



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera!

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

July 24, 2012

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Duels At Dawn is published

THE first copies of my second book of essays, entitled **Duels At Dawn**, are here. These are essays taken from this newsletter, from October 26, 2010, through November 29, 2011. The price is \$24.95. It starts with Houses vs: Signs, and ends with my recipe for fudge. In between, I mangle Hellenistic astrology, take pot shots at the royals, tell you more about the Republican party than you ever want to know, have fun with time twins, tell you how to write a daily/weekly/monthly horoscope, tell you how to pick a house system, and lots more.

Duels at Dawn is also a thank-you to those who subscribe to this newsletter, or donate \$50 or more. (Copies will be sent to those who have already done one or the other.) It's cheaper to buy the book outright, but financial support is much appreciated! I hope you enjoy! **Order.** — *Dave*

ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

24	01:24	☾ ✖ ☉	
	13:27	☾ ♀ ♃	
	19:10	☾ ♂ ♂	
	19:15	♀ ✖ ♃	
25	13:27	♀ △ ♃	
	15:23	☾ ♂ ♃	Void
	20:16	☉ ♃ ♀	
26	02:30	☾ ♃	
	08:57	☉ 03♃.47	First Quarter
	15:39	☾ □ ♀	Void
27	14:04	☾ ♃ ☉	{void all day}
28	05:18	☾ ✖	
	08:09	♀ ☉	
	15:17	☾ △ ☉	
	19:58	♀ ♂ ☉	
29	21:02	☾ ✖ ♃	Void
30	07:30	☾ ☿	
	20:04	☾ ♂ ♀	
	21:35	☾ □ ♃	

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

Dell Horoscope reviews my book:

Skeet Shooting For Astrologers

"If you love astrology books and handy insights into the complex workings of astrology, then you'll enjoy reading David Roell's **Skeet Shooting for Astrologers**. The author is a bookseller by trade and specializes in astrology, which he has studied with a passion since the 1980's. He wrote a monthly online newsletter, which turned into a weekly newsletter, and rather than have all his essays disappear into cyberspace, he's collected them into this *Skeet Shooting* book. Just about every essay mentions an astrology book, from which he finds his inspiration to expand, speculate, and elaborate on various topics.

"It's great fun just to open the book at random and dive into the subject at hand. During a coffee break, for example, you might find yourself reading the one page on Marc Robertson's book titled **The 8th House**. The book is about investment advice, which, according to Roell, not one astrologer in a hundred knows. If you think the 8th house is about sex, you're right, but with this caveat: "*Sex for the sake of amusement is the 5th house. Sex that changes you forever, that's the 8th house.*" — Read the rest [here](#). Get a copy: **Order.**



STAR OF THE WEEK



PRÆSÆPE 44 m *Canceri* 7 ♁ 31

Legend: Præsæpe represents the manger of the asses ridden by Bacchus and Vulcan. **Notes:** A coarse extended cluster situated on the head of the Crab. Popularly termed the Beehive, Manger or Crib, and known by the Chinese under the name Tsei She Ke, the Exhalation of Piled-up Corpses. With the Ascelli it was the "cloudy spot of Cancer" mentioned by Ptolemy as causing blindness.

Influence: It is of the nature of Mars and the Moon, and causes disease, disgrace, adventure, insolence, wantonness, brutality, blindness, industry, order and fecundity; and makes its natives fortunate though liable to loss through others, and the founders of large businesses.

If rising: Blindness especially of the left eye, ophthalmia, injuries to the face, sickness, violent fevers, wounds in face and arms, stabs, violent lust, imprisonment, exile. If Sun opposes Mars or the ascendant, violent death.

— from **Fixed Stars**, by Vivian Robson. **Order.**

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Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990

IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

Sailing for some "Parts" unknown

SOMETIMES we are all at sea to account in a chart for certain inclinations exhibited by the one whose nativity it is: say our own, for instance. To have an inclination or leaning toward a special interest is to have a "bent" in that direction which we recognize in ourselves and want to follow in our work.

