



NEWSLETTER

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ARCHIVE

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Mad Magazine used to do it. Why not me? Pluto in Capricorn, opposite Cancer, means lower fertility, less food, more deaths than births. The food riots of summer, 2009, will be brought about by this spring's oil price hikes. Already, an early taste of Pluto in Capricorn.

MARRIED!

Vivian Robson on Choosing the Wedding Date

In order to insure the greatest possible happiness and success, the marriage should take place under good directions, on a date specially chosen to afford the most auspicious influences.

The object to be achieved in selecting the best date and time for marriage is not so much perfection as the strengthening of the favorable influences and the relegating of the bad ones to as obscure positions as possible. The sign position of the Moon is a matter of very considerable importance, and so is that of Venus and the ascendant. They are as follows:

Aries. The whole of this sign is unfavorable, and no date or time should be chosen when either the Moon, ascendant or Venus occupies it.

Taurus. From 0° to 19° is favorable, but the remainder of the sign is bad.

Gemini. The first fifteen degrees are favorable, and the last fifteen unfavorable.

Cancer. The whole of this sign is unfavorable except in cases where the woman is a widow.

Leo. The whole sign is favorable, but it is said to indicate that one of the partners will deceive the other as to his or her money or possessions.

Virgo. This sign has always been associated with widowhood, and is an unfavorable one for any of the three significators except in the marrying of a widow.

Libra. A favorable sign for betrothals but unfavorable for marriage.

Scorpio. The first fifteen degrees are said to be favorable for marrying a virgin, and indicate that she will be faithful, obedient, chaste, and affectionate. The last fifteen degrees, however, are entirely to be avoided. It is rather surprising that the first half of Scorpio should have been considered favorable by the ancients, for the part of the zodiac from Libra 15° to Scorpio 15°, called the **Via Combusta**, was always looked upon as the most unfavorable area possible for the Moon and indicative of a bad end to the marriage, while Scorpio as a whole is the fall of the Moon and

the detriment of Venus.

Sagittarius. This is said to be indifferent, and neither particularly favorable nor the reverse.

Capricorn. The first ten degrees are unfavorable, but the rest of the sign is good and indicates an affectionate and dutiful wife. It limits the number of children, however, and is less fortunate when the woman is not a widow.

Aquarius. The whole of this sign is unfavorable.

Pisces. The whole sign is favorable and indicates an affectionate and dutiful wife, but it tends to cause friction.

Summarizing these rules we may assume that the best sign positions for the ascendant, Venus, and, above all, the Moon at the time of marriage are anywhere in Leo, Sagittarius and Pisces; in the first half of Gemini and Scorpio; in the first twenty degrees of Taurus, or in the last twenty degrees of Capricorn.

The Moon should be between the first quarter and the full if possible. It should be free from bad aspects, especially from Mars, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, and should be favorably aspected by Jupiter or Venus. Venus also should be free from affliction and in favorable aspect to Jupiter, an ideal position being for Venus, Jupiter, and the Moon all to be in favorable aspect with each other and if possible, in signs of the watery triplicity.

The Moon's aspects need particular care and on no account should a time be chosen when the Moon is applying to Mars, Saturn, or Uranus even by a favorable aspect. Nor should the Moon be in conjunction with the Sun for this denotes the death of the husband. In this map the ascendant, its ruler, the Sun, and the planet from which the Moon last separated represent the husband, while the seventh house, its ruler, Venus, and the planet which the Moon next applies represent the wife. The tenth house, its ruler, and any planets contained therein denote the events and fortunes following marriage; and the fourth house its ruler, and planets therein denote the final result. Children are indicated by Mercury, and if that planet is strong, in aspect with the benefics, and in a watery sign the birth of a child will quickly follow.

- Extracted (lightly edited) from Chapter 13, **Astrology & Sex**, by Vivian Robson.

BOOK OF THE MONTH!



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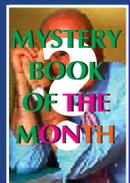
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NEW BOOKS

Ibn Ezra's BOOK OF NATIVITIES - June!
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Transits & Solar Returns



DIVORCED?

