



# NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera !

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

## Xmas Day, 2012

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## Christmas as part of the yearly cycle

**C**HRISTMAS, as everyone knows, is the annual rebirth of light. It is one of a number of such celebrations that occur around the time of the Winter Solstice, including the solstice itself, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and many others.

Whether by accident or design, the Christian celebration has an interesting twist. It celebrates the birth of Jesus, who, in subsequent weekly Gospel readings, grows up, goes to school, learns to swim, takes a vacation in the desert, hitchhikes through the country, attracts crowds and eventually ends up dead a couple of days shy of Easter.

He is then stuck in a hole in the ground. He is male. The hole is female, in other words, a womb. The day is Friday, the day's

ruler is Venus. We then skip over Saturday, ruled by Saturn, which is evil, whereupon life itself returns to earth at sunrise on Sunday. It is symbolically clear the sacrifice of this man, Jesus, has brought life back to the world, but it is also clear that, *nine months later*, he himself will be reborn to a *virgin* in a *manger*, which is generally imagined to be a lean-to construction, built against a hillside of some sort. In other words, he impregnates the womb two days before Easter (the first Sunday after the first Full Moon after the Spring Equinox) and emerges, reborn, nine months later, having regenerated himself, like a phoenix, rising from its ashes.

With the symbolism of Jesus-as-God, we could say that God "renews the earth" each year from Easter to Christmas. With the symbolism of "Jesus-as-man," we could say that human interaction is essential for the continuation of life on this planet, and that in the depths of winter (where we now are), it is the human spirit, the human fire, the human light, which sustains life itself.

So we can see the essence of Christmas requires the interaction of males with females, in other words, sex. Which makes mistletoe an important part of the ritual. So pucker up and kiss me!

### 2013 MAYNARD CALENDARS IN STOCK AND SHIPPING

- Celestial Influences Wall Calendar
- Celestial Guide Datebook
- Pocket Astrologer
- Astrologer's Guide Datebook

### A L M A N A C K

for the week (all times GMT)

25	05:59	☾ Δ ♂	Void-Xmas Day!
	07:14	☾ II	
	21:17	♀ II ♂	
26	00:49	♂ ☿	
	01:31	☉ □ ♃	
	04:25	♀ II ☉	
27	00:48	♃ ✕ ♀	
	06:52	☾ ♀ ♀	Void
	20:08	☾ ☿	
	22:13	♂ ♃ ♃	
28	10:22	☉ 07☿06	Full Moon
	14:44	☾ Δ ♃	Void
30	07:47	☾ ♃	
	13:37	☉ ♂ ♀	
	17:46	☉ ✕ ♃	
31	14:03	♀ ♃	

Extracted from [AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-2020](#). [Buy](#).



**Sensationalism** may be attributed to the predominance of the watery element and the planets especially associated therewith. The fiery signs are also sensation-loving, but in a more positive way; they like such things as cause excitement and boisterousness or high spirits. They have also a firmer hold on actuality than Water. Generally a strong Saturn counteracts this tendency most completely, as it holds the native down to facts. Cancer inclines to sensationalism; Pisces to that form of sensationalism which centres round tales of sadness and bereavement; while Scorpio likes stories of adventure, crime or mystery, including the "occult" novel.

**Sedateness** may probably be ascribed to a blend of Saturn and Libra, with the more active planets (Mercury, Mars, and Uranus) not too prominent.

**Sea (Love of)**. The most important area in this connection seems to be about 6 Scorpio, whilst the opposite area appears to have a contrary tendency, i.e., a love of the land and soil and an antipathy to the sea. — [Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology](#), \$18.95. [Buy](#).



## STAR OF THE WEEK

★★★ ★★★★★★★

**PELAGUS** *sigma Sagittarii* 09 ♆56

**Notes:** A small star situated on the vane of the arrow at the Archer's hand.

**Influence:** According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Jupiter and Mercury. It gives truthfulness, optimism and a religious mind.

**With Sun:** Influential public position, favourable for domestic and family matters.

**With Moon:** Successful writer on science, philosophy, education or agriculture, unorthodox in religion, defeats enemies, many friends, illness of a Saturnian nature.

