



NEWSLETTER

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from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

December 4, 2012

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Maynard Calendars Will Arrive Friday

If it's Christmas Eve, NORAD is tracking Santa's route from the North Pole. When it's the Week Before Calendars, we are tracking Maynard's mysterious wanderings. As you read this, Maynard calendars are in sunny Arizona, about to arrive at their intermediate destination, from where they will immediately be shipped to us.

We have already begun processing orders (there are hundreds) and hope to have most of the processing done by Friday, when we can concentrate on packing. I hope to have everything shipped by Monday, December 10, which will make for delivery to Maynard's many eager customers sometime later that week.

International orders, which take 1-2 weeks to arrive, have priority. There are "only" two or three dozen of these. I am hopeful they will arrive by the end of the year, if not by Christmas, but it is already late. Happy Holidays from all of us!—*Dave*

2013 MAYNARD CALENDARS

IN STOCK—Order now!

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

ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

04	02:05	☾ △ ○	
	22:09	☾ □ ♀	Void
05	11:53	☾ ♃	
06	15:32	☉ 14♁ 56	Last Quarter
07	10:37	☾ ✕ ♀	Void
	18:37	☾ ♁	
08	21:12	♃ ♀	
09	00:38	☾ ✕ ○	Void
	21:52	☾ ♃	
	22:51	☾ △ ♀	
10	10:22	☾ ♂ ♃	

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

Membership Drive WEEK TWO

THE Membership Drive, as I feared, has not been a success. I need 200 \$20 monthly memberships (or the equivalent). I was hoping to get maybe a couple of dozen the first week. I instead got three, and while I am deeply grateful, I must realize the possibility of success is remote.

Which has driven us back to the drawing board. Jobs are a solution, but jobs — poorly paid — are unlikely for a lot of reasons (high unemployment), never mind that I don't last long in them. Too contrary.

Another solution is to give readings. I tried readings a year ago but gave them up as being too stressful. More careful analysis shows my organization needed improvement. I was inspired last week by Helen R, who was ever so patient with me. Her Venus is on my ascendant, which means I can do no wrong in her eyes.

I am henceforth going to work in collaboration with my wife, Elizabeth, who will be in charge of mundane matters, and who will be my essential sounding board when I run into blank walls. Which I do, more often than you may imagine. The fee is \$200, I can start as soon as Maynard clears. Readings will be similar to my celebrity analyses. Email Elizabeth207@AstroAmerica.com. (Not me.) She will get back to you.



Self-confidence is chiefly dependent upon a prominent Mars, although it may come from almost any planet if the same is strong in the ascendant or is the ruler of the horoscope. [Each planet in its own way, however.—*Dave*] The Moon, Venus and Neptune are the least self-reliant. Neptune has much to do with inferiority complex. A prominent but afflicted Mars causes too great self-confidence, especially if he is square to the Sun without a strong Saturn as counteragent. In the former case there is often cocksureness and a tendency to take any risk, and often for a long time the native's adventurousness seems to justify itself. Aries people very rarely lack self-reliance. In the case of a marked feeling of inferiority—the "inferiority complex" of the psycho-analyst—Saturnian afflictions are to the fore. A good example is the nativity of Nicholas II, who was notably defective in self-confidence. Mars is cadent and lacks aspects, and the Moon is terribly afflicted in Aries; Mercury and the Sun are opposed to Saturn.

— [Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology](#), by C.E. O. Carter. [Buy](#).



STAR OF THE WEEK



SABIK *eta Ophiuchi* 18 ♁ 09

Notes: A pale yellow star situated on the left knee of Ophiuchus.

From Sabik, Preceding One.

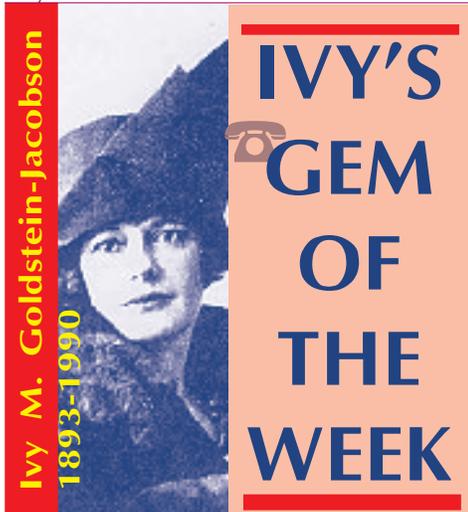
Influence: According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Saturn and Venus. It causes wastefulness, lost energy, perverted morals, and success in evil deeds.

