



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera !

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

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ARCHIVE

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On Zodiacs

MY daughter is home schooled, which is not what **you might think**. The local home-schoolers arrange numerous field trips & special events.

Which is how I found myself, this past Tuesday, in a **middle school planetarium** listening to a teacher telling us that *your sun sign isn't your real sun sign* & that *there's really 13 signs in the zodiac, not 12*. We've all heard this before.

But he had a point, however murky. Astrologers have been lazy in not defining the zodiac for ourselves (as well as for the rest of the world), and it's past time to sort out some basics.

Such as, is the zodiac made up of stars in the sky, or do equinoxes & solstices trump them?

Based on the observation that sidereal astrologers seem to make little use of signs, I came to the conclusion that Zodiacs, in general, show the relationship between two bodies, one of which is in orbit around the other. Zodiacs are then expressed in numbers & units that are appropriate to the location of the observer in question.

This formula can produce unique zodiacs for Mars, for Jupiter, for Saturn, as well as for each & every moon in the solar system.

It also means the "constellations of the zodiac" are merely a convenient backdrop upon which the Earth/Sun relationship was projected some 2000 years ago. This also makes sense. Why should an arrangement of stars in the sky have any meaning at all? (With the exception of the Pleiades, which actually are physically close to one another.) Name me a star that embodies any of the signs of the zodiac. There isn't one!

So how many zodiacs do we have on Planet Earth? Two? Tropical & Sidereal? No. The Earth has a Moon. It goes around every 28 days. The Earth & Moon have a relationship & therefore a zodiac. We know it as the **Lunar Mansions**, aka **Nakshatras**. There are 27 or 28 of them.

So next time the man says, *There's really 13 signs*, tell him, **Signs have nothing to do with constellations**.

- David R. Roell



DUELING DICTIONARIES

FACE

James Wilson, 1819: A planet is in its face when it is at the same distance from the Sun or Moon as its house is from their houses, and in the same succession of signs; thus, Mercury, when one sign to the west of the Sun, or one sign to the east of the Moon, is in his face; because Virgo, his house, is one sign to the west of Leo.

Nicholas DeVore, 1947: (1) As employed by Ptolemy, a planet in a House that is distant counter-clockwise from the Moon, or clockwise from the Sun by the same number of Houses as the signs, is in its Face. This means that Mercury is in its Face when in a House preceding that of the Moon, or following that of the Sun; Venus when two Houses...

ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

			Notes
12	05:56	☾ ✕ ♀	Void
	13:10	☾ ♄	
	19:05	☾ ♂ ♀	
13	23:53	♀ ♂ R	Backwards!
15	01:00	☾ △ ♀	Void
	02:03	☾ ☿	
	11:14	☾ ♃ ☉	
	08:46	☉ □ ♃	
	13:09	☉ ✕ ♃	
	23:45	♀ ☉	
16	08:46	☉ □ ♃	
	13:09	☉ ✕ ♃	
	23:45	♀ ☉	
17	02:08	♄ ♂	Saturn direct
	05:06	☉ □ ♀	
	05:48	☾ ♂ ♃	
	07:16	☾ ♂ ♀	
	07:27	☉ 26 ☿ 32	Last Quarter
	10:41	☾ □ ♀	Void
	14:18	☾ ✕	
18	10:02	♀ ♂ ☉	

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

13th: **HAPPY BIRTHDAY Mike Gravel**



STAR OF THE WEEK



Algol, beta Persei, 26♁ 18.

Legend: Algol represents the head of the Gorgon Medusa who was slain by Perseus. Medusa, who was the only mortal one of the three Gorgon sisters, was originally a beautiful maiden, but her hair was changed into hissing serpents by Minerva in consequence of her having become by Neptune the mother of Chrysaor & Pegasus in one of Minerva's temples. This gave her so fearful an appearance that everyone who looked at her was changed into stone.

Notes: Algol is from Ra's al Ghul, the Demon's Head, other names in frequent use being Caput Algol & Caput Meduse. It was known as Lilith by the Hebrews, after the nocturnal vampire said to be Adam's first wife; and Tseih She, Piled up Corpses, by the Chinese.

- from **Fixed Stars**, by Vivian Robson

This star has the reputation as the nastiest in the sky - Dave

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Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990



IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

PLANETS standing alone, especially the Sun, Moon or the planet ruling the Sign on the Ascendant show that you work best alone & can forge your own way in life, independent of others, particularly in the matters ruled by the house they are in. This is a passing clue, also, to your early life – disclosing that you were left largely to your own devices as a child, denied ordinary cooperation & companionship. You got along well by yourself then & you do now.