**With Mercury:** High government position, popular criticism, wealth, anxiety on account of illness to wife or mother.

**With Venus:** Heart rules head, favours from opposite sex, many friends.

**With Mars:** Reserved, diplomatic, strong mind, courageous, energetic, straightforward, false friends, favourable for gain.

— [from Fixed Stars](#), by Vivian Robson. [Buy](#).



Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson  
1893-1990

## IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

### My Notebook for Jupiter

**JUPITER in any house** increases the number there of whatever that house represents. In the marriage-7th, several marriages; in the mother-10th or in the father-4th, a step-parent or foster parent. In the 11th, many friends; in the 3rd, many blood relatives and neighbors, in the 5th, many children, and so on.

Jupiter in the 10th gives the native great luck in achieving his chosen career, conferring honor and respect. It is the end-of-the-matter-4th for marriage and promises comparative wealth thereby and inheritance or settlement when the marriage ends, usually at the death of the partner rather than by divorce.

If the 3rd House contains a malefic or is ruled by one that is afflicted, denoting the violent death of a relative, Jupiter in the 10th (which is the 8th for that relative) may confer death-honors or medals on that relative — and which may pass to the native.

Jupiter is the Greater Benefic and never as bad when afflicted as the other planets can be. He may withhold a portion when retrograde, but not all; and even in adversity he gives hope while there is life.

Jupiter in or ruling the 4th gives a large home and a large family, a generous father and many gifts from him, unless badly afflicted. It is generally a religious family or a member is affiliated with some religious organization. The native has many changes of address and will not continue at his birthplace. — [Here and There in Astrology](#), 1961. **Buy.**

## Mariette in Ecstasy

**B**EFORE there was AstroAmerica, before I had a wife and daughter, I had a shiftless existence. Twenty years ago I lived on 16th Street in Brooklyn, the seedy southern reaches of what was then a cheap and cheerful Park Slope, an affordable alternative to Manhattan rents. The trendy north end was served by the D line, while the middle and south had the F. The F had a spectacular view over the Gowanus Canal.

By day I was a clerk for Donald and Jonathan, two native born Brooklyn-Italians. They had sunk the family fortune into sixteen somewhat rundown apartment buildings. Donald was the classic mustachioed, oily hair bachelor playboy with his very own penthouse, while Jonathan, his younger brother, was the cautious, conservative, blow-dried married type. When your heat was out or your plumbing was busted, I was the guy who answered the phones. They had already pissed away a fortune in the property bust of the late 1980's, and probably pissed away another one in the boom of the past decade.

After work I hopped the F train to the United Nations, where Mamooji employed me to do his work for him. He had his very own, rather cluttered office on the 17th floor of the Secretariat building. An ace bureaucratic infighter, he was second in command of the UN's finances. So far as I can tell, his job consisted of transferring numbers, by hand, from one ledger to another, as that's one of the things he paid me to do. My main job was to help him arrange marriages for his two daughters, by means of small ads in New York's weekly **India Abroad**. Here is a typical ad:

BENGALI Hindu parents invite alliance for their US born lawyer daughter, 34/5'2", employed in New York City; from professionals w/family values from Tristate area. Email bio/recent photo.

To parse this, *Bengali* is a region of India. *Hindu* is to say they are not Sikhs nor Jains. *Parents* means daddy. *US born* means not an immigrant and might not favor an Indian born husband. *Lawyer* says the woman is a working professional, 34 years of age means she is established and has never previously been married, *family values* means they do not drink, might be vegetarians, and that the woman is presumably a virgin, *tristate* means NY, NJ or CT. A thirty-

four year old candidate is not uncommon, though she is a bit old even so. Teens and early 20-somethings are rare. Young Indians are the only group of people I have ever met who are entirely without sexual "heat." When daddy tells them they can get married and have sex, then, and only then, do they do so. By means of biodatas, daddies select the initial round of candidates. The final selection is traditionally given to the son or daughter, who can be picky, as Mamooji and I worked more than a year, screening hundreds of applicants. Such marriages are, I think, a notch better than western, do-it-yourself scattershot dating, though, on the day of the wedding itself, bride and groom are virtual strangers. When these marriages fail, which sometimes happens, the resulting divorces can be worse than anything you can imagine, as the two enraged daddies standing behind the bride and groom can go after each other with ungodly force.