The dictionary gives many definitions for such an inclination that we know we have; such as tendency, preference, disposition-toward or personal "slant". The astrologer can make good use of them in delineating any native's characteristics more completely.

In this connection we want to appraise the equipment the native possesses along knowledgeable lines innate in him by his talent, ability or capability. From his possible success or failure in life we can tell if he is already on the right track or account for his dissatisfaction when his life seems onerous.

To find satisfaction and joy in what we are doing in life we need to recognize our SCOPE of knowledge and express ourselves along those lines. Knowledge may be possessed in any field of endeavor, which is sure to be under the rulership of one of the twelve Signs and will always be evident as a predilection; a personal preference under development in previous incarnations now brought over by the memory planet Mercury, who is not only significant in the present chart but who has the main role in the formula for the Arabian Part of Knowledge that is the sum total of our developing self-inherited and personal desires.

Astrological Essays, 1979, \$22.25. **Order.**
Part of Knowledge: *Ascendant plus Moon minus Mercury.*

Friday, 12:39 am, July 20, 2012

The Denver Cinema Massacre

(AURORA)

THIS past week saw Mars in Libra square Pluto in Capricorn and oppose Uranus in Aries. It looked so ominous that I put big black arrows next to the listings in my weekly Almanac.

I am so distressed that astrologers can foresee death and disaster that I dedicated my **Ephemeris** to those who would be killed by the planetary positions given in its pages.

Early Friday morning a man named James Holmes fired into a theater in Denver. It was showing the new Batman film, *Dark Knight Rises*. The first reports of trouble came at **12:39 am MDT**, which will do for a time. Many recent movies have been loud, violent and obnoxious, but the sound of actual gunfire in a theater is an order of magnitude louder — and sharper — than what comes out of hi-fi speakers. A one or two minute delay between the start of firing and the first phone call to the police is trivial. The chart is on page 4. You will note the Mars-Uranus-Pluto T-square to be in cadent houses. Cardinal planets, cadent houses. I want to see something — like the T-square — tightly conjunct the angles, but this did not happen.

When there is nothing angular there is an old New York trick: Add the 8 **Transneptunians**. See where they land. But of the eight, none were angular and only Kronos turned up in a significant position: 7 Cancer, opposite Pluto and making the T-square into a cardinal Grand Cross. In the **Rules** book, Pluto-Kronos is defined as *Development of ability or skill. Testing*. As Kronos-Pluto are square to Mars-Uranus, Mars and Uranus will function as midpoints. **Pluto/Kronos=Mars:** *Autocratic. Activities are watched by secret police.* **Pluto/Kronos=Uranus:** *Sudden but ineffective decrees and enactments.* I could go further but this is not promising. Unless you want to make Mr. Holmes into another pointless conspiracy plot, the Transneptunians, in this case, are of no use.

OUR first point of delineation is to take the chart as representing the theater as a whole, with the T-square being Holmes, the shooter. Violent cardinal planets in cadent houses show deadly force (cardinal) unleashed upon a helpless (cadent) crowd. Cardinal planets / ca-

dent houses. Also note that Uranus in Aries, and Mars in Libra, are both in intercepted signs, which means they were not grounded and as a result were acting out.

You will spot Pluto in the 9th tightly trine to the Taurus ascendant. This is highly significant but does not indicate violent death. Stablemates Uranus is semi-sextile the ascendant, while Mars is inconjunct. Jupiter is semi-sextile the ascendant, sextile Uranus, trine Mars and inconjunct Pluto, which is to say, Jupiter made everything larger than it would have been. Its true role comes up in a bit.

Cinema — I checked **Bills** — is 5th house, as it is a form of entertainment. (I wanted to make it 9th and tie it in with Pluto, but as the showing was not broadcast nationally, which is ninth, and as the film was domestic, the *Dark Knight Rises* must remain 5th house.)

