

some of them keep the planets in the same degree, but some of them swap their degrees over as well. I think it's disgusting whichever way you do it.

He seems to enjoy it and wants me to join in; but I think it's unnatural. Is there a future in this relationship, or should I look for a boy who doesn't do this kind of thing?

Yours in desperation, Susan.

Dear Susan, We may not like it, but it's a fact of life that some people have a need for these practices. They say it works for them, and that is supposed to make it OK for the rest of us. Let's just have a look at it in more detail.

There is an idea that this business of swapping the positions of planets in mutual reception has been around for centuries; but it seems to have originated with Ivy Goldstein-Jacobson not so long ago. Now, I'm broadminded, so I won't say it's wrong just because it's modern; but I would like to see some theoretical justification for it, while the odd reference to any of the classical masters using this technique would go a long way towards convincing me.

Your boy-friend may have heard that when Ptolemy speaks of the planets and their 'exchange of signs' (*Tetrabiblos*, Loeb edn. p189) he is referring to this messy business of exchange in mutual reception. It seems perfectly clear to me, however, that he is talking quite simply of the planets' normal movement from sign to sign as they travel through the zodiac.

I also think it is highly unsound to draw our technical dogma from precise textual interpretation of an imperfect translation of an imperfect text written by someone who stands accused of deliberately falsifying data and quite possibly never cast a horoscope in his life. It is even more unsound to assume that if the classical authors don't mention a particular technique, they used it all the time but just never bothered to write about it. If your boy-friend thinks like that, I wouldn't trust a word he says.

So, we have no reliable authority for accepting this idea. It may yet work, which is, of course, the acid test. I suggest you sit down with your boy-friend, preferably tying his hands together first to be on the safe side, and ask him if he can show you any charts with verifiable, definite outcomes shown by this method. *Without other testimonies showing the same thing!* If he can, Neptunia would like to see them too, so ask him to send them to me c/o the editor.

In the meantime, you should try broadening your horizons and find yourself some other interests apart from boys. They all have such strange habits. Have you tried primary directions? That should keep you occupied.



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