

THE APAI CHRONYCLE

VOLUME 3 - ISSUE 1 - MARCH 2026





Happy Spring Equinox

As we enter the lighter months,
With winter darkness now a distant memory,
The creative force of nature beckons us
Towards new territory.
As she stirs within us the desire to grow,
Like spring flowers into the unknown;
Now Aries boldness and courage leads,
We can forge a way for the dreams we've sown.

-Liz Hargreaves



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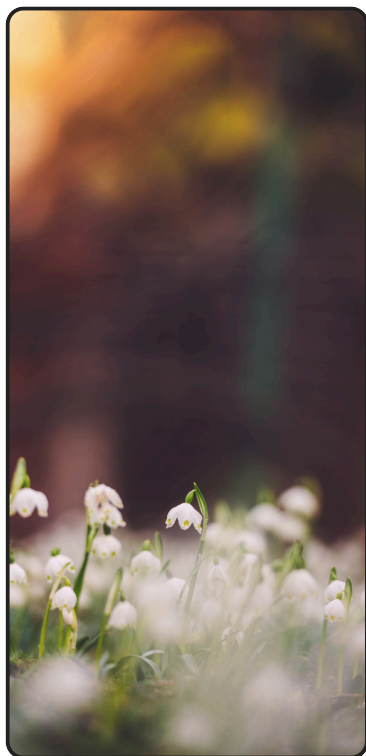
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The Opening page after the cover contains a beautiful **Spring Equinox** poem by astrologer, APAI secretary and council member **Liz Hargreaves**.



EDITOR'S DESK

Dear All,

The world has changed rapidly and dramatically since our last edition.

However, despite all of this, humanity continues to move forward. I believe this is not by accident, but because of something far more tender and yet unassailable: *kindness* and *love*. These are the forces that have carried us through history, often unnoticed, yet always present.

Recently, a dear friend and fellow astrologer, **Meghna Bhagat**, suggested that I read **Reality Transurfing** by **Vadim Zeland**. In its opening passage, the author describes being disturbed by something as ordinary as a neighbour's barking dog, and the immediate pull towards irritation and reaction. Being a fan of Stoicism, the realisation that it is not always the event that unsettles us, but the state it creates within us really hit the nail on my head. The world may present the stimulus, but our inner condition shapes the experience.

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Sharon Knight

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In times such as these, where uncertainty and tension seem to remain in the background of our collective reality, this awareness becomes really important. We may not always be able to control what unfolds around us, but we retain the ability to choose how we meet it or how we respond to it.

As always, my suggestion to all APAI members is to keep faith in humanity, and more importantly, to actively strengthen that faith through unending and unconditional love. It is this alone that has the power to keep the darkness at bay, even in times that feel uncertain or overwhelming.

I would also request each of you to consciously share messages of love, hope, and faith with your communities. Whether through your writing, consultations, newsletters or social media presence, your words carry reach and responsibility. At a time when many fellow humans seek meaning and reassurance, what we choose to communicate matters deeply.

Astrology is a profound tool, and its relevance, along with the role of the astrologer, has never been more significant than it is today. We are placed in a uniquely advantageous position, not only to interpret

the planetary position, but also to guide, support, and steady those who look to us. Let us use this position with care, responsibility, and a sense of purpose.

With this, I welcome you to a new volume of **The APAI Chronycle**. With this issue, we complete two meaningful years of the *Chronycle* and step into our third. What began as an effort to create a space for serious, thoughtful engagement with astrology has now grown into a journal shaped by the contributions, reflections, and dedication of everyone involved. This letter will be incomplete if I don't thank Liz Hargreaves, Lynn Holt and Sharon Knight for their selfless contributions to the journal. I would also like to thank each and every astrologer who has contributed to the journal over the past two years which kept us going from one step to another with motivation and confidence.

As we move forward into this new year with the birth of Spring or transition into the Autumn, may this volume continue to inform, inspire, and ground us in our shared responsibility towards the world we are part of.

On behalf of the Editorial Board,

Happy Spring

Aswin Subramanyan



**TANIA DANIELS**www.taniadaniels.com

Tania Daniels holds a degree in Business Administration and discovered her passion for astrology in 1998 after encountering an astrological interpretation of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper. She completed her training in psychological astrology in 2002 at the Berlin school of the German Astrology Association (DAV) and holds both the STA Master's Diploma in Horary Astrology and a Diploma in Hellenistic Astrology. Tania is a member of the Association of Professional Astrologers International (APAI), columnist for its journal, and honorary member of the Romanian Astrological Association.

Specializing in traditional horary and natal predictive techniques, her research explores astrology's foundations through astronomy, cross-cultural cosmologies, and religious traditions. She tutors for the Qualified Horary Practitioner (QHP) and speaks regularly at conferences.

Tania has published widely across major journals and is completing her book *Latitude, Declination, Nodes, and Apogee: The Lost Secrets of Our Ancestors*. Based in Italy, she offers consultations in four languages.

ORBS AND DIVISIONS: PART 2

WITHDRAWING OR ADVANCING?

DYNAMIC QUADRANT HOUSES

In the first part of this article, we saw that Lilly, along with many other astrologers before him, considered a planet to be in the next house if it was within 5° of the following cusp. This is one of the fundamental rules found in every horary textbook.

In Fig. 1, for example, we see the Sun in the 1st house, far away from the next cusp. In Fig. 2, Mercury is said to be in the 2nd house and Venus is read as being in the 3rd house. In Fig. 3, we find Mars in orb with the 4th house cusp.

This rule, however, applies to quadrant houses, which were used by Lilly and most other Renaissance astrologers. Horary students usually use the Regiomontanus house system, but in practice, every astrologer uses the house system they prefer.

While I do not want to enter the ongoing discussion about the "right," "wrong," "first," or "most used" house system, I would like to point out a few things. The main problem with the 5° orb rule is that it applies to every house cusp, both angular and intermediate, as I have shown in the first part of this article.

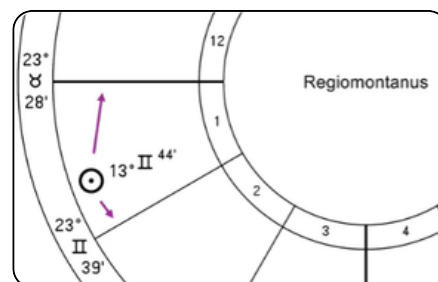


Fig 1: Sun in the 1st house

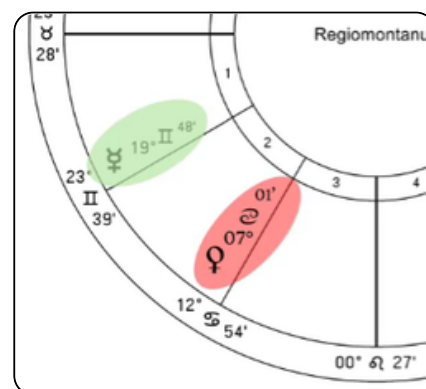


Fig 2: Planets in Intermediary Houses

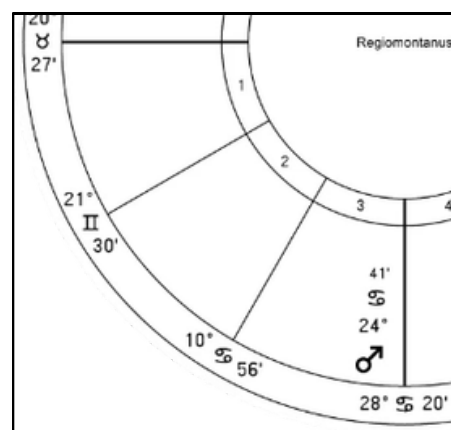


Fig 3: Mars close to angular cusp

Now, we need to consider a bit of astronomy.

While the AC marks the intersection between the horizon and the ecliptic, in other words, the point where the Sun rises, the MC represents the intersection between the local meridian and the ecliptic. Let us see this in an example.

The native has 25° Scorpio rising and the MC is at 18° Virgo. In the sky, at birth, we would see this:

Fig. 4 shows the intersection between the horizon (green line) and the ecliptic (red line) at the moment of birth at 25° Scorpio.

Fig. 5 shows the intersection between the local meridian (violet line) and the ecliptic (red line) at 18° Virgo.

In a chart, these two positions (AC and MC) can look very different depending on the house system we use. This is because the distance between the angles (AC-MC), the so-called solar arc, is divided in different ways. While we are not going into the maths of house divisions here, we need to understand what the differences in denominations mean in practice.

In Whole Sign Houses (WSH), we find the MC in the 11th

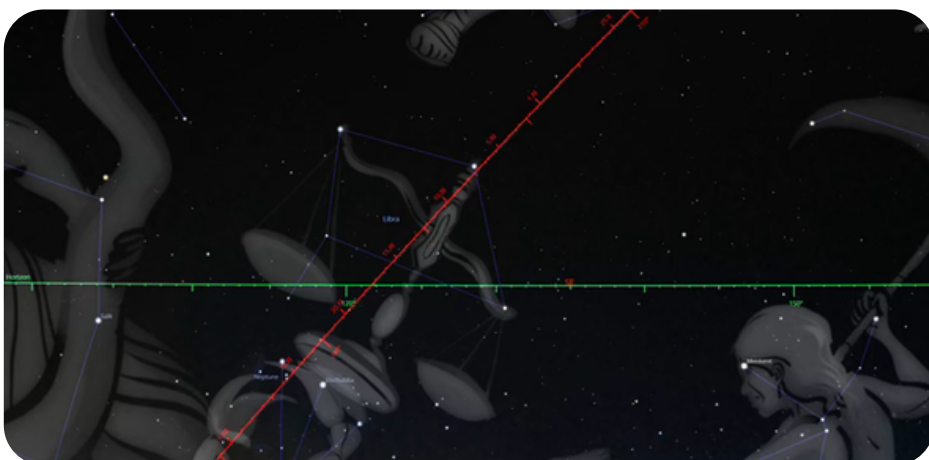


Fig 4: Ascendant

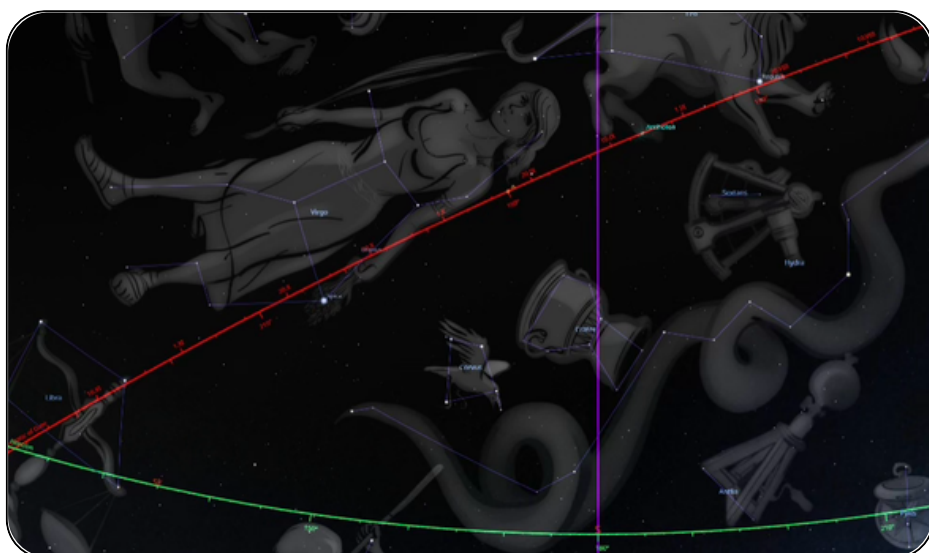


Fig 5: Medio Coeli

place, but the degree remains the same as shown in Stellarium.

All house cusps correspond to the sign boundaries. Every planet is interpreted in its sign and in its place.

But while in all geocentric tropical house systems, the

angular houses are at the same degree, the intermediate house cusps vary, except for equal houses.

In the Placidus house system, shown in Fig. 7, the AC and the MC are at the same degree as in Stellarium and the WSH chart, but now the MC marks the 10th house cusp.

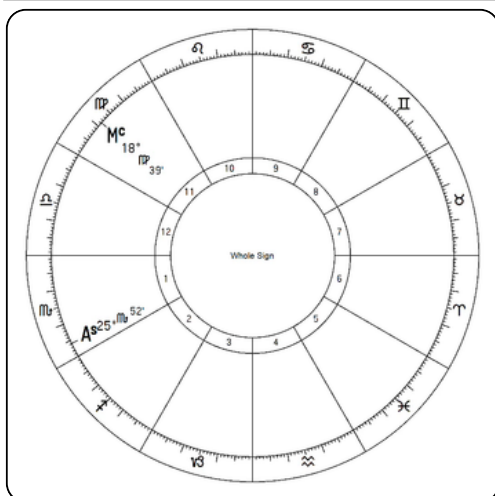


Fig 6: WSH

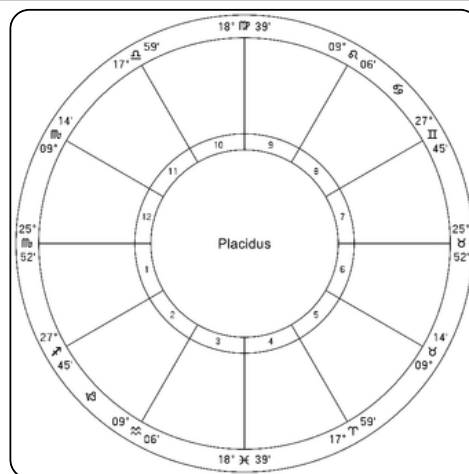


Fig 7: Placidus

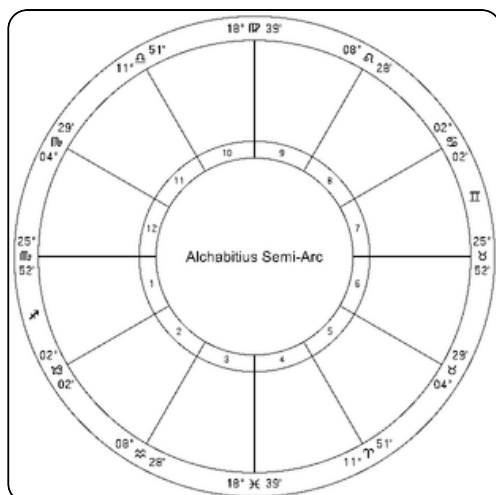


Fig 8: Alcabitius Semi-arc

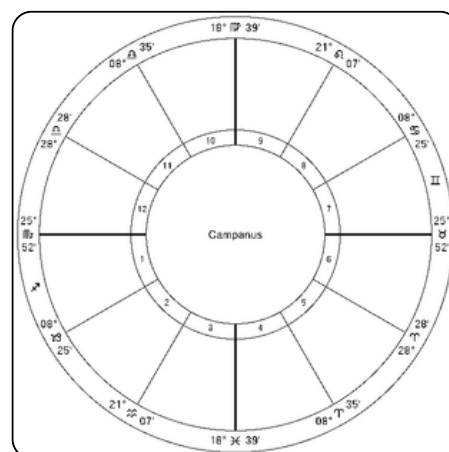


Fig 9: Campanus

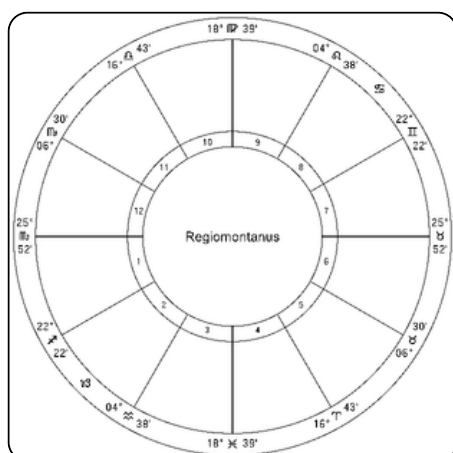


Fig 10: Regiomontanus

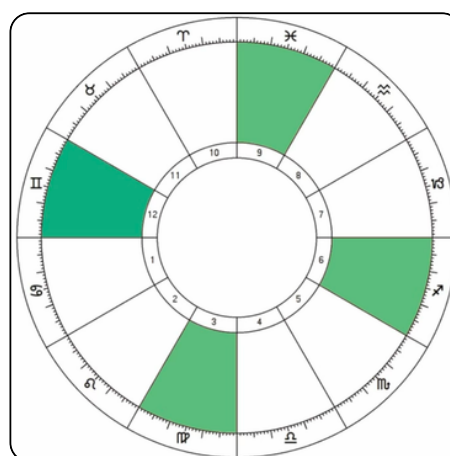


Fig 11: Cadent Places

We can also see that none of the intermediate house cusps corresponds to the Whole Sign Houses.

These differences are well known and have been the subject of many heated discussions. However, there are even more differences between the most commonly used quadrant houses.

In Alcabitius (Fig. 6), the AC and the MC are at the same degrees as in the Placidus chart; the intermediate house cusps differ hugely.

For example, the 8th house cusp is at 27°45' Gemini in Placidus, while in Alcabitius the same cusp is at 02°02' Cancer. The 12th house cusp is at 14°09' Scorpio in Placidus and at 04°29' Scorpio in Alcabitius.

In Campanus (Fig. 9), we see once again that the AC and MC are at the same degrees, but the intermediate cusps do not agree with the other two domifications. Now the 12th house cusp is at 28° Libra, while the 9th house cusp is at 21° Leo (8° in Alcabitius and 9° in Placidus).

In Regiomontanus (Fig. 10), we find the 8th house cusp at 22° Gemini; in Campanus at 8° Cancer; in Alcabitius at 2° Cancer; and in Placidus at 27° Gemini.

This makes a difference of 16° between Regiomontanus and Campanus.

The problem is that we use house cusps to define topics and time, so these gaps do matter.

As I pointed out in the first part of this article, it was not Lilly who “invented” the 5° orb rule. He found it in Ptolemy, who used it to establish the length of life of a native.

Now, things become somewhat obscure. Apparently, early Hellenistic authors used Whole Sign Houses for the delineation of the chart, meaning the 11th place showed friends, the 7th place showed marriage, etc.

However, this implies that in every chart, the 3rd, 6th, 9th, and 12th places are cadent and hence “weak.” Any planet in a cadent house would be considered weak, while planets in an angular house would always be strong. The vital dynamic of the individual was not shown.