The 5th house has Leo on the cusp. You will note Sun and Moon are in mutual reception, as the rulers of the 4th and 5th house. Mutual receptions smooch the *houses* (not signs) together. In this case, 4th and 5th houses. This was presumably a local theater, with a local following. People felt "at home" (4th) being entertained there (5th). On the other hand, as the 4th also rules the End of the Matter, for at least a dozen people, *Dark Knight Rising* would be the last movie they would ever see: The fourth house is the twelfth from the fifth.

The Moon and Mercury are not in the 5th, but in front of it, in front of the 5th house cusp, which I would normally interpret, not as *being* entertained, but as *wanting to be* entertained. Ominously, Mercury is both in front of the cusp, as well as debilitated (in Leo) and retrograde, which is to say that he doesn't want to go there (retrograde) but can't quite figure out why (debilitated).

Note that Mercury is sextile to and rules over Jupiter, in Gemini, and we get the impression that Mercury wants to tell Jupiter something but can't quite put his finger on exactly what. The Moon is tightly conjunct Mercury. The Moon is instinct, gut feeling, which she is trying to convey to Mercury, but Mercury is too addled to figure out what it is. How many times have you set off to do something that ended badly, blithely ignoring the little voice in the back of your head?

(continued, page 4)

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

Part 104:

Travel

Points of the compass, countries, planets, by sign, continued:—

TAURUS. South by East. Ireland, Persia, Poland, Grecian Archipelago, Asia Minor, Caucasus, Cyprus, White Russia, Georgia. Jupiter, voyages affect health. Sun, fond of travel. Venus, sickness in travel.

GEMINI. West by South. Belgium, Flanders, Wales, West of England, Lombardy, Brabant, Sardinia, Armenia, Tripoli, Lower Egypt, N.E. Africa, United States of America. Mars, unfortunate journeys. Sun, fond of short journeys. Venus, travel for pleasure. Mercury, fond of travel. Moon, many short journeys.

CANCER. North. Scotland, Holland, Germany (parts), Prussia, Mauritius, N and W Africa, Paraguay, China (parts), Zealand. Saturn, troubles in travel and residence. Jupiter, safe voyages. Mars, journeys on business. Sun, much travel but danger by water. Mercury, much travel by water. Moon, unprofitable voyages.

LEO. East by North. France, Italy, Alps, N. Romania, Apulia, Bohemia, Sicily, Chaldea to Bassorah, ancient Phoenicia near Tyre and Sidon, Australia (parts). Mars, danger of exile.

VIRGO. South by West. Turkey, Switzerland, Assyria, Mesopotamia, Croatia, Silesia, Crete, Babylonia, Morea, Thessaly, Greece (parts), Kurdistan, W. Indies, Lavadia, Virginia, Brazil. Jupiter, foreign travel on business. Mars, business abroad. Venus, foreign travel on business or to safeguard reputation. Moon, many short journeys often for peculiar reasons.

LIBRA. West. Australia, Japan, N and Indo-China, Tibet, Caspian, Savoy, Upper Egypt, Livonia, Argentina, Burma. Jupiter, lasting friendships abroad. Sun, short journeys by land, fond of travel and of the country. Moon, journeys to avoid legal proceedings.

—*A Student's Text-Book of Astrology*, 1922. Price \$25.95. **Order.** ★

From *The Principles of Astrology* by C.E.O. Carter

The Houses and Vitality

FROM the standpoint of general vitality the fire signs are reckoned the strongest, although Sagittarius is liable to accidents and Leo is rather commonly occupied hylegiacally in horoscopes of death at birth. The air signs come next. They are less robust, but they usually lead careful lives, although there is a liability to nervous exhaustion. Among the earthy signs, Virgo is the strongest and often exercises and diets carefully; Taurus tends to be lazy and self-indulgent; Capricorn is often weak as a child, but, once well started, lives long. Scorpio is the strongest of the watery signs, but is very liable to infection, and suffers much from bronchial and throat troubles, as well as appendicitis. It, too, is often delicate in infancy. Cancer and Pisces are deemed weak.

Note that the signs on the 6th and 8th cusps often affect the health, even if no planet is in them. Thus Libra suffers as much from the throat as Taurus, because it has that sign on the 8th, and Scorpio seems more liable to bronchitis than Gemini, because it has that sign on the same cusp.