Planets in pairs show reliance on another person & it will bear fruit if in good aspect zodiacally to the Ascendant or mundanely to the 1st house – as from any house but the 6th, 7th or 8th which are in mundane quincunx or opposition to the 1st. You get no cooperation from an opposition: the other person pulls away or holds back & you are fully aware of his disinterest because this is a Full Moon type of aspect: it makes everything as clear as day to you.

The quincunx forces you to reorganize your aim & settle for less, or assume unwanted responsibility. Any good aspect makes you expect great things – but if opposition or quincunx by HOUSE you accept less.

Planets in groups of three or more give related, attainable goals; interests that can be reached & easily if in good zodiacal or mundane aspect to the 1st house. The square means great self-application with ultimate success; the opposition baffles you & the quincunx attains in part but also exacts a tax. *From The Way of Astrology, 1967*

Happy Birthday William Lilly! Born April 30, May 1, May 5 AND May 6, of 1602. (See John Gadbury's notes in *Collectio Genitorum* (London, 1662)). As those dates are in Old Style, add ten days to get proper Gregorian dates. Which are: May 9, May 11, May 15 AND May 16, of 1602. **Let's just give Bill the whole month of May.**



3. Techniques

DANCING is what I call the interplay of house cusps, signs, ruling planets, dispositors, aspects & more. Dancing happens when we use the framework of the twelve houses to integrate & combine otherwise isolated astrological features. When we do that, we get, for the first time, the whole. Learn to dance and the world will never be the same!

Because there are a lot of pieces to keep track of, I use keywords. Simple keywords. Sun is life, or men. Moon is feeling, or women. Mercury is information, or youth. Venus is what is pretty. Mars is aggressive & pushy. Jupiter is a lot of. Saturn is NO.

Cardinal signs are active, fixed signs stay put, mutable signs are confused. Conjunctions push the two planets together; with sextiles & trines they wave at each other, squares are stress, oppositions are confrontations. Early degrees are youthful & inexperienced. Middle degrees are solid & dependable. Late degrees are old & senile.

So when I see Capricorn on the cusp of 2, with Saturn ruling from Gemini in 7, I take keywords & string them together in a sentence. The process goes like this:

Capricorn on 2 is a busy worker bee. For instruction it looks to its ruler, Saturn, which it finds in the 7th. Seventh is wife (or husband), Gemini is mindless chatter, Saturn is NO. Which becomes:

Efforts to make money (Capricorn) are undermined (2 to 7 is inconjunct) by the wife's constant chatter (Gemini) & useless ideas (i.e., Saturn says, NO).

But this takes practice. I got it with **Astrodice**. Which are three 12-sided dies, one with planets (including nodes), one with houses, one with signs. Roll all three of them, give yourself 30 seconds (**5 seconds!**) to synthesize & orally state the result. *Hint:* Stream of consciousness wild guesses are usually better than you think. Fun at parties (or meetings) where the first one to shout out a solution wins that round.

Culpeper

Signs of long or short sickness

[This in reference to decumbitures – Dave]

FIRST, the sixth house being possessed by a fixed sign, argues length in the disease; if the sign that possess the Cusp of the sixth be moveable, the disease will be short; if the sign be common, the disease will either be mean in respect of length, or else a change of the disease, or a relapse is to be feared.

2. If the later degrees of a sign be upon the Cusp of the sixth, the disease will quickly end either one way or another.

3. A fixed sign on the Cusp of the sixth, shows tough & hard humours to be causes of the disease, and such are as hard to be expelled, they stick to the body like bird-lime.

4. SATURN Lord of the sixth shows long diseases; JUPITER, MARS and the SUN short; MERCURY such as are as constant as the weathercock.

5. If the Lord of the sixth be stronger than the Lord of the Ascendant, the sickness gets strength against nature; if you find it is upon a figure in urine, judge the disease increases.

6. If the Lord of the sixth be weaker than the Lord of the Ascendant, nature gets strength over the disease, and will at last put him to a total rout.

7. Common signs show the disease will stay in one state, as long as a Cat is tied to a Pudding.

8. The Lord of the sixth, if he be a malevolent it is an ill omen; if it be a benevolent, you need not so much as fear a long sickness, for the disease will be cured both speedily & easily; unless the said benevolent be Lord also of the eighth.