June:

Republicans force Dick Cheney from office.

August:

Republicans force George Bush from office.

September:

The new "President Ford" double-crosses both.

On the

AQUARIAN AGE

Part 10:

The Aquarian Way of Crisis Management

Hard times come to all ages and to all people. Here in America, it seems we are about to enter a period of hard times. How will the Aquarian Age itself make this better or worse?

How an age responds to crisis can be determined, overall, by its Quality. This is the same for ages as it is for natal charts.

When stressed, Cardinal signs tend to do something new.

Fixed signs tend to dig in their heels.

Mutable signs tend to toss about. Since we've just come from (Continued, pg. 2)

Ages in Crisis, *continued*

a mutable age, it helps to look at it in a bit of detail:

In Pisces things just seemed to change of their own accord. True, peasants passed uneventful lives for the most part, but the king who gathered an army & invaded his neighbor often achieved unexpected results. Columbus sailed the ocean blue but didn't end up where he thought. Genghis Kahn invaded the entire planet but within a century his empire had largely disappeared. Artist invented great new styles & everyone copied them except their own sons. Martin Luther decreed a new day for the Church but ended up ruining it. On & on the instability went. One might say that Pisces was an age of crisis, but one might also say that Pisces was too unstable to ever really get into crisis mode.

In cardinal ages, such as Aries, leaders matter. A leader who lurches from here to there will, as often as not, change the world permanently. No surprise that many Biblical stories can be traced to that age. Cardinality itself defuses crisis.

In fixity we lurch from one crisis to another. We become hysterics, and once that sets in, we cling to the past & fear for the future. And with reason.

But this is still new to us. We expect to glide from one thing to another. Instead we find an endless series of tar babies.

In outline this is true of all the fixed ages - Scorpio, Leo, Taurus and Aquarius (to give them in order of occurrence). In Aquarius it is air that is fixed. Fixed air is ideology, which is to say, fixed ideas.

Aquarius comes after 2000 years of shapeless, formless, emotional idealism. Frustrating Piscean doubt (*Does God love me? Does he not?*) left us eager to seize upon the relative security, the certain fixity of Aquarian idealism. Which we did, but not with highly developed intellects (which few have), but rather with well-honed Piscean emotions. Which we have, in spades.

The predictable result is crisis. Religious fundamentalism, aka religious certainty, aka religious ideology, has now corrupted every religion on the planet, not just the one founded by Muhammed.

In the political / economic spheres, Communism, the Free Market, Democracy, Fascism and a dozen other useful & creative concepts have all been turned inside out to become straightjackets of fixed ideology.

As a result, ever since Aquarius began,

we have been in crisis. Where we will remain for the rest of the Age.

And it's an observable process. Emotion-based ideological rigidity, unable to adapt to the world as it actually exists, builds inexorably to crisis, leading to collapse, and then rebuilds, only to collapse again, a process that repeats endlessly.

It is a mistake to think that meaningful change will soon result from all this toil and pain. In Aquarius, the world is fixed. Its nature is rigid. There is ideology. The shattered pieces can only be rebuilt in a slavish copy of what they were before. Aquarius is as unable to get away from its fixed ideologies as Pisces was from its hopeless religions.

The best we can expect is that with each collapse & rebuilding, that some new seed, some new kernel, some new trace element will find its way into the mix, thereby producing some small improvement overall. Since it is human nature to find something to "blame" for our predictable follies, it is certain that with each new effort things will change, a tiny bit, as we move from one crisis to another.

This tiny bit of change is one great hope of the Aquarian age. It was not until I examined the Aquarian Way of Crisis, and considered the value of time itself, that I lost my despair for this age.

Pisces ended, c.1913, on a spiritual plateau perhaps unequaled in the history of the world. Then the infant Aquarius swept it aside and started where all infants start: With the bare bones of crude materialism. Exactly where it was always going to start. Doing exactly what it was always going to do. Making all the obvious, dumb mistakes.