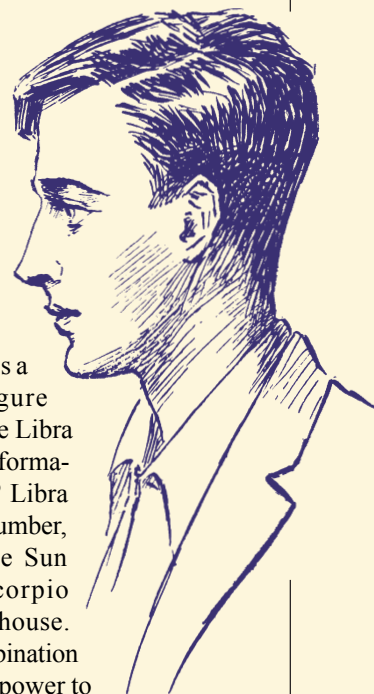
It also happens at times that afflictions seem to work out "by polarity," i.e., through the opposite signs, or even those in square with them. Thus Scorpio is the sign of diphtheria quite as much as is Taurus. All cardinals tend to affect the head, stomach, kidneys, and bones; all fixed signs the throat, heart and trunk, genitals and circulation; and all mutables the nerves, lungs, limbs, and bowels.

The Houses and Health

Generally speaking, the houses have the same values from the physiological standpoint as the corresponding signs, although certain diseases are particularly connected with the former, and others with the latter.

The Principles of Astrology, by C.E.O. Carter. \$21.95. **Order.**

Is This You?



Drawn from life:

This boy possesses a tall Gemini figure combined with the Libra profile and head formation. He has 28° Libra rising, the Solar number, reinforced by the Sun and 26° of Scorpio within the first house. Through this combination there is the latent power to subordinate the personal element of Libra to the Geminian universally diffused interest in contemporary problems. This possibility is enhanced through Venus and Mercury in Sagittarius and the second house trine Neptune in Leo and the mid-heaven.

It cannot be overstressed that as the Libra decanate of the sign Aquarius is the first of its airy decanates to react upon the earth as we move backwards from Pisces to Aquarius, the subconscious element in man is likely to be the *first* affected. Hence the necessity for developing control over that centre during the centuries to come.

A skillful analyst, working from *without*, may make a patient reveal the secrets of the subconscious, but only the patient's superconscious mind, operating from *within* and aware of his past as well as his future, can adequately cope with the aftermath of this revelation.

— *Man and the Zodiac*, by David Anrias.

Order. Readers: I have been through the book twice now. Should I move on, or go through a third time? — Dave



But not to worry! Moon-Mercury are in trine to Uranus! The evening's entertainment will be exciting! Moon-Mercury are in sextile to Mars! There will be plenty of action! But in our enthusiasm we don't see Pluto inconjunct. Pluto is in our blind spot, sneaking up from the side. Pluto is the focal point of a Moon-Mercury/Jupiter-Venus/Pluto yod, the most unique and powerful yod I have ever seen.

The yod is our second overall "picture." The first was the Mars-Uranus-Pluto T-square. Yod and T-square both have Pluto as their apex point. The yod has the chart ruler, Venus, as one of its components.

There is a third picture: Neptune in Pisces is exactly square the nodes, in Sagittarius and Gemini. Neptune is at the north bending of the north node. **Kathy Allan** says a planet at the north bending is at its maximum output. Neptune at that point in the 11th house shows maximum confusion in the crowd.

The rulers of the nodes are Jupiter and Mercury, which I find in sextile. Allan says the nodal rulers are often emphasized in the chart, and often for no apparent reason. Which is the case here, or so it seems. Jupiter debilitated in Gemini in the second house, conjunct the south node, money spent on an aspect of communication (Gemini), was wasted. Jupiter was wanting to be in Sagittarius and the 8th house, where we find the north node, which it rules, that many deaths would result.