9. If the MOON apply to the Lord of the sixth, the disease will be increased til it has put life to its trumps.

If the MOON be Lady of the Ascendant, ill diet was the cause of it; perhaps a surfeit of drinking....

From Astrological Judgement of Diseases from the Decumbiture of the Sick, 1655

Help for the bewildered: Jane Ridder-Patrick's **Handbook of Medical Astrology** has a complete glossary of medieval medical terms. Essential for **Lilly, Saunders & Culpeper**.

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WHY WHERE
WHAT WHEN

ELECTIONAL ASTROLOGY

Part 9:

HAVING decided which part of the month is most favourable according to the relation of the Moon to the Sun, the next step in the making of an election is to study the Moon's aspects & sign position, the former being more important than the latter. The Moon should be as well aspected as possible, especially by the planets that are of general or particular significance to the matter in hand, and even if few good aspects are obtainable she should always be kept free from affliction, especially by the malefics & the significators of the election. Good aspects to the Moon from planets that were fortunate in the birth horoscope are a considerable help, just as afflictions from the unfortunate radical planets are particularly to be avoided; and it is said to be favourable to place the Moon at the same distance and in the same relation to the Sun as obtained at birth, but unless the birth horoscope is known these considerations cannot be taken into account.

It is preferable as a rule for the Moon to be in no aspect at all to the malefics, for this is better even than a favourable aspect, unless the malefic concerned happens to be a significator of the matter in hand. But in all cases afflictions from the malefics to the Moon should be avoided if possible.

— *Electional Astrology*, 1937

William Lilly, from *Christian Astrology Book 3* (1647)

CHAPTER CLIII.

Whether the Native shall overcome, or be overcome by his Adversaries.

The Lord of the seventh possessing the tenth house, or Lord of the tenth the seventh, the Native shall overcome his Enemies.

The Lord of the twelfth in the tenth, or Lord of the tenth in the twelfth, argues the same.

Lord of the twelfth Retrograde, in his Fall or Detriment, and in the sixth, the Native shall overcome his Enemies.

The *Luminaries*, especially that of the time (*viz.* in a diurnal Birth the ☉, in a nocturnal, the ☽) if they be constituted in the essential dignity of ♂, or if reciprocal Reception be by houses, and not in the eighth, it denotes manifest Victory; the same thing ♂ signifies when he is stronger than the rest of the Planets, and is in ♂, or near that Light.

♃ and ♂ in the twelfth, potent, argue, the Native shall see the death of his Enemies; but if they be therein debilitated, it shows the contrary, and a debility of the members.

The one *Infortune* in the twelfth, the other in the sixth, the Native will be in danger of being killed by his Enemies, or else will be afflicted with perpetual Sickness or Imprisonment.

♃ or ♀ Lords of the twelfth, argue, the Native's Enemies shall not hurt him, but he shall evade.

To whom II, ♁ or ♃ ascend, such stir up Enemies against themselves.

427-428. Relations and Connections, Figure and Face

from *The Book of Instruction in the Elements of the Art of Astrology*
by *Al Biruni*

Saturn: Fathers, grandfathers, older brothers and slaves. Ugly, tall, wizened, sour face, large head, eyebrows joined, small eyes, wide mouth, thick lips, down-cast look, much black hair, short neck, coarse hand, short fingers, awkward figure, legs crooked, big feet.

Jupiter: Children and grandchildren. Fine figure, round face, thick prominent nose, large eyes, frank look, small beard, abundant curly hair reddish.

Mars: Brothers of middle age. Tall, large head, small eyes and ears, and fine forehead, sharp grey eyes, good nose, thin lips, lank hair, reddish, long fingers, long steps.

Sun: Fathers and brothers, slaves. Large head, complexion white inclining to yellow, long hair, yellow in the white of the eye, stammers, large paunch with folds.

Venus: Wives, mothers, sisters, uterine kindred, delicate child. Fine round face, reddish-white complexion, double chin, fat cheeks, not too fat, fine eyes, the black larger than the white; small teeth, handsome neck, medium tall, short fingers, thick calves.

Mercury: Younger brothers. Fine figure, complexion brown with a greenish tinge, handsome, narrow forehead, thick ears, good nose, eyebrows joined, wide mouth, small teeth, thin beard, fine long hair, well-shaped long feet.

Moon: Mothers, maternal aunts, elder sisters, nurses. Clear white complexion, gait and figure erect, round face, long beard, eyebrows joined, teeth separate crooked at the points, good hair with locks.

