



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera!

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ARCHIVE

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Porphyry the Philosopher

THIS week saw the arrival of James Holden's latest translation, Porphyry's **Introduction to the Tetrabiblos**.

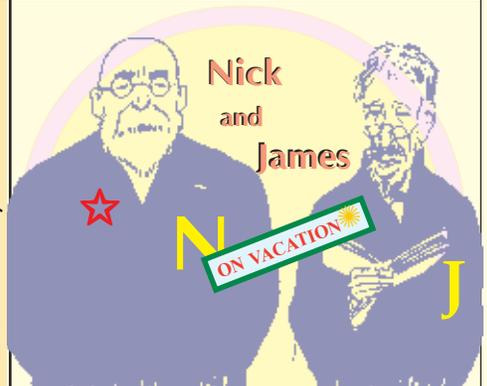
Ptolemy's **Tetrabiblos** was a century old when Porphyry came to write his **Introduction** to it. Porphyry's book looks a lot like a condensed version of **Al Biruni's book**, written 8 centuries later. That Porphyry stuck Ptolemy's name on it tells me several things. One, that Ptolemy wrote his book in verse, not prose, because **only books in verse circulated**. (Ptolemy's original text was lost, he exists only in the paraphrase of Proclus, of the 5th century. Which, to Porphyry, was centuries in the future.) Next, it tells me that despite books by Vettius Valens, **Rhetorius, Dorotheus** & others, Ptolemy's book had already become a standard reference — at least as far as Porphyry's immediate neighborhood was concerned. A reference that was flawed, in that it (Ptolemy) lacked essential details, the necessary

twiddly bits, that make the rest of it work. Hence, *Porphyry to the Rescue!*

In his Preface, Holden notes that parts of this book turn up, verbatim, in books by Antiochus, Rhetorius & **Sahl Ibn Bishr**. This leads Holden to speculate that Porphyry's book was a composite patched together by Demophilus around the year 990. *Dear Mr. Holden*, should you chance across these notes, it is critical to know if these sources are all in poetry, and if so, if they were all written in the same **language** and used the same **meter**, which, if so, would indicate they were not copied from one manuscript to another, but recited, independently, from memory onto paper, by each of the people concerned. Just as I might recite *Row, row, row your boat / Gently down the stream* or Poe's **The Raven**, from memory. In my view, it is critical to establish how knowledge was transmitted from one generation to another, to better understand how ancient society worked.

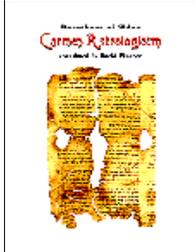
Which brings me to Porphyry's book itself. In brief, some of the details will be familiar to students, but many will not. It will repay study. Study the **list of contents** closely.

Another very useful book from Mr. Holden. I wonder how many more surprises he has in store for us.



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★ **ESSENTIAL BOOK** ★

BARGAIN PRICE

ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

			Notes
11	22:28	♀ ♀	Hooray!
12	04:12	☾ ✖ ♀	Void
	06:49	☾ ☿	
	11:47	☾ ♀ ♀	
	12:53	☉ # ♃ ♃ ♃	
	19:21	☾ # ♃ ♃ ♃	
	19:47	☾ ☉	
13	15:43	☾ ☿ ♀	
14	01:05	● 23♃09	New Moon
	12:29	☾ ✖ ♃	Void
	13:19	☾	
15	22:43	☾ ✖ ♀	
16	10:17	☾ ☿ ♀	
	17:07	☾ ☐ ♃	Void
	17:47	☾ ☿	
17	02:26	☾ ♀ ♃	
	10:57	♀ ☐ ♃	

Extracted from **AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-2020**. Get yours!



STAR OF THE WEEK



ALGOL beta Persei 26 ♂ 19

Influence: Of the nature of Saturn & Jupiter. It causes misfortune, violence, decapitation, hanging, electrocution & mob violence & gives a dogged & violent nature that causes death to the native or others. It is the most evil star in the heavens.

If culminating: Murder, sudden death, beheading, prone to murder & mischief. If at the same time in conjunction with Sun, Moon or Jupiter, gives victory over others in war.

With Sun: Violent death or extreme sickness. If also in no aspect to a benefic, or there is no benefic in the 8th house, and the dispositor of the Sun in a day nativity or of the Moon in the night one is in square or opposition to Mars, the native will be beheaded; if the luminary culminates he will be maimed, mangled, wounded or torn to pieces alive; and if Mars is at the same time in Gemini or Pisces, his hands or feet will be cut off.

(cheerful, isn't it!)

