

Foreword:
Astrology Under Our Feet
by David R. Roell

I was working on a theory of astrology when, in January 2011, Parke Kunkle, of the Minnesota Planetarium Society, casually repeated an old story, that there were really 13 signs of the zodiac, not twelve. Thus inspired, I redoubled my efforts. As long as it has existed, Astrology has been a puzzle with multiple unknowns, hence the real difficulty in making sense of it. I was further inspired by George McCormack's extraordinary book, the one you now hold in your hands. His observations fit my theory so closely that I dare to venture an overview of my work here, in the hopes that my theory and McCormack's observations may combine in some useful way.

The Tropical Zodiac

McCormack uses the Tropical Zodiac in his work. The tropical zodiac is based on the Earth-Sun relationship, specifically, declinations and seasons. Aries starts the spring season, Cancer the summer, Libra autumn, and Capricorn, winter. These are calculated as of the moment the Sun appears to cross the Earth's equator, or achieves maximum north or south declination.

The length of each season is based on the dates of the Earth's apogee and perigee, the Earth's closest and furthest approaches to the Sun. As these dates slowly drift over time, the exact length of each season, in days, hours, minutes, and seconds, slowly change over the centuries. While the length of the year remains exactly the same, its seasonal divisions do not. The four seasons are not of exactly equal length. Most likely, they never have been. In 2012, the Earth was at perihelion on January 5, and at aphelion on July 5. In 1837, these dates were January 2 and July 1. (*Source: Tables of Planetary Phenomena, 3rd edition, 2007, by Michelsen and Pottenger*)

The start of the four seasons are represented by the four elements: Fire, for spring; water, for summer; air, for autumn; and earth for winter. Each of the seasons were then trisected to show the three states of energy they embodied: Active, or Cardinal; followed by Immoveable, or Fixed; and then, No energy, which we know as Mutable. Whereupon the next season arrived to restart the energy matrix. An element was then assigned to each third of a season, resulting in a year of four seasons and twelve segments (months), which became the signs of the Zodiac.

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This is a precise method, and an unvarying one. The Zodiac is thus a 4 x 3 grid, of energies mapped against elements. There are only twelve signs. There could only ever be twelve. Not thirteen.

There is an old story that Libra and Scorpio were once joined as a single sign. This was presumably an attempt to suppress Scorpio as “evil”. The inherent structure of the Zodiac makes eleven signs impossible.

This structure means the Tropical Zodiac is not *of* the sky, nor *in* the sky, but **expresses the relationship between Earth and Sun.**

Can we determine if the Zodiac is geocentric or heliocentric?

Yes, we can. First, we note that as we are talking of ourselves, the Zodiac we create will presumably be created of ourselves. Of the Earth, in other words. A plant, for example, grows *from* the Earth, but grows *because* of the Sun’s light and heat. So is the plant of the Earth, or is it of the Sun? The answer is that the plant is *of* the Earth, but is *nurtured* by the Sun. The plant is therefore a subset of the Earth. It is the Earth’s response to the Sun’s energy. In its own unique way, the plant shows the Earth-Sun relationship.

We do the same analysis with the elements and energies that make up the Zodiac. Where can they properly be found? The Earth contains all four elements, fire, earth, air and water. The Sun has only fire. The Earth also has all three states of energy: Cardinal, Fixed and none. The Sun has only Cardinal. By comparison, the sky has neither elements nor energies. Therefore,

The signs of the Zodiac are qualities inherent in the Earth itself.

Astrology is Earth-based.

The Tropical Zodiac has nothing to do with the sky. Never has, and never will. Presumably the Zodiac was projected into the sky at some point as a reference, as in, *See this constellation overhead at midnight? When the Sun gets to it, it will be summer again.* (The Sidereal Zodiac has a different explanation. It is not based on stars, but the Moon.)

If the Zodiac is not of the sky but are qualities inherent in the Earth itself, then it is reasonable to expect the Earth would express these twelve basic qualities. Indeed, the word *zodiac* itself relates to animals, which are of the Earth. Traditionally it is said that Aries is symbolized by the ram, that Taurus is symbolized by the ox, etc., but it is more penetrating to say the Earth **expresses** its Aries energy *as* a ram, its Taurus energy as an ox, its Cancer energy as a crab, its Leo energy as a lion, etc. If qualities are inherent in the clay of the Earth itself, then it is natural the Earth would express them. By contrast, if astrological energies were external to the Earth, then the Earth’s response would be *in reaction* to them. Sometimes agreeable and compatible, sometimes hostile and maladroit.

