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ON TRANSITS

VERY little has been written about Transits, either here or abroad.

The reason probably is, that most astrologers consider there is not much to be said on this subject, owing to its simplicity.

No calculations are involved and there are hardly any points in dispute.

Another probable reason for lack of attention, so far as writings are concerned, is that transits are commonly thought to be of comparatively little importance, referring chiefly, if not entirely, to the least significant events of life.

In reply one might say that perhaps transits are not quite as simple as they appear. At any rate, they repay a certain amount of study such as is not always vouchsafed to them.

Answering the second reason, one may affirm that even if transits were concerned only with minor matters, still such things, if individually trivial, make up for this in being very frequent; they are always with us. Again, it may be said that, so far as learning about the planets goes, one can do this just as well from small events as from those that are of epoch-making importance in the life.

For example, if one is sufficiently interested and methodical

to keep a register of transits, it is often very illuminating to watch (let us say) the transits of Mars over the same natal point, roughly every two years. One can note the essential similarities underlying outward differences and thus acquire a better knowledge of the value both of the planet in transit and the body subject to transit.

This cannot be done with ordinary directions, for even the progressed Moon will not pass the same spot more often than thrice in the average life.

But are transits, in and by themselves, only capable of producing or indicating the lesser occasions of life?

It is admitted in classic astrology that transits can appear important, but only because they sometimes act as excitants of a direction by forming contact, at a time when this direction is approximately exact, with the bodies involved in this direction.

It is usually implied that transits *by themselves* can do little.

This question cannot really be answered because there are so many systems of directing current at the present time. They have proliferated almost alarmingly of late years and each and every one has its enthusiastic supporters.

Thus if I assert that at such and such a time an important event occurred and that there were only transits to indicate it, it is quite certain that some such advocate will step forward and declare that his system, if none other, admirably meets the requirements of the occasion.

The adherent of transits may maintain that *these*, at any rate, form a compact system, easy to understand and use, that they may be tested almost daily, and, furthermore, that their rationale is not difficult to accept. Those who are ignorant of the more abstruse laws of nature, or who decry them, find comfort in transits, which lend themselves to some

extent to an explanation acceptable to a materialistic point of view which rejects reference to such things as the Law of Correspondences as vague and unproven. And it is upon this law that most, if not all, directional systems properly so called depend. The physicist will not be impressed by statements such as that one day of life is reflected in the year or that one degree of the ecliptic has a similar value.

Now as to the assertion that transits are chiefly if not entirely concerned with trivia, there is certainly room here for comment.

Generally, the effectiveness of a transit depends upon the speed of the transitting body and the sensitiveness of the point under transit, especially in relation to the body that forms the transit.

An analogy will illustrate this.

A quick transit, as by the Sun, Mercury or Venus, over a point by a body that has no powerful natal relation to the body or point under transit may be likened to two people passing one another in the street, neither being acquainted with the other.

But if the transit is quick but the two bodies concerned have a natal relationship, then this may be likened to two friends passing each other. Both are in a hurry—or at any rate one is—but, since they are known to each other, they nod or give expression to their friendship.

On the other hand, if the transit is a slow one, either because the planet is temporarily slow of motion or because its apparent motion is always slow, and, most of all, if the planet in transit is stationary on the other, then this resembles two people meeting and stopping for a talk, amicable or otherwise. From this conversation important things may develop.

To give a personal instance, the writer has a close natal square between Venus and Neptune.

Therefore even the transit of Venus, though quickly formed and dissolved, invariably produces a distinct effect. Its station on Neptune would be much stronger. The transit of Neptune over Venus would probably mark a distinctly significant period in the life, all the more so if it recurred by reason of retrogression.

Even the older astrologers, who were devotees of the so called primary system of directing and usually had little to say of anything else, acknowledged that a station, particularly of the outer planets, could be important.

Naturally the closer the station is to the radical point, the stronger will the correlated events be, and if there is a radical relationship between planet in transit and point under transit, the phenomenon will once again increase in significance.