Let us say a person has Venus in her 12th house. How would we know if her topics are neglected because she is weak, or if they show up strongly? Dignities give hints; they show the quality of the planet’s agenda, but not its forthcoming strength.

This is the reason our astro forefathers used two sets of charts. They used Whole Sign Houses for topical delineation and quadrant or divisional charts for the delineation of power.

And now we need to go back to the astronomy.

Whole Sign Houses basically only show which signs are between the AC and the DC.

Quadrant houses are distinguished between:

- Space divisions (Campanus, Regiomontanus)
- Ecliptical divisions (Porphyrus)
- Time-based divisions (Alcabitius semi-arc, Placidus, Koch)

We have already seen that the 5° orb was originally used for the length of life technique, and as the name implies, the technique was based on time. Therefore, I will only focus on time-based house systems. The best known are Placidus and Alcabitius semi-arc. These houses show when the intermediate house cusps have been (Placidus) or will be (Alcabitius) in certain positions.¹ (Except for equal houses).

The Alcabitius house system is projected to what will come to pass. The intermediate house cusps are calculated as follows:²

1. Calculate the time it takes for the degree of the AC to become the degree of the MC³. In other words, find out when the MC will be at 25°52' Scorpio. The native was born at 2:00 a.m., and the degree of the AC will rise to the MC at 6:15; hence, the time difference is 4 h 15'.
2. Divide this time by three: you will come up with 1 h 25'.
3. Add that time (1:25) to the birth time (2:00), and you come up with 3:25. At this time, you will find 11°51' Libra on the MC. This means that everything in this chart, from the actual birth MC at 18°39' Virgo to 11°51' Libra, has already culminated. So, 1/3 of the semi-arc is over. Therefore, the 11°51' mark the cusp of the 11th house.
4. Turn the chart by another 1 h 25', and now you will find 4°29' on the MC. This is the degree of the 12th house.

We can say that the Alcabitius houses show where the cusps will be when the celestial sphere continues its rotation after the birth. This is the difference with the Placidus

houses, which show where the cusps have been before the birth.

Bringing the houses together

Now the question is: which house system should I use, Whole Sign Houses or Alcabitius?

The simple answer is both.

But there is a substantial difference. We need the Alcabitius houses to show a dynamic, not the topics. We don't look at the houses for interpretation at all. Rather, we consider whether they are advancing towards or withdrawing from the stake or angle.

This is the chart of the English poet and painter William Blake's chart. We use these Whole Sign House (WSH) places for the topics of his life.

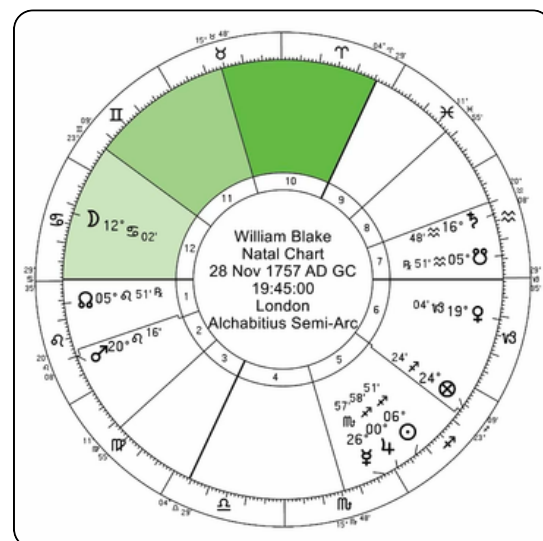


Fig 13: Blake's semi-arc

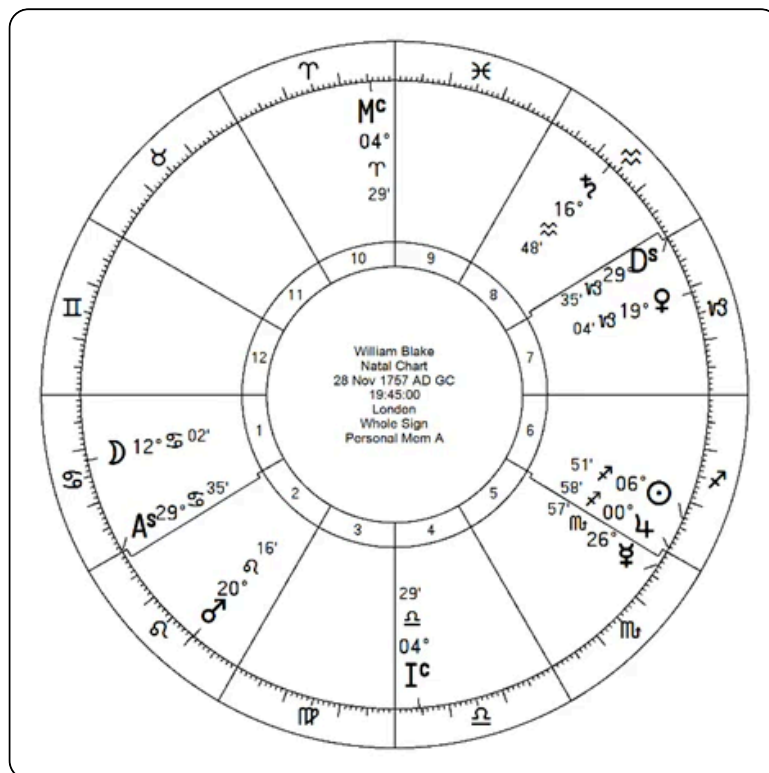


Fig 12: William Blake's nativity

Fig 14: Semi-arc divided in thirds

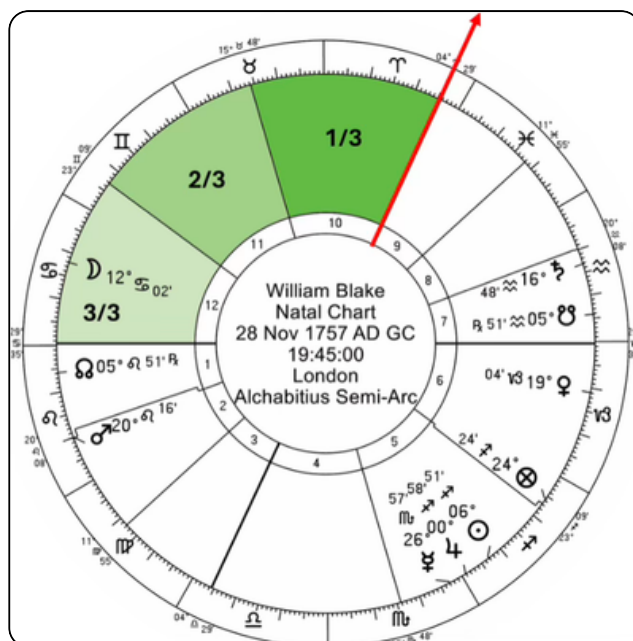
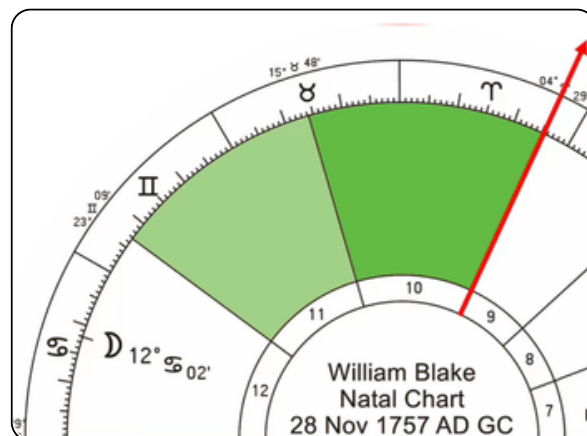


Fig 15: Succeeding-advancing houses



In Fig. 13, we see that the quadrant houses are, as expected, very different from Blake's WSH chart.

The houses marked in green represent a semi-arc (the distance between the AC and the MC).

(The other semi-arcs are the houses 9–7, 6–4, and 3–1. But for our purpose here, we only need to consider the one shown here.)

In Fig. 14, we can see that the 10th house will soon pass the stake (or angle) and needs 1/3 of the time the AC degree needs to rise to the MC, as shown by the red arrow, until the 11th house cusp becomes the MC.

When the 11th house has fully risen, and the 12th house cusp has become the cusp of the 11th house, 2/3 of the time is up.

The 12th house is the last to rise over the MC. It has fully risen when the original AC degree is on the MC. You can easily calculate this by hand. This requires 3/3 of the time of the semi-arc.

As we have seen, the 10th quadrant house (dark green) is the first to cross the stake, angle, or MC.

The 11th house (light green) succeeds the 10th. While both houses are advancing towards the MC, the 10th house is called angular advancing, and

the 11th house is called succedent advancing. We are only concerned here with the fact that both are advancing.

The two advancing houses together represent 2/3 of the semi-arc.

The last house to rise over the MC is the 12th quadrant house. Since it is the farthest away from the next angle, it is called a withdrawing house.

While the stakes (1st, 10th, 7th, and 4th) are the strongest places in the chart, we can imagine them as buoys in the sea. The buoy shows where the sea starts to get deeper. Usually, several buoys demarcate a line from which

swimming becomes more dangerous. It is safe to swim up to the buoy, but not beyond. While a man holds onto the buoy, he is safe. He can even swim around it and would be perfectly fine.

And now we come back to Lilly's 5° rule. Because once the swimmer gets further away from the buoy, he might get into danger—no ground under his feet anymore. He loses his strength. Maybe he has underestimated the tides and what it takes to swim against the increasing currents.

Sticking to the image of the swimmer, Lilly's 5° orb makes sense: as far as the swimmer sticks to the buoy, he is safe. This is why the stakes extend their power into the next (quadrant) house. But beyond those 5°, the swimmer gets too far from the coast and risks drowning. This is the withdrawing property of this place.

Once a planet has risen over the MC, it starts its descent. It loses strength. But the closer it gets to the next stake or angle, the more it gains power. Soon, the swimmer's feet will touch ground again.

We need to consider that the houses actually do not move, but the heavens rotate.

With diurnal rotation, a planet in a withdrawing house slowly moves higher in the sky, enters a succedent-advancing house, and finally reaches an advancing house position.

Since growth works in spirals, we can think about semi-arcs in the same way. We climb the stairs one by one, making our way from the 12th house to the 11th and then to the 10th. But then, just when we thought we had made it, we see that we've only reached a new stairway—an even steeper one. And we are back on level 1, climbing our way up again.

However, we must notice that there is no 5° orb applied to any intermediate cusp. This is because the quadrant houses do not assign topics but instead represent thirds of time, which are linked to executive power. They are intrinsically linked to primary motion.

The quadrant houses, therefore, show to what extent a planet will be able to realise its agenda—an agenda that is indicated by the Whole Sign topics.

What the quadrant houses show is which planet is advancing and able to keep the "promise" assigned to it. For example, an advancing planet that rules the 3rd place might bring "brothers" into the

native's focus. Maybe the native will look up to this brother or receive help from him. A withdrawing planet in the 3rd house might show a brother with whom the native has lost contact or who is the family's black sheep. A withdrawing planet in the 10th place will be unable to manifest (or to maintain over time) its promise: the career might turn out mediocre, or if the native succeeds, he might lose the fame for some reason.

Let us see how this works with an example chart. I will only focus on the 10th house of career and the 1st house of health. I will withhold the identity and data of this native for now but will show them later.

Health and physical body

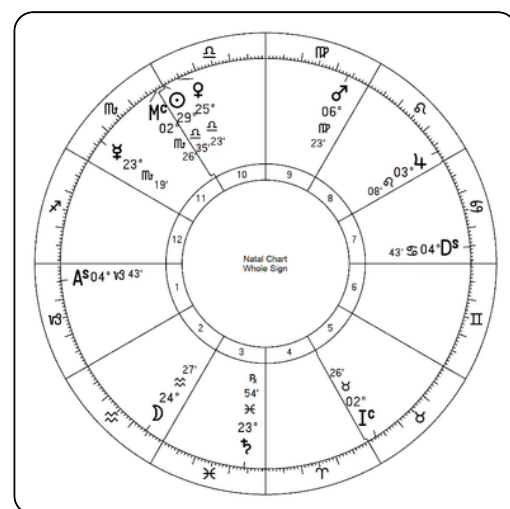


Fig 16: Example chart A.Z.

Capricorn is rising. The AC ruler, Saturn, is retrograde and in a cadent place. The AC ruler describes the native's physical body, which is not shown as particularly strong. Saturn is mutually applying a trine with Mercury, the ruler of the 6th place (illness). While the trine is a positive aspect, neither of the two planets has dignity where they are, so this trine suggests that physical harm comes easily to the body.

Mercury (L6) is in the sign of Mars (Scorpio), and both are in mutual reception by sign, so illness or accidents (6th house) have a Martian nature. Mars trines the AC, where it holds rulership by exaltation. This aspect would usually protect the native from greater harm, but the AC ruler, Saturn, is in a sign-based but mutually applying opposition with Mars, waiting for an open confrontation.

The aspect links the native's life purpose (AC) to Martian behaviour (seeking excitement, competition, adrenaline, adventure, fight, speed, courage) and Saturn (perseverance, responsibilities, limits). These two agendas cannot coexist and will likely cause distress or accidents (opposition).

The problems indicated by Saturn are dysfunctions related to his career (Saturn rules the 10th by exaltation

and casts its antiscium into Libra, the 10th place).

However, Mercury is in the 11th house of hope, so with hope, confidence, good faith, and the help of friends, the native might learn how to deal with the harm indicated through his health issues.

Career

The Sun in the 10th place shows some kind of public career or the native being in the spotlight. The ruler of the 10th house, Venus, is in its own domicile, and it is a benefic. The native's career is linked to 5th house activities—ruled by Venus—like sport and entertainment, but also to 8th house topics—ruled by the Sun—like transformation, fear, or death.

Venus is trined by the Moon, ruler of the 7th, so the native's job might get a lot of public attention.

Venus casts its antiscium into the 3rd house, so the career might have a connection to communication or learning.

Now that we have roughly delineated these two houses, let us see where the quadrant houses come in.

Now we see that the Sun is within 5° past the MC and hence advancing. This confirms the native's popularity and life in the spotlight.

But Venus is now withdrawing. In a sense, it has been “downgraded.” This suggests

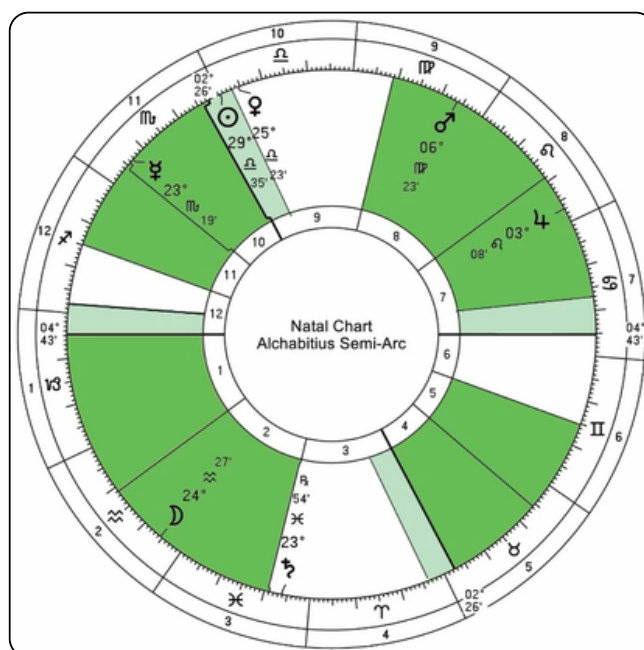


Fig 17: Orbs and withdrawing places

a native who once enjoyed a prominent career but experienced a decline—one not due to personal failure, as Venus remains highly dignified. Since the Moon, the natural ruler of the physical body, applies next, this career frustration has to do with the native's body.

The ruler of this native's 6th house, Mercury, on the other hand, is advancing and occupying a very elevated position. It is in a position to fulfil its 6th house topics. Saturn, however, is dynamically withdrawing, in addition to its retrograde motion, which increases concerns for this native's health. Mars, the ruler of the 11th (hope), is also advancing, but in aversion to the AC and Saturn, and opposed by sign by the Moon, offering little help here. The same is true for Jupiter.

This is the chart of Alex Zanardi⁴ (Alex Zanardi, Oct. 23, 1966, Bologna, Italy, 12:10 CET), a former Italian Formula 1 driver. He lost both of his legs in a car accident in 2001 at the age of 34. Zanardi was in an 11th house profection year, and Mars was activated as the Lord of the Year, while Mercury was in the protected AC.

He didn't give up and got into handcycling. In 2007, he achieved 4th place in the New York City Marathon in the handcycle division, after only four weeks of training. In 2012, he won a gold medal at the Paralympics.

However, in 2020, at the age of 53, he had another major accident during a race and was hit by a truck. He was in a 6th house profection year, and Mercury was again activated. He survived, but very little is known about his condition.

We can clearly see how Saturn's withdrawing condition shows up in Zanardi's chart.

End Notes:

1. For further reference see R.W. Holden, *The Elements of House Division*, Raven Dream Press, 2023, p. 78
2. The easiest way to calculate semi-arc is with an app like Astro Vizor where you can rotate with a fingertip the AC.
3. We are calculating the length of the semi arc that goes from the AC to the MC.
4. Alex Zanardi, Oct. 23, 1966, Bologna, Italy 12:10 CET



HEATHER SCHEPMAN

Heather Schepman is a Registered Radiologic Technologist, energy worker, teacher, and astrology student. She has been practising medical imaging since 2001, a field that cultivated in her a deep respect for the complexity of the human body and, over time, a sincere curiosity about what supports healing beyond the physical.

In 2013, she began studying and practising energy work within a structured and ethically grounded community. This foundation continues to shape her approach. She is a Usui Reiki Master and Teacher, and she teaches her own Foundations energy course. Her commitment is simple and direct: healing oneself creates the conditions for others to do the same, for the benefit of all.

She is currently a student of Jyotisa through Aswin Subramanyan's Indian Diploma Program, and studies astrology through an evolutionary lens with Tara Aal. Astrology has offered her a meaningful framework for understanding the relationship between the soul and the body, helping her recognise where she stands and how she may evolve. This path has proven to be deeply healing, purposeful, and clarifying.

Astrology-specific services will be offered soon. In the meantime, she can be found at www.heatherschepman.com.

I KNOW YOU ARE, BUT WHAT AM I?

Twirling barefoot in the backyard
when I first met you.

You were 'of this world' I was told,
our love was strictly forbidden.