With Sun: Sincere, honourable, scientific, religious and philosophical interests, unorthodox or heretical, moral courage, bad for gain.

With Moon: Secret enmity and jealousy, trouble through relatives, successful but not wealthy, success in breeding stock.

With Mercury: Injury from open enemies, little help from friends, failure in business, fairly good for gain but legal losses, scandal through relatives of marriage partner.

With Venus: Musical and artistic ability. . — [From Fixed Stars](#), by Vivian Robson [Buy](#)



From
**My Notebook
for Saturn**

THE house in which Saturn appears in your natal chart is the 6th House of another house there, which represents a person for whom you take on some kind of work or whose responsibilities you assume. He is difficult to get along with, and suffers from an illness that becomes chronic toward the end of life.

Saturn below the horizon denotes one who prizes his privacy and likes to enclose his property with a fence, preferring seclusion and usually desirous of living alone in the latter years of his life.

Where you find Saturn by house you locate someone of that house who wastes your time and holds you back from your preferred work, deliberately or not.

A good aspect between your natal Saturn and Mars shows that you leave something of value to posterity including a house that you will build for yourself.

The degree in which the natal Saturn appears is often indicative of the native's age at a future important event, but if he is retrograde there will be a delaying action. If he is in a cadent house, the main circumstance related to the event is delayed in coming to his attention, sometimes involving years.

If Saturn is in a cadent house at birth he will hold up matters of the house for later development and if retrograde he will delay them unduly or deny them altogether. He brings secret worry about the health in later life and some chronic affliction. In evil aspect to Mercury, injury by scurrilous reports. — [Here and There in Astrology](#), 1961. **Buy.**

The 4 x 3 Grid

Part of a comprehensive, ongoing theory of Astrology

PRELUDE

TO start, a recap. Frustrated with signs of the zodiac that were associated with invented constellations made up of unrelated stars, none of which had any known affinity to any of the signs, I deduced that signs of the zodiac were presumably Earth-based energies.

In support of this was the fact that each sign of the zodiac is qualified by one of four elements (Air, Earth, Fire or Water), all of which the sky lacks, but which are abundant on this planet.

I then further speculated these earth energies were presumably stable, but if they did vary over time, those variations would presumably be due to the casual positions of the Sun, Moon and various planets. It seemed to me the planets were more than big enough and more than close enough, to have this kind of mutual effect upon each other.

I then further observed that, as energy falls off with the square of the distance (the old inverse square law), we would see this with the various planets and their effect upon the Earth as a whole.

What is the dominant factor in every chart? The Moon, of course. How far away? Not very far at all. Less than a quarter-million miles, a distance which is virtually a constant.

What was the next most dominant factor? The Sun. Which is by far the biggest and most powerful body in the entire solar system. Also at a fixed distance from us, its impact never varies.

What comes next? The so-called “personal planets.” Personal because they supply specific details. These are Mercury, Venus and Mars, as everyone knows. These planets are relatively close, but they vary, both in speed and distance.

After that, the two “social planets,” Jupiter and Saturn. These planets do not provide details, so much as a background setting. They are much, much further away than the personal planets. Too far away for specific details.

And after that, the outer planets. Social planets and outer planets rarely provide specific details, unless they are tightly configured to the Sun, Moon or personal planets,

which “bring them forward.” Which is not only as we would expect, based on sheer distance, but also what is commonly taught in standard astrological texts. When theory fits with common practice, you're on the right track.

All of which was given a simply staggering boost by two scientists: Lars Stixrude of the University College in London, and Ronald Cohen, at the Carnegie Institute in Washington, D.C., who together have speculated there is a single, gigantic crystal at the Earth's center. They have further speculated that crystal to be six-sided.

If there is a crystal at the center of the Earth, and if the Earth is just an “ordinary” planet with water and people, then it is reasonable to speculate there are six-sided crystals at the center of all the planets, perhaps including the Sun itself. (The “Sun-as-a-nuclear-furnace” is clearly a modern variation of the “Sun-is-a-giant-glowing-coal” of yore. There are electrical theories that explain the corona, which no nuclear lump of coal can do.)