**I**WOULD get to the UN about 6. Mamooji would get me dinner in the cafeteria downstairs, which usually had little left by then, whereupon we would head upstairs. I was always acutely conscious that as soon as I passed the guard shack that I had left the United States of America and was on foreign soil, the UN compound having been ceded when the buildings were built. We never broke before midnight, we often worked until 2 am. Whereupon Mamooji put me in a taxi to 5th and 23rd Street and I took the F home.

As such I saw a lot of Brooklyn's 7th Avenue. The subway was at 9th Street and 7th Ave. About two blocks further down, at 11th or 12 Street, was a thrift store. At the end of the day they would set out tidy bundles of trash, generally donations they did not like, including unwanted books. During the night passersby invariably broke these open to scavenge the books. I confess I was among them. This frustrated the store, as New York's trash police (yes, New York has trash police) would fine them for having messy trash. I would grab any book that I had heard about, even if vaguely. Long rides in the subway went so much faster when there was a book to read. Jack London's *Call of the Wild*, for example, was memorable. So was an original, first edition hardcover, with dust jacket, of *Human Sexual Response*, by Masters and Johnson. American sex researchers have this bizarre idea that sex is about individuals, rather than

(continued, page 4)

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This is a serialization of Vivian Robson's masterpiece, *A Student's Text-Book of Astrology*. It is now in print.

Part 125:

**Rectification**, continued

Being satisfied of the approximate accuracy of the horoscope so obtained, work it out in full detail, calculate the speculum, and then compute accurate **Primary directions** to the angles. If discrepancies exist between the arcs obtained and the true arc of the event adjust the former to the latter and calculate the exact RAMC (right ascension on the mid-heaven—*Dave*) so obtained. Slight differences of a few minutes will probably still exist, and the final RAMC should be taken from the most accurate arc or from the direction likely to operate most exactly to time. Aspects to Mercury, Mars and Uranus are usually well defined and act promptly, whilst those to Saturn are usually too slow and long drawn out to be of use in estimating the time with great exactness.

The only directions that are of much use in rectification are Primary directions to angles and Rapt Parallels, since these depend entirely upon the accuracy of the map, and a mistake of 4 minutes in the time of birth makes an error of 1 year in the time of their operation. Rapt Parallels are of great assistance in arriving at the correct Ascendant, but directions to angles are handier to use and should be computed first, the former being used to check the final results.

Primary directions among the Sun, Moon and planets are not of great use as they are not affected to the same extent by errors in the birth time, but there is a method of employing them that is of service when only the approximate time has been ascertained, as for example by the use of Secondary lunar aspects. This method as given by Oxley and Zadkiel, is as follows:—

1. Reduce the Meridian distance\* of the Sun or Moon, whichever (*concluded, pg. 6*) —*A Student's Text-Book of Astrology, 1922.* Price \$25.95. **Buy.**

**Whether the Native will marry**

from *Christian Astrology, Book III*, by William Lilly

You are herein to poise with judgment all the *Significators* belonging hereunto, how they are affected, principally ♀ and ☽, if both these Planets be in Barren Signs, viz. ♀, II, ♁ and also in cadent houses, viz. 6, 9, 12, 8. (for the eighth house, though it be not cadent, yet is admitted in this judgment by reason of its malignancy:) these testimonies import either a single life, or an aversion from Marriage; and if it chance that the other *Significators* do herein concur, and that they be in sterile Signs and cadent houses, the effects of the former *significators* shall be more manifest and certain.

If the aforesaid *Significators*, but especially ☽ and ♀ are not so constituted; see then if either of them is weak or little fortified; and besides that, conjoined to ♄, he being very potent, ♀ herself alone, having not the support of any Planet by a good aspect; and if you then find ☽ posited in a barren Sign, or cadent house, or extremely afflicted; these argue no Marriage or any desire thereunto.