And, like youngsters everywhere, it will profit from them. It will learn from each painful mis-step. It will grow, it will advance, and when it comes time for it to give way to Capricorn, it will have achieved. Possibly, just maybe, we will avoid the horrible fate of Lot's wife. Possibly, just maybe, Capricorn will bring us the opportunity to transform the world.

But in this ultimate repudiation of the New Age & the historic short-cut it hoped to achieve, I am ahead of myself. What about the crises we have already had? What can they tell us about the process, the Age, overall?

The Aquarian way of crisis management can be seen in the recent histories of Russia, China & the US.

Russia

In Russia, the Aquarian age opens with the revolution that had long been denied. Pisceans - Lenin, Stalin, Trotsky, etc. - used Aquarian means for Piscean ends. Since new weapons are always superior to old ones, Aquarian offense beat Piscean defense.

The policies imposed by the new government in Moscow (Piscean idealist, aka Socialist Realist), while fine in theory, were already inappropriate in practice. Much to everyone's surprise, Stalin was forced to rule as a dictator in order to rule at all.

Were it not for Hitler, there is doubt the original Soviet system would have long survived, as it was immature by definition.

But war heroes must be honored, and the wartime system must be given a revered place in society, so the Soviet system creaked forward, ever more ridiculous, ever more fragile, until the last of the great war heroes (Andropov) finally passed from the scene.

Whereupon the Soviet Union and its Eastern European dependencies, immediately collapsed. Aquarian fixity was already provoking Stalin's purges of the mid-1930's, but the solution, unique to Russia, was redemption through war - WWII. A war that merely postponed the underlying problems.

China

In China the entire Pisces to Aquarius transitional period (1913 - 1976, in China) was one of continual warfare & revolution. In the first phase, ending in 1949, Pisceans, using the Aquarian means of guerilla war, fought worn-out Piscean hand-me-downs, ie, the Nationalists. And won. In the second phase, the Cultural Revolution of 1966-1976, young Aquarians fought their Piscean elders, ie, Mao himself. And won. In theory, China should now be stable for many decades to come. Fixity, for the most part, is rather nice overall. It's just when it gets stuck that things get messy.

In China, like Russia, Pisceans, using Aquarian methods, fought Pisceans using Piscean methods. Then, Aquarians, using Aquarian methods, fought their Piscean leaders. In every case, the Aquarian side wins.

U.S.A.

In the US, the proto-revolution of the late 1960's, where Aquarius was to seize control from the aging Pisceans, was dampened by the newly suburbanized culture, and then diverted wholesale into casual drug use. Local, state & the federal government reacted with ineffective & inappropriate policing, while, on the other hand, corpo-

rations took advantage of the distraction to largely exempt themselves from taxes & governmental oversight. Effective government was gradually replaced by popular slogans & as a result, governments gradually became irrelevant to the majority of the citizens of the country. Meanwhile the military, in partnership with liberated corporations, have now effectively taken over the country. This headless monster is on a collision course with reality.

The many crises besetting America are well-known. Let's focus on one of them.

The Pentagon

The US military is good example of how Aquarius & Pisces differ in their handling of dysfunction.

There have been significant problems with the American military ever since Washington's stragglng army. For a long time, the problems were swept under the rug, kicked down the road, postponed for a later date that never seemed to come. This led to a military that existed more in fantasy than reality.

Which arrived on the morning of April 12, 1861, when Southerners attacked Fort Sumter, starting the Civil War. Southern forces thought mere enthusiasm (what the French would soon call *elan vital*) would carry the day. Northerners thought conscription would do the job. In reality, the militaries on both sides were worthless. In the heat of battle, new militaries were constructed, from scratch.

Afterwards, the victorious Northern forces were disbanded. The can was again kicked down the road. Many of the same problems arose in the Spanish American War, World War I and World War II.

WWII led to the establishment of a large, permanent military, headquartered in a massive five-sided building. Occultists know that a pentagram, a five-pointed star, functions as a barrier, that it guards the fixed intentions of the magician who deploys it. The Pentagon, by its very shape, has helped to establish (fix) a permanent American war machine in the heart of the American capital.

