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Nadir. The lowest point below the Earth, or opposite point to the Zenith. It should not be confused with the *Imum Coeli*. v. *Celestial Sphere*.

Naibod's Table of Times, for calculating an arc of direction. Determine the Right Ascension of the bodies and subtract, to yield the length of the arc in degrees and minutes. Then reduce to time, counting each degree equal to 1y 5d 8h, and each minute of arc equal to 6d 4h. For easy calculation a Table is supplied. v. *Directions*.

Natal Astrology. *Genethliacal Astrology.* The department of Astrology which deals with nativities—the influence of planets and signs upon the life and character of the individual.

Native. The subject of a *Celestial Figure*.

Nativity. The Birth moment. (1) The instant wherein the native first inhales, thereby commencing a process of blood conditioning that up to that moment had been accomplished through the receptivities of another. During the first days of life, in accordance with the law of adaptability, there ensues a growth of channels of receptivity to cosmic energy which results in a life-pattern of cosmic stimulation. (2) A *Figure*, or *Horoscope*, cast for a date, moment and place of birth, as distinguished from an *Electional* or *Horary Figure*.

Natural Day. v. *Day*.

Nebo. "The Proclaimer," the Chaldean god which compares to Mercury. He was known as the god of wisdom and learning. There is evidence that the priestly school of Nebo had acquired a commanding position and widespread fame as astrologers, before Babylon rose to political importance.

Nebuchadnezzar, Temple of. A famous temple at Barsippa, unearthed in modern times. A veritable color chart of astrological

symbols. Like many others it was built in seven stages, each marked by a different hue. The lowest stage was black and symbolized Saturn; the second, orange (the hue of sandalwood), symbolized Jupiter; the third, red, Mars; the fourth, yellow, the Sun; the fifth, green, Venus; the sixth, blue, Mercury; and the seventh, white or silver, symbolized the Moon.

Nebulae. Star clusters in which the light of the individual stars, because of their distance, merge to give the impression of a cloud with a more or less well-defined center. Great numbers of them are found in the heavens, and when one of them is rising at birth, or is in conjunction with the Moon, it is said to produce blindness or other ocular defect.

The principal nebulae noted in Astrology are: Praesepe, The Hyades, The Pleiades in 29° Taurus-Scorpio; the Aselli in 6° Leo-Aquarius; and Aldebaran-Antares in 8° Gemini-Sagittarius. Ptolemy refers to the "cloudy spot of Cancer, the Pleiades of Taurus, the Arrow-head of Sagittarius, the sting of Scorpio, the parts about the mane of Leo, and the urn of Aquarius," in reference to blindness. The Ascendant or Moon in any of these positions and afflicted by Mars indicates blindness from an accident or by violence; afflicted by Saturn, by a natural defect, such as the inhibiting or decay of the optic nerve, cataract, glaucoma, or obstructing growths.

Negative sign. An even-numbered sign. v. Sign.

Neomenium. The new Moon. *Neomenia.* The festival of the new Moon.

Neptune. v. Planets.

New Year's Day. v. Calendar.

Night Houses. v. Houses.

Ninib. Chaldean equivalent of Saturn.

Nocturnal Arc. v. Semi-Arc; N. Planets. v. Dignities. N. Signs. v. Signs.

Nodes, Moon's. Various called the Ascending and Descending Nodes, the North and South Nodes, Caput Draconis or the Dragon's Head, Cauda Draconis, the Katababazon, or the Dragon's Tail. The

Nodes regress about 3° of arc per diem. There is much argument as to whether any intrinsic influences repose in the Nodes comparable to the radiation emitted by reflection of a planet. In all probability the ancients read more from a Celestial Figure by virtue of a greater comprehension of the astronomical mechanics it represents, than do most moderns. The position of the Node can show whether there was an eclipse condition shortly before or after birth, whether a planet near the Node would shortly be accented by the Moon's transit, or that of the Sun, and similar and sundry factors which the modern astrologer can trace from the ephemeris but often does not. The Nodes of themselves merely point to places where something may happen at such and such a time—which of itself is no small matter. Things happen because of the time, the place and the planet, and the Node is often the middle factor in that formula (v. Moon.)

