



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY! With art by Vera!
from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

April 2, 2013

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The Primacy of Astrology

AN OLD friend wrote last week, unhappy with me. She was offended that two weeks ago I had written an imaginary rectification of the new Pope, and even more offended that last week I had dared to suggest the legal day once started at noon, rather than midnight, and then used that for another imaginary description of the Pope.

So far as my imagination goes, I am guilty as charged. I want to be **Casey at the Bat** and hit homers out of the park, but in fact Cayce, and Babe Ruth and Mickey Mantle and all the other great sluggers swung and missed more often than not. It's not important if I am right. What's important is to show techniques and make you, the reader, think. Most astrologers are limited to reading aspects and so run out of chart before they even start. We in fact do not know if the new Pope has a history of running around with young girls or not (Mercury on the 7th house cusp at 10 pm). We can't know. But you will know how powerful these techniques are the first time you see them in charts of those known to you.

Beyond that, I want to move astrology to a place where it becomes *primary*. Did

the day start at noon or midnight? Astrology, taken to the max and read for everything it's got, will tell us. Will give us the definitive answer. Did Mozart, born January 27, 1756, at 8 pm in Salzburg, in fact die at the age of two months? Astrology knows the answer. Astrology is not a wasteland of vague one-size-fits-nobody platitudes. It is a set of the most exact tools. Learn them.

The challenge is for astrologers themselves to not to dismiss astrology as trivia. The challenge is to use astrology, like language itself, as a precise instrument. To make our points with such clarity and precision that they cannot be disputed.

1800 a Week

CLICK and Clack, the Tappet Brothers, used to joke they had a "listener" to their wildly popular **Car Talk** show, now, regrettably, in reruns. I send this newsletter to 5100 email addresses, but as I harvested the majority from AstroAmerica's casual customers, I never imagined I had more than a couple hundred readers. How many are there, really? The answer was in the site's web stats. Of the several hundred pages at AstroAmerica.com, the newsletter is no. 1, with, over the past year, an average of 1800 weekly readers. February had a total of 72,091 hits. I am amazed.



Speech, Peculiarities of. The general tendencies of the signs may be stated as follows:

Aries: A strong, sharp incisive voice, often ringing. **Taurus:** Melodious; the language is generally plain and matter-of-fact. **Gemini:** Quick utterance, often high-pitched. **Cancer:** Kind and sympathetic tones, often musical and low. **Leo:** Deep and strong, sometimes oratorical or pompous. **Virgo:** A matter-of-fact unadorned diction and utterance. **Libra:** Soft but often peevish, drawling and affected. **Scorpio:** Deep and resonant. **Sagittarius:** Rapid and often copious talkers; given to abbreviations, slang, and slipshod speech. **Capricorn:** Generally loquacious, in common types the voice is harsh, but in cultivated specimens there is often considerable oratorical ability. **Aquarius:** Cultured, pleasant voices; the diction is generally simple and well chosen. **Pisces:** Often careless in speech, and wandering and indefinite in expression. *More on speech next week.*

— **Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology**, by C.E.O. Carter. **Buy.**

ALMANAC K

for the week (all times GMT)

02	05:36	☽	♊		
03	04:37	☉	♊	Last Quarter	
	10:36	☽	♁	Void	
04	08:42	☽	♋		
	23:26	♀	♁	♂	
05	12:11	☽	♁	☉	
	17:22	☽	♁	♂	Void
	19:22	♀	♁	☉	
06	03:34	♀	♁	♀	
	13:24	☽	♁	☉	
07	04:58	♀	♁	♂	
08	04:10	☽	♁	♀	Void
	11:34	♀	♁	☉	
	19:03	☽	♁		

Extracted from **AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-2020**. **Buy.**

Vivian Robson's STAR OF THE WEEK

ALPHERATZ *alpha Andromedae* 14 ♃ 29

Notes: A double star, white and purplish, in the hair of Andromeda. From Al Surrat al Faras, The Horse's Navel, as it was formerly located in Pegasus. Frequently called Caput Andromedae, or Andromeda's Head.

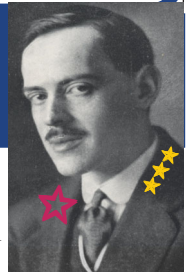
Influence: According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Jupiter and Venus. It gives independence, freedom, love, riches, honour and a keen intellect.

With Sun: Honour, preferment and favours from others.

With Moon: Energetic, persevering, honour, wealth, many good friends and business success.

With Mercury: Active mind, benefits from judges, lawyers or churchmen, pioneer work bringing prominence, accused of selfish motives, writes on science, religion or philosophy.