But in this point of judgment, you must ever understand, that ♄ ought to be very strong; for if ♀ and the ☽ be more fortified than ♄, then the preceding judgment holds not true.

The same judgment before delivered, will hold of a single Life, or unwillingness thereunto: when in a Nativity you find ♄ more elevated than either ☽ or ♀, no Planet assisting either of them; for herein his elevation is equivalent to a ♂. And this judgment seems to be confirmed with reason, for ☽ and ♀ signify Legitimate Marriages, and the Native's affection to a married life, therefore if either of these or both be extremely impeded of ♄, the author of Monkery and Solitariness, or of single life, it takes away that affection of mind which does usually stir up a desire in the Native to contract Matrimony. — **Christian Astrology, Book III**, by William Lilly. **Buy.**

**Curing the King's Evil**

from *Blagrove*

**T**he way of curing this Maid's eye, was as follows. In the first place I made choice of three solary herbs which are esteemed good for the Nerves viz, rosemary, Angelica, and balm, these herbs I caused to be made close up in a linen cloth (taking a small quantity of each, being all gathered at the hour of the *Sun*) and gave it her to wear about her Neck instead of Gold, for as Gold is a Metal under the Dominion of the *Sun*, and has a virtue to comfort the brain; for the Sun has predominancy over the brain, as I have shown elsewhere: see also these herbs being under the Dominion of the *Sun* has the like sympathetic virtue to comfort the brain: accordingly also I made choice of a select number of solary herbs to make a Diet-drink by way of decoction; and likewise to make an oil to anoint the brain. But to the Eyes I applied only Celandine-water, given in a small tincture of *Roman-Vitriol*; but at the first beginning of the Cure, I did for a few days apply raw-fresh meat to the powl or Neck to help dry and divert the humour from the Eyes; by this means through God's blessing she was soon recovered. Now the way to cure this kind of Evil when it settles in any other part of the body, is as follows, You must in the first place make use of three Solary Herbs, as aforesaid, to wear about their neck: also you must make a bath of Solary Herbs, according to the number before mentioned, belonging to the *Sun*, and being gathered at the right Planetary hour: also out of the same herbs, you must make an ointment, and once a day you must bath the place grieved pretty hot, and then immediately with this ointment anoint it. — **Blagrove's Astrological Practice of Physick, 1681.** **Buy.**




the brief unitary being they construct, but I digress. Book people did not run that store.

On the other side of the avenue, closer to the F train, was an actual bookstore, full of new, never-before-been-read books. I browsed there once or twice. On one day there was a stack of *Mariette in Ecstasy*. I don't normally care for novels, but with a title like that, and me being eternally single, I picked it up for a quick browse. In later years I misremembered the title as *Marianne in Ecstasy*, which led me to believe the book did not actually exist.

Mariette was a young novice, pledged to the Sisters of Perpetual Toil and Struggle, a nunnery in upstate New York. As such, she longed that Jesus, her Savior, should make some personal use of her. She was so eager, she was so pure, she worked so hard, surely he would notice? But as is typical of the sisterhood, her greater efforts were ignored and her life, in reality, was one of silence and toil and prayers, from before sunrise to far after sunset. Rather like mine at the time.

It was in France that I learned how the Church gets its priests and nuns. The Church strongly encouraged every family give a son or daughter to it. After World War II, the French government strongly encouraged, in fact paid for large families, which left parents with the problem and duty to provide good starts in life for their large broods. Giving the youngest of all to the Church became an easy solution to an expensive problem. This youngest child was often the accidental result of a failed, mis-timed rhythm method of birth control, the only one permitted by the Church. The child was often not bright and was therefore easily led. If this was true of Mariette I do not know. I did not buy the book. I only read one spellbinding passage.

 **NE evening Mariette** was returning from her chores and was startled to see Jesus standing before her. Overwhelmed, she immediately threw herself, prostrate, on the ground, not even daring to look at this great man, expecting him to issue commands or speak or do something. When several minutes had passed and she had not heard the Word of God, she cautiously, timidly, looked up.