Overall I was not happy with this chart. It lacks a clear "trigger aspect," (which in this case is a very bad term), some single — angular — factor that says, Yes, this was the time and place, nothing else could have happened. Numerous glancing aspects to the ascendant are unsatisfactory. Saturn's square to the MC/IC axis is not sufficient, by itself, to trigger events.

While I have no doubt that one of you will know some exotic formula that will precisely time this event, charts like this are otherwise a reason why astrologers will never quite be able to predict with success. I could forecast a bad week, but could not see Friday. As astrologers we will always be victims of events, we will always have better hindsight than foresight.

I COME now to the shooter's chart. James Egan Holmes was born on December 13, 1987, in San Diego. Time of birth is not known and very likely will never be known. Back when she was alive and ran Data News, **Lois Rodden** routinely,

Denver Cinema Shooting

July 20, 2012

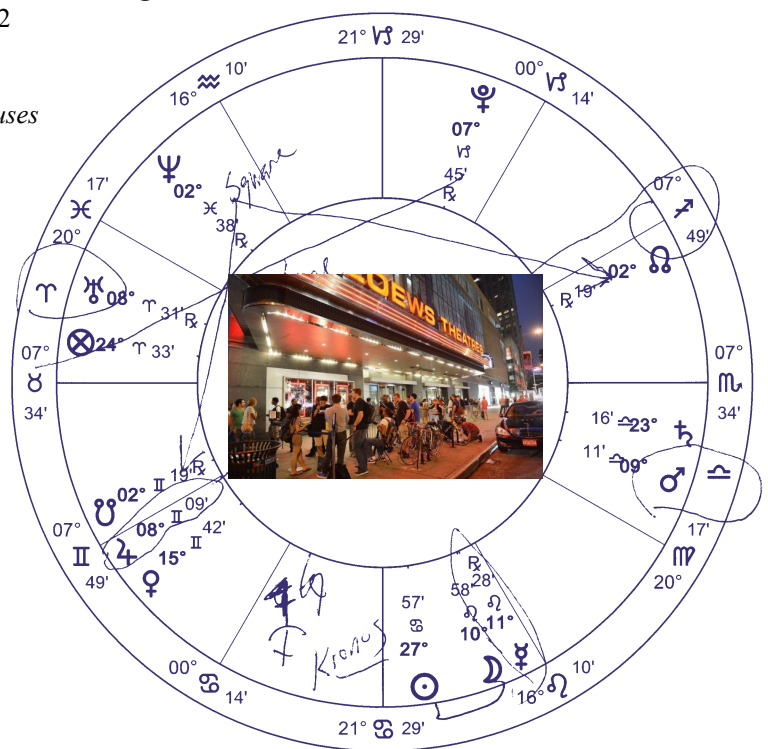
12:39 am

Denver

Placidus houses

mean node

Note the film started at 12:05 am.



and proudly, produced birth-certificate times, creating a "Rodden Rating" system for birth-time accuracy.

Alas, this system was built around her network of statehouse contacts and was unique to her. I sometimes think we should abandon her system, as, without her contacts, it is in fact difficult to get birth times, and I have seen, sorry to say, several instances of cheating.

A **news report** had this description of the shooter:

[He] was a smart, quiet first-year student in a highly competitive graduate program, former classmates said.

"He was a loner," said a classmate of Holmes' in the neuroscience program at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, who requested anonymity. "He was quiet."

Holmes, 24, graduated with honors from University of California-Riverside with a degree in neuroscience in spring 2010. He enrolled in the University of Colorado in June 2011, and was "in the process of withdrawing" at the time of the shooting, according to a university spokeswoman. Holmes graduated in 2006 from Westview High School in San Diego.

Brian Martinez, Holmes' chemistry lab partner at Westview, recalled that he was a talented student. "He's a

smart kid," Martinez said. "He was great at chemistry."

Martinez said Holmes seemed to be a normal teenager. "I never figured he'd do anything like this."

Students in the University of Colorado graduate neuroscience program are "highly motivated and typically have very strong credentials for admission," according to a school website. The program is "very competitive," Holmes' university classmate said.