I told you "It is not safe here"
You whispered, "I'll wait for you"

Of all the girls in the world,
I didn't believe you, hoping I was wrong.

I'd steal glances in the night unseen.

I could feel you in open spaces.
playing basketball listening to Midnight Oil
and heard the basket swish.

I sensed you riding my 10 speed under the sun,
no hands, arms stretched out
the air on my skin turning into goosebumps.
I started to believe you.

I have turned my back and apologised for your influence too often,
Self-abandoning and fearful, the betrayal was too deep to forgive.
Each time you'd whisper "you know, this is just a phase"
because even in the darkness, there is light

Remember the fight we had before Valentine's Day?
You were so full of yourself!

Through the holes of my being, you showed me my wholeness
Shining light on when to let go, when to hold on, when to stay and when to twirl.

In the desert at midnight far from home
and in the snowstorm Saturn makes me take,
Slow, restless or content, I walk with you every day knowing,
I am always home.

You are always shining light
It is me that is moving
You are experiencing,
as you illuminate my change.

In the temple, you are the light already there.
You said, "sometimes you're so cute"
We laughed so hard that I almost asked you to join me,
when always you are me and I am you.

**ROBERT WILKINSON**

aquariuspapers.substack.com

Robert Wilkinson has published the Aquarius Papers since 2004, with visitors from over 130 countries. The newest version with daily articles on Astrology and metaphysics can be found at aquariuspapers.substack.com.

He is the author of 7 books, including *The Cycles of Life – 7 Year Cycles and Stages of Change*, a guide to life's key turning points, and *The Magic of Venus: Friendships, Soul Mates, and Twin Flames*, on creating better relationships. Other works include *Saturn: Spiritual Master, Spiritual Friend*, and the pioneering *A New Look at Mercury Retrograde*.

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ASTROLOGY OF THE FUTURE AT THE 2026 SPRING EQUINOX -

WHAT'S COMING IN APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE

The Northern Hemisphere Vernal Equinox and Southern Hemisphere Autumnal Equinox occur at 7:46 AM PDT, 2:46 PM GMT on March 20. It is said that a chart done for this point in time offers a snapshot of the cosmic and literal weather for the next 3 months. Whether North or South, each entry into a new season is a transformational point in time.

This is the time to note what has ended, what is emerging, and “stepping out of the ocean onto dry land.” Keep following through on the new roles, new initiatives, new feelings, new flow, and new ways of relating to others that you’ve already begun to experience in the recent past. This Equinox marks the threshold of a time when what we’ve been through opens the door to a renewed future.

Each entry into a new season is a transformational point in time. The charts for the Solstices and Equinoxes provide guideposts for what we can expect over the

following 90 days. What follows is from a Western Tropical astrological approach and explores major factors in play, regardless of where we live on Earth.

An Overview of the Solstice

We now power up a new season as the Sun enters Aries, promising a renewal of energy and activity. There is opportunity and protection in bringing old things to their natural end and moving in new directions.

At this time, all the planets are between Pluto in early Aquarius and Jupiter in mid-Cancer, so this is the focus in all our charts. This will continue through June 9, when Venus conjuncts Jupiter and quickly expands the planetary spread into Leo.

The Equinox chart finds Mercury, the North Node, and Mars in Pisces, showing that the next 13 weeks will involve quickening the pace to clean

up the past and bring finality to some things. This is excellent for cultivating empathy and/or intuition as we “rehearse the future,” where “appearances must be subjected to real necessities.” Mercury exactly conjunct the North Node at 9° Pisces shows great growth is found in cultivating “non-local” knowing, or “feeling-knowing,” as we dismiss all that hinders our social or emotional quest for effective expression.

With so many planets in late Pisces and early Aries, the coming season is totally future-oriented in an actional sense while assisting us in finishing Pisces lessons of the past. Last summer gave us a dress rehearsal for the Saturn/Neptune in Aries and Uranus in Gemini era, which is already emerging at lightning speed, given that this March Equinox shows the Sun, Neptune, Saturn, Venus, the Moon, and Chiron spanning all three decans of Aries! This indicates pure emergent activity involving the rulers of our Taurus, Cancer, Leo, Libra, Capricorn, and Aquarius worldly sectors over the next 13 weeks.

While there may be an edginess in the air thanks to Mercury conjunct Mars at and after the Solstice, make a plan to get things in motion and rehearse your “directed intuition” to see what must be done to make your vision real. Release with one hand and

accept with the other in a dynamic exchange of the past for the future in the coming weeks.

Just don’t push the river while dumping unnecessary things and ideas. Have faith that, as we “invite the guest to enter the house,” we will be uniquely gifted via Mars quintile Uranus as inner planet transits make their quintiles from Taurus to the Mercury and Mars positions of this chart.

The Moon Phase and Jones Pattern

(When discussing degree values and Sabian symbols, we always round up, as we are using ordinal values where 0+=1, 10+=11, 19+=20, 29+=30, etc. That’s why there is no “zeroth degree” and there is a 30th degree for each sign.)

At this Equinox, the Moon is at 21° Aries in a New Moon phase. This indicates that the next 90 days will feature a lot of instinctive activity. This New Moon phase is said to be impulsive, subjective, and is “the newborn,” projecting itself into the world.

With both the Sun and Moon in Aries, the focus is on the rapidly emerging future expressed in forms of social and/or emotional potency. The Moon is on a degree of “physical power,” so we can expect instinctive expressions

of brute force in the world in the next season, especially when Mars and Mercury transit 21° Aries. (Of note is that 21° Aries was the Mars degree in the 2025 March Equinox chart, so we now have two consecutive Spring Equinox charts with that degree featured prominently.)

Because five signs are occupied within a 160+ degree span, this chart is a “Bowl” Jones pattern led by Pluto and closed by Jupiter. Dr. Jones says the Bowl is “an extreme self-containment,” which gives an acute sense of what is possessed and what isn’t. He states that the occupied segment of the Bowl shows the focus of the self, and the unoccupied segment becomes a challenge to existence or the need and emptiness we’re directed toward. This pattern often involves the advocacy of a cause or mission. The leading edge of the Bowl is the point of initial entry into experience, and the closing edge is what we’re left with.

We will see Pluto as the planet leading the occupied span for many months to come, indicating “purification pressure” to eliminate some things while sprouting the seeds of the new. Pluto in Aquarius encourages us to share ideas in a spirit of fellowship and strengthen inner magnetism and external

bonds with our spiritual Sisters and Brothers.

In this chart, Pluto is at 5° Aquarius, though it will occupy 6° Aquarius for the entire season. Themes include relying on our “ancestral wisdom” and feeling an increase in pressure through “presiding over a mystery ritual.” These are related to the long-wave Aquarian seeds sprouting globally.

With Jupiter at 16° Cancer closing the Bowl, we’ll finish the experience with forms of personality integration, where we are nurtured by what is needed while letting go of what doesn’t nourish us. So, we begin experience with the power of our spiritual ancestry, which ends with expansive nurturing.

This leads with actional contribution and closes with actional consolidation. Because the leading edge is Aquarian Air, approach experience with a sense of vision, cooperation, the uniqueness of each part of the whole, and willingness to rise to an occasion. Because the closing edge is Cancer Water, by the time you’re done with a given experience, you’ll have a new personality orientation.

Important Aspects

The two outstanding aspects in this Solstice chart involve

Saturn. There is the Sun conjunct Saturn and Neptune, bringing “illuminated Saturn” into focus, shining a higher way to do our Being. Sun conjunct Neptune is the light shining on the collective ideal, so show humor and be objective in your actions. This is the next change of season in a series with the Sun conjunct, square, or opposed Neptune.

The second is Jupiter biseptile Sun/Saturn/Neptune, generating a “7-Pointed Star of Destiny,” putting everyone at forks in the road where major decisions will have to be made. Hot zones include 1°-5° Aries, 22°-26° Taurus, 14°-18° Cancer, 5°-9° Virgo, 26°-30° Libra, 18°-22° Sagittarius, and 9°-13° Aquarius. If you have something in one of these zones, the next step in your destiny is about to arrive!

We’ll understand what this is about and how to respond when Mars and Mercury biseptile Jupiter in the second and third weeks of April. In this coming season, also take note of when the inner planets transit the Taurus zone, as that will also accompany significant “forks in the road of destiny.” The timing indicates several trigger points between late April and late June, so it would seem we’re not getting a rest from the irrational pressures creating the need for these critical choices.

Other significant forming aspects in the Equinox chart include the Moon decile Mars and decile Uranus, with Mars quintile Uranus. All three of these favor specialized gifts and unique events for planets we have near 1°-5° Capricorn/Cancer, 7°-11° Aquarius/Leo, 13°-17° Pisces/Virgo, 19°-23° Aries/Libra, and 25°-29° Taurus/Scorpio.

We also see Mercury conjunct Mars, with both trine Jupiter, Saturn/Neptune sextile Pluto, and Venus quintile Pluto. The Water trines will be good for planets we have in Earth and Water signs, and the Saturn/Neptune sextile Pluto will be solidly favorable for planets we have in the early degrees of the Fire and Air signs.

As there are no forming squares in this chart, it should be a productive and specializing season, with any conflicts triggered by transits to this chart and each other. Those include squares to Pluto from early Taurus and squares from Aries to Jupiter in Cancer, and later on, squares from Gemini to the chart Mercury and Mars, and squares from Cancer to the chart stellium in Aries.

A crucial point in time in the coming weeks will begin in the second week of May, lasting through the first two weeks of

June, when Jupiter will septile Uranus. This is the third and last septile between these two spiritual powerhouses. We had the first one in the Autumn Equinox chart, the second in the Winter Solstice chart, and this is the last one of the sequence.

This also will bring “forks in the road of destiny” for those affected. Hot zones include 1°-3° Gemini, 22°-26° Cancer, 14°-18° Virgo, 5°-9° Scorpio, 26°-30° Sagittarius, 18°-22° Aquarius, and 9°-13° Aries. So while a slightly earlier set of hot zones is set into motion at this Equinox, by mid-May, we’ll have “moved the action forward,” so that an entirely different set of zones is activated for all of us.

Spiritual Factors

Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto define the spiritual field for all of us. Because of their harmonious aspects in the Equinox chart, as well as where they transit in this coming season, it should produce solid understanding and productive initiatives to close the old as the new continues to develop. Uranus is sextile Neptune and trine Pluto, with Neptune sextile Pluto.

Last summer brought many weeks of Uranus in Gemini, Saturn and Neptune in Aries,

and Pluto in Aquarius, marking a threshold of seeing the future before it was accelerated tremendously by Saturn’s conjunction with Neptune in late February at 1° Aries, marking the beginning of a new 35-year cycle. This is an entirely new collective atmosphere that has moved from dreamy Pisces to assertive Aries!

Because of where Saturn and Neptune went stationary retrograde last July, we’ve learned how to use humor to find objectivity and begun to see the appearance of new leaders who have the power to address a collective need. The Autumn and Winter have been a final season of “returns from the past,” and now we are all experiencing rebeginnings and renewals.

So, this Equinox marks the beginning of a long-wave shift in the collective spiritual field. A new world is now opening quickly, with the ability to be efficiently productive as we see a higher dimension of effective activity. Humor is important, as is learning to “live rhythmically,” preserving our energies when it’s time to rest so we may fully commit when it’s time for action.

The Saturn conjunction with Neptune at 1° Aries marked a particularly important shift in the spiritual field, as it will

restructure collective consciousness until their next conjunction at 21° Gemini in June 2061. The last one in 1991 was in Capricorn, so we’ve ended that Saturn/Neptune cycle and begun a new one expressing the theme of 1° Aries, featuring the emergence of individuality and the need for immediate action. This begins a “flame on” in collective consciousness!

That will release dynamic reorganizations in society and politics, as well as what is “in fashion” in the collective field. As Aries is an activist sign, expect self-initiated pioneering actions to be in play for many years.

What Rules the Sun and the Rest of the Stage of Life?

On this Equinox, the worldly ruler of the Sun in Aries is Mars, which is at 15° Pisces. That’s a degree of setting aside appearances and dealing with real necessities, and the need to rehearse thoroughly any difficult plan of action before setting it into motion.

Mars in Pisces is ruled by Jupiter at 16° Cancer, showing an understanding of “instinctive action” by sensing the flow in each situation. Jupiter, in turn, is ruled by the Moon in Aries, which is ruled

by Mars. So, all the planets in this chart are ruled by the “chain of dispositors,” which include Mars, Jupiter, and the Moon.

Into The Future

As noted earlier, the coming 3 months finds Mars transiting Pisces, Aries, and Taurus, so those areas will be the focus of the next period of time. Expect a lot of activity in those houses in your chart.

Mars brings the pressure of “right action” on planets we have in the second half of Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces from the Equinox through April 9. It will bring pressure on the first half of Capricorn, Aries, Cancer, and Libra from April 9 through April 29, and the second half of those signs between April 29 and May 18. Finally, it will bring pressure on the first half of Aquarius, Taurus, Leo, and Scorpio between May 18 and June 28, closing out our coming season.

Final Thoughts

This is the season to see what has ended and what’s beginning. Use the accelerated pace to get a clear vision or understanding of what to do, and then just do it! Once you’ve made a decision or taken necessary action, then take time to feel

what you’ve done and incorporate those feelings into your experience until you see the next vision or come to the next understanding. what you’ve done and incorporate those feelings into your experience until you see the next vision or come to the next understanding.

There will be a quickened pace these next 13 weeks, so remember to take time to rest, meditate, and detach from activity to recharge. This is a season of renewal and rebeginnings, with a need to discuss points of view to find an objective understanding.

Let your empathy and sense of the feeling-flow lead you to the Light as you use the intuitive mind to know what to do. The Light will show new ideals, new duties, and new things and people to like as we move into new initiatives that allow us more freedom to act independently of others. We will all be looking at what’s left for us to finish, so do it quickly and then move into the new.

Feel all you need to, but remember time is a one-way street, and there’s no way to go back to anything. We can only move forward into a new understanding, a new role, and a new way to enjoy the here and now. Ride the fiery waves of inspiration of Sun conjunct

Neptune in Aries, accepting the new Saturn disciplines required for entry into a new chapter of time and life.

This will be a visionary and intuitive season of moving forward, furthering the emergent Aries patterns while blessing and releasing the final unfinished patterns of the old Piscean era. Learn when to leap forward, when to hold back, and when to flow away from old feelings and memories. We’ve ended a lot in the past year, and now we can become the enduring power of our “Is-Be-ness.”

These energies will be in play through the Northern Hemisphere Summer Solstice at 1:24 AM PDT, 9:24 AM BST on June 21. That will mark the beginning of a very significant season, as it has the “three-note chord” of Uranus at 4° Gemini, Neptune at 5° Aries, and Pluto at 6° Aquarius in a double sextile-trine. The Moon will also be in a very favorable double sextile-trine at 24° Virgo with Mars at 25° Taurus and Mercury/Jupiter at 24° and 29° Cancer, respectively. Those two configurations alone promise a highly productive period for our planets in the early degrees of the Fire and Air signs and the latter degrees of the Earth and Water signs.

Open to finding a more mature

or effective way of expressing your individual Light in your own way, moved by your wisdom and compassion. Embrace the universal dance of Spirit and matter. If memories of old sorrows come up, bless and release the past to find more power in understanding that you are not that now.

We now begin a season of new directions, new activity, and new relationships, so enjoy the quickened pace. The Sun conjunct Saturn and Neptune counsels us to take on new responsibilities where we can use our understanding to further the momentum already in motion.

This will be a time of quickened memories with a strong pull to the here and now. The Water trines show

we'll feel a lot; the trick will be to sort out what nurtures us personally and what is in the generic atmosphere that we're picking up on. Feel the timeless challenges we share with all others while remembering the past is already done. This period is about cleaning up old memories, forgiving what needs forgiveness, and releasing the ghosts of the past.

This season compels us to do our own thing in our own way, embracing the new and moving forward into the future. Mobilize, use spiritual force with precision and good humor while getting an elevated view of your potential, and read the flow. Your connection with self, others, and Source can end the roots of loneliness, and new activities can propel us into a new way of living in our world.

“

Aum and blessings as we stand on the
threshold of a new season of life!

”



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It has profound implications for how we live, act, and take responsibility for our lives.

THEORY OF KARMA

Part 3

Introduction: Destiny or Choice? The Timeless Question of Human Freedom

Few questions have occupied the human mind as persistently as the debate between determinism and free will. Are our lives governed by forces set in motion long before we are born, or do we possess the freedom to shape our own destiny through conscious choice? From ancient philosophy to modern science, from theology to neuroscience, this question has remained both unresolved and deeply compelling.

In the previous articles of this series, we explored karma as the foundational principle underlying Vedic astrology and examined how different types of karma—particularly Prārabdha—shape the circumstances of a human life. We saw how the horoscope functions as a karmic map, reflecting past causes and their probable outcomes. Yet this naturally leads to a deeper concern: If our birth, tendencies, and experiences are influenced by prior karma, where does human agency fit in?

This article takes up that very question. We will first examine the philosophical foundations of determinism, both in Indian thought and in Western intellectual traditions, followed by a discussion on free will, drawing from philosophy, psychology, and modern scientific perspectives. Finally, we will explore how Vedic astrology offers a uniquely integrated view—one that neither denies destiny nor diminishes human freedom.

Rather than positioning fate and free will as opposing forces, the Vedic worldview presents them as complementary principles operating at different levels of human experience. Destiny sets the stage, but choice determines how the play unfolds. Understanding this balance is not merely an intellectual exercise; it has profound implications for how we live, act, and take responsibility for our lives.

In the pages that follow, we will explore how fate and free will coexist, and how this understanding transforms astrology from a system of prediction into a tool for awareness, responsibility, and conscious living.

The Case for Determinism: Cause, Effect, and the Illusion of Choice

Determinism arises from a simple yet profound observation: all actions occur in time, and everything that occurs in time has a cause. Any event—whether physical, mental, or emotional—is the outcome of prior conditions. What we experience in the present is therefore the effect of causes that lie in the past, and what we do now becomes the cause of future outcomes. From this standpoint, human action appears less like an independent choice and more like the inevitable unfolding of a causal chain. If every action is the result of preceding causes, then it seems reasonable to conclude that individuals exercise little to no genuine control over their actions. This philosophical position—that all events are determined by prior causes—is what we call determinism.