Many meteorites contain the element **hexahedrite**, which is, in fact, an iron-nickel alloy that is a *six-sided crystal*. Meteorites are believed to be the busted up remains of old planets, presumably planets that were once part of the Solar system itself. So not only is a crystal theorized, crystals have been found.

At first I was disappointed with six-sided crystals. Astrology has to do with 12-ness. Not six. But in a futile search for a twelve-sided crystal, I chanced across one too many pictures of snowflakes.

And then it hit me. Six-sided crystals have six sides—and *six edges*. Snowflakes have six “spears” and *six “valleys.”* The signs of the zodiac are not *twelve*, but *two sets of six*: Six masculine, six feminine. In fact, *a six sided crystal exactly describes astrology.*

If the Solar system is made up of giant planetary crystals, then astrology simply describes interrelationship of planetary crystals, as viewed from the Earth. It is significant that the Earth is enrobed in a six-sided liquid crystal, which is water (snowflakes!). If planets are crystalline structures, then the Earth, crystal at the center and also covered in crys-

continued, pg. 4

★ STUDENT'S CORNER ★

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

Part 122:

Minor Methods of Directing, concluded:—

ALFRIDARIES. An Alfridary is an arrangement by which the life is divided into periods ruled by the planets in a definite order. A number of alfridaries have been put forward, the most famous being that of Ptolemy, in which the Moon rules from birth to 4 years of age, Mercury from 4 to 14, Venus to 22, Sun to 41, Mars to 56, Jupiter to 68, and finally Saturn to 98. It has been said that ordinary directions to a planet act more powerfully in the period of life ruled by it. [This concludes this chapter. For a survey of modern, psychologically based alfridaries, see Bruce Scofield's *Circuitry of the Self*. See also Bruno and Louise Huber's *Lifelock*. — Dave]

Chapter V: Rectification

It has been shown that if a birth time is accurately known it is possible to arrive at a knowledge of the times and natures of events that happen during the course of the life time, and from this it follows that a converse process is possible, namely to determine the time of birth when the dates of a number of happenings are known. This process is termed "rectification" and it may be employed either to find a quite unknown birthtime, or to correct one that is defined as lying between certain limits. In the latter case absolute accuracy of the result is easily obtainable, but when the birthtime is not known to within 24 hours the process is usually exceedingly difficult and requires the most expert manipulation. — *A Student's Text-Book of Astrology*, by Vivian Robson. **Buy**

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DEBBI KEMPTON-SMITH

Critters

ARIES doesn't care for slobbering critters, as they are always in a rush—a portable pet is best. They don't like smelly creatures either. When they have a pet, they may exhaust the poor beast, so they must develop patience and *let the animal do what it wants*. Aries' animals are sheep and rams and any adoring thing that buoys up their big egos. Some Aries fixate on strange objects and turn them into pets. One Aries gal used to bring a canteloupe with her when she went to the pub—it was her melancholy baby.

TAURUS people are good cuddlers and will always be available to cuddle their pets. In many ways they are the best pet owners, as a Taurus is sure to be set in her ways and provide stability for an animal. Just look at Queen Elizabeth and her famous corgis! Perhaps Taurus is so devoted to pets because animals will return unbridled devotion where humans would if only Taureans weren't so boring. They like a nice normal conservative pet and will never let the thing go hungry. Dogs and cats, cows and bulls, camels, two-toed things, sloths, bears, raccoons, rabbits, weasels, and anything that stinks, like skunks, come under the rulership of Taurus.

GEMINIS will never subject a pet to isolation on purpose. But sometimes they need a friend to point this out, as Geminis always have a lot on their minds and can be unthinkingly mentally cruel. Just remind them that a pet needs somebody of its own species to talk to—that should do it! Apes, gorillas, hamsters, squirrels, and even ants fascinate them. Insects come under the rulership of Gemini. © *Debbi Kempton-Smith, 1999*. **Buy.**

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DOG OF THE MONTH



The Sagittarius dog will often run away from home, so always check all the local pounds not just the one in your neighborhood, as distance means nothing to this loner. He will come back

for awhile and then be off again, so don't be too heartbroken. It has nothing to do with your treatment, they just like seeking new places to play. Extremely docile when brought home, he makes you feel protective towards him.