This is very banal and very typical. The quiet, highly intelligent loner from suburbia who without warning one day acts out and kills himself, and/or a lot of others, take your pick. This type has been known and studied since at least the early 1960's. There was a famous poem about such a man.

I NITIAALLY set the chart for noon, as noon is the "average" for the day. I was distressed to see the stellium in Sagittarius. The Sun in Sag with so many hopes, moving to a conjunction with Saturn, which would kill them all. Saturn moving into conjunction with Uranus, which is an explosive pile of nerves. On the other side of the Sun, a debilitated Mercury in Sag that wants to believe everything and question nothing.

I then went on to the Moon, which I found to be in square to the Sun, both in mutable signs (Virgo-Sag). Sun-Moon in square is an aspect of fundamental stress. Your emotions are never satisfied, in Virgo the details

are never right. You look to the Sun for guidance but all he can give you is useless happy talk, as that is all Sagittarius knows.

Moon moving into a conjunction with the south node, the Moon has learned that if it acts out on its own, that things will not go right, that the effort will be wasted. As it gets no guidance from the Sun, it is frustrated.

You will note the disastrously tight Mars-Pluto conjunction in Scorpio. Mars, sneaky, crafty, cruel, will dominate and will strike without warning. It will use Pluto for its intensity and evil ingenuity.

To sum up, our noon-based chart has, so far, given us an explosive Saturn-Uranus conjunction, a weak and insecure Moon, and a murderous Mars-Pluto conjunction. James Holmes was a bomb, waiting to go off.

I COULD just stop here, it would be enough, but this quiet, mousy sort who keeps to himself annoys me. That's a 12th house Moon.

The sort who goes along and studies hard and is eternally in the background, that's a cadent house type. The world is not under his control, all he can do is go along with it.

Since Holmes' chart presents us with a powerful square, we might as well amuse ourselves and set his Sun in one cadent house and Moon in another. Since we've already speculated on a 12th house Moon, we will start there.

Moon in 12 puts Sun in 3. Sun in 3 is a more or less 1 am birth. *Et voilà:* a chart.

Mercury-Sun-Saturn-Uranus all in Sag in the 3rd, this will be a very bright man. Sag in the third: Enthusiasm for learning. Especially abstract things, like neuroscience and chemistry. (Never anything practical.) One who would be very competitive and eager to do well and get into top schools, especially college, as Sag has a natural affinity with higher learning.

Mercury's rulership of the Moon means the Moon will drive Mercury on to get the details right, even though James will be the only one who will ever see them, the Moon being remotely located in the 12th. The reports I have read, which are still preliminary (as I write this not even 48 hours have elapsed since the shooting) say that he had little if any presence on the internet and seems to have left no manifesto behind. Which, with a 12th house Moon, is what I would expect.

Could we have seen this man coming? Could he have been found and stopped? Presuming I am correct in placing his Moon in the 12th, no. No one ever sees a 12th house Moon — nor a 12th house Mars, for that matter. The only exceptions are those who