With Venus: Neat and tidy appearance, quiet life, good health, fond of pleasure and society, fortunate in speculation. — **From Fixed Stars**, by Vivian Robson **Buy**



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Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990



IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

Saturn and Jupiter

SATURN's symbol ♄ is that of the flail or plowshare, that which beats out the chaff and brings to practical usage that which is best in us. Where he is placed by house, there we do extract the best in life, abjuring frivolity in favor of profundity and down-to-earth self-application as though digging in the depths for what will be useful to us — like the farmer and lover of the soil that he is. In the 2nd, 3rd or 4th House he builds up an estate in time and leaves something of value to posterity. His symbol and Jupiter's are also in reverse (♄ ♃) so that he reaches down in to earthy matter while Jupiter's symbol, the celestial harp, reaches up to spiritual realms of higher thought; academic and philosophical, occult matters and indulgences toward human frailty, being the Greater Benefic. Where Jupiter is placed you are greatly rewarded, recompensed for any loss, most law-abiding and honest and able to point the way. Where Saturn is placed you earn your reward, but endures as part of you through future incarnations.

Saturn is serious and concise in speech, thrifty in all things, saving for future use, liking seclusion; where Jupiter is loquacious, optimistic, generous and warmly friendly, with a capacity to let go freely and enjoy himself; where Saturn never gives up nor lets go, always keeping a string attached so that a hold or grasp is always evident. — **The Way of Astrology**, 1967. **Buy.**

ONE OF
FOUR:

Lee Hsien Loong Prime Minister of Singapore

FOR reasons of my own I have long been interested in the lives of those born on February 10, 1952. Sixty-one years having passed since that date, the overall fates of those born on that day, and hence, the astrological reasons for them, will by now be clear. Of the four people known to me to have been born on that date, **Lee Hsien Loong**, the current prime minister of Singapore, has achieved by far the greatest success. I will start with him.

It was a full moon day. Sun was widely conjunct Mercury, Moon was conjunct Pluto, more, or less, depending on the exact time. Jupiter and Saturn were opposed, Neptune was widely conjunct Saturn. Venus and Saturn were in mutual reception, Uranus and Mars were in tight trine, Uranus and Venus were widely opposed. There are other aspects, you will find them.

Of the four, I have met all but Loong, as might be expected. I have birth times for none of them, but the charts for three were easy to work out (Sun here, Moon there, etc.). Loong's chart stumped me for the longest time. As a politician, would his Sun not be in the 10th and his Moon in the 4th? Or vice-versa? Yet I was not convinced.

I read his biodata on the official Singapore government website, [here](#). Which was a long list of the expected, as Loong is the eldest son of the first prime minister of Singapore, **Lee Kuan Yew**. Loong is the son of Singapore's "George Washington," so to speak. It is presumed he would be showered with awards and easy accomplishments. Loong should have snatched daddy's job away at the first opportunity, but did not become prime minister until 2004, aged 52 and was not the second, but the third. Why the delay? What was the problem?

I was puzzled until I chanced to think that Wiki would have a **biography**. When I read that his first wife, Wong Ming Yang, died three weeks after giving birth to his first (albino) son, I suspected an awful truth.

If Mars in your 8th house means you might very well be killed (it happened to Jack Kennedy), then what if Mars was in your second house? Would that kill your spouse?

But then I thought, that's a horrible fate. Marry a guy with Mars in 2 and you end up dead for no good reason. It's got to be more

complicated than that.

Quickly I worked out Loong's chart. Putting Mars in Scorpio in the second put Libra on the first, Aries on the 7th, and, hey presto, Mars in Scorpio rules the 7th house, from the 2nd. Which is the 8th house from the 7th.

When you are struggling to rectify a chart and find the right key, the other chart details will rapidly fall into place. Put Mars in the vicinity of the 2nd house cusp, and the full moon falls from 5 to 11. I had seen that before. Immediately I went to **Newt Gingrich**, who has Sun in Gemini in 5, opposite Moon in Sagittarius in 11. Newt goes from woman to woman but then, I think, he would, since Gemini and Sag are restless and will not long remain anywhere. We know of Gingrich as an intellect, but that's due to Gemini's endless chatter.

Newt has his Mars in the second, which is the 8th of his wife, but as Mars in Aries does not rule Leo on his 7th house cusp, the former Mrs. Gingrichs are still very much with us.

LOOKING at Loong's 10 pm birth chart I got a sinking feeling. Sun opposing Moon from fixed signs, in houses 5 and 11 ("fixed" houses), is your typical do-nothing playboy. One of the problems with all four natives born on this day is inertia, due in no small part to the overwhelming number of oppositions in effect. Charts soaked in oppositions mean that no matter what the native may attempt, there is always someone who will push back in equal measure. Oppositions in cardinal signs are bloody noses, in fixed, concrete walls, in mutables, spinning around until you fall over. In the end the native gives up and waits passively. As the "Son of George Washington," Loong would be forced to sit until the day his father made him his successor. (Washington was in fact childless, which spared this country much trouble.)