These dogs love games, so take them to the local park or beach & throw balls or sticks for them to catch & retrieve, and this will keep them around for a while. Certainly keeps you on your toes, which is healthy for you.

Needless to say this is the perfect companion for the outdoorsman. They are courageous & adaptable to any situation.

© *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**

December 7:

1732—Royal Opera house opens.

1787—Delaware 1st to ratify Constitution



tal, is unique among them. If astrology is crystalline in nature, then the Earth's astrology is unique among the planets.

The theory that emerges is that planets interact with each other, and that the net result of such interaction upon the Earth are the twelve signs of the zodiac, which do not fall from the sky, but radiate from the Earth itself. *The signs of the zodiac represent the vibrations of the Earth.*

IF there is a crystal at the center of the Sun and a crystal at the center of the Earth, then the alignments of these two crystals—for they must align at specific times—will be significant. What would these alignments be?

I am astonished, again, that the answer is straight in front of us: The solstices and equinoxes are those alignments. The quarterly alignments of Earth and Sun produce the Tropical zodiac, which radiates from the Earth itself.

But how did the ancients understand this? I recently had an email exchange with **James Holden**, the AFA's research director and tireless translator. He reports the Greeks did not have Tropical nor a Sidereal zodiac, but a *fixed* one.

By fixed, I presume he meant the tropical position of the Sun was taken as fixed and used to plot the positions of the planets and stars, but as these were seen to drift over time, new fixings were required.

The underlying problem has a remarkable source: The pre-Copernican cosmology itself. See the diagram. In the center is the Sub-Lunar Sphere, i.e., the Earth itself. The various planets, starting with the Moon, are concentric spheres radiating outwards from the center. You will note this order: Moon, Mercury, Venus, Sun, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, based on speed. Followed by the "fixed stars," which were supposed to *stay fixed*, but in fact did not. The last sphere of all, the *Primum Mobile*, is the Earth's axial rotation. According to this diagram, the Earth was stationary. Everything else moved around it. As is well-known, there were Greeks who had heliocentric models, but concentric spheres were easier to understand. People, then as well as now, were herd-like and lazy, but I droned on about Wiki some weeks ago.

While I am open to the possibility that I don't yet have the complete story, it would seem that Tropical and Sidereal zodiacs were not clearly separated until around 200 AD.

THE birth moment. Before birth, mother and fetus, having grown together, have the same vibration. At birth, the two are separated. At that precise

moment the smaller mass—that of the newborn child—takes on the unique Earth vibration. The mother, which loses a significant part of her overall mass, experiences a significant transitory event, in other words, a partial change to her own overall vibration. And both events exactly as astrology has always held.

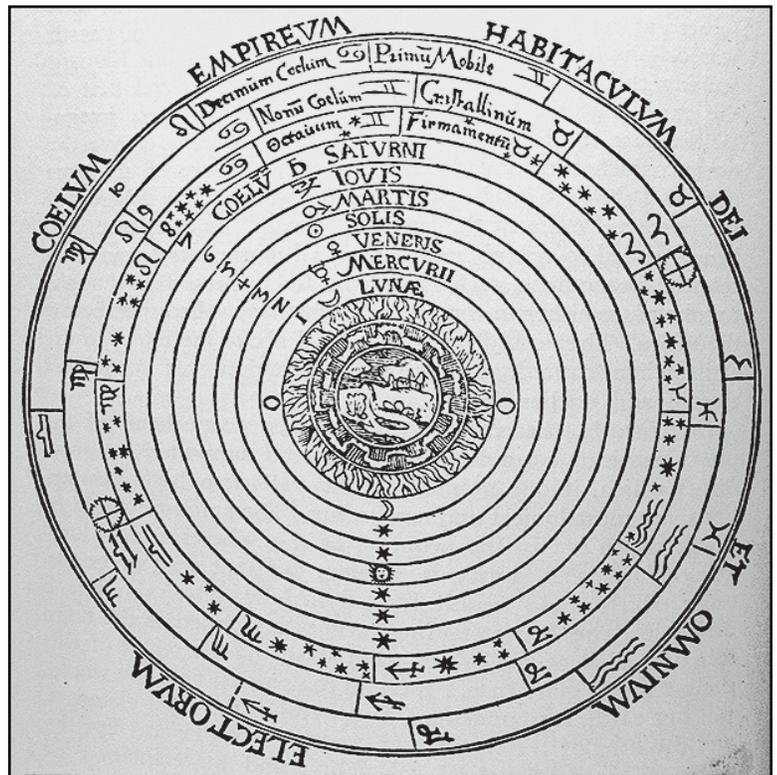
Which establishes the cutting of the cord as the moment when the birth chart begins, but this is not the entire birth process.