The principle of causality is not merely a philosophical assumption; it is the very foundation of modern science. From classical mechanics to contemporary physics, science proceeds on the premise that effects reliably follow causes. When a ball is thrown against a wall, it rebounds—not by chance, but due to the laws governing

force and motion. This is famously articulated in Newton's Third Law of Motion, which states that every action has an equal and opposite reaction. The same logic underlies the doctrine of karma discussed in the previous articles: intentions, thoughts, and actions generate corresponding results according to an unflinching law of cause and effect. In this sense, the law of karma may be seen as the moral and psychological extension of physical causality, offering strong philosophical support for a deterministic view of human life.

From the standpoint of Indian philosophy—particularly Advaita Vedānta—this deterministic framework is situated within the larger metaphysical concept of Māyā, the phenomenal world governed by time, space, and causation. Within Māyā, nothing is truly free. Even the sense that one is freely choosing is itself conditioned and caused. The individual identifies as the doer (kartā), but this sense of agency is part of the illusion generated by Māyā. Swami Vivekananda articulates this position with uncompromising clarity:

“As long as you are in the network of time, space, and causation, to say you are free is nonsense, because in that network all is under rigorous law, sequence, and consequence. Every thought that you think is caused, every feeling has been caused; to say that the will is free is sheer nonsense. It is only when the infinite existence comes, as it were, into this network of Māyā that it takes the form of will. Will is a portion of that being, caught in the network of Māyā, and therefore, ‘free will’ is a misnomer. There is no freedom in Māyā.”

From this perspective, determinism is not merely a scientific or philosophical stance—it is an existential condition of embodied life. As long as human consciousness operates within the realm of causation, freedom appears illusory. Yet this conclusion, while logically compelling, raises an equally important question: if everything is determined, where does responsibility, transformation, or conscious choice fit in?

This question leads us directly into the counterpoint—the philosophical and practical arguments for free will, and how Vedic astrology ultimately reconciles these two seemingly opposing views.

Free Will: The Other Side of the Coin

Opposing the deterministic view is the equally compelling concept of free will, which asserts that human beings possess a meaningful capacity to choose. From the standpoint of Indian philosophy—particularly within the framework of karma—free will does not require actions to be uncaused. Rather, it requires that actions be self-caused. The law of karma does not attribute present experiences to an external or arbitrary force; instead, it traces causation back to the individual's own prior intentions and actions. In this sense, an action may be conditioned by the past, yet still be free, provided it arises from one's own conscious deliberation rather than coercion by an external agency. Freedom, therefore, lies not in the absence of causation, but in autonomy—the capacity to act according to one's understanding, values, and intention. This distinction is crucial. An action can be causally determined and yet morally free, so long as the cause originates within the individual.

The very existence of dharma, justice, and moral accountability presupposes free will. All legal and ethical systems—ancient or modern

—are founded on the assumption that individuals possess the capacity to choose between alternatives. A judicial system punishes wrongdoing not merely because harm occurred, but because the individual could have acted otherwise. If human behavior were entirely devoid of choice, concepts such as guilt, responsibility, or punishment would lose their meaning. The same principle applies to recognition and honor: we reward individuals for virtuous or exceptional actions precisely because those actions were consciously chosen, not mechanically produced.

Perhaps the most intimate evidence of free will lies in the human experience of guilt. Guilt arises only when an individual recognizes that a different course of action was possible. One does not feel guilty for events beyond one's control; guilt emerges when we perceive that we had agency and failed to exercise it wisely. This universal moral intuition suggests that human beings are not merely passive instruments of causality. If conscience itself is part of the moral design of existence, then the persistent experience of guilt strongly implies the presence of free will.

Thus, while determinism explains the structure within

which human life unfolds, free will explains how individuals navigate that structure. Karma may shape the terrain, but choice determines how one walks upon it. This brings us to the heart of the Vedic resolution: destiny and free will are not rivals, but collaborators—each operating at a different level of human experience.

Beyond Opposition: How Fate and Free Will Coexist

At first glance, the arguments for determinism and free will appear equally compelling—and mutually exclusive. Determinism emphasizes the unbroken chain of causation, while free will affirms human agency and responsibility. But what if the truth does not lie at either extreme? A closer examination suggests that fate and free will are not adversaries, but complementary principles, each operating at a different level of reality.

Consider the functioning of the human body. When a person decides to raise their right hand, the action does not occur in a vacuum. The intention formed in the brain must travel through a precise and orderly network: signals pass from the motor cortex through the central nervous system, involving structures such as the thalamus,

cerebellum, and basal ganglia, which together coordinate, regulate, and execute movement. The thalamus, in particular, serves as a critical relay and integration center, ensuring that voluntary movements are smooth, accurate, and purposeful. Here, a strict causal order is not the enemy of freedom—it is its very condition. If these neural processes operated randomly rather than lawfully, the simple act of raising one's hand would become unreliable, chaotic, and unpredictable. In other words, without determinism at the physiological level, free action at the conscious level would be impossible.

A similar principle can be observed in something as ordinary as an automotive braking system. When a driver presses the brake pedal, a precise chain of mechanical and hydraulic events follows: the master cylinder generates pressure, brake fluid transmits that pressure, the calipers engage, and the brake pads press against the rotating disc to slow or stop the vehicle. This entire system is rigidly structured according to fixed physical laws. Yet it is precisely this determinism that makes the driver's choice meaningful. If these components were not reliably arranged—if they operated randomly—then the act of



braking would sometimes work and sometimes fail. In such a world, the very notion of control or choice would collapse into uncertainty. Once again, lawful causation does not negate freedom; it enables it.

This is exactly how Vedic astrology understands the relationship between karma and choice. Prārabdha karma provides the structure—the terrain, the conditions, the circumstances—within which life unfolds. Free will operates within this framework, not outside it. Astrology, therefore, does not describe an inescapable fate; rather, it functions much like a weather forecast. A forecast cannot stop the rain, but it can help you carry an umbrella and avoid getting drenched. In the same way, astrological indications cannot erase karma, but they can inform

awareness, guide decisions, and refine responses. Knowledge of one's karmic patterns empowers wiser choices, not resignation.

Finally, Indian philosophy invites us to go even deeper. Beyond the debate about free will lies a more profound ideal: freedom. Free will concerns choice within the world of causation; freedom, in the spiritual sense, points to liberation from that world altogether. While free will helps us navigate life more consciously, freedom (moksha) represents the transcendence of bondage itself—the realization of one's true nature beyond karma, causation, and limitation.

In the next and concluding article of this series on the Theory of Karma, we will explore this ultimate goal of Indian philosophy: freedom, not merely as a concept, but as a lived spiritual reality. Stay tuned as we journey into the timeless vision of liberation and the deeper meaning of human existence.



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ESSENTIAL DIGNITIES IN ASTROMAPPING

It is a fundamental reality that astrology cannot be considered independently of geography. Just as geographical conditions shape seasonal characteristics and seasonal cycles are experienced differently across various regions, this points to a reciprocal interaction. Within this framework, we will examine how the use of the tropical Zodiac and the doctrine of essential dignities inherited from classical astrology can be integrated with geography.

As is well known, the tropical Zodiac is based on the positions of planets along the ecliptic longitude, and it presents a system that acknowledges that planets possess certain degrees of strength and capability depending on these positions. In classical astrology, this structure—referred to as “essential dignities”—is based on elements such as domicile, exaltation, terms, and faces, all of which are defined through ecliptic longitude. Triplicity rulers are also considered part of this framework; however, they activate different planets depending on whether the chart is diurnal or nocturnal.

Since this distinction depends on the position of the Sun relative to the horizon, it establishes an indirect relationship with the horizon coordinate system.

When evaluating the effectiveness of planets in a chart, we will consider different coordinate systems together. While ecliptic coordinates form the primary reference for essential dignities, the horizon coordinate system guides interpretation, particularly through house placements and planetary visibility. In addition, equatorial coordinates also play an important role in certain techniques. Especially in the evaluation of fixed stars, considering not only conjunctions with planets but also parallel aspects requires an analysis based on declination. This approach is regarded by important astrologers within the scope of minor dignities and provides the opportunity to evaluate planetary influence on a different level.

Classical astrologers have approached this fundamental framework within sociological, geographical, mundane, and

Technique	Coordinate System	Description
AstroCartoGraphy	Ecliptic -> Equatorial (RA) + Horizon (<i>ASC/DSC, MC/IC calculations</i>)	Locations on Earth where planets rise, culminate, set, or reach the lower meridian
Local Space	Horizon (<i>Horizontal: Azimuth & Altitude</i>)	Directional (compass-based) positions of planets as observed from the birthplace
Geodetic	Ecliptic + Earth Longitudes	Mapping zodiacal degrees onto Earth's meridians

economic contexts. Accordingly, various techniques have been developed to establish relationships between countries, regions, cities, and celestial indicators. These studies are generally discussed in the literature under the title of “chorography.” A completely separate article could be written on chorography alone; it is that rich a subject.

In this article, however, we will examine the AstroCartoGraphy technique developed in the second half of the 20th century and deepen the discussion with Local Space astrology. Within the framework of the doctrine of essential dignities in classical

astrology, we will explore how the perspectives offered by different coordinate systems can be integrated with cartographic techniques.

The Fundamental Framework of AstroMapping Techniques

When we examine the concept of AstroMapping, we must recognize that it defines three primary techniques: AstroCartoGraphy, Local Space, and Geodetic astrology. We will define these techniques within the framework of the coordinate systems they employ and their operational principles.

In defining AstroCartoGraphy,

we begin by considering the positions of the planets in the Zodiac. At this stage, we use longitude values determined through the ecliptic coordinate system. As we project these positions onto the world map, we take into account the Right Ascension (RA) values of the planets. In this way, ecliptic coordinates are converted into equatorial coordinates and incorporated into the calculations. During this process, the local horizon system also comes into play, allowing us to determine where on Earth the planets are rising (ASC – rising), culminating (MC – culminating), setting (DSC – setting), or reaching the lower meridian (IC – anti-culminating). Accordingly, we will state that

the AstroCartoGraphy technique involves the combined evaluation of ecliptic, equatorial, and horizon coordinate systems.

In Local Space astrology, we define the indicators according to the horizon coordinate system. This technique is based on azimuth and altitude values. It determines the direction in which planets are positioned relative to the observer's location at the moment of birth. We examine the question of in which direction a planet is located from the place of birth. The resulting directional data are then projected onto the world map as linear paths. In this way, planetary influences are defined through the concept of direction, within the logic of a compass system.

In Geodetic astrology, the primary reference is the ecliptic coordinate system. In this approach, zodiacal degrees are matched with Earth's longitudes. By adopting a specific reference longitude, the Earth is divided into 360 degrees. Each degree of longitude is assigned a corresponding zodiacal degree in zodiacal order, and interpretations are made based on this mapping. In this system, interpretation is developed particularly by taking the meridian degree

(MC) of each region as a reference.

Within the framework of all these techniques, AstroMapping has become a field of study in its own right, as it allows us to develop interpretations independent of the natal chart. Geodetic astrology, in particular, stands out more prominently in the analysis of mundane events. Although these techniques may initially appear to offer an independent mode of interpretation, in reality, the evaluations are based on examining the spatial correspondences of the indicators found within astrological charts. Therefore, when analyzing an indicator, we will first evaluate it through the natal chart; subsequently, we will deepen our interpretation by observing the lines projected through mapping techniques.

At this point, it is necessary to clarify our approach. In AstroMapping applications, we will not treat essential dignities as a directly determining factor, but rather as a background element that supports the fundamental meaning of the indicator. For example, while Venus may bring forward universal themes such as love, marriage, and balance, the same planet in a natal chart can also be associated with income,

resources, and material conditions. For this reason, we will base our evaluation primarily on the meaning that Venus expresses within the individual's natal chart. However, unlike in classical natal analysis, the planet's sign or dignity status will not be directly determining at this stage. In AstroMapping, the projected lines of the planet and their geographical correspondences take precedence.

Essential dignities, however, will not be entirely set aside; instead, they will be reconsidered on a different level. In this context, the approach of Arielle Gutmann provides an important reference. Gutmann states that the indicators identified as chart rulers can be considered "locational rulers" within the context of AstroMapping. At the same time, she emphasizes that the sect of the indicators must be taken into account and that a mapping approach independent of charts is not possible. Based on this perspective, we will treat the essential dignities we examine not merely in their classical sense, but as a tool that introduces a new dimension to spatial interpretation.

By emphasizing that we are engaging with a field open to observation and experimentation, we will explain

the technical framework and proceed through example charts.

Determining Essential Dignities and the Concept of Almuten

Before moving on to technical application, we must turn to our charts. We will evaluate the classical planets in our charts within the framework of essential dignities. At this point, we will proceed based on widely accepted essential dignities. We must understand that planets acquire certain dignities within zodiac signs and degrees. Zodiac degrees represent ecliptic longitudes, and at each degree, there is a structure in which certain planets are more active. In this evaluation, domicile, exaltation, triplicity, terms, and faces are used.

For example, let us assume that the Ascendant is at 3°12' Pisces. When determining the planets that are effective at this degree, we follow a specific order. The ruler of Pisces is Jupiter. The exaltation ruler is Venus. In terms of triplicity, when using the Dorothean system, Venus, the Moon, and Mars gain dignity in the water element. If we refer to the Egyptian bounds for terms, Venus holds authority between 0°–11°59'. In terms of faces, Saturn is effective between 0°–9°59'. In this way, we systematically

identify the planets that have a say at 3°12' Pisces.

After this stage, we evaluate the operative strength of the planets and determine which planet is more dominant. This concept was developed by Arab astrologers and appears in the works of figures such as Abu Ma'shar, Al-Qabisi, and Al-Biruni. Known in the literature as "Almuten," this term refers to the indicator that holds the highest authority at a given degree. The origin of the word can be associated with the Arabic term al-mutazz (one who gains strength, one who prevails).

To make this situation more understandable, we can use a metaphorical explanation. When we think of a cake, it contains many different ingredients: cream, milk, sugar, and various fruits. However, the cake has a dominant flavor, and that flavor defines its identity. For example, if the most prominent taste is cherry, the cake is referred to as a "cherry cake."

We can think of the doctrine of essential dignities in a similar way. At a given degree, more than one planet has influence; each contributes its own quality, tone, and function to the structure. Some planets form the foundation of the structure, some enrich its content, and others provide

the most noticeable dominant quality perceived from the outside.

If we consider the planets that have a say at 3°12' Pisces through the cake metaphor, each of these planets represents a different component of the structure. Saturn may be thought of as a more structural and supporting element, while Jupiter may take on a role that provides overall volume and cohesion. Mars and the Moon may function as dynamic elements that determine the flow and mixture of the internal components. Venus, having multiple dignities, stands out as the ingredient that gives the cake its most dominant flavor.

We can explain the same situation through a film metaphor. A film may contain elements of comedy, scenes of tension, and even moments of horror. Nevertheless, if the overall prevailing mood and recurring atmosphere of the film is drama, it is categorized as a drama. This is because classification is determined not by the totality of all elements present in the film, but by the most dominant among them. A similar situation exists in the doctrine of essential dignities. Multiple planets may share influence over a degree; however, one of them establishes a stronger dominance and becomes central to the interpretation.

This planet can be considered the almuten of that degree.

At the same time, determining the dominant indicator does not eliminate the importance of the other planets. Just as a cake would be incomplete without its base, cream, or filling, or a film would fail to establish its atmosphere without its supporting elements, the other planets that hold influence at a degree also contribute to the overall interpretation. Therefore, the aim in the doctrine of essential dignities is not merely to identify the strongest planet, but to recognize the contributions of all indicators that construct that degree and to determine which among them establishes a more pronounced dominance.

Let us now consider this metaphor in terms of application. If we were to present, promote, or sell this cake, we would first focus on its dominant flavor, as it is the element that directly appeals to the audience and generates demand. In this case, it becomes meaningful to turn to Venus: Is this product attractive? Will it appeal to others? Will it create demand? On the other hand, when constructing the cake in the kitchen, we deal with different questions. The thickness of the base, the structural stability, the consistency of

the filling, or the balance of the components become important. In this case, we would turn to Saturn for its structural role, to Mars and the Moon for their influence on mixture and flow, and to Jupiter for how it sustains the overall integrity. Thus, while the almuten provides the dominant quality, the full interpretation emerges through the combined evaluation of all indicators that hold authority over that degree.

It can be said that this metaphorical explanation makes the use of essential dignities more visible and understandable.

Let us now examine specific world events and briefly distinguish the general domains and areas governed by essential dignities.

Depending on the framework of the event under investigation, essential dignities serve particular areas, individuals, or themes. To establish a basic distinction, we can consider the following: Domicile represents the owner of the house itself and the domain over which it holds direct authority. Exaltation expresses the most ideal, most visible, and most elevated manifestation of the indicator. Triplicity represents forces

that support, sustain, and operate in harmony within a given context. Term indicates factors that provide control and direction within a more limited and specific sphere of influence. Face (decans), on the other hand, represents a more superficial, visible, and externally perceived effect.

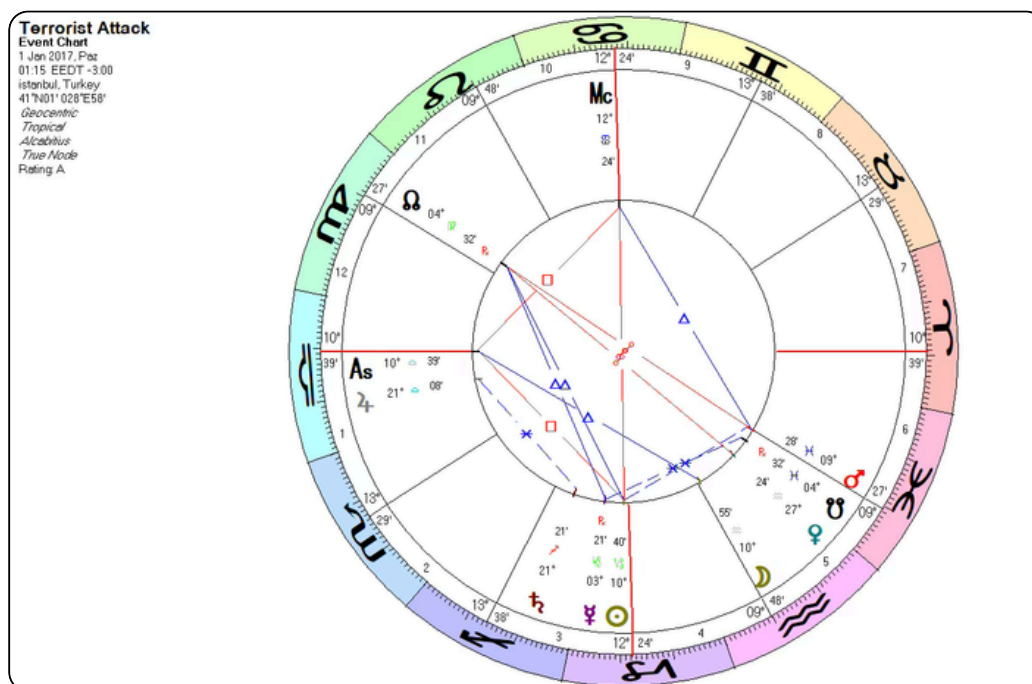
We will evaluate this distinction not as a hierarchy, but as contributions operating on different levels. For this reason, each dignity points to a different dimension of the event being examined.