Jesus was still there. He was beckoning her to come closer. He was whispering something, but even so he was faint and she could not make out what it was. She rose to her knees, arms outstretched at her side, still, frankly, delirious and deeply fearful of saying or doing anything that might displease her Lord.

Yet he did not come closer and still he

beckoned. Still on her knees, not daring to look at his face, she slowly crept to his very feet. Whereupon he beckoned with his arms that she should stand up, and, timidly and without touching him, she did so.

Now she could almost hear what he was saying, his voice still a whisper. She leaned in close, she could smell his breath, and finally heard the words,

*Surprise me.*

I do not know what Mariette did after this. I put down the book in speechless amazement. I went out into the summer sunshine, and stumbled my way home, to my basement dungeon.

*Surprise me.* Is that what God wants of us? Not obedience? Not piety? Not prayers? *A surprise?* It was a revelation. Were we not supposed to surrender our free will in "obedience" to him?

But what if obedience was the last thing God wanted? Is not *coerced* obedience, *coerced* prayers, *coerced* piety, with the threat of hellfire and damnation behind it, a violation of our free will? Is this not a fundamental contradiction?

Why would God bother with his whole, useless materialistic creation if it was only to be a whip to force us to become his personal slaves? With Heaven and more slavery as the ultimate reward?

*Surprise me.* If God himself has free will, then what is the ultimate use of *his* free will? What is the ultimate creation that God can create?

Would he not fashion a creature which itself had free will? But servile obedience is not free will at all. It is the abandonment of free will, by definition.

*Surprise me.* God, in his ultimate wisdom and power has, in fact, given man the ultimate gift, that of free will. Which means that God *does not know* what man is and as a result God *cannot control* what man may do.

What can man do? Man can, in fact, kill the Earth and everything on it. Which would kill the God who made it. Kill him dead. It is said this happened to the Moon.

Which makes man, collectively, if not individually, co-equal to God himself.

Why would God create such a dangerous being? People play Russian Roulette because they are suicidal. God is not suicidal, therefore God has some other motive. What could this be?

*Surprise me.* The answer can only be that God created the world, and man as his co-equal, because he was incomplete in some fundamental way. In other words, he *needs us to surprise him*. Just as Jesus said to

Mariette.

In the 1960's, James Lovelock, who I would describe as a self-taught scientist, started to evolve what eventually became the Gaia hypothesis, which is to say the Earth, considered as a whole, is a self-regulating, living entity. Having stumbled upon something of pure genius, the science crowd, even the self-taught science crowd, such as Lovelock, then failed to bring their thesis to its ultimate conclusion. Which is this:

An intelligent organism, such as the Earth, with its vast resources, will, if given the opportunity, invent and use tools to enhance itself. Man, for example, has exploited his ability to make and use tools.

In other words, if man can invent adding machines and slide rules and computers to calculate *pi* to ever more millions of decimal places, what is to stop the Earth from doing the same thing?

Suppose the Earth wants, or *needs*, to do something, to become something, but suppose that goal is either physically impossible for the Earth to achieve on its own, or would take more time than the Earth actually has available to it?

Given the hypothetical *need*, what would stop the Earth from inventing its own set of *tools*?

What if *we*, mankind, were that tool?

What if Gaia, like God, like a 16 year old female daydreaming of her prince-to-come, *did not know* what the outcome would be? Did not know what the *process* would be? What if Gaia, God, and the sixteen year old only knew they had a *need*? And that they could *trust*? What if the solution, in every case, was a *virile man*? What if Gaia, God and the female are all qualified as *fertile*? Just as the female trusts and believes and hopes the man she selects will not rape her, and that she will not die in childbirth, so it is that Gaia and God trust and hope and believe that man will not ultimately kill them. Gaia, God and females all trust and hope their encounters with man, with *males*, will transform them in ways they cannot perform, cannot imagine, on their own. But females, notably, do not merely trust. Females are co-equals with men. They have demands. They set a price. They extract a fee. They offer unique rewards. So it must be with Gaia and God.