The infant must be ensouled, for if there is no soul, the baby dies on the spot. It does so by breathing. The first breath "sucks in" the soul, which is waiting nearby. With the arrival of the soul, birth is complete. This is an intensely traumatic moment and in later years is often remembered as falling dreams. The critical and revealing factor is that, both in the dreams and at birth, the individual *changes states of consciousness* during the process.

This initial birth vibration, like all vibrations, then *ages and decays over time*.

WHICH astrologers have always known. Tropical astrologers measure this decay with primary directions, secondary progressions, solar arcs, profections and various other means. The Earth being a large and complex sphere, it has a great many kinds of vibrations, both major and minor. Astrological forecasting methods are tuned to the specific frequencies of the most major vibrations. Transits are then used as a final timing mechanism. Again we see that astrological practice conforms to this simple theory, which is that the *signs of the zodiac are inherent in the Earth*.

Some of the best measures of the Earth's frequencies are to be found in the Sidereal zodiac. The Sidereal zodiac is not based on the proper motion of the stars themselves (each star, as Robson said, has its own proper motion), but on the Earth's axial wobble.



This is a 25,800 year cycle which "drifts" all the stars one degree every 72 years. The source of the wobble? The gravitational tug-of-war between the Sun and Moon. Like as not, if there was no Moon, there would be no Sidereal zodiac. Looking elsewhere in the solar system, with only two insignificant moons (Phobos and Demos) Mars very likely has no axial wobble and therefore no sidereal zodiac. With a moon that is even bigger, relatively speaking, than our own, Pluto presumably has a significant sidereal zodiac, in addition to its own tropical system.

All sidereal astrologers, whether of the Fagan-Bradley school, or of Vedic astrology, want to believe the Sidereal zodiac is primary. It is not. The zodiac is not based on the stars in the sky, nor on any fiducial (marker) star. The zodiac is based on relationship, that of the Earth and Sun.

Each of the two primary Sidereal systems, Fagan-Bradley, and Lahiri, are "tuned" to a specific "frequency" in the Earth's overall set of frequencies. The Fagan-Bradley system is "tuned" to precession. Western Siderealists have had great success with precessed solar and lunar returns.

The Lahiri is "tuned" to Vimshottari dasas, a 120 year cycle, one of many. As their many adherents know, both Western and Vedic sidereal systems produce outstanding results, but both are limited to forecasting. Natal interpretation, as well as horary, electoral, mundane and medical, function only in the tropical system. The Sidereal zodiac

is the ultimate Chronocrator.

IF the annual Sun-Earth alignments produce the zodiac, then the diurnal rotation of that same Earth crystal, in relation to the Sun, produces the twelve houses. Zodiac and houses are thereby produced by the same means, only in different ways.

Since the Sun-Earth alignment determines the Tropical zodiac, the angular relationship a planet has with the Earth's central crystal determines its zodiacal longitude. As well as its DECLINATION. Pairs of planets in certain angular relationships with each other (known as aspects to astrologers) produce resonances in the Earth, which can be either harmonious or otherwise. Which the Earth, ever faithful to its innate structure, freely radiates to everything on the surface of the planet. Instead of saying there is a trine in the sky, or a square in the sky, or a conjunction in the sky, we should say that planetary energies are producing a conjunction in the earth. Ever actually see a conjunction? Saturn and Mars, for example? So far as the sky is concerned, planets rarely get anywhere close to "conjunct." Aspects arise because of the effect the planets have on the Earth as a whole. Declination is far more abstract, but in actual practice, just as real. *The Earth is the sounding board of the planets.*

We now have an explanation for Charles Carter's famous degree areas (see **Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology**). Carter's specific degrees are nothing more than quirks in the Earth's overall composition. Given the sheer size and complexity of the Earth, such variations would only be expected.