Let us keep this framework in mind. We will now approach world events through this perspective and conduct analyses using the indicators provided by essential dignities.

Case Study: Analysis of a Terrorist Attack

Let us now proceed with an example and apply this framework in practice. We will examine a terrorist attack that took place in Istanbul. This attack occurred at a nightclub called Reina during New Year's celebrations, where many people who were inside enjoying the event lost their lives. We will analyze the chart cast for the exact moment of the incident.

Different approaches can be used when interpreting event charts. In this study, we will



adopt the classical approach. Accordingly, the 1st house represents the nature of the event, the 4th house indicates its root causes, and the Moon, as the co-significator, represents the flow of the process. The Moon's applying aspects indicate the development of the event, while its separating aspects describe past dynamics.

When we examine the chart within this framework, we see that the 1st house is in Libra. Its ruler, Venus, is placed in the 5th house. This placement indicates that the event is connected with themes of entertainment, social environment, and celebration. Indeed, the 5th house represents venues of

entertainment, clubs, and social activities. Jupiter located in the 1st house indicates the presence of foreigners in the environment. At first glance, the chart reflects a social and positive atmosphere.

However, at this stage, it is necessary to identify the attacker. In classical astrology, the 7th house represents open enemies and opposing forces. Therefore, we will proceed through the 7th house. The 7th house is in Aries, and its ruler is Mars. Mars directly represents themes of attack, violence, and action. It is notable that Mars is placed in Pisces and in the 6th house. In this position, Mars lacks essential dignity and is weak by house

placement. The 6th house is associated with service, subordination, hidden preparation, and processes operating behind the scenes. This suggests that the attacker may not be an independent actor, but rather an individual acting under the influence of a larger structure.

Different approaches may be used to determine the indicator representing the victims. In this study, we will refer to the Moon. The Moon symbolizes the customers and consumers. It is located in the 5th house, that is, within the sphere of entertainment; however, since it is in Aquarius, it is not strong in terms of essential dignity. This

indicates that the victims were in a vulnerable and fragile position.

The Moon's first applying aspect is a trine to Jupiter. In the classical approach, we evaluate using the five major Ptolemaic aspects. Although this aspect may initially appear favorable, Jupiter is also the ruler of Pisces, the sign where Mars is placed; in other words, it is the dispositor of Mars. Therefore, this aspect suggests that the attacker's actions may leave long-lasting consequences on the victims. Moreover, there is still time before the Moon perfects this aspect, indicating a delay in intervention.

Up to this point, we have evaluated the chart in general terms. However, we now aim to go deeper and understand the structure behind the attacker. **Who is the perpetrator? With which structure is he connected? How can we approach these questions?**

At this point, "essential dignities" come into play.

We have established that the 7th house represents the enemy. Therefore, we will focus on the degree of the Descendant (DSC), the starting point of the 7th house. By evaluating this degree through the ecliptic system, we can

examine its dignities. The DSC is at 10°39' Aries.

We can determine the dignities of this degree as follows:

- Domicile (Mars): the perpetrator himself
- Exaltation (Sun): authority, visibility, and propaganda motive
- Triplicity (night/fire - Jupiter): ideological or belief-based support
- Term (Venus): command, connection, and organizational point
- Face (Sun): repeated visibility and dramatic effect.

When we proceed with this framework, a deeper structure emerges. The placement of Mars, the ruler of the DSC, in Pisces and in the 6th house suggests that the perpetrator is not in a position of direct strength; rather, he appears as a controlled and directed agent operating behind the scenes. Pisces carries themes of dissolution, surrender, and lack of direction, which may indicate that the attacker suppresses his individual identity and acts in accordance with a mission.

The Sun, as the ruler of both exaltation and face, being in Capricorn and connected to the IC, suggests the presence of a deeply rooted, structured, and hidden organization behind the event. The IC is

associated with underground structures, roots, and concealed foundations.

The placement of Jupiter, the triplicity ruler, in the 1st house in Libra indicates that an ideological framework is reflected in the visible dimension of the event. Through Libra, narratives of justice and balance may be constructed; however, such narratives may have been used to legitimize the action.

The placement of Venus, the term ruler, in the 5th house in Aquarius helps us understand the selection of the target. Aquarius represents collective structures, ideological groups, and organizations. Its placement in the 5th house indicates that a social venue such as an entertainment space was deliberately chosen as a target.

At this point, the most important contribution of essential dignities is that they reveal not only the visible aspect of the event but also the underlying connections. In particular, the connection indicated by the term ruler is noteworthy. In this case, it becomes meaningful to examine Venus in greater detail.

We may continue this analysis by comparing it with charts of different countries. However,

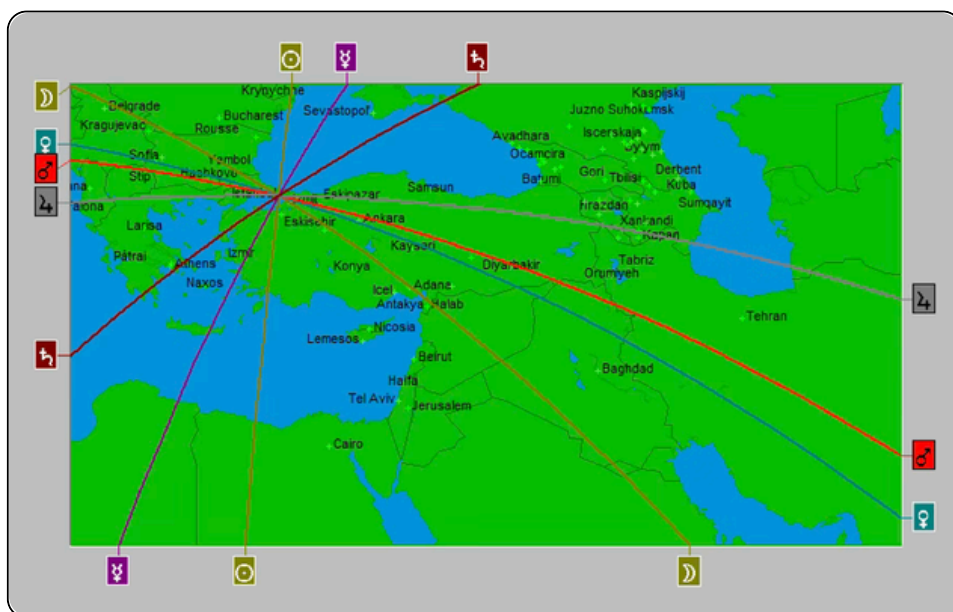
at this stage, AstroMapping comes into play. Therefore, in the next step, we will examine the geographical lines of Venus and evaluate its projections across the world.

Directional Analysis Through Local Space

At this stage, we generated the Local Space lines. Why did we prefer the Local Space technique instead of AstroCartoGraphy? In fact, an analysis could also be conducted through cartographic projections; however, the primary focus here is directional information. For this reason, the Local Space approach, which is based on the horizon coordinate system, provides a more functional result.

Local Space lines indicate the azimuth direction of a planet relative to the observer's location at the moment in question. In other words, they reveal the direction in which the planet is positioned at that moment and where this direction points geographically. Within the scope of this study, the location of the event is already known: Istanbul. However, the aim here is to determine the direction from which the influence toward Istanbul originates.

In this context, when we examine the Local Space line

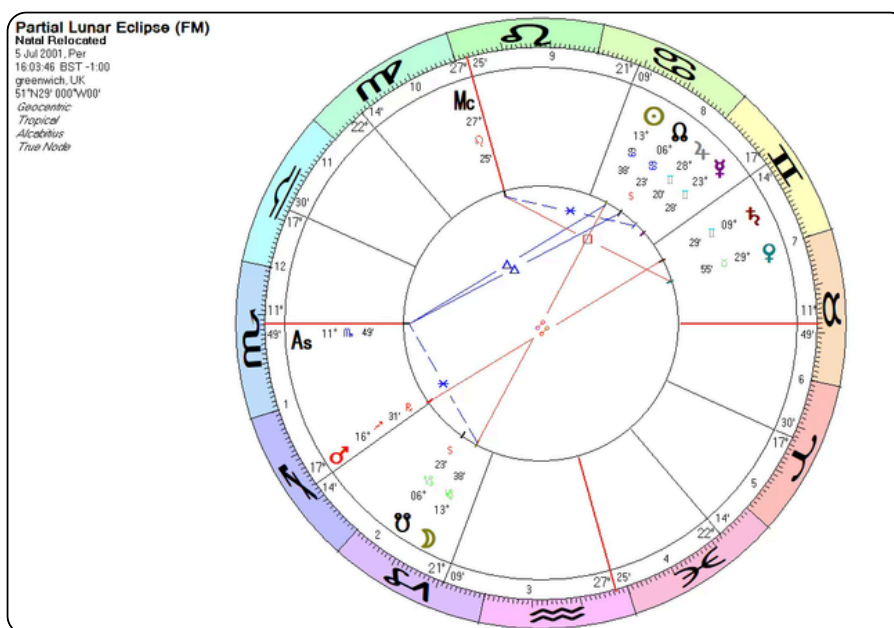


of Venus, we observe that it extends toward Iraq. This suggests that the connections, relational network, and command mechanism represented by Venus may be associated with this geographical direction. In other words, the direction indicated by Venus provides clues about the structure to which the attacker is connected, the center from which orders are received, or the network of relationships involved.

When we consider the known background of the event, we encounter the information that the perpetrator was linked to ISIS. In this context, the correspondence between the directional information obtained through Local Space and Iraq presents a striking result.

At this point, an important aspect must be emphasized: this conclusion was not reached directly. First, through the analysis of essential dignities based on the DSC degree, Venus was identified as a critical indicator. Subsequently, using the Local Space technique, the geographical direction of this indicator was examined. This two-step approach clearly demonstrates how classical astrological knowledge and cartographic techniques operate together.

For this reason, knowledge of the fundamental principles of classical astrology emerges as an element that expands the interpretative scope of AstroMapping applications and allows for deeper analyses.



Directional Analysis Through Local Space

Let us now examine an eclipse chart. Here we observe a lunar eclipse. The degree of the eclipse is at 13° Capricorn. In this example, rather than focusing on a specific event moment, I aim to calculate the dignities of the eclipse degree and match them with developments across the world. Since no specific location is given, I will not prefer Local Space within AstroMapping for this case. Instead, I may proceed through AstroCartoGraphy or the Geodetic method. In this example, I will adopt AstroCartoGraphy; however, let us first calculate the almuten of 13° Capricorn.

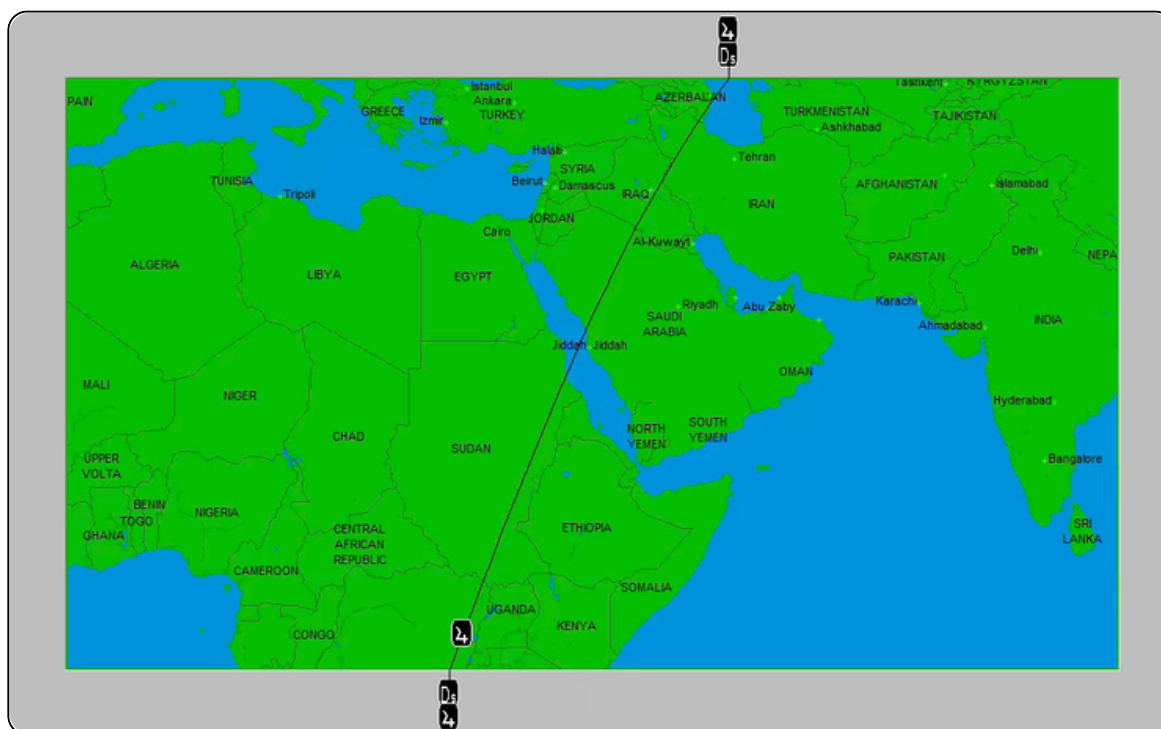
I will perform this calculation using the classical method,

that is, based on the scoring system used by Bonatti and Lilly. It should be noted that the points used here do not indicate the absolute superiority of planets, but rather their level of authority at a specific zodiacal degree. In this calculation, we will use +5 for domicile, +4 for exaltation, +3 for triplicity, +2 for term, and +1 for face. When we perform this calculation, Mars receives the highest score. Therefore, the almuten of 13° Capricorn is Mars. We can summarize the scoring in the classical method as follows:

Saturn = +5 points, Mars = +7 points, Venus = +4 points , Moon = +3 points, Jupiter = +2 points.

Accordingly, the almuten of 13° Capricorn is Mars. At first glance, since the eclipse occurs in Capricorn, we might have directly turned to Saturn; however, when we calculate the essential dignities, we see that the dominant indicator is Mars. This distinction is important, as it shifts the center of gravity in interpretation.

From this point onward, we can proceed to cartographic analysis. Since we are not examining a specific event location but rather an eclipse chart, I use AstroCartoGraphy directly instead of Local Space in this example. In the cartographic analysis, I pay particular attention to the lines of Mars, as it is the almuten of the eclipse degree.



When we examine the map, we observe that the Mars MC line passes through Indonesia, the Mars IC line falls directly across Washington, the Mars ASC line runs through Egypt and the Middle East, and the Mars DSC line extends across the Pacific Ocean.

We know that eclipses produce significant effects and act as triggers for events. This eclipse occurred on July 5, 2001. A few months later, on September 11, 2001, the Twin Towers attacks took place. What is striking is that the Mars IC line passes directly through Washington.

The Mars IC line can be interpreted as the emergence of violence, attack, and destructive energy from the

roots, foundations, or underlying structures of an event. In cartographic analysis, Mars lines are already examined with particular attention; however, in this case, the fact that Mars is the almuten of the eclipse degree makes this line even more noteworthy. For this reason, when interpreting the overall effect of the eclipse, it is important to focus not only on the ruler of the sign, but also on the almuten of the eclipse degree.

At this point, another question arises: what is the directing indicator behind the event? In the previous example, we evaluated this connection through the term ruler. Following the same logic, the Egyptian bound ruler of 13°

Capricorn is Jupiter. Therefore, we can now examine the lines of Jupiter and begin evaluating the projections of this indicator across the world.

As we can observe, Jupiter's DSC line passes directly through Jeddah. This city is known as the birthplace of Osama Bin Laden. This overlap presents a striking indication.

In this context, Jupiter as the term ruler represents authority, the rule-setting power, and ideological or belief-based structures for this eclipse. The DSC line, on the other hand, signifies external influence, open hostility, and the "other." When we evaluate these two indicators together, the fact that Jupiter's DSC line passes through Jeddah

presents a meaningful intersection pointing to the organizational and ideological structure behind the event.

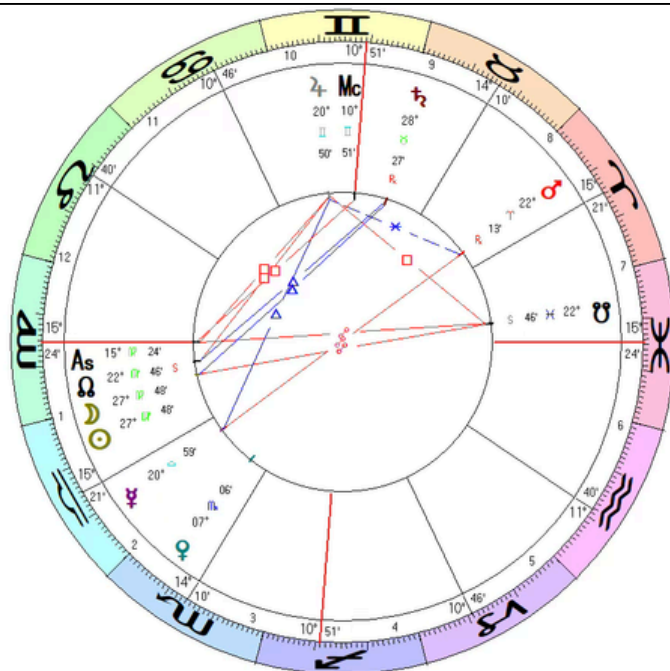
At the same time, an important point must be emphasized: term rulers should not be expected to produce such direct geographical correspondences in cartographic analysis in every case. This example is striking; however, it should not be treated as a general rule. The term ruler should primarily be understood as the force that “regulates” or defines boundaries. For this reason, it is more appropriate here to consider Jupiter not merely as a geographical indicator, but as a factor that defines ideology, belief systems, and the framework of meaning.