*Surprise me.* Many of you will say this is a starkly sexist argument, which it is, but in the end I know of nothing but sex. In the world as we know it, sex exists on all levels, and on each level, sex exists in a fashion appropriate to that level, and to no other. Just

as scientists classify insects and plants according to their sexual characteristics, we can classify the many levels of conscious life according to their sexual characteristics.

To move only one notch downwards, the sexuality of dogs and cats is concentrated into one single month of the year (or even less), at which time they have little control over themselves. The rest of the year they have little interest in the opposite genders of their own species. They would find the day-in, day-out, nonstop human longing for sex to be bizarre, overwhelming, and quite tiring.

To go a step upwards, we are told that to break the wheel of reincarnation and achieve "heaven," we must give up sex altogether.

This is clearly wrong. If sex exists on all the lower levels, then it must exist on all the higher ones as well.

What we must give up is physical, genital sex, for physical sex, uniquely, produces physical bodies, which amounts to downward running escalators that bring souls *down* to Earth.

When we take a closer look at human sexuality, we discover it to be dual. On the one hand, there is the simple, physical craving for the opposite gender. As with dogs and cats and all other creatures. And there is, after the act is completed, a wonderful stillness, an intense closeness, the very essence of love itself, that appears to be generated by the act of making love, and which is unique to humans. I know of many people who have wearied of physical sex and are longing for its more sublime counterpart.

Sex one level up is the same thing as sex after you're dead. In the Tibetan Bardos it's made clear that if, after you're dead, you lust for penises or vaginas that you will have started a one-way process of coming back down here. It's also clear that if, as an elderly person, you go to your grave lusting after sex, you will very quickly return to get it.

Sex one level up can be one of two things. Gurus commonly talk of "union with the divine," or "oneness with all the world." Which I experienced last August, while I had pneumonia, not quite realizing what it was until it stopped and I had time to reflect upon it. I found it wonderful and pleasant and soothing, but not overwhelming.

It would be similar to the sort of sex the Sun has. The best explanation I ever heard for how the Sun shines is that its surface has a certain electrical charge (everything has an electrical charge), while the "empty" space around it has another, very different one, perhaps because of the Sun's overwhelming gravity, I do not know. The difference be-

tween these two charges, called a *drop*, creates a spark which we experience as light and heat. (The accepted scientific theory is that the Sun is a giant glowing coal, oops, I mean, the biggest, hottest thing we know of. Which is currently thermonuclear, but I expect that will change. Scientists, for the most part, are lazy, preening, faddish idiots and all you need do to prove it is dare to check their work.)

Which means the Sun glows because it is trying to *merge* and *become one* with the vastness of space itself. The Sun is *male*. Space is *female*, the two are *in congress*, as the expression goes, the result, their *orgasm*, is the light and heat that sustains all life.

**T**HE other possibility for sex after you're dead is that it is similar to human sex, only greatly expanded. In other words, a spiritual union between individual maleness and individual femaleness. Ramakrishna hinted at this in his adoration of Kali as the Divine Mother. He eventually died of throat cancer, the throat being closely linked to the genitals, which is why it's so exciting to kiss. It would seem that in talking about sexual abstinence and the desire for mother, Ramakrishna transferred his sexuality from his sex chakra to his throat chakra, in the process overloading the throat, leading to cancer.

How to find out for yourself? *Remember this*: When you're dead, look around for anyone who can talk to you (they will look just like the people who can't talk to you, as they're still living), and ask them, or ask them to direct you to someone who can tell you.

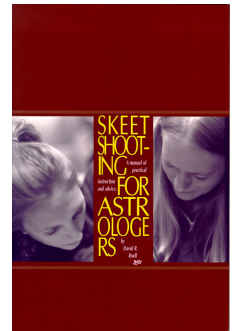
Do you want to get off the wheel of incarnation? It's simple, really. You reincarnate because of *habit*, and your own *free will*. After death, one eventually falls into a stupor, or daydream. Upon "awakening" there is a desire to "get back to work," to "get down to business" (which is oftentimes simple lust for sex) which, reflexively, from *sheer habit*, brings you right back down here. It makes no difference that you believe it's your last time and that you don't want or intend to come back. If you have no plan, if you have no awareness, you will eventually come back, despite your hopes and beliefs. **You will be a victim of habit.** Just as you go to work every day even though you would rather be doing other things, even though you tell yourself you are being silly and foolish.