This analysis can be taken further. Medical astrology holds that different parts of the body are ruled by different signs. If the ruling signs are external to the

Earth, then the Earth's reaction to them will produce maladjusted, maladroit results. Only if these qualities are *inherent in the Earth*, can the Earth produce perfect results, since those results will be in keeping with the fundamental qualities of the Earth and will be as perfect as the Earth, no more and no less.

In other words, the eyes, which in all creatures are found in pairs, are ruled by the Sun and Moon, the two light-givers, as represented by Leo and Cancer. Because it is the Earth which produces Leo and Cancer, the eyes the Earth produce see as well as the Earth can make them see. Likewise hands, which are ruled by Virgo, feet, which are ruled by Pisces, ankles, which are ruled by Aquarius, the heart, ruled by Leo, etc. In every creature, no matter where in the overall scheme of things, each and every part is a miracle of perfection. Never mere adaptations or make-dos. Because the Earth is made up of Leo and Aquarius and Cancer and Taurus and all the rest, it expertly combines the various parts to make the creatures which inhabit the planet. Precisely the same can be said for the Earth's plants, gems and minerals. Will everything on Earth perfectly express its inherent Zodiacal sign energies? Of course not, because the Earth itself is not perfect. There is a great deal of, well, dirt, and always will be. A painter leaves paint on his palette, a baker leaves flour behind on his counter, etc. No process is without waste.

Planets

While Astrology may be *of* the Earth, may be *in* the Earth, may be the very *life of the Earth*, by itself the Earth and its astrology are *static* and *unchanging*.

In reality the Earth is but one of a number of planets in orbit around the Sun and therefore must by definition be in continuous and ongoing relationship with each and every planetary body in the solar system. Mars, for example, may not have a direct impact upon me, but, as a planet, Mars is more than big enough, more than close enough, more than fast enough, to have an impact upon the Earth as a whole. Just as I would expect the Earth to influence Mars.

These interplanetary relationships are by means of *harmony* and *resonance*. Mars has its own harmonies and resonances, its own "style" and "personality" as it were. The ceaseless interplay of Earth and Mars will excite, in each planet, those elements and energies which are in sympathy or harmony. In other words, Mars will, in one fashion or another, "illuminate" or identify the energies in the Earth which are in resonance with it. In a larger sense, every part of the Earth will react, in one way or another, to the energies of Mars, taken as a whole. In other words, speaking broadly, Mars likes Aries and Scorpio the best, gets on well with Capricorn, but dislikes Libra, Taurus and Cancer.

As with Mars, so with all the planets. In addition to whole signs, there are various sub-frequencies, among them, day/night rulers, triplicity rulers, decans, faces, terms/bounds, dwads, etc. Indeed, we can say, collectively, that we only know Terrestrial energies, the signs of the Zodiac themselves, by means of their resonance with the various planets. Energies in the Earth which are not in some way "triggered" by the various planets will therefore be latent, unexpressed and unknown.

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So we now have an Earth with its own unique Zodiacal energies, which are stimulated, excited, *brought into being*, by the various planets, the resulting vibrations so thoroughly mixed that it is pervasive in every rock, every spade of soil, in the very clay of our own bodies. While it is true that Mars has no *gravitational* effect upon any of us, it is also true that *because* we are made of the Earth, *because* we are made of material which is itself vibrating, we not only resonate to the Earth's own vibrations, but, we, each of us, also vibrate directly and individually to Mars. And, as before, with all the other planets.

Is distance a factor? Yes it is. Broadly speaking, the closer planets will be more nuanced and more detailed, with the Moon being the most nuanced and the most detailed. And in fact, in astrology, the inner planets (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars) are known as *personal*. Jupiter and Saturn, which are much further away, are *social*. The outer planets are *generational*. Outer planets only "step forward" when in close aspect with inner planets.

We have now arrived at a second fundamental principle:

The interplay of Earth and planets produce astrology as we know it.

The signs of the Zodiac are *in the Earth*. They are *brought to life* by the Earth's ceaseless interaction with the other planets. This makes the Earth a giant vibrating sphere, and it is on this sphere that we live.

A number of things have now become quite simple. Why is birth a critical moment? Here is an analogy. Imagine the Earth to be like a vibrating, orbital sander. Orbital sanders are hand-held electrical devices for smoothing wood. They have a flat pad on the bottom where the sandpaper is secured.

Take the sandpaper off and turn the unit upside down, that is, with the flat side up. Put a penny on the sander, and turn it on. The vibrating sander is the Earth. The penny is you. Both the sander and the penny are vibrating, with similar, but as we can see, not quite identical vibrations.