So we are not surprised to learn that in 1971, aged 19, he was awarded a scholarship while completing an officer cadet course in the Singaporean army. In 1978 he simultaneously took classes in both Kansas (Ft. Leavenworth) and at Harvard. He became the youngest brigadier general in the history of his country, whereupon his father reshuffled the government and Loong abandoned the military to run for a (de facto) safe seat in

continued, pg. 4

This is a serialization of Vivian Robson's **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology.**

Part 10

Fundamental Principles *continued:—*

The Local Mean Time of any place depends entirely upon its longitude east or west of Greenwich. The earth rotates at the rate of one degree in every 4 minutes and therefore the Local Time of a place 1° West of Greenwich will be 4 minutes earlier than the GMT. To find the difference in time between Greenwich and any given place convert the longitude of the place into time at the rate of 1 hour for each 15°, 4 minutes for each degree, and 4 seconds for each minute. The easiest method is to call the degrees of space minutes of time, and the minutes of space seconds of time, and multiply by 4. Thus New York is 74°0' west of Greenwich. Call this 74^m 0^s and multiply by 4. The result is 296^m 0^s or 4^h 56^m 0^s. If the place is West of Greenwich subtract the result from GMT to obtain LMT, and if it is east add it.

Standard time. It is not convenient in practice for every place to use its own Local Time and definite standards have been adopted to cover large areas. Thus the whole belt of country lying between 67° W 30' and 82° W 30' uses a standard time that is 5 hours slow of Greenwich. [EST—Dave] This is nearly correct for New York but not for many other places in the area as it is purely an artificial time. In dealing with cases such as these where a birth is registered in Standard Time it is only necessary to obtain the correct GMT, and from that we can at once arrive at the true Local Time by applying the longitude in time to the GMT. Thus suppose a birth took place at Pittsburgh, Long. 80° W 0' at 2:15 pm Standard Time.

— **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**, by Vivian Robson. **Buy**

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DOG OF THE MONTH



The Aries dog really needs that sign "BEWARE OF THE DOG." If let out of the house he will be chasing cars and biting tires, not to mention terrorizing the poor mailman.

He starts new adventures all the time.

For instance if he's not burying his bone he will be digging one up, and carting it to another place.

If he cocks his leg in the house, especially after having just gone, he is really angry at you. Don't make him neurotic by chiding him. You have hurt his feelings, and I think a talk is in order. Maybe you can crouch down and look him in the eyes as you are speaking to him. I think he will then understand that you are sorry, and this will be the end of the matter.

Moving is no trauma for this pet. The more houses the better. Each one is a new adventure. The Aries dog is especially good for the frequent traveller.

© Marian Futterman, 1976, **Your Dog and Astrology**, \$3.00. Yes, Marian, we still have copies. Some of the best sun-sign writing I ever came across. **Buy!**

The New Newsletter

Most people, most astrologers, even, have no idea how rich, how varied, astrology really is. I'm lucky. For the last nineteen years, I've lived in what amounts to a world-class astrological library, which I've been passing off as **AstroAmerica**. Every week I will serve up a slice for your amusement.

'Til next week — **Dave**

April 7:
1933 — Prohibition repealed for beer.
1954 — Eisenhower's domino theory.

Mars in Aries

CONFIDENCE! **Get some.** When you feel competitive or aggressive, you look awfully sexy. You look cute in a baseball cap. When you feel zappy, you can win anyone on this earth. Mars loves to be in Aries. You're popular. People admire your unique, honest personality, and you have courage, a clean enthusiasm, and endless sparkle. People can tell when you're in love with them, for you're direct without meaning to be, and you're fun, always willing to try new places, new foods, and new ideas. You have heroes and villains. You invented chivalry. You're not afraid to take a stand, nor will you back away when it's time to zap the unjust. You are sexier than you think and braver than you know. You would be surprised at how many people want to drag you off to a deserted haystack. Why do you get paranoid?

You've a hair trigger temper. You seem always to be irate about something or other. If you've an image of yourself as a long-suffering sweetie pie, you get depressed a lot, which really means you're mad as a starving Brachiosaurus. You've still got the best Mars of the lot, however, for you do get in touch with your anger, get it off you chest, and then forget about it. People envy your good sportsmanship, and hate you for it.

— © **Debbi Kempton-Smith**, 1999. **Buy.**

- April 2:**
- 1513—Ponce de Leon discovers Florida.
- 1902—First movie theater, Los Angeles
- 1956—30 min soap operas start on CBS
- 1982—Argentina invades Falklands
- 2006—60 tornados in US



Singapore's parliament. Where he remains today. We quickly see this is not a man who acts on his own. One way or another, no one has ever let him.

GLANCING at the chart, Libra rising gives him a pleasant facade and a face vaguely reminiscent of Bill Clinton, who also has Libra rising. Saturn nearby, he is not quite as pleasant as he appears, which might be another reason he has not made his way on his own.