— from **Fixed Stars**, by Robson

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Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990



IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

My Notebook for Mars

WHERE Saturn may be said to cut DOWN & Uranus to cut THROUGH, Mars is the one who cuts OUT. He is the surgeon or butcher, or the efficiency expert, as the case may be. In any aspect to the Moon at birth they function according to this differentiation, and particularly as regards the matters & people ruled by the houses they occupy. In proceedings involving red tape or observance of formal rules & regulations Saturn reduces the amount, Uranus ignores it (substituting a newer short-cut method of his own devising) but Mars handles it by disposing of it entirely & ending up without it – as in surgery, a more or less violent cutting-out measure. Where we find Mars we always find developments requiring drastic action but always the ability to dispose of them forever. It is his “I can do without it if I must” attitude.

In reading an aspect between natal planets, always name the faster planet first. Thus, Mars may apply to or separate from an aspect of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune & Pluto because he moves faster than they. But being slower than the Moon, Mercury, Venus & the Sun, we always name them first so that they apply to or separate from an aspect to him. By this we recognize that some relationship is either going to develop between them or has already done so.

1. Where your Mars is at birth shows what is “cut out to be cut out” in your life; the condition, person or thing you will have to do without. — [Here & There In Astrology](#), 1961

C.E.O. Carter versus Adolf Hitler

I'VE just finished reprinting four of Charles Carter's books, and in two of them he expresses his frustration with the chart of Adolf Hitler. This was a real feat, because one of the books, [The Zodiac & the Soul](#), was written in 1928 & had to be revised to put Mr. Hitler in it.

While Carter had an excuse – he was, after all, a contemporary of Hitler & lived in the London that Hitler's planes bombed, there is in our day, I am sad to say, a certain unending fascination with dear Adolf which is difficult to explain & which I am ashamed to watch. On [History International](#), there is, on average, a program a day that showcases him, or his work. No other person, living or dead, not even Jesus himself, gets that kind of worshipful adulation. (Let's not kid ourselves. The youngest WWII vets are now 85 years old. TV has never catered to the extremely elderly & is not doing so now.)

Adolf Hitler was born on April 20, 1889, Braunau, Austria. The stated time was 6:30 pm CET (*from [Essays on the Foundations of Astrology](#), pg. 56*), or 6:17 pm LMT ([Zodiac & the Soul](#), pg. 112). In either case, 24 or 25 Libra ascends.

Carter is so frustrated by this chart that he writes, *it may be doubted whether the psychology of Hitler can be understood by reference to his natus alone. For one thing, much may be learnt from comparing his geniture with the map of the German Empire, established at Versailles on 18 January, 1871, at about one hour past noon, local time.* ([Foundations](#), pg. 57)

Yet, the previous page, underneath Hitler's chart, Carter tells of a report that it was difficult to establish respiration & that Hitler could have been born with Scorpio rising. And I thought, Given the inaccuracy of the local cuckoo clocks, why not try a Scorpio ascendant. What could it hurt? So I changed the time to 6:54 pm LMT. Gave Hitler 1 degree Scorpio rising.

Well, dang it all. Doesn't Hitler look like a Scorpio rising? Piercing eyes? Doesn't he have the intensity of a Scorpio rising? Wasn't he a sneaky, ruthless bastard, like, I dunno, Scorpio rising? With a good, strong nose, like an eagle? (The high side of Scorpio.)

Hitler's traditional Libra rising was ruled by Venus in Taurus, intercepted in the 7th. Which by sign is a double-dose of Venus. Mr. Nice. Backed up by the conjunction with a

debilitated Mars, both at 16 Taurus. (Tight.) Which is, Be Nice or I'll go pout, or something! And he'd have to go pout, since Venus, ruling Taurus while retrograde, will always be frustrated in its efforts at World Beautification.

Now look at the chart with Scorpio rising. Mars rules from the 7th in Taurus. Debilitated, Mars wants to be in the first (all debilitated planets want to be in the house opposite, one of Dave's Rules). Mars wanting to be in the first makes Hitler want to be the Man of Action! The Ruthless Hero.

Mars conjunct Venus made him sexually magnetic, but Venus, being retrograde, made Hitler The Man Your Mother Warned You About. In spades. He's a no-good. He will seduce you, lead you up the garden path — and then murder you. Or, at the very least, be profoundly strange at your death ([Maria Reiter](#), [Geli Raubal](#), [Ernst Roehm](#)). Dysfunctional/debilitated chart ruler Mars killing the object of affection (Venus retrograde, ruler of the 7th) who just wasn't good enough.

But, trine to the Moon, a long 16 degrees away from the Sun, and opposed to the ascendant, Hitler could keep his love-death nature away from the populace in general.

Mars/Venus conjunctions, in signs of Mars or Venus, especially when they rule the ascendant/descendant, always show people who are adored, loved, mobbed by thousands. Which Hitler was. (Not to mention [Casanova](#).)