This approach demonstrates that in cartographic analysis, we should not focus solely on the geographical paths of lines, but also evaluate the symbolic meanings of the indicators. For this reason, not overlooking the fundamental principles of classical astrology emerges as a key factor that enhances the depth of interpretation in AstroMapping studies.

The Pearl Harbor Example

Let us now proceed with another example. On September 21, 1941, a solar

Solar Total Eclipse (NM)
 Notal Relocated
 21 Sep 1941, Paz
 05:38:28 BST -1:00
 Greenwich, UK
 51°N29°00'W00'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Alcabillus
 True Node



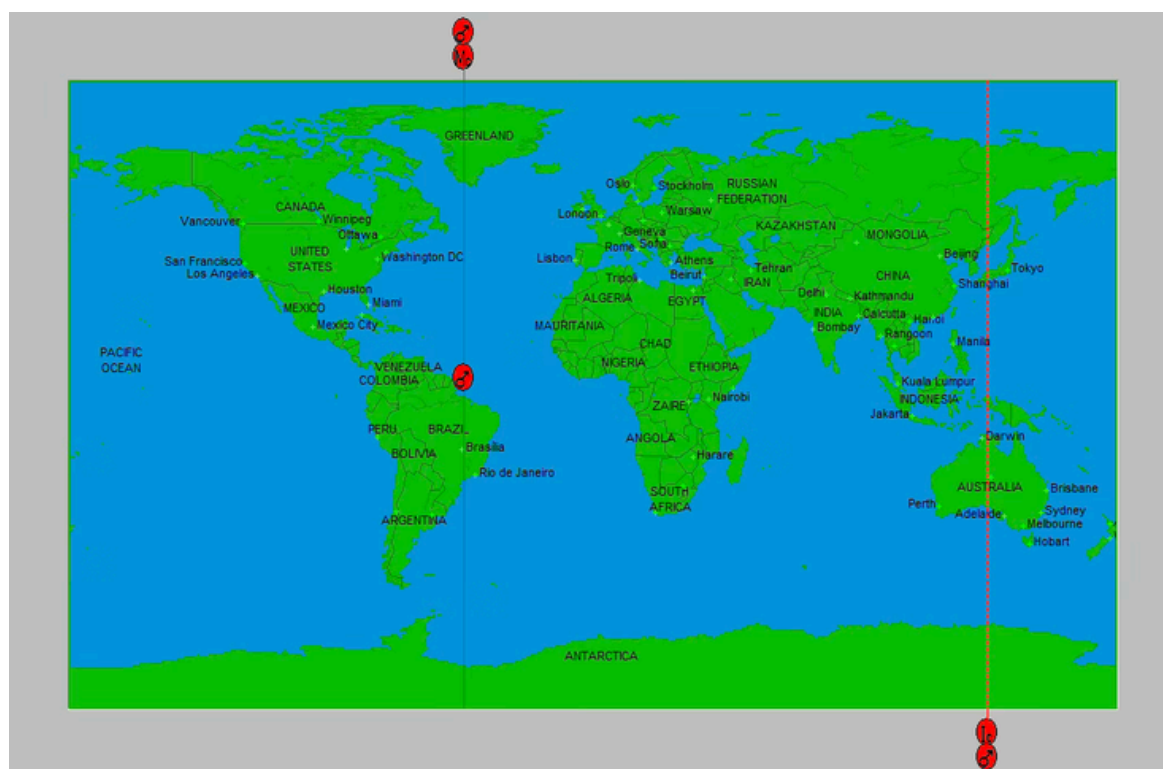
eclipse occurred at 27°48' Virgo. The Egyptian bound ruler of this eclipse degree is Mars.

When evaluating the character of the eclipse, we focus particularly on the term (Egyptian bound) ruler. Within this approach, Mars represents the nature and the action-oriented character of the eclipse. By its very nature, Mars brings forward themes of attack, movement, conflict, and military action.

When we move to cartographic analysis, we observe that the IC line of Mars passes through Japan. The IC line represents the origin, foundation, and underlying background of an event. Therefore, the intersection of Mars' IC line

with Japan provides an important indication regarding the point of origin of the event. As is well known, the Pearl Harbor attack took place on December 7, 1941. This date falls only a few months after the solar eclipse in question. When evaluated together with the triggering effect of the eclipse, the fact that Mars is both the term ruler of the eclipse degree and that its IC line points toward Japan presents a striking correspondence regarding the source of the attack.

This example demonstrates how the combined evaluation of the dignities of an eclipse degree and cartographic lines can serve as a powerful tool in understanding the background of events.



The Pearl Harbor Example

In this study, we examined AstroMapping techniques together with the doctrine of essential dignities in classical astrology. By analyzing the perspectives offered by different coordinate systems, we evaluated how planets gain meaning not only through their positions in the sky but also through their projections onto the Earth.

One of the most important conclusions that emerges is that essential dignities are not concepts limited solely to natal charts. On the contrary, identifying the planets that hold authority over a specific

degree and examining these indicators through their geographical lines allows us to develop a deeper understanding of the underlying structure of events. This approach demonstrates that almuten, term rulers, and other dignities can be used as guiding tools in cartographic analysis.

As observed in the examples discussed, first identifying the indicators through classical methods and then examining these indicators on the world map through AstroMapping techniques produces strong and consistent results. This two-step approach offers a holistic analytical framework that operates on both symbolic and spatial levels.

At the same time, it is important to emphasize that this method should not be regarded as a system that produces definitive conclusions, but rather as a field of research that develops through observation and experience. Each chart, each event, and each geographical context must be evaluated within its own framework. For this reason, the approach presented here should be considered as a methodological proposal and should be further tested and refined through different examples.

In conclusion, evaluating the fundamental principles of classical astrology together with AstroMapping techniques

expands astrological interpretation into a broader context. This approach opens new avenues of research both theoretically and practically, and makes the spatial dimension of astrology more visible.

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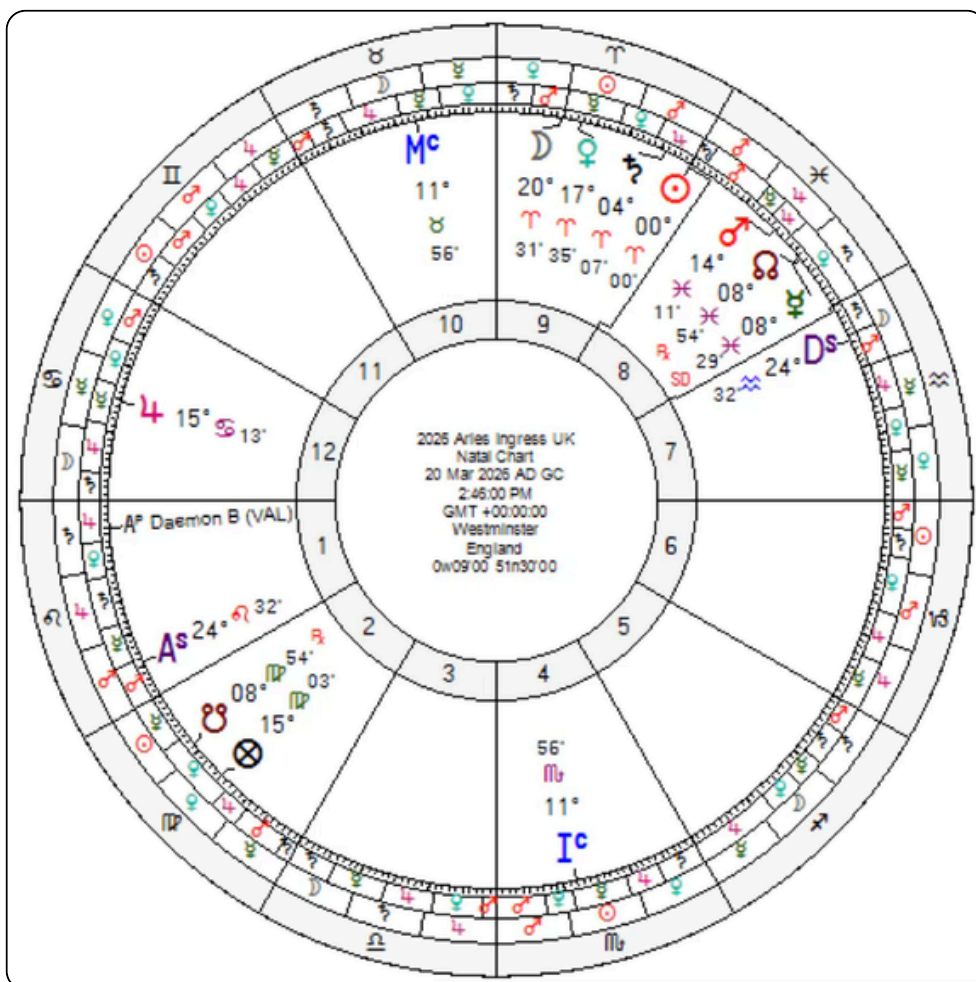


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ARIES INGRESS 2026 - UK



Overview of the Aries Ingress

Leo 24° rises, a fixed sign indicating that this Aries ingress chart will hold sway for the entire year as all the angles are fixed.

Using the traditional planets, the chart is steamy! We have Sun, Moon, Venus, and Saturn in fire, with the remaining three planets in water. There is no

Earth nor Air. Furthermore, there is a bunching of planets in the SW quadrant, with only Jupiter standing apart, suggesting matters over this quarter will be dictated by those “foreign” to the country.

The Sun could be taken to be besieged by the two malefics as Mars is in Pisces within 150 and Saturn by body. Fortunately, Jupiter puts his ray in front of Mars and

provides some protection. In WSH, the Sun and his companions are in the 9th sign, but the Sun and Saturn are in the idle 8th by quadrant.

Planetary Configurations and Influences

Mars is turned away from the Sun and is located in the 8th sign, but in the 7th place by quadrant houses, although he is right on the cusp of the 8th. Mars does have some dignity in Pisces, as he is the nocturnal triplicity ruler of Water. He is further helped by the trine aspect from his ruler, the exalted Jupiter, who has just turned direct. Mars is always seen as the planet of war, strife, and contentions. He is the surgeon who is not afraid to wield the scalpel to cut away the rot. However, in Pisces, his actions can be all over the place. He may just cut off the wrong limb!

Mars rules the 9th sign, relating to overseas trade, law, religion, and education. He also rules the 4th sign, with its connections to the land, crops, and produce, as well as the party in opposition to the Government. Mars has the reputation of being a warmonger, but many overlook that he also seeks to protect what he views as home and family, particularly when it comes to the land,

heritage, and the assets of the people.

With four planets in the house of law and religion, we may see some changes and challenges in these matters. Our “laws” have increased, as the Government apparently seeks to “protect” the people. There is a slight pushback from the people who feel the Government has gone too far in trying to control all aspects of their lives, but it is unlikely the British people will rise up as they have done in other countries.

We can expect much chopping and changing over the coming quarter with regard to those matters. Thanks to the trine aspect from Jupiter, Mars is ably supported, but there may not be lasting benefits.

There is an aspect and reception between Mars and Venus; he is in the sign of her exaltation, whilst she is under his domain.

If we take Mars as indicating the opposition party to the Government, it may indicate some division and taking chances without shoring up their defenses, which ultimately could lead to a lack of focused direction.

Venus rules the 10th of Government and the 3rd sign,

relating to transport within the UK, the Post Office, and matters related to all forms of communications. The 3rd house is also associated with “alternative” religious matters. There is still no resolution or payout with regard to the Post Office Horizon scandal. Could there be a further challenge regarding restitution to those affected? We should also note that Venus rules Islam, and we have seen the increasing influence of this religion and how it is now affecting the laws of the UK, as Sharia law starts to be accepted by the Government.

Although it is “old news,” the UK has the first female Archbishop of Canterbury, who took up her post on the 28th of January 2026; she will not be “installed” until the 25th of March, the day before her 64th birthday. It is telling that the two planets perceived as “feminine” are both in the 9th house, relating to the Church and spiritual matters. Venus is not comfortable in Aries, being peregrine, but she will soon move into the area of her Decan that will give her some authority and standing. (Firmicus, 4th Century AD, was of the opinion that a planet in any form of dignity was able to act.) Both Venus and the Moon are just clear of the Sun and would be visible as the Sun sets.

Impact on Leadership and National Affairs

If we consider the Moon and Venus as representing the “leader,” and both are co-present in Aries in the 9th, it seems the Government and Church are together. Indeed, Dame Sarah Mullally was an advisor to Tony Blair when he was in Government. With Venus, the indicator of the “Leader,” in the 12th from the 10th, could this suggest a change in leadership to a female during this quarter? One who is behind the scenes and ready to jump?

Cardinal signs are about change, and Aries is the fastest in terms of ascensional times in the Northern Hemisphere. It is interesting that Angela Rayner, who was long considered the right hand of Starmer, is herself an Aries (28/3/1980), currently in her 10th house protected year. She moves into the 11th house just after the ingress. It does seem to point to a feminine presence for the country.

The last time the Sun, Venus, and Saturn were in Aries was in April 1997, when Labour, under the leadership of Tony Blair, won with a 179-seat majority and swept the Conservatives away. Under the Conservatives, the economy was booming, and unemployment was at its

lowest level since 1990. John Major gambled on those facts to keep the Conservatives in power, but he was wrong!

The Aries Ingress of 1997 also had Leo rising, but the MC/IC axis was cardinal, with the MC falling in Aries, which is perhaps why the Government changed. I do not think the current party will change during this quarter, but the figurehead may.

Jupiter is the dispositor of Mars and sees him by trine but out of the 12th sign. Jupiter is, of course, exalted, so even though he is in the 12th, he will do the best he can. The 12th relates to institutions, and as Jupiter is the planet of wealth, this could indicate that matters may arise that are related to institutional finances, or are connected with the assets of our partners, taxation and income from death duties, as well as from gambling and the entertainment industry. This could actually see increased income from those areas, but not over the first quarter!

The majority of planets are closely bunched in two signs, and it is only Jupiter that is out on a limb. This suggests the main focus will not only be on religion in the country, but also heavily on matters related to overseas and foreign partners. We have already experienced the power of America in

forcing a U-turn on matters related to the Chagos Islands. The country may be subject to further influences from abroad that ultimately could benefit the people. However, with that strong Jupiter in the house of institutions, it seems any benefits may go to the institutions as opposed to the people. This is further suggested as Mercury is in the 8th and peregrine; the assets of the people are in poor condition and are in the hands of our “partners.”

If we consider the lunations and ingresses of the planets over the coming three months, the only lunation of any importance is the Full Moon on the 1st of May, falling exactly on the MC/IC axis. May was when the local elections were traditionally held, but this current Government has cancelled 30 elections, with the possibility of cancelling even more due to the “need” to re-organize councils throughout the land.

The right of the people has been removed without debate, yet the people have allowed this to happen. Will they suddenly invoke the law to fight for their rights? It may be possible, as even though Mars is in aversion to the Ascendant, Sun, and Moon, he is in trine with the IC point, which is the 9th place from Mars.

If we consider the chart of the Full Moon on the 1st of May 2026, 21 Libra rises, which puts the Asc/Desc axis very close to the Aries Ingress Moon. Not only that, but Mars is almost on the degree held by Venus.

In this lunation chart, Venus sextiles Saturn, and she is on the fixed star Aldebaran. Aldebaran was one of the four Royal Fixed stars and was deemed to be of the nature of Mars. Robson says: "It gives honor, intelligence, eloquence, steadfastness, integrity, popularity, courage, ferocity, a tendency to sedition, a responsible position, public honors, and gain of power and wealth through others, but its benefits seldom prove lasting, and there is also danger of violence and sickness."

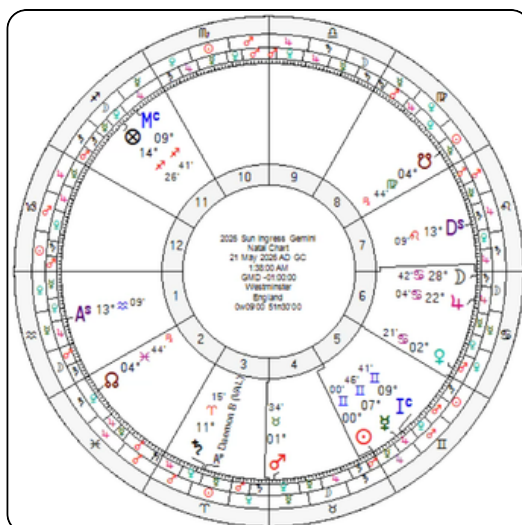
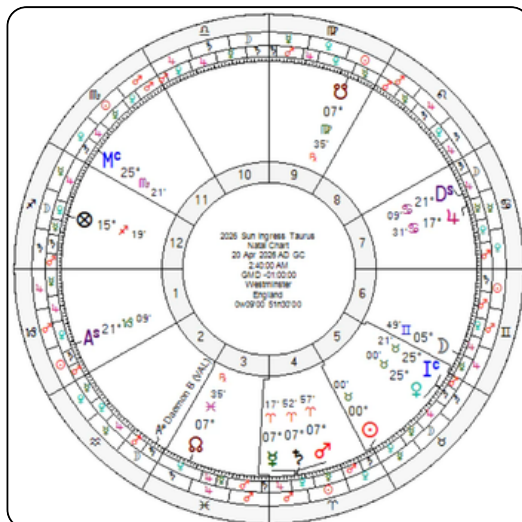
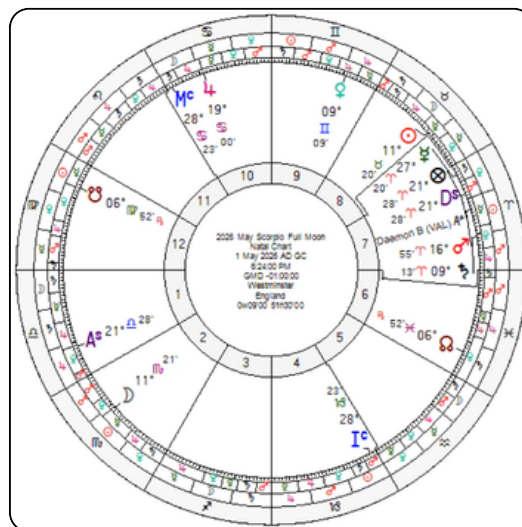
This lunation may act as a trigger for how our country is run, or lead to a change in our leadership, and it seems yet again, it will be the common man who will foot the bill.