GIVEN that the signs of the zodiac are energies inherent in the Earth itself, it follows that these energies can be concentrated at specific places in the planet at specific times, with specific results. Which is the function of solar eclipses. The Moon's shadow falling upon the Earth "scars" it, resulting in localized energies. Once concentrated, these energies tend naturally to disperse, such that if a transit does not arrive in time to trigger them, there is no result.

Solar eclipses in Taurus and Scorpio historically result in earthquakes, which observant astrologers have noted over the centuries. **Mundane astrology** has traditional lists of the effects of solar eclipses, not only by sign, but also by decan (10°). Combine this with **George McCormack's** observations on the MC/IC axis (10th/4th house) and one can easily identify where on the planet these energies have been concentrated.

Why the MC/IC axis? Planets at the MC/IC pass their energies directly through the core of the Earth

itself, which aligns their energies to the Earth's own energy field, thus enhancing both the planet and the MC/IC itself. Which explains the importance of the MC/IC axis. McCormack went on to note planets in square to the MC/IC were nearly as powerful. Note that "square to the MC/IC" is not usually the same as rising or setting.

I have recently speculated that intense, localized pockets of Taurus-Scorpio energies do not produce earthquakes per se, so much as temporary manifestations of masslessness. Those who has studied earthquakes know they rarely happen along known fault lines and rarely relieve underlying stress in tectonic faults. But if intense pockets of Taurus-Scorpio temporarily deprive the ground of mass, then the least application of energy will produce profound disturbance.

WHICH completes my survey and brings me to this week's topic, the signs of the zodiac themselves. We assume the zodiac to be linear or circular, but a glance tells us this is not really so.

The zodiac is made up of four elements (fire, earth, air and water) and three states, which are Cardinal, Fixed, and Mutable. Here I stopped for a moment, trying to understand what cardinal, fixed and mutable really were.

It is clear that cardinal, which, one way or another, gets up and does things, is the quality of *having energy*.

It is also clear that fixed is the quality of *resisting energy*.

Which means that mutable, being neither energy nor resistance to energy, is the quality of *no resistance*.

Cardinal, Fixed and Mutable are therefore *states of energy*. Cardinal and mutable have the unique quality of exchanging energy between them. Fixed is isolated.

And while I am aware of the scientific doctrine of potential and kinetic energies (etc.), cardinal, fixed and mutable in fact describe *all* the actual possibilities, not the science's theoretical ones.

The zodiac therefore shows elements and energies in relationship.

To fully understand this relationship, we should diagram it. Which is to say, produce the 4 x 3 grid, as follows:

The individual names, "Aries," "Scorpio,

THE ZODIAC AS A GRID

	Air	Earth	Fire	Water
Cardinal	"Libra"	"Capricorn"	"Aries"	"Cancer"
Fixed	"Aquarius"	"Taurus"	"Leo"	"Scorpio"
Mutable	"Gemini"	"Virgo"	"Sagittarius"	"Pisces"

etc., are clearly putative. Given the essential element vs: energy grid, one of the twelve possibilities is always going to be fixed, or *stagnant* water. Stagnant water is dangerous and hostile to life. Stagnant water harbors all manner of intense, nasty things that do not like being disturbed. We call the Earth's stagnant water setting "Scorpio" and have traditionally termed it *evil*. Do the same for the other eleven signs.

Which brings me to the origin of it all:

When we look critically at Greek astrology we find a strange mixture.

On the one hand, Vettius Valens did not have exact planetary positions. Nor did he have any idea of the ascending sign, much less the exact degree. (But give him a guesswork ascendant and he could get a remarkably accurate MC from it.) He did not have transits, nor progressions of any kind (secondary, tertiary, minor, etc.), nor solar returns. He had primary directions, but, based on inaccurate ascendants and wildly inaccurate geographic coordinates (terrestrial latitude, aka *klimes*), these primaries were worthless. While he knew houses were tied to ascending times (which he had, although often for the wrong geographic latitude), he had the math to compute only the 1st and 7th houses. Not the other ten. So in fact he used what was later termed "Porphyry" houses, which, as they are derived from a simple trisection of zodiacal longitude, are not really houses at all. Forecasting was based on "squares" and "rectangles," and by shifting the zodiac by whole signs (profections) and various other dodges. Much of Valens' astrology is a mess, quite frankly.