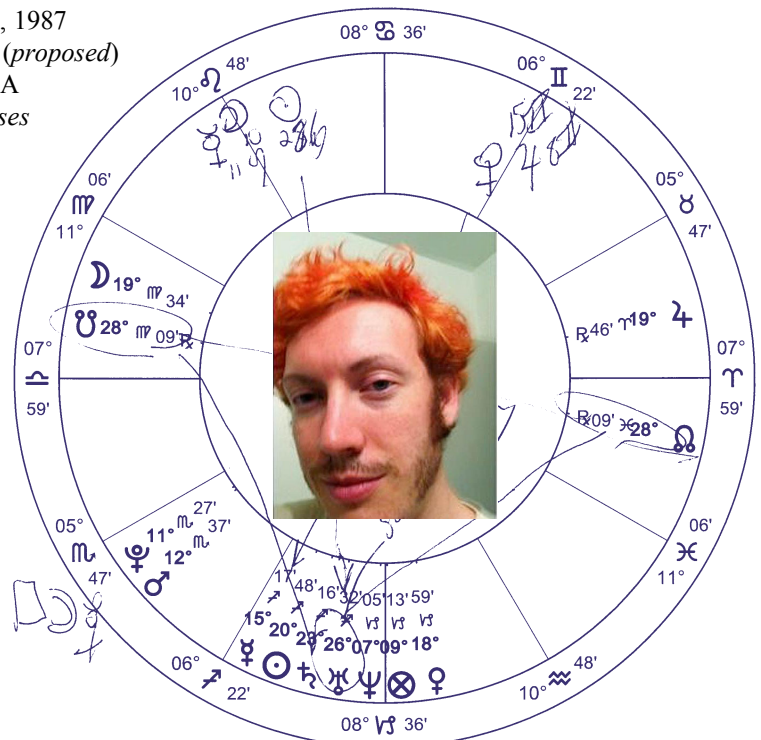
James Holmes

December 13, 1987

1:00 am PST (proposed)

San Diego, CA

Placidus houses
mean node



have their Moon exact to the degree of his, and such people are very rare.

There does not seem to be a motive, which indicates the Moon was wrapped tightly into itself, while its ruler, Mercury in expansive Sagittarius but in its "own" house, did not see the need to write anything down, or perhaps was actually empty-headed. Reports are that he had dyed his hair red (Sun in a fire sign, the ruler, Jupiter, in another fire sign, of course!) and was "play acting" as the Joker, one of the villains in the Batman pantheon. Which shows a seriously addled mind.

Mars-Pluto conjunct in Scorpio in the 2nd house are powerful possessions that "sting," like a Scorpion. Guns and explosives. As far as explosives go, at least some of them will be home-made, as Holmes studied chemistry. As Mars rules Scorpio, as Pluto enhances it, as there are no other planets in the sign and no serious aspects to them, Holmes' desire to possess weapons (2nd house) would not be opposed.

The Dynamics

Remember that I produced a timed chart merely by speculating a 12th house Moon.

Death. You will note the 8th house of the event has Sagittarius on the cusp. The shooter has a stellium in Sagittarius. Sagittarius, he came from far away (California) but in the third house, was living nearby at the time.

Death. You will note my proposed time

for Holmes puts Taurus on his 8th house cusp. Taurus was the rising sign for the event.

Timing. You will note my proposed rectification results in an ascendant/MC that are nearly precisely square. You will note the current Mars-Uranus-Pluto T-square to be exactly on Holmes' ascendant, 4th and 7th houses.

Holmes fires the gun: Mars on his ascendant.

He fires at many others: Uranus, the planet of the collective, on his 7th, opposite. Reports are that he shot people trying to flee: Aries, the sign of impulsive, panicked individuals, trying to save their lives.

Death ensues: Pluto on the cusp of the 4th, the final outcome.

I regret that I cannot make a big deal about the Mars-Uranus-Pluto T-square hitting Holmes' angles because I produced those angles out of thin air, but otherwise the outstanding astrological event of the year missed his chart, his person, entirely and we lack all motive whatever. If I have his angles more-or-less right, then the outside world as a whole (the T-square on the angles) suddenly ganged up on Holmes, setting off his explosive nature.

Note what I have done: I am proposing that *the planets are internal and personal*, while *the angles are exterior and beyond our control*. Including the ascendant.

At the time of the shooting, Venus was exactly opposite Holmes' Mercury. **Hand**

defines this transit as trivial and pleasant, which in this case would seem to be wrong. Venus should have been a mitigating factor. Could it be that a benefic planet, opposed to a debilitated ruler, can become a target? Mercury debilitated in Sagittarius in the 3rd house would view foreigners with suspicion? Or could it be that to a hurt, angry, defensive man, the sudden appearance of love was an intolerable insult? While it is never easy to kill, the easiest targets are those you do not love (Venus opposite) and who appear to be strangers to you (9th house).