Elsewhere, you've heard that a 10th house Saturn means ultimate failure. Why? Because it takes on responsibilities until it is overwhelmed. That's why. In Hitler's case, Saturn was disposed by his Sun. When a 10th house Saturn disposes, or is disposed by, the Sun, it makes for a born leader. This isn't a matter of aspect. It is inherent in the nature of dispositors themselves. Not only is that the person you will trust, it's the person you instinctively look to for fatherhood itself. The qualities inherent in the very word, *führer*. This is Hitler, the leader. Set up to fail.

To the radiant, evil sex appeal and the unquestioned leadership, add Hitler's Moon/Jupiter conjunction in Capricorn in the 3rd. Capricorn is practicality, Moon/Jupiter is instinct combined with intuition, 3rd house is verbal ability: A phenomenal speaker.

Adolf Hitler was one very dangerous man. Danger that came from a Scorpio rising, a debilitated Mars & a retrograde Venus. What was wrong with Charles Carter?



WHY WHERE
WHAT WHEN
ELECTIONAL
ASTROLOGY

Part 56: Vomits

Giving Emetics

PLACE the ascendant, its lord, and the Moon in the ruminant signs Aries, Taurus and Capricorn, of which Taurus is the best. Let the lord of the ascendant be exalted, or in sextile or trine to the rising degree.

See that the Moon is in no aspect to any planet below the earth for that causes the medicine to work downwards, especially if the planet be strong; therefore let the Moon be in conjunction or aspect with a strong & dignified planet above the earth. Take care that the Moon, ascendant, and lord of the ascendant are not in watery signs, especially Scorpio & Cancer for that has a laxative effect.

For Gargles

LET the ascendant be Cancer, Leo or Virgo, or, according to some, Aries, Taurus, or Capricorn. Let the Moon be decreasing in light and motion, and in Aries or Taurus descending in latitude, and applying to the benefics. Place the lord of the ascendant also in Aries, Taurus or Capricorn.

— *Electional Astrology, 1937*

May 13:

1865—Confederates win last battle, Texas
1917—The Virgin appears at Fatima
1958—Velcro is trademarked

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From the Fourth Book of Dorotheus:—

THERE were also some of the ancient scientists who looked at the body of men from the Moon. They said: If the malefics are aspecting the Moon from quartile or from the seventh — and they were looking at life from the ascendent and Venus and Mercury (and the malefics aspect them) and the nature of the place in which they are, if this sign is one of the quadruped signs or one of the human signs or one of the watery signs — and they were looking at this sign, to which of the limbs of the body it belongs, so that they might say that the chronic illness is in this limb of the body of men.

If you want to know whether this chronic illness will be on the right side or on the left side, look from the tenth sign to the sign of life. If any of the seven is in it, then the right side will be named, [but] if there is none of the seven in it, then the left side will be named.

Look at the cardine, the fourth from the ascendent, and the lord of its triplicity by day and the lord | of its triplicity by night, which planet it is. Death is known from the first lord of its triplicity, chronic illness from the second. Look at this planet and the lot of chronic illness which I mentioned to you, [that] from Mars to Saturn. We take this and we desire that you know it and tell it to whoever asks you the true way of science.

The ancient scientists among the people of Babylon and Egypt, all of them, said: if the Moon and the lot are in the eleventh from the ascendent and Mars is in the second, then the body of this native will be broken and his joints will waste away, all of them. — *Carmen Astrologicum*, by Dorotheus of Sidon.

Symbolic Methods and Various Time-Measures

Astronomical Directions fall into two natural classes, viz. those based on apparent motion, due to the rotatory motion of the Earth, and those based on real motion, both of the Earth and of the other planets. The first class is called, as a rule, primary, and the other, secondary or Arabian. The Progressed Horoscope combines both, up to a point. In it the changes in the angles & other cusps are of a primary character, and the movements of the progressed planets of a secondary nature. But the progressed horoscope ignores the mutual directions formed by the apparent motion of the planets, which carries them to various places of aspect in relation to their radical positions.

In the Symbolic Systems the distinction between these two classes disappears. We do not concern ourselves about motions, but rather study the ideal values & relationships, although the concept of an imaginary movement may be introduced to facilitate expression & understanding.

For example, the *Point of Life* of Frankland may be considered as a point that starts at birth at 0° Aries and passes through the signs at a certain rate, viz. 4 2/7ths° to the year. But no such point really exists. The truer—if less convenient—view might be to consider that each successive section of the ecliptic corresponds to a section of human life, and that the movement, so far as there is any, is the movement in *time*, performed by the native as he grows older and symbolically passes through the Zodiacal Circle.

Sometimes our definitions may lead to what may seem at first glance arbitrary distinctions. — *Symbolic Directions in Modern Astrology*, by Charles E.O. Carter. *Newly reprinted.*

May 13 birthdays:

1950—Stevie Wonder
1964—Stephen Colbert, Washington, DC