If we track the progress of Mars, he moves into Aries on the 9th of April at 19:37 GMT. He crosses the degree held by Saturn (4°07') on the 14th of April, as Mercury finally moves into Aries and climbs out of his hole. Mid-April could see some fallout from the Chancellor's Spring statement that is scheduled to take place on the 3rd of March (day of the eclipse).

Mars moves into Taurus on the 18th of May, followed by Venus moving into Cancer a few hours later. Mars hits 10° Taurus on the 2nd of June, just as Venus conjoins the degree held by Jupiter in the lunation above.

Going back to April: the chart for the ingress of the Sun into Taurus is worth considering due to the partile conjunction of Mercury, Saturn, and Mars in Aries, although there is no direct pickup with the Aries Ingress.

Now all the planets are contained in a square area, but what I find interesting is the rarity of this



combination in Aries, let alone being conjoined. They were last conjoined in Aries on the 5th of May 1821 and were accompanied by Jupiter. This was when Napoleon died on Saint Helena, the Bank of England returned to the Gold Standard, and the national census revealed that almost 50% of the population was under the age of 20.

Prior to 1821, the three were co-present in Aries in 1144, 1321, and 1556. The three were within a degree of conjunction, but Mercury was moving quite quickly and didn't wait for Mars to catch up. The event at that time which has reverberated through history was the execution on the 21st of March 1556 of Thomas Cranmer, who was burned at the stake on the orders of Queen Mary I.

The next time the three were in Aries was the 21st of April 1586. Again, they were within a degree, but the three were not conjoined at the same time. It was the same picture 200 years later (4th of April 1791) before they were once again within a degree but did not conjoin.

It was not until the 7th of April 1996 when the three actually conjoined, but it only lasted less than 24 hours. There was also a partial solar eclipse; Labour won another by-

election, reducing the Conservatives' majority to three, and it was when the divorce between the then Duke and Duchess of York was finalized. I should say the Sun was also present in Aries. On the 8th of April, Mercury then moved into Taurus.

Mercury, Mars, and Saturn will not meet up again until March 2203!

If we consider the houses these three "own" in the Aries Ingress 2026, we can conjecture that matters relating to religion, law, foreign affairs, the land, allies of the leaders, assets of the people, the armed forces, health issues, and partnerships will be brought into focus as this year progresses. It is doubtful we will see anyone being burned at the stake, but they may fall on their sword. Any census will probably show the majority of the population is over 40, and we cannot return to the Gold Standard, as we have no gold left in the country's coffers.

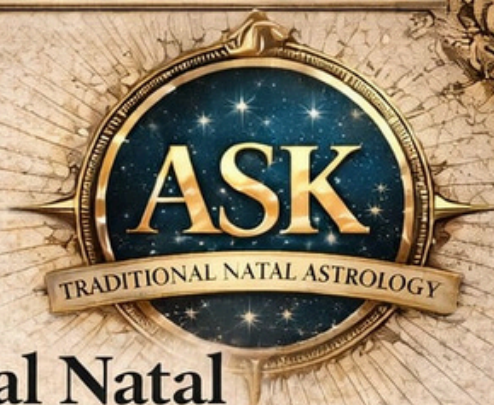
To round up this quarter: If we look at the chart for the ingress of the Sun into Gemini, the sign of Aquarius rises. In the Aries Ingress, Aquarius is the 7th house cusp, so this month, there is a renewed focus on partnership and all matters related to transport, all forms of communications,

and issues around 15-minute neighborhood restrictions.

There appears to be no let-up in the financial strain the people are under, and if it hasn't already happened, there is a distinct possibility of change or issues for the leader(s) of the country. Women will be more prominent in the affairs of the quarter, and there will be more emphasis on matters relating to foreign affairs, the legal system, and institutions (which covers hospitals, prisons, and large corporations). The first six weeks are likely to see some upheaval across the board. The weather may continue wet but mild.

Take time to listen to the birds and enjoy the new growth. Life is a cycle, not linear.

Astrologer
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STEPHEN ARROYO holds an MA degree in Psychology and taught some of the first college credit classes in the USA. In addition to his years of counseling and teaching experience, he has also led seminars in many nations. Internationally renowned as a pioneer of person-centered astrology, his books have been translated into 25 languages. A number of his books are regarded as modern classics, and in recognition of this, he has received various awards from three countries. He is the 2025 joint recipient of the prestigious Charles Harvey Award for Exceptional Service to Astrology.

*This excerpt from his book, **Practicing the Cosmic Science: Key Insights in Modern Astrology**, is published by kind permission of the author and CRCS Publications.*

This talk is a distillation of some essential observations that I keep coming back to over and over. It is a distillation of many years' research, reflection, discovery, and—I should emphasize—experimentation. The brilliant German astrologer Reinhold Ebertin, who is unfortunately still too little known in the North American astrology world, relates the Saturn-Pluto combinations to “in-depth

FORTY+ YEARS OF WORKING WITH ASTROLOGY

True art is creation, and creation is beyond all theories. That is why I say to any beginner: Learn your theories as well as you can, but put them aside when you touch the miracle of the living soul. Not theories but your own creative individuality alone must decide.

—C.G. Jung

Astrology, a discipline rejected and ridiculed by Newtonian-Cartesian science, can prove of unusual value as a source of information about personality development and transformation....For an approach that sees consciousness as a primary element of the universe that is woven into the very fabric of existence, and that recognizes archetypal structures as something that precedes and “determines phenomena in the material world, the function of astrology would appear quite logical.”

—Dr. Stanislav Grof

research”. I was born with that conjunction, and in-depth research has been one of my strong points. Combined with my Aquarius Moon and strong Uranus inclinations toward constant *experimentation*, I have for years attempted to *distill* the essence of various astrological truths, if they were validated by my experimentation and experience. It has not always made me popular that I could not in my experience validate many astrological theories, fads, and superstitions, but I have preferred to emphasise the positive applications and the reliable laws of astrology

that seemed to be useful and of benefit to human beings.

I am also obsessed with simplicity, possibly because of my strong Libra aesthetic sense. And I was glad to see Einstein's statement that, if one really understands something, one should be able to explain it to a young child. If this group of people is going to transmit the wisdom of astrology to younger generations, we are definitely faced with the challenge of keeping it simple and devising a language that expresses the wisdom, the insights, and the inspiration that astrology can provide in a way that anybody

can understand. Astrologers do not need to be esotericists. We can be esoteric with ourselves and colleagues if we want, but we need to use a clear, simple language if we want to reach more people—especially the younger people, many of whom are very open to the astrological language, but they don't really do the in-depth study, in my observation, that many previous generations did. After all, they have become used to immediate information being available on any subject they want, through computers, the internet, etc. (Unfortunately, the quality of that information is often not questioned.) So, it's quite a challenge, I think, to find a way to reach people today that combines clear communication skills with the essential truths of astrology that are unchanging.

After over 40 years of involvement with astrology, I am so often reminded of that famous quote from T. S. Eliot that, after all our exploring, we arrive where we started and can perhaps know the place for the first time:

*We shall not cease from
exploration,
And the end of all our
exploring
Will be to arrive where we
started
And know the place for the
first time.*

After years of experimenting with all sorts of theories and methods and reading so many things, including for years almost all the major astrological journals, I keep coming back to the same reliable things, along with a few new discoveries now and then. Recently, I did two years of intense research on Jupiter in preparation for my book *Exploring Jupiter*, and it just amazed me how I kept coming back to the simple, basic principles that I learned from Ronald Davison's textbook thirty years ago. [Now published as *Astrology: The Classic Guide*.] And I kept seeing remarkable evidence for what I learned from Margaret Hone and Charles Carter and from others who emphasize the classic meanings of the planets and also the four elements. So, in this era of ever-changing fads and claims of "NEW, NEW", I think it will benefit all practitioners of astrology to deepen their understanding of the basic laws and principles rather than constantly adopting ideas and theories that are supposedly new. No matter how clever or intriguing the new overlays may be, if the foundation upon which they are placed is not strong, the entire structure will collapse.

The futurist philosopher and architect Buckminster Fuller said, "Unfortunately in this world we were not given an operating manual for Spaceship Earth." That may be so for the planet as a whole, but it occurs to me that astrology can be seen as an operating manual for navigating through life. It gives us various gauges; it provides a type of radar, a compass, and it presents us with a cosmic gyroscope that indicates when we're out of balance or when we are likely to be especially stressed, to the extent that we will need to compensate by paying more attention to ourselves in some way—psychologically, spiritually, physically. So, it's an apt image: astrology as an operating manual for living, if properly understood and aligned with positive values.

There is another image that I heard recently which can be useful when we are confronted with the common criticism of astrology that it cannot be proven, measured, or scientifically validated. Well, scientists today use computers and disks all the time these days. But if you take a disk and grind it up and scientifically analyze it, can you find any information there? No. No information that you can ascertain through any materialistic analysis—none whatsoever. But does that

disprove that there was information coded onto that disk? Of course not. Likewise, if you envision the cosmic mind as a sort of celestial or universal “disk”, you can take the next step of allowing for the possibility, at least, that there is information coded into this cosmic (or archetypal) mind that can be accessed in various ways. And astrology, I think, is one of the more reliable and precise ways of accessing that information. I like this analogy. The fact that you cannot analyze everything materially or statistically is irrelevant. The question is: what is it good for? What can it show you? Can it inspire you? Can it help you understand other human beings and what you yourself are going through in your life?

Soon after imagining this analogy, I came across a supportive notion from the field of physics. The environmental scientist and astrological researcher William Keepin, Ph.D. has pointed out that the physicist David Bohm proposed that the universe is a *holomovement*: a single unbroken entity in flowing motion, in which each part replicates the whole. The three basic manifestations of this entity are matter, energy, and meaning, and each enfolds the other two. To Keepin, Bohm’s vision was presaged by astrology’s

ancient principle: As above, so below. “It’s not that Saturn sends rays to my brain and makes me do Saturnian things,” Keepin said in an article in *Life* magazine. Rather, planets and people are part of a single process, bound together by patterns of meaning. Astrologers merely attempt to chart those patterns. But since meaning cannot be quantified, astrology cannot be proven scientifically. “It’s like trying to prove the beauty of Mozart’s music using chemistry,” Keepin said. “Music is beautiful to those who hear.”

So, this beautiful music of astrology needs to be reflected in the language that astrologers use in communicating their understanding of life’s meaningful patterns. Admittedly, simplicity and clarity are an obsession with me, partly because of my Libran desire for elegance and symmetry. But my focus on clarity also came out of my experience with lots of counseling. I had to do what people needed, and it was obvious when I was communicating well and when they were not getting it, when they weren’t really understanding me. So I had to adapt my astrology as it evolved to what suited people’s needs. I did not really start with a rigid, preordained

approach. My approach evolved from what worked with clients. And from the years of teaching I did, I could see what sorts of ideas and methods of presentation excited students and which didn’t. The teaching and counseling, in other words, were a constant “reality test” of the theories and interpretive phrases I was developing. Without that experience, my writings would never have been as well received as they have been.

Over the years, one thing I concluded firmly was the need to use a minimum of reliable factors in birth charts, at least with people who are not extremely advanced in astrology. I’ve seen so many computer print-outs in recent years that are so crowded with symbols and lines that it just looks chaotic. Especially when every minor aspect is drawn in as well, the chart no longer looks like a mandala of individual order but rather just like a huge mess of confusion and congestion! How can you get a sense of order and clarity out of that? Just from a statistical probability standpoint, you can find an infinite number of “reasons” for anything. So you have to find what is *reliable*. Just like in any scientific field, you’ve got to test and test and test it again, trying it in many different circumstances. And

then use it if it tests out. Sure, there's an endless number of theories and factors out there we can use, but we better be careful. And there's an endless number of measurements we can do. But don't lose sight of the fact that when people go to astrologers, they are not going to find confusion or to collect a million petty details on a recording. They aren't going just to hear a lot of speculation, although admittedly some people do go mostly for sensationalistic predictions. But even if they seem to be asking for prediction, it may be their way of asking for clarity and direction. So, if you just throw a lot of data at them, they are going to walk out of there having gained what? Perhaps enthralled with their own greatness for a few minutes if you flattered them, or maybe all excited about some coming event that may or may not happen, but two weeks later what will the effect be of that interchange?

There are so many ways of looking at astrology. You can see the Cosmos as a giant system of ideas. You can see it as a weaving of archetypes. Dane Rudhyar said that astrology reveals the *structural patterns of life*. He didn't say that all the contents were shown, but the structural patterns themselves are

revealed very well through astrology. Then all the details of all the events of life fill in those patterns. So, after studying Rudhyar in depth, I went on to study Polarity Therapy, which emphasizes the energetic reality of the four elements, and it quickly became apparent that astrology revealed the energy patterns of human life, of experience, of the cycles of life, and of your body. And you can work with those energies through various healing arts. Speaking of working with the energies, I found a great quote the other day from Dr. Deepak Chopra: "At the same time, the body is monitoring movement of stars. Biological movements are a function of planetary movements—circadian, seasonal, etc.... There is an underlying intelligence that organizes the infinity of things happening in the universe and connects all things with each other." (Interview in the San Francisco Chronicle January 11, 1997.) That's quite a profound summation of astrology, really, and very well put. So astrology is *our way of monitoring that pattern of order* that's pervading the stars, the planets, the body, our minds, our emotions.

One story I was reminded of when I read the Deepak Chopra quote is one of hundreds that all of us discover over many years if

we've got our eyes wide open while we're using the astrological language, watching transits, and so on. Sometimes it's just amazing how literally this monitoring system and language describes what's happening in life. Many years ago when my son had transiting Neptune opposite his natal Mercury, he developed an incredible case of eczema. His was the worst eruptive case the doctors had ever seen. I took him to a homeopathic clinic where the most experienced doctors consulted for about two hours before they gave him one dose of one remedy. There was incredible improvement within one hour. Within ten hours he was 60% cured. Within twenty-four hours the moist rash was all dried up, and within seventy-two hours all that was left was scabs and scars; all the itching and pain were gone. And what remedy did they come up with? (I did not tell them about astrology or transits at all.) They gave him a dose of *Mercurius*. His Mercury was being "afflicted" by Neptune. His nervous system and skin, etc. were being disordered by the Neptune transit. It's a remarkable thing to study, and it should put you in awe, not about how much WE know, but of how little we know, as we watch the parallels and patterns unfold from the cosmic mind level right down to the event level.

The energy reality of astrology deserves a few more comments. I believe astrology can be characterized as a science of energy that can give you a blueprint of the individual's attunement of the soul in this lifetime. To me, the elements are the real energy substance of astrology, personality, and even types of consciousness; they can show your attunement, where you're coming from, where your awareness is rooted. A striking example of the energy reality of astrology is the following: I recently came across a quotation I had never noticed before in Ronald Davison's book *Synastry* — a very perceptive and worthwhile book. He basically said that "a relationship, when you are physically near a person on an ongoing basis, is like a permanent transit." I will never forget that quote! When we have transits, as slow as some are, at least they eventually change. But in an involved relationship, no matter how much those people are changing over time themselves, there are certain things present that stay forever. That, I think, is a reflection of the interaction of the two energy fields.

One of the reasons I was pulled into astrology is that I was always puzzled and confused by the vast differences in human nature,

and I was especially fascinated by the question of *motivation*: what is motivating that person to do this, to think this way, or to seek a certain goal in life? Of course you can find out a lot about motivation from the traditional basic factors in a chart, especially specific planets' positions. But there are a couple things that are very important but are, I feel, slighted in astrological literature. Everyone says the Ascendant is so important, even though there are remarkably few useful things written about it in the available books. But even more ignored is the subject of aspects to the Ascendant. *If your birth time is reliable*, close aspects to the Ascendant should be considered as strong as anything in the chart, and especially powerful in revealing the motivation of one's personal expression. (And if one's birth time is not known with much certainty, looking at various close aspect to the Ascendant possibilities may help in rectification.) During the two years research for *Exploring Jupiter*, we repeatedly found incredibly famous Jupiterian people with Jupiter aspects to the Ascendant. When my daughter asked me to do her boyfriend's chart, when I first saw primary emphasis on the conservative sign Capricorn and no apparent indication of the rebellious behavior he was

always expressing, I thought, "This kid has got to have some Uranus influence." Before getting his birth time, I couldn't see much Uranus influence in the overall patterns in the basic chart, so I said to myself, "He must have a Uranus aspect to the Ascendant." And sure enough, he has Uranus trine the Ascendant exactly in his natal chart, and there's this rebellious streak, but also an innovative and creative streak and a growing interest in politics. So, I'd recommend that one keep an eye on these aspects, for they'll often clearly symbolize a dimension of the personality that perhaps nothing else explains so directly.

Another motivation factor, which can be overlooked in some charts, is related to the old idea of "dispositors": i.e., where are the ruling planets of the most emphasized signs in your natal chart? If you have a lot of planets—especially personal planets and the Ascendant—in a certain sign, always ask yourself, "Where is the ruler of this sign?" And, even more important than that ruler's house position, the sign position is crucial in an energy analysis of a chart. I eventually devised an entire system which I called "sub-tones" once the importance of these rulers' sign positions became clear to me. We can't get into the details of it here, but it is

explained in some detail in my recent book *Experiments & Experience with Astrology*, and it actually comes in handy in chart comparisons also where a strongly emphasized sub-tone links up well with dominant factors in the other person's chart. But the main value of the "sub-tone" idea is that it further explains people's motivations, and in fact it adds another level of sophisticated psychological insight that no orthodox system of psychology can provide. When I started looking at people's major sub-tones, it often explained a whole new dimension that I was overlooking before. I now think that its value lies not only in the way it makes you focus on the energy of a particular sign or combination of signs (and thus their elements), but also that *such placements tone the way the mind works* in each person—often unconsciously. In other words, once again this is a way of understanding human motivation more deeply. I believe that we still need to define many astrological factors in a more modern, dynamic, and practical way; and this sub-tone idea, I think, contributes something valuable by blending ancient traditions, psychological insight, and the simplicity of using the astrological fundamentals.