Mars in the second in Scorpio, his values are intense and his own. Researching him an hour ago, I find he has recently come out against gay marriage, no doubt from his Catholic upbringing. He is not likely to budge. Which is another problem with oppositions in fixed signs. One can be pointlessly stubborn.

Venus in the fourth, he has a genuine love of his country, made all the stronger from Venus's mutual reception with Saturn in the first. He is every inch a patriot. The 4th being the father, Capricorn there, Loong's father is the authority in his son's life, with Venus, a loving, caring one. Ruling planet Saturn is, remarkably, in the father's own tenth house, which is Loong's first. Not only does this hint that Loong's father is an established authority in Loong's world, but is a strong indicator of royalty. Daddy is a king, his son is his crown prince, the symbolism of the mutual reception, Capricorn/4th (government/land) to Saturn/1st in terms of succession is clear. Look for this sort of thing in charts of the sons of self-made men. It is the houses which will determine what is being passed, here with the 4th house, *landed title*.

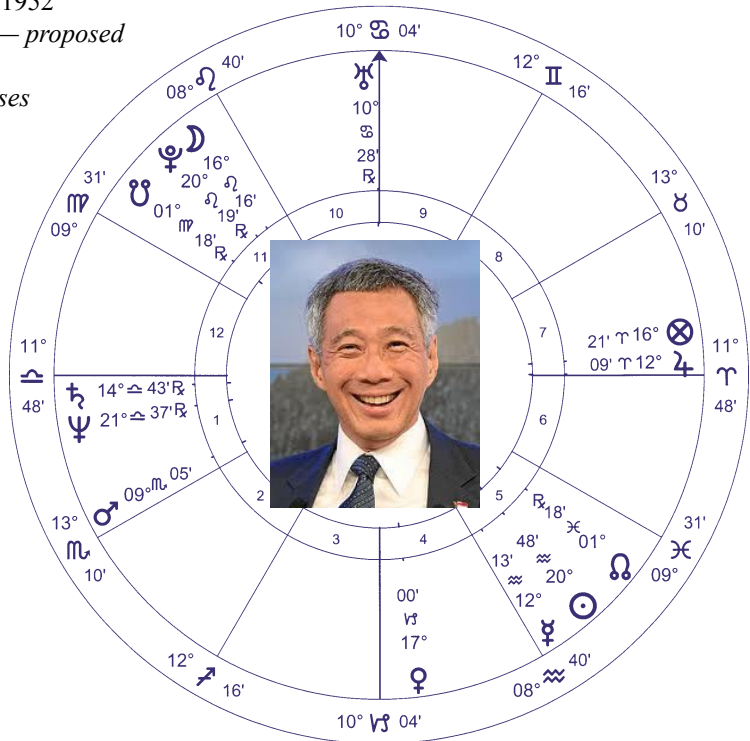
On to the fifth house. This is not a fertile chart, of fertile planets we have only Mars in Scorpio, but Sun and Mercury in the 5th will not be denied. His ill-fated first marriage gave him a son. From his second marriage Loong has one daughter and three sons, for a total of five children overall.

It is the 7th house that defines the current prime minister of Singapore. Aries on the cusp, Loong wants a partner who is bold and has gusto. Charts frustrated by oppositions seek domineering partners, as they hope for rescue. Jupiter in 7 makes these partners larger than life.

The traditional rule is that the first wife is ruled by the 7th. We have already seen that Loong's first wife died shortly after childbirth, as indicated by the 7th house ruler in the spouse's 8th, Loong's second. The rule then says the second wife is ruled by the 9th. Which here is Gemini, ruled by Mercury in the 5th. Loong's second wife gave him four children. Who are all now in their 20's, but,

Lee Hsien Loong

February 10, 1952
10:00 pm JT— *proposed*
Singapore
Placidus houses
mean node
Note the time
zone is 7:30



true to Mercury's placement in the 5th, Mercury ruling children, we know nothing of them as adults.

Loong's second wife, **Ho Ching**, while she may be ruled by Mercury, rather than Mars, is still dominated by Aries and its ruler, Mars which is in her house of business and finance (Loong's 2nd). Which makes this second wife a powerful businesswoman in her own right. In 2007, Fortune magazine ranked her ahead of Condoleezza Rice and just behind Angela Merkel as the third most powerful woman in the world. Loong may have been put in office by his father, but it is his second wife who intends to keep him there.

Cancer on the 10 house cusp, Moon, the ruler in Leo conjunct Pluto, he will be highly sensitive to the public and, Uranus on the MC, may actively dislike public appearances, from all the strange things that happen to him whenever he shows himself.

Moon-Pluto conjunct in Leo in the 11th of friends, Loong knows that he, in fact, has none. He is a singularity. He is, after all, the son of the most powerful man in his country and the husband of one of the most powerful women in the world. Moon-Pluto conjunct in 11, in theory his instincts about his associates are razor sharp, but, Moon opposite Sun-Mercury, he second-guesses himself. Libra rising, he has so far gotten through life by smiling a lot.