The military wasn't unique in this regard. It was actually playing catch-up. FDR had, a decade before, "fixed" a new huge new federal government in response to the Great Depression. That government has been with us ever since.

The permanent American war machine has, not unexpectedly, grown, as permanent things always do. As none of the military's underlying problems have been addressed,

they have grown as well. These could be seen in Korea, Vietnam and the two Iraq episodes, problems that, except for Vietnam, have been kept carefully away from the American public. Among them are poor training, poor leadership, and inappropriate weapons - usually the most expensive that can be found. US military leadership has been dominated by mindless bureaucrats, like William Westmoreland, and headstrong fools, like George Armstrong Custer.

Since its incarnation on the banks of the Potomac 60-odd years ago, the US military, uniquely comprised of highly organized, highly regimented males (ideal Aquarian/fixed fodder), has swollen into the single most expensive thing on the planet, a monster that has eaten the American government, American society, and American industry & finance. Is there an ultimate end result? Yes. The eventual, unavoidable, collapse of the system itself. If not now, then eventually. This is always the result of dysfunctional fixity.

To Sum Up:

In Pisces, problems were ignored, but general confusion (mutability) kept everything at a small scale, so problems rarely became overwhelming. Individual efforts to the contrary (example: Napoleon's military organization) produced no lasting results.

In Aquarius, permanence (fixity) builds size. Which means that underlying problems, like infectious diseases, grow until they threaten the system itself. Which then leads to emergency treatment & "healing", at least for the moment. *Voila*, the Aquarian Way of Crisis Management. In the cases of Russia, China & the US, the underlying crisis have all been based on unresolved Piscean problems.

While Aquarius will be an age of endless crisis & rebuilding, we can hope the worst of it will be in the early centuries. Aquarius is, after all, the sign of fixed air. It is only ideas that will get stuck, and ideas can be changed. By comparison, the earthbound fixity of Taurus prohibited change, while the nightmarish intensity of fixed-water Scorpio changed only through death itself. Aquarius, by contrast, should be downright pleasant.

On a smaller scale, we can see the Aquarian process encapsulated in the books of **M. Scott Peck**.

Peck started as a psychologist in the Freudian school, but quickly became disenchanted with the ideology. It is not generally realized that practicing psychiatrists, practicing counselors of all kinds, are hung between two contradictory worlds. They want to help their fellow human beings, but to do this they must first translate their patients' complaints into the ideological framework in which they have been trained. They may use their own common sense & personal experience but only as they can be related to that ideology. This is by definition.

For example, if an astrologer can find the magic "Pluto transit," he can tell you what's wrong with you. But if there are no transits, magical or otherwise, then your problem, by definition, does not exist.

Like many highly trained psychologists, Peck found that much of what he had been taught made no sense in a clinical setting. Rather than invent his own system, he instead went back to fundamentals. His first book, **The Road Less Travelled**, is well-known. His subsequent books are not.

By a strange series of professional crises, and the uses he made of them, Peck, astonishingly, arrived at where he had begun as a small child. Which was to relearn the Golden Rule, the one he had learned so many years before: "*Do unto others...*"

While his books are suffused with Christian theology, Peck's underlying metaphysics were genuine & hard-won. I have studied the subject as an abstraction, which is the easy route. I am always amazed, and filled with admiration, for those who work out the same principles from sheer observation and hard work, as Peck did.

In Peck's case, he hammered out the meaning of morality itself. In Pisces, morality was imposed from an external source. It was an unexamined monolith, and, as such, was unacceptable to Aquarian know-it-alls. Step by painful step, Peck found morality to be an agent of human liberation. In his long journey of discovery, Peck experienced the Aquarian way of crisis first hand. In the end, his methods & conclusions were utterly Aquarian.

Next time: The Ages and Climate Change. Yes, there is global warming. You will be surprised why. And if you're curious, the concept of the Ages must explain everything, or it must be discarded. Remind me to write on how the various Ages view history.