**F**INALLY I am asked if I believe in God, if I am a deist. I regret I do not have a heartfelt belief. God, to me, is a logical necessity. I believe in the existence of God, just as I believe in the existence of the President, even though I have never met,

## READ MY BOOKS

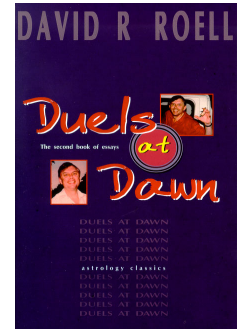
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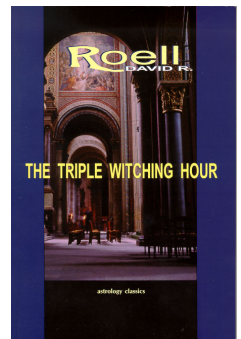
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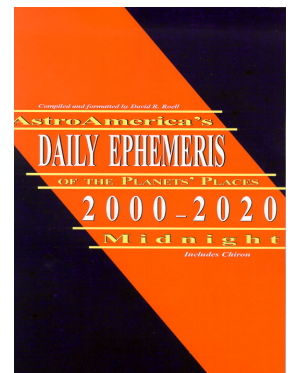
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## Upcoming:

**Quad Bike Analysis**, the fourth book of great essays: Spring, 2013

nor even seen a President. From time to time it seems he changes, which means the President is a lot like Doctor Who, who also changes from time to time. With the concept of six degrees of separation, I can trace a linkage between myself, and, say, David Tennant or Barack Obama, and the fact that I can do this satisfies my need to believe in a Tennant or a Barack, in a Who or a President.

It is the same with God. Because I know that consciousness exists after death and as I know there are individuals who exist on that level who help new arrivals, it is clear there are different levels of beings out there. Extend the idea and eventually you come to some big important person, but, as with Dr. Who or the Presidency, on their level they concern themselves with Great Things and are not aware of me and the many details at my level, or so I presume. Between myself and God there is presumably a fog of indifference. In piercing that fog I will be a shock and a surprise.

There is no astrology this week. I wanted something happier than an analysis of squares and oppositions. There will be lots of that again next week. **Merry Christmas!**

**Mariette in Ecstasy** was a novel by Ron Hansen, first published by Harper in 1992. It is reviewed at Amazon, by people who read the entire book, rather than the single page which I read, long ago.

**Student's Text-Book**, *concluded*:— is directed, into minutes and call it the *first* position. Add to this Meridian distance one degree, reducing it also to minutes and call it the *second* position. Then opposite the second position place the error of the original arc of direction expressed in minutes, multiply them together and call the amount A. Work the same direction with the altered Meridian distance (taking care to adjust the M.D. of the planet employed also), find the error in this arc of direction and place it opposite the first position. Multiply these together and call the amount B.

2. If *both* errors be *greater* or *less* than the arc for the event, find the *difference* between the errors and call this C. Find also the difference between A and B and call this D. Then D divided by C will give the true Meridian distance of the Sun or Moon at the moment of birth, and the RA of the MC should be adjusted accordingly.

3. If one error be *greater* and the other *less* than the arc for the event call the sum of the errors C, and the sum of A and B call

D. Then D divided by C will give the true Meridian distance as before.

Having obtained the corrected time by this method proceed as before to adjust the map by means of directions to angles and Rapt Parallels.

The final steps in obtaining the exact degree and minute rising at birth may also be performed by means of a process known as the **Pre-Natal Epoch** but this method cannot be treated here as it is far too vast a subject, and an imperfect outline would be worse than useless. — *This concludes Vivian Robson's Student's Text-Book of Astrology, which will be repeated.*

\*Meridian distance: The time it would take a planet to move from its natal position to the midheaven, expressed in hours and minutes. In other words, using the Sun as an example, at what time on your day of birth was the Sun on the MC, and how long was this before or after the time of your birth on that day?