In 18 years and 10 or 11 days the Node regresses 349 degrees, hence in that period at a point 11 degrees in advance, an eclipse or a series of eclipses recurs under similar conditions. Astronomers calculate eclipses by means of the Saros Cycle rather than by the use of the ephemeris.

Placement of the Ascending Node oriental of the Line of Advantage is deemed preferable, as stimulating, among other things, increased stature. The Line of advantage joins the third decans of the Third and Ninth Houses.

The position of the Sun on the North Node in the Nativity of H. P. Blavatsky is supposed to have profoundly influenced her life. It might well be for it indicates a prenatal solar eclipse at that point only a matter of days before her birth. The ancients held that the Moon's North Node partook of the nature of Venus and Jupiter, while the South Node partook of the nature of Mars and Saturn. Probably more helpful would be the observation that a planet in close conjunction to the North Node at birth would bring honors or riches; at the South Node, poverty and afflictions and a cruel or usurious nature—according to the character of the planet so placed, as modified by the Houses thus tenanted. It is doubtless also of significance in connection with transit and progressions, particularly those of the Moon, only this would appear to involve the regressed position of the Node at the date for which the transit or progression is computed.

Nodes of the Planets. The points at which the orbits of the planets intersect the ecliptic, because of the inclination of their planes to the plane of the Earth's orbit. The longitude and other data of the planetary nodes as of 1916 is as follows:

PLANET	Mean longitude, ascending node	Annual variation	Sidereal period	Synodic period	Eccentricity of orbit	Inclination to ecliptic	Distance from Sun in astronomical units
Mercury ☿	47 41 28	+42.7	0.2408	0.3173	0.2056	7 0 13	0.387,099
Venus ♀	76 11 37	32.3	0.6152	1.5987	0.0068	3 23 39	0.723,331
Earth ⊕	1.0000	...	0.0167	...	1.000,000
Mars ♂	49 8 28	27.7	1.8809	2.1354	0.0934	1 51 0	1.523,688
Jupiter ♃	99 54 10	36.4	11.8622	1.0921	0.0484	1 18 22	5.202,803
Saturn ♄	113 11 7	31.4	29.4577	1.0352	0.0557	2 29 26	9.538,843
Uranus ♅	73 43 12	18.0	84.0153	1.0121	0.0472	0 46 23	19.190,978
Neptune ♆	131 11 4	39.6	164.7883	1.0061	0.0086	1 46 30	30.070,672
Pluto ♇	109 34 46	+48.9	247.6968	1.0014	0.2485	17 8 35	39.457,43

One authority states that a lunation or eclipse on the South Node of a planet tends to release a destructive force of the nature of the planet involved. For example, conditions centering around Saturn's South Node may indicate a drought following an unusually hard winter.

Nomes. Each Nome, or province, of ancient Egypt had its own god or totem, its own capital, frontiers and coat-of-arms. Hence the Nomes were either an ancient equivalent of our later systems of geographical Rulerships, or an older and better term for what are now termed Houses, as indicating two-hour arcs of ascension.

North Point. The Immut Coeli, or cusp of the Fourth House; placed at the bottom of the map.

Northern Signs. The Commanding Signs, Aries to Virgo, pursuing the order of the Sign. v. Signs.

Nova. Literally, a new star. Actually a nova is an old star which from an unknown cause appears to have exploded with cataclysmic violence. The first nova of record appeared suddenly on November 11, 1572, in the Constellation Cassiopeia, in the third decanate of Pisces—known as the decanate of Vicissitudes. It was an ancient

belief that from the constellation in which any unusual phenomenon appeared could be judged the department of life that would be most affected. This nova was discovered by Tycho Brahe. On the previous August 24th, the massacre of Bartholomew in Paris with the King's sanction incited the Huguenots to a resort to arms, in the belief that it was a messenger of hope sent from heaven. They made a successful defense of La Rochelle, and in consequence were granted a measure of tolerance. Two years later Henry of Navarre escaped from Paris to become their leader, and thus began a new life for them.