Loong's MC and Moon-Pluto complex, this is one place where **Wiki** is on top of things. It says,

The Lees are very sensitive to the issue of nepotism, with Lee explaining: "And if anybody doubts that I as Prime Minister am here not because I'm the best man for the job but because my father fixed it, or that my wife runs **Temasek** because I put her there and not because she's the best woman for the job, then my entire credibility and moral authority is destroyed because I'm not fit to be where I am."

One-party rule, which Singapore has had since 1959 — rule by a single family, for the most part — typically breeds corruption, which is inevitable when it is disguised as any kind of "democracy." When a ruler rules absolutely, it is best to state it plainly and take your lumps cheerfully.

If Loong feels invulnerable, it is because of his south node in the 12th, where, out of sight and out of mind, he will not see trouble arising, should trouble ever arise, until it is too late. That south node is in Virgo, ruled by an exalted Mercury, which, in the 5th house, are Mr. Loong's children. If Mr. Loong's children are typical, they admire their grandparents, one of whom was, and still is the most powerful man in the country. It is not stories of nepotism that Loong should worry about. It is instead his own children.

READ MY BOOKS

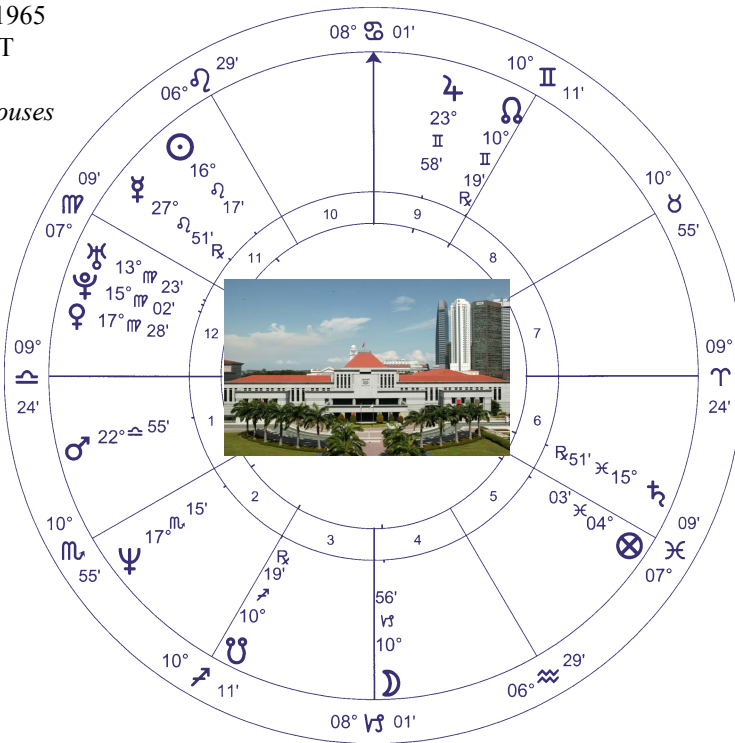
Singapore

August 9, 1965

10:00 am JT

Singapore

Placidus houses
mean node



Already this year Saturn has made a station on Loong's Mercury, which in the house of children, doubtless has made one or more of them aware of the possibility of succeeding their father by founding a dynasty. Later this year Saturn will square Loong's Moon, Sun and Pluto. This could be a fateful year for Mr. Loong.

Unlike the genuine love Loong has for his father, Loong's children see him as domineering: The ruler of the 5th house is in the 9th of the children and is the planet Saturn, retrograde in Libra. Loong has preached old-time values and old-time beliefs to them, which, Saturn retrograde, they found uninteresting and oppressive.

HEALTH. With Libra rising and Saturn there, I would guess he is prone to kidney stones. Which might be too trivial for mention. In 1992 Loong was diagnosed and successfully treated for lymphoma, which is a form of blood cancer typically originating in the lymph nodes. **Cornell** tells me the lymph glands are ruled by the Moon, Aquarius and Pisces. All three are prominent in Loong's chart. In 1992, transiting Saturn waffled between his Mercury and his Moon, while Uranus and Neptune were conjunct his Venus..

Upcoming is the solar eclipse of May 9. It will tightly square Loong's Sun-Pluto opposition and come close enough to square his Moon to not help matters any. Note that

8 days later, May 17, Mars exactly conjuncts the eclipse degree, while the Moon squares it, and conjuncts Loong's natal Moon.

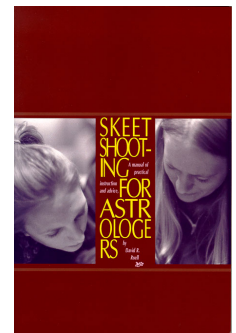
Noel Tyl once famously predicted a solar eclipse would remove Bill Clinton from office. Which did not happen, as the eclipse fell on Bill's Sun, which is not a primary player in Bill's chart. (Venus is. Picky, I know.) Which does not mean that Bill had a good time, only that he survived with his job and his marriage intact. But what about the prime minister of Singapore?