So you can say that each one of these interpretive guidelines that you discover is like a new lens that you try on your cosmic "macroscope". If it leads you somewhere and you see more clearly with it, then you continue to work with it and you refine it. If it doesn't prove useful, you can throw it in the dust bin and forget it. Most of the techniques I ever tried I have completely abandoned because I didn't find them useful. But what you find useful will depend on what kind of astrology you are seeking to practice, and what level of life you are dealing with. In a professional practice, however, the client's needs come first, and Jung's advice would be good to keep in mind: "We can never know in advance what course a given case will take, for which reason it is better...to abandon all preconceived opinions.... [one] should use them merely as hypotheses for a possible explanation." "The enormous variation among individuals... has set before me the ideal of approaching each case with a minimum of prior assumptions." I might add that approaching things in this open way will also enable you to learn a great deal that will sometimes be quite surprising.

I myself have never viewed astrology as merely a symbolic study or a "mantic" art through which your psyche

projects what it wants to, like the reading of tea leaves. Although practicing good astrology requires a lot of psychic energy, I have never viewed it as a way of channeling psychic work. I view it as a definite science, and I can illustrate what I mean by a few examples. When writing my book *Exploring Jupiter*, I wanted to include Churchill's chart. I had studied Churchill and his life intensely for a number of years, not astrologically but historically. I had in my files four different charts for Churchill, but I knew his life well enough that I felt that all four were wrong. Needless to say, if one chart is as good as another merely to trip off one's intuition or psychic powers through its archetypal symbolism, as some have suggested, there would be no way to distinguish an accurate chart based on true birth data from an inaccurate one. And there would be no need to bother obtaining an accurate chart. Well, I wrote Paul Wright in Scotland, the astrologer/author who is a Virgoan researcher, and he sent me back a chart I had not yet seen; and sure enough, everything clicked immediately with that chart and what I knew of Churchill's personality and talents. The new chart had Libra rising, whereas the others had Scorpio, Leo, Capricorn, and Virgo ascendants.

Likewise, there are a number of wrong charts published for John Lennon, which I had long felt could not be right. When, however, I saw the Aries rising chart published in Paul Wright's book, *Astrology in Action*, with the Aquarius Moon, I knew that this was finally the right one. If you analyze that chart (also published in my book on Jupiter), you'll find—for example—an incredible number of factors in his chart which show a sharpness, starting with Aries rising, all the Virgo, Mars in his Sun sign and so on. Shortly after I had written the Lennon biography in my Jupiter book (in which I said, "He was always at the cutting edge of everything he did."), I was watching a TV interview with Elton John who had known Lennon and had worked with him quite a bit. And I was amused and pleasantly surprised to hear Elton John say that Lennon "was always at the cutting edge of everything he did!" So, you see, if you get a sense when you are working with someone's chart that something isn't right, trust your intuition. Maybe the chart is not right. If the client's resistance to what you are saying is noticeable and, in spite of their openness, he or she cannot honestly accept your statements, pay attention to that resistance! Either the chart is wrong, or your

theories or interpretations may be misguided.

C. G. Jung repeatedly counseled therapists and psychologists to pay close attention to resistance. What he says in the following quotation is 100% applicable to the practice of astrology:

...it is more important for the patient to understand than for the analyst's theoretical expectations to be satisfied. The patient's resistance... is not necessarily wrong; it is rather a sign that something does not 'click.' Either the patient is not yet at a point where he would be able to understand or the interpretation does not fit.

Similarly, we should be careful not to hold our cherished astrological theories too rigidly or to get so wrapped up in our own monologue of interpretation that we fail even to notice such resistance. As Jung said,

The patient is there to be treated, not to verify a theory. For that matter, there is no single theory in the whole field of practical psychology that cannot on occasion be proved to be basically wrong... The resistance might very well prove that the treatment rests on false assumptions.

There are various trends in society and in the world of astrology that we should look at carefully as a new millennium dawns. The pervasiveness of technology, and its handmaiden—a feeling of never having enough time—are obviously complicated issues, and we can only touch on a few practical implications here. Astrology, if it has any hope of being recognized as the valuable tool that it is during the 21st Century, cannot afford to ignore technological developments. It is undeniable that astrology practitioners today can save thousands of hours per year compared to the tedious calculations and research methods they used to employ. However, we should ask ourselves frankly, since we no longer draw up the chart by hand, thus allowing the subconscious mind to dwell on it and absorb it during that time, do we take the time to reflect on that chart before talking with a client? Practicing astrology well takes time, and no computerization will change that. If you're going to do good astrology work, you can't sell people a computerized print-out, spend ten minutes with them, spit out a few glib comments, and show them the door. It takes time for the magical, healing potential of astrology to manifest. For the deeper wisdom to surface, you have

to have a dialogue; and that is lost in “internet astrology” and selling print-outs from a program written by someone you don’t know that reads like a machine wrote it. (In my own work, we tested dozens of products that were being sold, and we could not in good conscience recommend one of the computerized “reports” to the people who contact us for referrals.) I was especially shocked some years ago when ads started to appear in magazines with the headline: **MAKE MONEY WITH ASTROLOGY.** These ads, placed by one of the largest astrology software companies, were directed at anyone, regardless of whether they had any astrological knowledge. All you have to do is buy the program and sell the multi-page “product”. A parallel might be: “Send in blood samples. Make money with medicine (even if you don’t know anything about what you are giving the people).” To me, that was a completely unethical business practice. Data transmission has little to do with real communication. And words transmitted through an internet “horoscope reading” or through a print-out that is sold truly convey a superficial impression of astrology’s potential for understanding, in most cases. In one study of communication skills, only 7% of in-person communication

was judged to be based on the words exchanged. The other 93% was discovered to be tone of voice, body language, attitudes, vibrations/compatibility, empathy, etc. So, if YOU are not there, the vast majority of the potential communication will be missing as well. You are, in effect, the translator of the cosmic language who can give some guidance as to what the cosmos is saying for each individual in a focused way that relates directly to the individual’s current situation. *Time* is also required to encourage the client to relax and reflect on what is being discussed, so that “free association” can take place... sometimes leading to one of those “Aha!” insightful flashes that could never come about from a standardized print-out of generic abstractions. In fact, one of astrology’s greatest values is that it can reveal a higher order in the apparent chaos of life. But it must reveal it in its own time; you cannot push a revelation!

Although many people celebrate the democratization of knowledge that the internet brings, there is another side to this global development. One reservation I have is that there is a generalized degradation of standards in virtually every field that is widely promoted on the internet. One metaphor I read was that it is like having

a museum with no curator; Picassos are hung right next to finger paintings by four-year-olds. That is nice and cute and democratic, but astrology as a field already has very low standards and respectability. The proliferation of astrology-related sites on the internet will probably have the result of astrology’s being reduced to the level of a game, rather than a valid and valuable study/science that people can rely upon. I do not mean to infer that people should ignore this communication revolution. It does have the capacity to reach far more people globally than ever before. But perhaps those astrologers who utilize it should emphasize the standards of knowledge, experience, and expertise that those contributing to their web sites have, to distinguish them from the hundreds of “get-rich-quick” and superficial sites that are developing and will probably continue to proliferate.

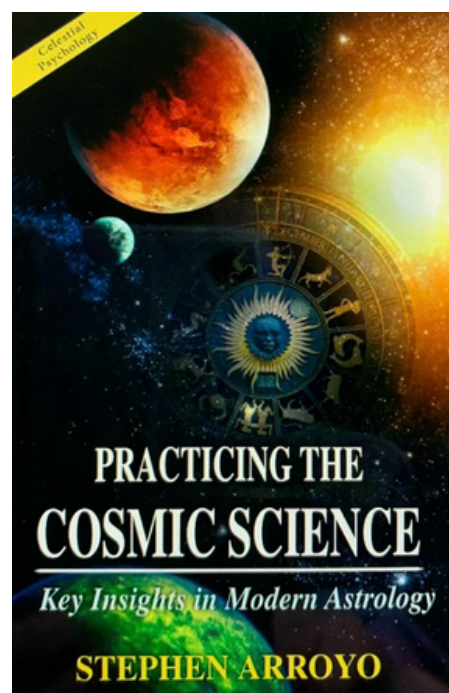
Another aspect of the computerization of astrological work that I have to mention results from repeated experiences of important chart factors not being reflected in a computer-generated chart. When you do a chart by hand and have to run your finger down the column of the ephemeris, you notice which planets are speeding up, slowing down to turn direct or

retrograde, and so on. On the other hand, when a chart is printed out by computer, you merely see it labeled as “retrograde” or not. And far too often, all sorts of old-fashioned generalizations about retrogrades being bad or weak are then applied. I personally have come to conclude, after three decades of experimentation, that the speed of the planet is infinitely more important than is commonly emphasized—both by transit and in the natal chart. A number of other astrologers have come to the same conclusion. For example, Tracy Marks independently came to a similar view, which she wrote about in her book *The Astrology of Self-Discovery*. The slower a planet is moving, the more powerful it is. A

stationary planet is perhaps ten times more powerful than a planet moving at normal speed through the ecliptic. And my own view is that the planet’s speed is far more important than whether or not it is going retrograde. So, if you use a computer-produced chart, I think it is advisable to look at the ephemeris and see if any planet is slowing down, speeding up, about to turn retrograde or direct. It is another overlooked factor in astrological work, and an important one which I think should not be neglected even as this field becomes more and more computerized. If astrologers can employ the new technology intelligently, combined with solid standards and intelligent presentations to the general public, we may be able to extend the reach of modern astrology in a way that benefits people worldwide.

Stephen Arroyo has written many other well-known and highly regarded astrology books:

Astrology, Psychology & the Four Elements: An Energy Approach to Astrology & Its Use in the Counseling Arts; Astrology, Karma & Transformation: The Inner Dimensions of the Birth Chart; Relationships & Life Cycles: Astrological Patterns of Personal Experience; Stephen Arroyo’s Chart Interpretation Handbook: Guidelines for Understanding the Essentials of the Birth Chart; Exploring Jupiter: The Astrological Key to Progress, Prosperity & Potential (reviewed by Liz for the winter 2025 edition of *The APAI Chronicle*); *Person-To-Person Astrology: Energy factors in Love, Sex & Compatibility; Experiments & Experience with Astrology: Reflections on Methods & Meaning* (reviewed by Liz Hargreaves for the summer 2025 edition of *The APAI Chronicle*).



Practicing The Cosmic Science is available in paperback through most bookshops (US Retail is \$24.95) and as an eBook via many channels worldwide.

This book was reviewed by Liz Hargreaves for the spring 2025 edition of **The APAI Chronicle**.

**LYNN HOLT**my-sky-pie.com

Lynn Holt, BSc (hons), DM Astrol (with merit) and holder of John Frawley's Horary Craftsman diploma, is part of OPA and ISAR as well as being an active member of Council in the Association of Professional Astrologers International (APAI), where she also serves on the editorial board. Although English born, Lynn has resided in Italy for most of her adult life and speaks fluent Italian. A professional natal, predictive, and horary astrologer with an international clientele, Lynn is author of several articles published in specialised astrology magazines and writes a successful blog with a worldwide following.

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DECLINATION CORNER

March 2026

23-27/03 Moon OOB N
 20/03 Mercury $\neq$ Mars
 22/03 Venus // Mars
 24/03 Mercury // Venus

April 2026

06-10/04 Moon OOB S
 15/04 Moon 0° N
 19-24/04 Moon OOB N
 28/04 Moon 0° S

02/04 Saturn // Neptune
 10/04 Mars // Saturn
 11/04 JupiterPluto
 12/04 Mars $\neq$ Neptune
 13/04 Mars // Neptune
 15/04 Mars $\neq$ Saturn

17/04 Mercury // Mars
 Mercury // Saturn
 19/04 Mercury $\neq$ Neptune
 Mercury // Neptune
 21/04 Mercury $\neq$ Saturn
 21/04 Venus $\neq$ Uranus
 25/04 Mercury $\neq$ Mars
 30/04 Venus $\neq$ Jupiter

May 2026

04-31/05 Venus OOB N
 22-31/05 Mercury OOB N
 03-08/05 Moon OOB S
 12/05 Moon 0° N
 17-21/05 Moon OOB N
 25/05 Moon 0° S
 31/05 Moon OOB S

02/05 Venus // Pluto
 16/05 Mercury $\neq$ Uranus
 19/05 Mercury $\neq$ Jupiter
 21/05 Mercury // Pluto
 26/05 Mercury $\neq$ Venus

June 2026

01-07/06 Venus OOB N
 01-14/06 Mercury OOB N
 01-05/06 Moon OOB S
 09/06 Moon 0° N
 14-18/06 Moon OOB N
 21/06 Moon 0° S
 27-30/06 Moon OOB S

05/06 Venus // Pluto
 15/06 Mercury // Pluto
 17/06 Venus $\neq$ Jupiter
 18/06 Venus $\neq$ Uranus
 22/06 Mercury $\neq$ Jupiter
 23/06 Mercury $\neq$ Uranus
 Venus $\neq$ Mars
 26/06 Mercury $\neq$ Mars
 Jupiter $\neq$ Uranus

Note: // represents parallel, and $\neq$ represents contra-parallel.

OOB is Out of Bounds. N is North and S is South.

Parallels and contra-parallels for the Sun and Moon are not given since they make multiple aspects each month.

What are declinations?

When we cast an astrological chart we use a precise locality (birth place) on the earth and from this observation point we take note of the position of the planets in the sky at the time of birth. These two details enable us to calculate the angles of the chart to the given locality expressed in longitude. Another point of reference however is the celestial equator (which is the terrestrial equator elongated into space). Each planet of our birth chart will occupy a certain degree either North or South of the celestial equator. When planets travel beyond 23°27' (the maximum distance travelled by the Sun) either side of the celestial equator, be it North or South, they are referred to as "out of bounds", the bounds being imposed by the maximum distance that the Sun can ever travel along the celestial equator. OOB planets found in birth charts are the object of special attention since they are considered "stronger" and capable of expressing their characteristics in a more explicit and often exaggerated manner. Declination may also connect two or more planets that do not seem connected by longitude in the birth chart so it's always worth checking. When two planets find themselves at the same degree on the equator they are usually considered as conjunct and are to be interpreted accordingly. When two planets find themselves on the same degree yet in opposite directions (ie.: one South and the other North) they are usually considered as an opposition. Planets heading North are thought of as being of a more "extrovert" nature while those heading South of a more "introvert" one. Planets at 0° of declination are considered fortified. Here is a list of declinations for the transiting planets over the next three months:

GUIDELINES TO WRITE FOR *THE APAI CHRONYCLE*

1. These guidelines apply to all submissions to The APAI Chronycle and the APAI newsletter. “APAI” refers to the Association of Professional Astrologers International, its journal, and its newsletter collectively.
2. Articles submitted must be the original work of the author.
3. Articles should be between 1,500 and 2,500 words in length.
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 6. A 150-word biography
 7. A website or email address for publication
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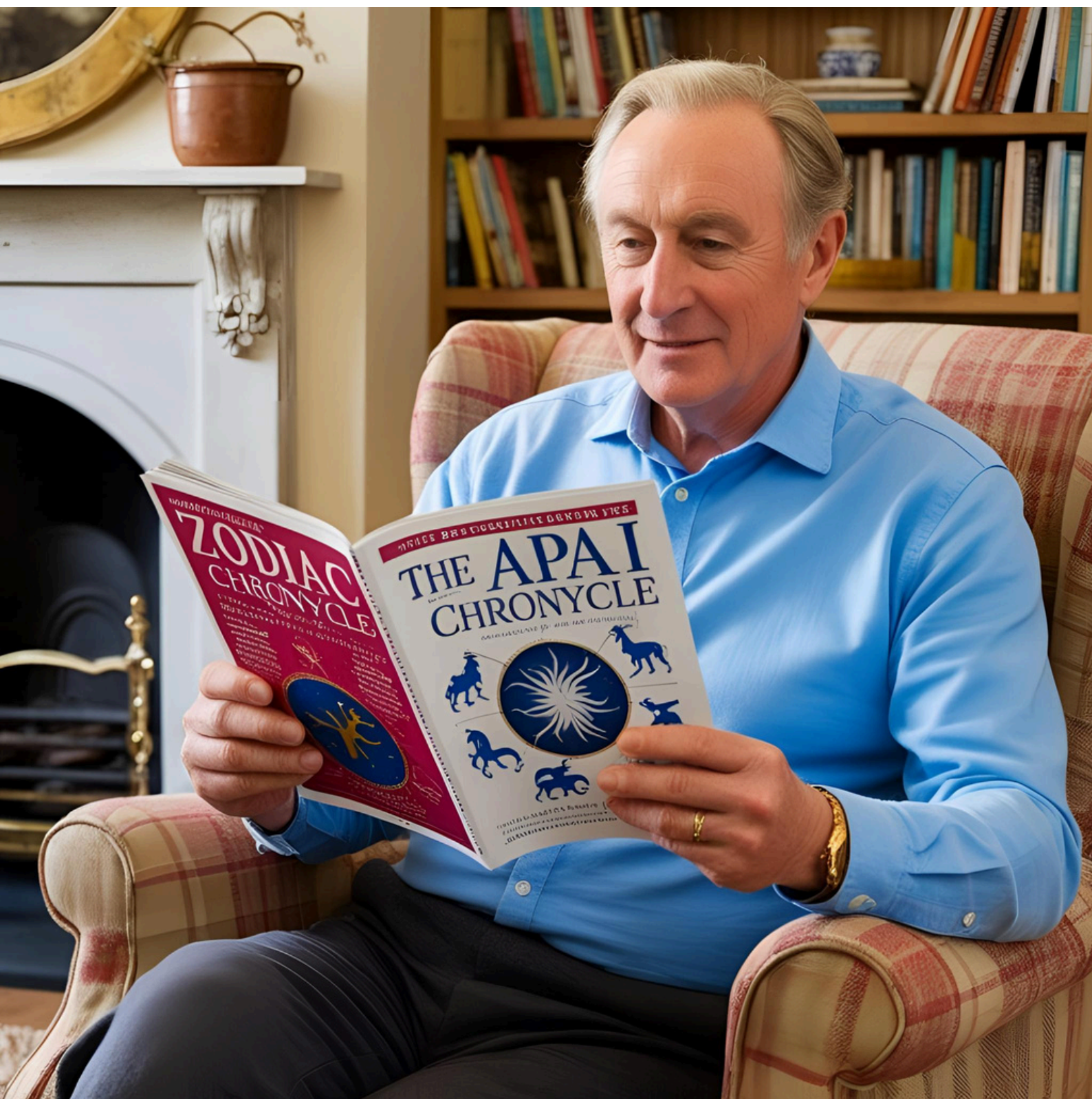
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