Nova Herculis 1934 was the 79th nova since the one discovered by Tycho Brahe, few of which have been spectacular. The three notable novae during the present century were:

February 1901, in Perseus, in the third or Propaganda decanate of Aries. It was the year of the Pan-American Exposition, in Buffalo, in which Northern Pacific stock touched 1000.

June 1918, in Aquila, in the second or Exploration decanate of Sagittarius. It was the year in which an American Expeditionary Force on foreign soil turned the tide of World War I.

December 1934, in Hercules, in Experience decanate of Virgo, the sign ruling labor, and connotated with the Twelve Labors of Hercules. It increased in brilliance from fourteenth magnitude on November 14th, to first magnitude on December 22nd.



Obeying Signs. v. Signs.

Oblique Ascendant. v. Ascensional Difference.

Oblique Ascension. (O.A.) As it rises, a star or planet, not on the equator, forms an angle with that part of the equator which is rising at the same time. This is called its Ascensional difference. (A.D.) This A.D. *added* to the R.A. if it have S. declination, and *subtracted* therefrom if it have N. declination, gives its Oblique Ascension. In the Southern hemisphere, reverse; add, if N.; subtract, if S.

The equator is always at right angles to a line between the North and South Poles. Any meridian circle can be considered as the horizon of a place on the equator 90 degrees distant from that meridian—hence, from that point such meridian can be called the horizon of the pole.

At either pole a planet on any parallel of declination moves along an arc parallel to the equator, to the horizon of the pole. It has neither ascension nor descension, but remains, day and night, above or below the horizon, according as it is in North or South declination. Viewed from a place on the equator, a star will by the axial rotation of the Earth, be carried along an arc parallel to the equator: hence it rises and sets at right angles to the horizon of that place. All places in latitudes north and south of the equator, have a prime vertical that cuts the equator at an angle equal to the latitude of the place; and the horizon cuts the equator at an angle equal to the complement of the latitude. Stars and planets rise and set obliquely, since they follow arcs parallel to the equator—to which the horizon is oblique. The semi-arc of a body on the equator is always 90 degrees, or 6 hours; the whole arc is always 180 degrees or 12 hours. On the equator days and nights are equal, and the semi-arcs of all bodies are equal; but in latitudes north or south of the equator the arcs above and below the horizon are unequal, although together these make 180 degrees or 12 hours. The difference between 90 degrees and the diurnal or nocturnal semi-arc of a body is thus its

Ascensional Difference; and its Right Ascension, plus or minus this Ascensional Difference, is its Oblique Ascension.

Oblique Descension. The complement of Oblique Ascension: 180 degrees, minus the Oblique Ascension, equals the Oblique Descension.

Oblique Sphere. Any sphere that is not in the same vertical as the poles of the Earth. All circles parallel to the equator are oblique to the horizon—caused by the depression of the pole of the place from the pole of the Earth. All places located between the poles and the equator are in an oblique sphere.

Occidental or Oriental. These terms have various meanings, when differently applied; as: (1) The Moon is oriental of the Sun when it is increasing in light, from the lunation to the full; occidental of the Sun, when decreasing in light. (2) A planet is said to be oriental of the Sun when it rises and sets before the Sun; occidental of the Sun, when it rises and sets after the Sun. Planets are said to be stronger when oriental of the Sun and occidental of the Moon. (3) Applied to the Sun, a special significance is involved in that when the Sun is setting in one hemisphere it is rising in the other. Therefore the Sun is said to be oriental in Houses 12, 11, 10, 6, 5, or 4; and occidental in the opposite Houses. Thus the oriental Houses are those which have passed the horizon and are culminating toward the meridian; the occidental Houses, those which have passed the meridian and are moving toward the horizon. Some authorities speak of the Eastern Houses, the entire eastern half of the Figure, as the oriental Houses; the entire Western half, as the occidental Houses. This practice only introduces confusion and should be discouraged. If one must use the term, it should always be qualified; either as "in an oriental House" or "oriental of the Sun." The same applies to Occidental. v. Orientality.

Occultation. When a planet or star is hidden or eclipsed by another body, particularly by the Moon, there results what is termed an occultation.