Now consider the Earth's vibration, unlike that of the sander's, is not consistent, but variable, and this because of the Earth's ceaseless relationship with the Sun, Moon and other planets. With the sander in your hand, carefully tilt it this way and that. Note how the penny reacts to every change. Move too abruptly and the penny will fly off the sander. Which, by analogy, is to say that when the Earth's vibration becomes too intense, we have accidents, we sicken and die.

Replace the penny with, say, a cookie and turn the sander on again. Run the sander until the cookie has become so distressed that it starts to break up. Note how each separating fragment takes on the sander's vibration as of the moment of its separation. Note how the main fragment changes its vibration after every loss. *This is a precise analogy to a mother giving birth to a child.* Note the subsequent interactions among the various pieces. Based on their location, mass and the specific vibrations as of the moment of separation, pieces will collide with other pieces at stated times and places. Astrologically this is known as synastry.

The initial vibration of all objects age, or *decay*, over time. In astrology, we

“age” an individual’s “vibration” (aka natal chart) by means of primary directions, secondary directions and solar arcs, among other means. (In India, by Vimshottari dashas, etc.) The relationship and interaction of decayed vibrations with transits is therefore obvious.

Note in this theory, a tree, precisely because it is firmly connected to the Earth, cannot be said to have a “birthday” as it never separates from the Earth.

Aspects

We might say that, yes, there are aspects between the planets. Why wouldn’t there be aspects, when planets come to simple angular relationships among themselves? Regrettably, there are two problems with this.

One, while we have established the Zodiac to be in the Earth itself, this Zodiac is based not on longitude, but rather on the *Sun’s declination*. If the Sun is at 21° 37’ S declination, then its longitude is 22° 13’ 57” of Capricorn and the date is more or less January 13 of any given year. (The leap year messes up the date slightly, this example is from 1950 and a midnight ephemeris.)

Moreover it is not entirely clear if this declination to longitude exchange should be based upon the Earth (geocentric) or the Sun (heliocentric).

The second problem is that Ptolemaic aspects, for heretofore mysterious and unknown reasons, are all centered around 60°. To these, George McCormack adds 30° and 45°, which is to say, half of 60, and half the distance between 30 and 60. With 30 we are immediately reminded of the twelve houses, which, ideally, are 30° each, which then reminds us of the signs, which, when projected into the sky, are also 30° each. We are being led, or, perhaps pushed, into some sort of definite structure. And it seems that we have a solution.

Researchers Ronald Cohen and Lars Stixrude, at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, have recently postulated the central core of the Earth to be a single giant crystal. Exactly what kind of crystal they have not yet determined, but they are leaning in favor of the crystal being hexagonal. Which is six-sided.

And in fact there is a variation of iron and nickel that forms hexagonal crystals. It is found in meteorites. Which, as everyone knows, are the remains of destroyed planets, presumably their cores. That substance is **hexahedrite**.

Upon learning of hexahedrite I was at first disappointed, as I wanted the Earth to have a twelve-sided crystal. One that would explain twelve signs and twelve houses, etc. But while looking at pictures of crystals on-line, I glanced at one too many pictures of crystalline water, in other words, snowflakes. And then it hit me.

The hexagonal crystal does not express six, but rather, twelve.

How does a six-sided crystal express twelve? Quite simply. Look at a crystal. You will find both facets and edges. Six-sided crystals have six of each. We might arbitrarily label them as six masculine edges and six feminine facets, or vice-versa. Which, to the Earth, are the six masculine signs (Aries, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Sagittarius, Aquarius) and six feminine (Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, Scorpio, Capri-

corn, Pisces). The hexagonal crystal at the center of the Earth, precisely because it is hexagonal, describes astrology as we know it. Describes the twelve-fold division of the Zodiac, describes the masculine-feminine polarities, and describes the innate nature of the traditional Ptolemaic aspects. All of which are based 30° and 60° .

This permits us to state a third principle:

Astrology may be defined as qualities inherent in, and the further study of, the six sided crystal at the center of the Earth.

Being the core of the Earth itself, the Earth's central hexagonal crystal is presumably aligned with the Earth's axial tilt of $23^{\circ}44'$. If so, then because this tilt is always in the same direction, we have the reason why 0° of Aries is set to the spring Equinox. The Equinox is the Earth's annual "re-centering" or "realigning" with the Sun. Projecting this hexagonal alignment into the sky lets us map the planets in the solar system from the Earth's own, unique, point of view. It gives us the geocentric, Tropical, Zodiac. We are mapping *the Earth's* relationship to the various other bodies in the solar system. We are not mapping the Sun, so we are not heliocentric.