I think of solar eclipses, where the Moon's shadow falls upon the Earth, as burning shadows, trenches, scars, deeply into the planet. It takes time for the Earth to heal. How much time I do not know. Some say upwards of a year. If this analogy is good, then the sooner any planet hits that scar, the more grave the consequences. That Mars, a malefic, is in fact tottering on the edge on the day of the eclipse itself, and then falls into it a week later (pushed by the Moon) is not good. Since Taurus rules money and greed, it won't be good for the world's economy, and as eclipses in Taurus and Scorpio are traditionally harbingers of earthquakes, the eclipse in May won't be good for that, either.

I regret that for Mr. Loong, the upcoming eclipse is tightly woven into his chart. Not only square his Sun-Pluto opposition and very nearly square his Moon, but also trine

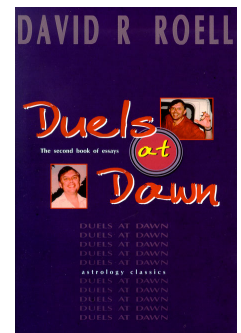
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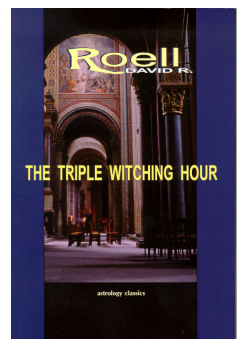
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The Triple Witching Hour, the third book of essays, 2011-12. Astrology under our feet. Science. Ludwig, more. \$24.95

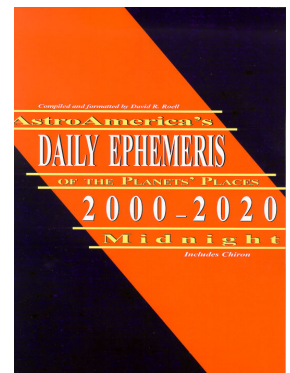
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USE MY EPHEMERIS

AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-20, also for 2010-20. Daily positions, including declinations, full aspectarian. Midnight.

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Upcoming:

Quad Bike Analysis, the fourth book of great essays: Soon.

Venus, his chart ruler. His Venus is in Capricorn, the sign of government, of which he is the head. It is a rule that the leader's chart becomes the nation's chart for the time he is in office, which makes the eclipse, and its aftermath, of national importance.

I went to Nicholas Campion's invaluable **Book of World Horoscopes** and searched for Singapore. I learned that Loong's father, Lee Kwan Yew, forced independence at 10:00 am on August 9, 1965. Malaysia ratified his deed at 4:15 pm that same day. The Sun was at 16 Leo, Venus was at 17 Virgo, Pluto at 15 Virgo, Neptune at 17 Scorpio, Saturn at 15 Pisces. (The eclipse will be at 19 Taurus.) At 10 am the ascendant was at 9 Libra, the MC at 8 Cancer, creepily similar to my off-the-cuff rectification of the nation's third prime minister and son of the founding father. At 4:15 pm when Malaysia confirmed his deed and the day was over, the ascendant was 11 Capricorn, the MC 13 Libra, the Moon at 14 Capricorn. **I am not a forecaster.** Please remember that, but there is no way that Singapore gets through the eclipse unscathed. The country itself is only barely outside the eclipse shadow, which starts immediately before sunrise, Singapore time, on May 10.

FOR the others born on this day, it will suffice to turn the PM's chart in your mind.

I learned that Cindy Lou was born on this day while in 8th grade, when the teacher entered the room one day and said she had heard that, of every 30 people, two of them will have their birthdays on the same month and day. There were about 30 students in the class and as it happened, Cindy was one of the two and the 10th of February was the date. As she sat immediately in front of me and as I was girl crazy at the time, I remembered her, though I forgot who the other person was.

Her father ran the local funeral home, located behind the post office. We delivered their morning paper. A two story house, dead bodies downstairs, family upstairs: Money from the dead, houses two and eight. Given that Cindy was a middle-school cheerleader and that, in her sophomore year became pregnant (by some one from out of town, we did not recognize the name), it would be her Moon that was in the 8th, not the Sun, with Capricorn rising. She dropped out but came back and graduated with the rest of her class, in 1970. As my family had left town half way through my freshman year, I learned about all this years later. She still lives in the same small southwestern Kansas town. I do not know if she runs her father's business, but a family

photo on their new website has a face that looks strongly like hers. I regret there is no caption. If it is her, then she, like Loong, has followed in her father's footsteps.