Holmes' own Venus is in Capricorn. Venus in Capricorn likes the world the way it used to be. It does not want to live in the present. It either has no sense of beauty (which, judging by his photograph seems to be the case with Mr. Holmes) or likes a severe and formal style. Ruled by Saturn in trendy Sagittarius, there will be a dislike of vulgar, tasteless display.

While I could not find triggers in the event chart, there are plenty of triggers for Mr. Holmes. On the day of the event, transiting Moon and retrograde Mercury were square to Holmes' Mars-Pluto conjunction. To Pluto, the square was very tight. Prior to this year I had not seen the Moon as a triggering agent. Moon-Mercury falling in Holmes' 11th house, he would target individuals (Leo) in the crowd (11th house). Ten of the twelve killed were less than 30 years old (Mercury, youth). The Moon would signify that women were killed, but in fact more men than women seem to have died. In this case, the Moon signifies common people. No famous people, no celebrities.

The most puzzling transit to Holmes' chart is transiting Pluto conjunct his natal Neptune. This is ordinarily taken as a generational transit, in that you and all your peers wake up one morning with a general sense that your collective illusions are gone, that

Pluto has stripped away Neptune's fogs.

I experienced the Pluto-Neptune transit as one of the most traumatic moments of my life. The search for an explanation of this event — a stamp in my passport which unexpectedly ended my stay in London many years ago — was what drove me to study astrology. I wanted to know why that day happened.

If this analysis applies to James Holmes, then over the past year, as Pluto danced over his Neptune, he became progressively disillusioned with his life, such that an act of mass murder was the ideal solution. I would normally expect a Pluto to Neptune transit to be a sobering, awakening event. Not an excuse for an horrific nightmare. I am wondering if this will be a wake-up for America (get rid of its guns, take care of its people), but that can only be a fantasy.

Nodes. Note that in Holmes' chart Uranus is at the south bending, the point of futility and waste. As Uranus and the nodes are all in mutable signs and cadent houses, whatever bright ideas Uranus had were useless.

Note the Sun last Friday was inconjunct to Holmes' Uranus, thus paralleling inconjuncts in the event chart itself.

Did anyone like this man? News reports state that his neighbors in the apartment complex where he lived hardly ever saw or heard him. If he has Libra rising, the ruling planet is Venus in Capricorn in the 4th, which is an unfriendly individual who keeps to himself (stays at home). He is frustrated because, Libra rising, people *should* like him. Venus the chart ruler in an unhappy sign and square to the ascendant, they just *don't*. The square tells us Holmes was unable to find a reason for it.

The seventh house of partners is Aries, which are lively, independent people who get you doing things. The ruler is Mars, conjunct Pluto, in intense, secretive Scorpio.

Holmes' partners may not have been very nice, and he might not have been very nice to them. Jupiter in the 7th, you would expect there would be many, but retrograde, this did not seem to be the case.

In a 1 am chart, the Moon rules the mid-heaven, from the 12th. Ruler of the 10th in the 12th, one never really sees, never really knows the person, as the 10th represents the public persona, what "everyone knows," while the 12 hides it away. Moon trine to Venus, Holmes knows what he likes: Earthy, solid, practical things. Things he can use. Guns, for example, as Mars is sextile to both.

I GREW up in Kansas, which at the time was a dull and uninteresting place. The eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains — Colorado — was where we all wanted to be. My first trip was Thanksgiving, 1973, a trip which produced the pictures on the covers of Robson's **Fixed Stars** and my own **Skeet Shooting**.

With the rise of religious fundamentalists, the murder of doctors in the streets of Wichita, the mass murders at schools and cinemas in Colorado, I regret that I no longer know the place of my birth. This is sad. Bad things happen everywhere, but when they happen in your home, in a place you know and love, the feelings are especially sombre and personal.

The movie itself, *Dark Knight Rising*, is lost. I would not be surprised if it were pulled from the cinemas, and while there might not be another Batman film for a few years, I expect the current craze for hyper-violent movies to continue. The nation has a desperate lust for them. Leadership, real leadership, from real leaders, could end this misery in a matter of months, but leadership is what will be denied. *When there is no vision, the people perish:* King James.