Nor are we concerned with the Sidereal Zodiac, which is based, not on fixed stars, but on the Earth's axial wobble. This wobble is due to various gravitational influences on the Earth, most notably the fight between the Sun and Moon. Like as not, if there was no Moon, there would be no wobble and therefore no Sidereal Zodiac, or perhaps, one that was so slow in motion as to be impracticable. (The Sidereal Zodiac moves at the rate of 1 degree every 72 years, which is a cycle of 25,920 years, more or less.)

It is, in fact, the *projection* of the Tropical Zodiac, from the Earth, into the sky, that enables us to finally *identify and name* the Zodiacal energies *inside* the Earth itself. We do not know what the Earth's Aries energy may be, except that it is "illuminated" or "triggered" when planets pass through the section of sky which the Earth's Equinoctial settings have labeled as "Aries". This transference explains the traditional confusion about astrology, about what and where it really is and how it really works. It is almost impossible to see "Aries" in the Earth itself, but it is easy to see its *projection* into the sky.

So the *common* influence of the planets on the Earth, which is that Mars, for example, rules Aries and Scorpio, etc., becomes *dynamic* as the planet Mars moves about in space and appears to enter one sign after another. As it enters the various signs, as it shifts from "pushing" on a facet of the Earth's central crystal (at its spring alignment) to "pulling" on an edge between two facets, its vibratory impact upon the Earth changes accordingly. In common parlance, we say that Mars rules Aries from its current position in, for example, the sign of Leo.

Now note that the hexagonal crystal explains not only the twelve *signs*, but in the daily rotation of the Earth's axis, the twelve *houses* as well. Note that while the Zodiac is a matter of simple longitude, astrological houses are customarily calcu-

lated according to the Earth's horizon and Prime Vertical. *Not* (with the exception of Porphyry houses, an early and crude system) according to zodiacal longitude. With this minor tweak, we may now say that, for example, Mars in Leo in the third house rules Venus in Scorpio in the sixth, and *all of it* will be based on the *simple influences* of the planets Venus and Mars, *as they interact with the hexagonal crystal at the center of the Earth*. We no longer need starry constellations whatsoever.

It is when we take astrology *out* of the sky and put it *in* the Earth and *on* the Earth that we realize astrology's staggering power and its incredible capacity for detail. We no longer hesitate how astrology's mysterious, invisible influences can be transferred from one side of an empty sky to another, equally empty sky, seemingly on mere whim. We are instead witnesses to the inner dynamics of the Earth's own crystalline structure.

These on-going planets-to-crystal relationships are complemented by **special relationships**, known as *aspects*, which occur when the planets form harmonics between each other, as seen from the Earth and as framed and defined by the Earth's central crystal. When two planets form an exact aspect they create a vibration *external* to the Earth itself, but one which *strongly impacts the Earth*, by means of *vibratory sympathy with the Earth's central hexagonal crystal*. Blinded by the sky, intimidated by a phony science, modern astrologers have been guilty of over-emphasizing aspects, at the expense of the Earth's more powerful, underlying astrological forces.

The various external planetary influences combine to change the vibratory rate of the Earth's central crystal, from moment to moment. The understanding and use of Astrology is obvious, logical, and necessary to all life on this planet.

George McCormack

We have now arrived at an understanding of McCormack's astonishing finding, that planets exactly on the midheaven/immum coeli (MC/IC, 10th/4th) have the strongest impact upon the Earth's weather. Consider that a planet placed on the IC will not only be passing its resonant energies directly *through* the Earth itself, but these energies, combined, enhanced and amplified by *precise alignment to the underlying crystalline energies of the Earth itself*, will emerge from the ground at *right angles to the surface*. In other words, with *maximum combined force*.

I remember an old rule from alchemy. The alchemical process, which is scoffed at by many, was said to require total darkness, or moonlight, in order to succeed. Moonlight is not merely very weak light, it is also *polarized*. Which is to say, light reflected over a great distance is polarized merely by the combination of reflection and distance.

If the Sun and planets (presumably also including the Earth's Moon) are crystalline structures, then the harmonic resonances that pass between them are presumably *polarized* as well. When these resonances arrive and then meet with the Earth in a precise polarity (the MC/IC axis), polarized-polarized results would be expected. McCormack terms this "magnetic action" (pg. 92 and elsewhere). I would refine this and call it *magnetic polarization*.