The third person from February 10 was an American Indian, born in Oklahoma, whom I knew briefly in Ventura, California, nearly 20 years ago. There was a woman who had a mad crush on me, but when I was too daft to notice, found this man and, last I heard, they've been happily married ever since. Up to that time he had been a day laborer/jailbird, in and out of California state prisons. His full moon? Put the Sun and Mercury in the 6th house of day labor, and the Moon-Pluto in the 12th, of confinement. Twelfth house Moon is a mark of a man who keeps his thoughts and feelings to himself. With Pluto, those feelings can be intense. It is cheap to say, "he would be violent if pushed." Violent offenders do not get released, and if you're ever going to be violent, the stress of a trip to prison will do it nicely. The man is harmless. His ascendant is Virgo. So far as I know, he is childless. I think his wife reads this newsletter, if so, Hello Cheri!

The fourth is known to me only as Tavel, which he says is not his real name. After many years of struggle he has found himself a niche market as a publisher. Put his Sun-Moon in the 9th, of publishing. His Moon-Pluto will fall in the third, Gemini will rise. Ruler Mercury opposed Pluto-Moon, he suffers from nerves, though for many years he suspected his heart instead. He tells me he is widely travelled, California, New York, London, France, which would make sense with his strong 3rd and 9th placements. Which makes him unique in this group. Loong has been abroad but came home to say. The Indian has merely drifted, Cindy has gone nowhere in particular. Unlike Loong but in keeping with the others, he has but one child. In keeping with Loong, he craves powerful women and, having seen some of the women Tavel has associated with, I think they suit him. I have known him, off and on, for many years. While everyone born on this day is smart, he is by far the brightest, and he knows it. He is insufferable. He is the only one of the four to actually make anything of himself.

These four all share an identical chart, but their lives have been anything but similar. One is the playboy ruler of his country, one grew up in a house with dead bodies, one knows the inside of a prison, one has scattered his energies across the globe. One of the four has more children, and, I suspect, more money, than the other three combined. All four will face the eclipse in six weeks. Tavel in particular worries me, as his Moon is

virtually dead square. The importance of birth time, the importance of the ascendant and its ruling planet cannot be overemphasized.

My Condition

I THINK I am fine. I feel fine. I shuffle about the house as I always have. My plea a month ago for four essential Sunday sunrise herbs got me two of them. I combined them with dried marigold blossoms and made do. Two days ago on Saturday I got sage, the essential third, so on Sunday Blagrave's marvelous necklace was back at last. I will not be so careless again.

I am far from the black days of January, when I was forced to sleep sitting up as I could not breathe lying down, heart racing out of control, with ever-increasing edema that topped out around 50 pounds. On January 25, at 1:15 pm was a transient ischemic attack (TIA), which was unlike anything I had ever experienced. (Martha, if you're reading, I gave you the wrong date, apologies.)

I was certain the weakness would fade. I was wrong. Late in the afternoon on Thursday, February 7 I gave up and saw my wife's doctor, who immediately packed me into an ambulance. It took three hours of intense work to stabilize heart and lungs. I was awake for the first two. When I woke up around 8 pm I was okay for the first time in weeks. I could breathe. My heart was back. Late Saturday the overnight nurse — a sweet man — took the shiny plates off my chest. Lost a lot of hair in the process. Had they been used, I asked? No, he replied. The skin under them would be burnt if they had.

Two doctors have said I have kidney failure. I beg to disagree. I lost 25 pounds of water in seven days flat, in addition to whatever I drank during the week. I have lost another 25 since. I don't know what maximum kidney function is, but that's got to be impressive. I had a catheter for the first three days. The hospital stay coincided with transiting Saturn stationary, one degree away from squaring my natal Mercury. I will never again think a one degree orb to be a safe buffer.

While in the hospital there were daily episodes of racing heart, over 120 per beats per minute, maybe over 200. The hospital took this most seriously. Being awoken from a sound sleep by a team of doctors and nurses rushing about was initially disorienting. I had four IV's as well as heart-lung monitors. Only IV medication could stop the racing.

The condition traced to a severe calcium imbalance in the blood, but it was my wife, the day after I returned home, who puzzled that out. I am a vegetarian. While I was in the hospital I was fed dairy over my objections,

and while this was the cause of the racing while I was in the hospital, for five years previously I had been dosing myself with calcium-magnesium-zinc tablets, which were doing the same thing. Since February 15 I have been calcium-free and the racing has stopped. My correspondents tell me simple blood tests will detect this problem, but the hospital (UMMC) was not interested, and the kitchen was the poorest I have ever experienced.

Decumbiture teaches us that crisis occurs every seven days, as the Moon squares its initial position. Knowing this, and knowing I could not survive the hospital environment many days longer, on Wednesday, February 13, I announced my intention to leave on Friday. As hospitals operate under decumbiture rules — even if they do not know it — I successfully escaped late on the 15th. I never want to go back.