Occultism. Belief in hidden and mysterious powers and the possibility of subjecting them to control. In occult terminology it is

described as the science of perfected living, which explains the brotherhood of sentient beings and the triumph of natural laws over human mismanagement. Strictly speaking, anything that is hidden is occult; and when scientifically established and published, it is no longer occult.

Occursions. Celestial occurrences; such as, ingresses, formation of aspects, and conjunctions.

Occursor. A term applied by Ptolemy to the planet which moves to produce an occursion. Now generally superseded by Promittor.

Old Style. v. Calendar.

Omniverse. A technical article applied the word to all creation in all space, as distinguished from "universe," designating all creation in our solar system. As the solar system is entirely under the domination of the Milky Way galaxy of which it is a unit, the term universe should embrace the whole of the galaxy, and omniverse the galaxy of galaxies that embraces all known and unknown stars and star-clusters.

Opposition. v. Aspects.

Orbit. The path described by a heavenly body in its revolution around a center of attraction. Since the attracting mass is also in motion, the orbit must necessarily be an ellipse. The position of the center of the attracting mass is the *focus* of the ellipse. The line from the focus to any point of the orbit is the radius vector. If the plane of the orbit intersects any other plane, the two points of intersection are the nodes. The nearest point to the center is the peri-center, or lower apsis (the smallest distance); the most distant point, the apo-center, or higher apsis. As indicating the particular attracting center involved, the pericenter becomes perihelion (*helio*, the Sun) to a body revolving around the Sun; and perigee (*geo*, the Earth), around the Earth. Thus, according to Kepler's law that "the radius vector sweeps over equal areas (arcs) in equal times," as the body approaches the pericenter, its motion is accelerated; as it recedes, the motion is retarded. These points are collectively termed *Apsides*: the diameter running through the Line of Apses. *Aphelion.* The point at which any planet, including the Earth, is at its greatest dis-

tance from the Sun, the apo-center of its orbit. *Perihelion*. At the closest point to the Sun. *Apogee*. Said of the Moon, when at its greatest distance from the Earth. *Perigee*. At the closest point to the Earth.

The so-called six Elements of an orbit are: eccentricity; mean radius rector; inclination of its orbit plane to that of the Ecliptic; longitude of its ascending node; period of revolution; and time of passage across a given point, such as perihelion.

Orbital revolution. The annual motion of the Earth in an elliptical orbit round the Sun. Applicable also to the motion of any celestial body which pursues an orbit around any other body.

Orbs. The space within which an aspect is judged to be effective. The term is employed to describe the arc between the point at which a platic, or wide aspect, is deemed strong enough to be operative, and the point of culmination of a partile or exact aspect. Most authorities agree that orbs should vary with each planet and aspect, and that a larger orb should be allowed for an aspect that is forming than for one that is separating. As to exact orbs, there are few points on which authorities differ so radically. For conjunction or opposition some allow as much as 12° when the Sun aspects the Moon, about 10° when either luminary aspects a planet, and 8° for aspects between planets. Observe whether either body is in retrograde motion. The faster moving applies to the slower.

According to Ptolemy, the following orbs apply to the different bodies: Sun 17° , Moon 12° , Mercury 7° , Venus 8° , Mars 7° , Jupiter 12° , Saturn 9° , Uranus 5° , Neptune 5° . When two planets are approaching conjunction or opposition, add their respective orbs and divide by two to ascertain the arc of separation within which the aspect is supposed to be effective. For the trine and square aspects reduce the arc by one-fourth, and for the minor aspects by one-half. In all cases the closer the aspect the more powerful it becomes; also the heavier and slower moving planets are more powerful than the smaller and faster. v. Celestial sphere.

Oriental. v. Occidental.

Orphic Mysteries. Secret rites of Dionysiac worship, supposedly founded by Orpheus. Therefore, mystic, esoteric, oracular.

Ortive Difference. A term sometimes applied to the difference between the primary and secondary distances, when directing the Sun at its rising or setting. It appears to indicate an effort to accommodate the fact of horizontal parallax. The term is seldom employed by modern authorities.