Planets are not magnetic to each other *per se*. They *become magnetic* when, in the sky, they are polarized at specific hexagonal angles. While holding those angles, they have specific impact upon the Earth's central crystal and its various discreet energies. Which that crystal then radiates in a general fashion to the planet as a whole, affecting all that live and breathe and crawl on its surface, and, specifically, radiates to key locations which affect the atmosphere and weather locally, if not mundane events as well. Precisely as McCormack describes.

McCormack notes that planets that make 90° aspects to the MC/IC axis are themselves powerful. Which they should be. But note what he did *not* say: With the exception of the Moon, McCormack rarely bothers with the ascendant/descendant. Was this an oversight on his part?

No. Fairlawn, New Jersey, where McCormack made his observations, is 41° north of the Equator. At that latitude, the ascendant/descendant axis is rarely at right angles to the MC/IC. In terms of astrometeorology, McCormack did not find the Asc/Dsc angles to be of importance. Instead, he found the raw 90° angle itself to be supreme. This is a most important detail. McCormack is *not* describing astrology *per se*. He is, for the most part, describing the *astrology of the atmosphere*. The atmosphere is the part of the Earth with the least mass, it therefore has the least *resonance*. In practical terms, there may very well not be enough mass in the atmosphere for rulerships to apply.

In this regard I am reminded of the work of John H. Nelson (1903-1984). From the 1940's to his retirement in 1971, Nelson was employed by RCA in New York to identify and forecast times of radio interference. He quickly identified specific planet to planet *heliocentric* aspects as the culprits, eventually achieving a high degree of forecast accuracy. Why heliocentric? Consider that radio waves are broadcast from towers high above the Earth's surface, radiate into space itself and are presumably directly influenced by solar and planetary energies. Lacking all earthly matter, the Earth's own astrology would not seem to apply to radio transmission at all. It is very likely that Nelson and McCormack knew each other. I would very much like to know their opinion of each others' work, but I digress.

In studying McCormack's work, I gather that in the process of deducing that high and low pressure areas involve exchanges in the levels of the atmosphere, he was first drawn to highland and lowland areas as where these exchanges would be most clearly felt. He then presumably extended his observations to waterways and finally to sandy soil. In the process he stumbled upon something else of extraordinary interest.

It seems he accidentally hit upon a connection between western astrometeorology and Chinese Feng Shui. The term "Feng Shui" translates as "wind/water." It is the Chinese system of landscape management. It is also directly tied to Chinese astrology.

Chinese astrology is different from Western astrology, or, for that matter, Vedic astrology or Persian astrology, and this is because of number.

For many centuries astrology remained in the tropics, principally in India.

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Alexandria, at 32° N, was a lonely outpost. The reason was because astrology needs a house system in order to best express itself, and house systems are the simplest and work best in tropical latitudes, where houses and signs tend to overlap. Leave the tropics and the two systems diverge. By the time you reach northern Europe—or central China (Beijing is 40°N)—simple equal houses will not work, nor will trisections in zodiacal longitude (Porphyry) work. A proper house system trisects the Prime Vertical, either in space, or by time.

To do this handily, you must have a sophisticated number system, which the ancients lacked. Instead, they had hash-marks, the best of which seems to have been the Roman system (I, II, III, IV, etc.). Complex computations with hash-marks are not impossible, but they are unwieldy, which is why many ancient peoples employed the abacus to do sums.

Starting around 300 AD, India developed a number system based on place values, which we now call Arabic numbers. These were adopted by the Arabs in the 9th century, and in 1202 were introduced to Europe by Fibonacci. This single event revolutionized all Europe, but, regrettably China was left out. China did not adapt Arabic numbers until the 20th century.

To this day China has a variety of crude number systems, which is why it retained the abacus centuries after it had been abandoned elsewhere. China was too far north to equate houses with signs, so, lacking numbers, China was unable to erect astrological charts. Instead, they developed an entirely different system of astrology, one based on the 60 year cycles of Saturn and Jupiter. (From which, by the way, they get their five elements: Jupiter's cycle is 12 years, it makes five cycles in 60 years, while Saturn makes two.) By this reasoning, Feng Shui is the expression of the Earth's raw Zodiacal sign energies as they directly manifest in the environment. The combination of a crystalline Earth-based system of astrology, George McCormack's astrometeorology, and Feng Shui, may produce surprising results.

Astrology is under our feet. It radiates from the ground up. We are soaked in it, always have been, and always will be. We can no more deny it, than we can deny gravity.

And with that, I give you this extraordinary book. Enjoy!

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