Reunited with my family, I immediately returned to the safety of my Chinese doctor/herbalist/acupuncturist and have been under her care ever since. Weekly needle sessions, with two large mugs of hot herbal decoctions daily. Next week she says she will start me on wine-infused herbs which she says will slowly unblock my coronary arteries. I've had the wine before, but foolishly gave it up, not realizing its value. I will not make that mistake again.

Ten years ago Anistatia, a Chinese astrologer, told me that Chinese herbs had cured her of diabetes. I was dumbfounded. She said it took years and a complete change of diet. Chinese medicine works miracles.

I am supposed to make myself available for bypass surgery of one sort or another. Under advice from my Chinese doctor — and from plain common sense — I have declined the honor. Last Wednesday when I last saw her, she had just gotten my medical records from Baltimore, six weeks after I requested them. They say you are a most difficult patient, she said. Yes I am, I replied. Which is why I have been with my Chinese doctor five years now.

Chinese medicine is not good for emergencies. In all honesty, when your heart is racing out of control, when you are hyperventilating uncontrollably, when you have 50 lbs of water packed from your waist to your toes, you need the ER. Nothing else will do, nothing else will save you, and I am deeply grateful. But when you are stabilized, flee back to the sanity of Chinese medicine, for your very life.

Bi-monthly checkups with cardiologists have faded to once every six weeks. I am trying to eliminate them. Of the three heart-drugs I was given, I have dropped one, intended to

reduce blood pressure, which has become low. I want to drop the digitalis, but everyone tells me this is a most scary drug. I will see.

The initial bills totaled \$26,000, including \$7500 for the initial three hours in the ER. I let them sit, unopened, until the phone began to ring, asking, politely, what I intended to do about them, when I finally made totals. Several more have arrived since. Let's open them and see what they say.

The emergency room here in Bel Air, from about 5 pm on Thursday, February 7, to about 9 pm on Saturday, February 9, came to \$11,850.26. Radiology was an additional \$1506, for a grand total of \$13,356.26. This was roughly 52 hours, for a hourly rate of \$256.82. The food was decent.

In Baltimore, UMMC produced a flat charge of \$12,050.44, for a stay that started late on the 9th and ended at 5 pm on the 15th. In addition to this, the doctors billed an additional \$5422, for a total charge of \$17,472.44. This was about 139 hours, for an hourly rate of a mere \$125.70. No wonder the food was so poor.

Which is a grand total, for a week's stay, of \$30,828.70.

My little mom'n'pop enterprise, the mail order bookstore known as The Astrology Center of America/AstroAmerica.com, has been bust for three years now. I have been short-changing my wife her household monies, which she has been quietly replacing with her own loot. Which is foolish, as her funds, from an inheritance passed through the female side of her family for several generations and no longer very large, cannot be replaced. There is no life insurance, there is no pension. I qualify for not very much in Social Security, which will start next year. My wife is not independently qualified for Social Security, her working years having been even more erratic than mine.

It's not that my condition is fatal. Life is fatal. The question is when, and what happens when I am no longer here. February proved the store will not long last without me and that my family may need every penny they can get their hands on to survive.

Which means the recent medical bills will never be paid. The hospitals have sent welfare applications, which, so far as I can tell, I do not qualify for. On Saturday came a letter from the law office of Fred S. London, PC, of Baltimore. They have been hired on behalf of UMMC to help me apply for welfare.

I fear a warped welfare application will be forced upon me, and then on the state, which will pay some (maybe all) of the bill. Whereupon, in six months or a year, the mandatory

review will disqualify the original application, making me liable for the money. Which is known as welfare fraud. Which is why I have refused to fill out the forms. (The hospital hired Fred London. I did not. He is a nice man but is not being paid to represent my interests and so is not my friend. I emailed a criminal lawyer on Thursday, but have not heard back.)

DEBBI tells me her uninsured friends laugh at their medical bills, which, she tells me, magically disappear. Which does not sound like the America I was born and raised in, the land that I love, the land in which I could find only bad jobs at low wages that never lasted more than a year or two, the land that left me with college loans that took 38 years to repay and that reminded me every year that I had not.

I would genuinely like to see my medical bills paid, one way or another. Aside from the initial three hours I think the medicine I got was poor, but the many doctors and nurses who treated me are honest and deserve to be paid for their work.

Yes, to support my family I should abandon the store and get a "real job," if only there was one. Last year I tried selling the newsletter, and though I am deeply grateful to those who donated and subscribed, there are simply not enough of you. Last December I thought of joining the old men who wander about at Home Depot, but I fear I am no longer strong enough. I tried giving readings, but they set my teeth on edge. And this only to break even. Paying medical bills is life in another dimension entirely. It seems that I have become just another bit of wreckage along the Great American Highway of Life. On good days I can brush it all aside. On bad days I feel my life has been a complete failure. There are plenty of both days.

NEXT week, an overview of medieval medicine. On my [Facebook](#) page, in the notes section, a new, comprehensive statement of my radical [theory of astrology](#). I will post in here soon.