Where the zodiac started, that was another puzzle. Valens said 8° Virgo. Others said 15° of Cancer. Or maybe Libra. Aries did not emerge for some centuries.

BUT look at what he did have: Valens had twelve signs that were precisely defined. The order, from Aries to Taurus to Gemini, etc., was agreed upon. As were the elements (Air-Earth-Fire-Water) and energies (Cardinal-Fixed-Mutable) assigned to each one. In these matters there was never any doubt, there was never any hesitation.

It was the same for the houses, which is quite strange, actually. Before astrologers could even calculate them properly, all twelve

houses were precisely defined. How was this possible? How did such an uneven mess come about?

And we look again at the 4 x 3 grid and we realize *the grid came before all else*. Someone, some great Man-God, or maybe just a very shrewd savant, set himself the task of describing the world and everything in it, in as simple a manner as possible. The result was the 4 x 3 grid. It was a map of elements and energies, which were given memorable, fanciful names.

At some point, presumably as a way of proving the essential nature of the grid itself, it was projected into the sky, presumably as a solar religion, and became the zodiac. Like as not, it was projected everywhere.

For example, this same grid became the Tarot. Tarot is said to be of ancient Egyptian origin, by which is specifically meant the 22 cards of the Major Arcana, but when we study the old tarot decks, we find no trace of the Majors before Renaissance Italy. When we study the Majors, we find it full of characters and conditions that were common to Leonardo. Not Cleopatra. We also learn that, to this day, the exact order and name of the Majors has never been completely fixed. These two points argue for a comparatively recent origin.

But look again at the minor cards. The four suits — Swords (*air*), Wands (*fire*), Pentacles (*earth*) and Cups (*water*), or spades, clubs, diamonds and hearts, are never questioned. (The elements assigned to the suits are traditional. I did not invent them.) Nor are there any questions about the court cards, King, Queen, Knight (jack), that are said to rule over them. Tarot includes a fourth court card, the Page, but this is clearly an add-on, for look what we can do with an ordinary deck of playing cards: Ten numbered cards (“pips”), plus three face/court cards:

Each suit stands for an element.

Each of the three court cards stands for a *state of energy*. Thus:

Kings are *cardinal*

Queens are *fixed*.

Knights/Jacks are *mutable*.

With the King at their head, the suit of Swords, air, is **Libra**, or *cardinal air*.

With the Queen as the head, the same suit of Swords is now **Aquarius**, *fixed air*.

With the Jack as the head, the suit of Swords is **Gemini**. *Mutable air*. Do the same with the other three suits.

So we have, in a standard poker deck, *astrology encapsulated*. Or, more precisely, a comprehensive, inclusive *philosophy of reality itself*, in a surprising dress.

Energies mapped against elements are the fundamental nature of all reality. Try as I can, I can think of nothing remotely as close. By comparison, the trinity of God — Father, Son, Holy Ghost, or Male, Female, Child, while logical, is a useless abstraction.

I cannot think of any possible way in which the 4 x 3 grid could have been derived from a circle of stars, regardless of whether we think the constellations have actual values (e.g. the signs of the zodiac rain down upon us), or are projected, like a film on a screen. **The grid came first.**

Which means the Greeks were not *inventing* astrology, so much as *recovering* it. They knew the zodiac was “in the sky” because precisely that had been handed down to them, presumably in oral myths and legends. They then struggled to make sense of it. Poorly, as it turns out, as they did not have a number system that would unlock the skies above them. Hence their endless make-dos. Which we mistake as profound things. Some of them were. But much was not.

How old can the grid be? Frankly, as old as you like. To give an example, my own analysis of **Genesis 19**, the story of Lot, of Sodom and Gomorrah, shows it to be the story of the end of the Aquarian Age, the Age which we have only just started. As the entire cycle of Ages is 25,800 years in length, Genesis 19 is therefore at least 23,000 years old. Here is but one detail from it, one of many:

Each sign of the zodiac has been assigned — by moderns, I think — a cell salt. Aquarius has been assigned *sodium chloride*, which is in fact ordinary table salt. At the end of the Aquarian Age in old Sodom, Lot, who was a powerless man (Sun, ruling men, being in detriment in Aquarius), led his family out of the plains of the disaster and into the mountains of Capricorn. His wife, as is well-known, looked back, and turned into a pillar of salt. Why did she “look back”? Because, as a wife, she was of the Moon, which is the ruler of Cancer. Which, in the Capricorn Age that was then dawning, was debilitated.

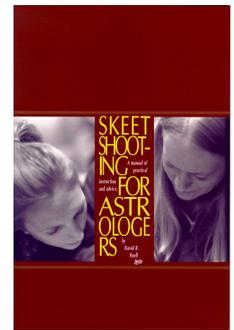
The Ages have the same planets as rulers, the same planets exalted, the same planets debilitated, the same planets in fall, as the underlying signs. The Ages are of the same elements as the signs. In shifting from Pisces to Aquarius, we have shifted from a *wet* Jupiter-Venus Age, with Mercury debilitated, to a *dry* Saturn-Mercury Age, with the Sun debilitated. *There is only one overall system*. So of course there is climate change!

Ruled by Cancer, Lot’s wife was denied entry into the new world of Capricorn, which

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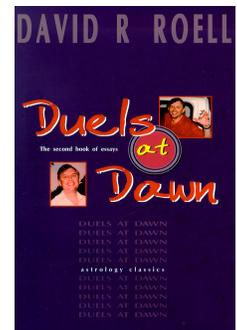
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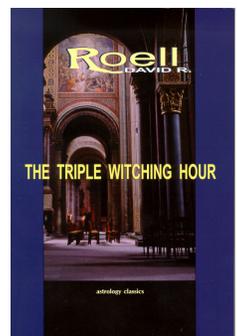
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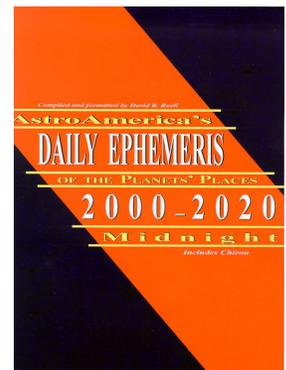
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was the antithesis of herself. So she “looked back,” she stayed behind. It is not that she “turned into salt,” but that all the things of Aquarius that could not transition to Capricorn were left behind and therefore *became* salt. In Genesis 19 there are a dozen other such allegorical details, each as stunning. I myself was surprised to learn that moderns, in messing about with cell-salts, would instinctively give them the right astrological assignments.

Can astrology be as old as the Bible?

I **HAVE promised a book** on this theory of astrology, and though I have started it, I will likely never finish. I cannot write abstract prose, try as I might. I can write letters, and to deadlines. Writing for myself, for the simple sake of writing, falls flat. So to get the gist of this system, you must collect old newsletters, or comb through the various collections of essays. In other words, Skeets, Duels, Triple and Quad (upcoming), where this essay will be found.

I have given a fairly complete overview here to help sort out conflicting details, which I confess exist, as I conceived of this bit by bit over the past three years. Sun-Moon opposing from 9 to 3, the two argue, I listen. Neither of them will let the other get the last word. *I dare you!* says the Moon. *I trump your dare!* retorts the Sun. The full moon, supposedly a junior partner, is the master of emotional blackmail. What is the poor Sun to do? Stop shining? And so on it goes. I think it's fun. Most everyone else finds it exhausting. Some days, I do, too.

While I am fond of many of my ideas, there are none as important to me as this one. With this theory, astrologers at last have solid ground under them — as do the Wiccans, by the way. A fully empowered astrology, combined with ceremonial magic, are easily as potent a combination as airplanes and nuclear bombs. Only a handful of magicians have ever imagined such power.

Will fully empowered astrology “ruin” the Aquarian Age and cause hardship to all? No. So far as I can tell, the Aquarian Age has already been lost. It can only get worse from here onwards. Empowered astrology might just save a few souls.

Reminder: **The End of the (Mayan) World arrives on December 21.** It will be a Friday to remember!