Hence a glance through the ephemeris for each coming year should certainly take note of any significant stations.

Thus we find, in August 1939, a station of Saturn at $1^{\circ} 16'$ of Taurus, within $28'$ of Hitler's radical Sun, and this is followed, in December, by another station of the same planet about 1° from his natal Mercury.

But in January 1945 there is a station of Neptune which is only $2'$ from the square of his radical Moon, and, note further, while Neptune is stationary at $6^{\circ} 26'$ Libra, his Moon being in $6^{\circ} 28'$ Capricorn, Saturn is, on the day of station, in $6^{\circ} 30'$ Cancer. Surely an advocate of transits might say that this is a sufficiently serious configuration to match the conditions of the times as they affected the Fuehrer.

It must be a rule of all prediction that rare events must be shown by rare configurations. One cannot account for death

and downfall by something that occurs quite frequently in the heavens.

This example fulfils the condition.

In August 1940, when the invasion of Britain was in the balance, Saturn was stationary at $14^{\circ} 47'$ of Taurus, near Hitler's Venus and Mars and in square to Saturn.

Possibly it was because of this formation that his astrologers advised him against invasion. What would have happened had he persisted we can only surmise. One cannot usefully conjecture about might-have-beens. We know what happened, or did not happen.

Saturn is important in every map, but in Hitler's case its predominance over the whole nativity is obvious.

We have, for simplicity's sake, written only of transits over natal positions but the same rules apply to similar passages of bodies over progressed positions, though, with the slow-moving points, the difference in time will not be great.

This, however, adds to the importance of a transit. If my natal and progressed Saturn, for example, are within a degree or two of each other, the transits over the two will follow one another quickly and will mean a double excitation of whatever they may portend, pleasant or otherwise. If the latter, then it may be likened to two blows in quick succession. One receives the second before one has had time to recover from the first.

We may now consider three matters which have an important bearing on the use of transits for prediction:

(1) Several transits may have no inter-relationship but may occur around the same time and have a generally similar significance.

Thus in one part of the natus we may find Jupiter in favourable transit and in another, Venus.

Such concurrence in time may naturally indicate a well-marked period, according to the nature of the indications.

(2) There may be what we will call a multiple transit when more than one body, at the same time, affect a single point.

A common case is that of lunations and those special lunations which are eclipses. At that time both Sun and Moon are at the same point and may therefore both simultaneously be in contact with a third.

In July 1953 there was an eclipse of the Sun at $18\frac{1}{2}$ Cancer and at the same time Uranus was in $18\frac{3}{4}$ Cancer and Mars in 18 Cancer. Saturn and Neptune were in close conjunction in Libra in square to the locus of the eclipse.

Thus we see that no less than *six* bodies were involved and any person whose nativity was closely affected by such an exceptional bombardment would almost certainly feel the effects in no uncertain way, either at the time or shortly thereafter.

Naturally one would agree that the concurrence of helpful directions might mitigate the outcome, just as that of difficult directions would aggravate conditions.

Moreover, it is commonsense to realize that all people do not and cannot respond to stellar influences alike. Both temperaments and circumstances differ. The same stroke which will flatten clay will have little effect upon a block of wood and less still upon a stone.

(3) Certain *times* add greatly to the effect of transits.

The present writer is sure that the Capricorn Ingress is of importance for the whole succeeding twelve months, coming into effect probably a month or so before the actual solstice.

Now should this map show strong transits to the natus under consideration, then these also will affect the native strongly, for good or ill as the case may be, during the ensuing

year, though most strongly during the first quarter of that period.

It is not considered that the other three cardinal ingresses have the same value, and the ingresses into the fixed and mutable signs are probably less important still. Yet they are doubtless not without significance.

The student may observe the transits to Hitler's nativity at the 1944 winter ingress, and in particular the close opposition of Venus, his ruler, to his Saturn, and the almost exact square of Neptune to his Moon, which, if we use equal house division, ruled his 10th house.

There are no such significant transits in the map for the spring ingress, 1945, which immediately preceded his fall and death.

We may carry this further—and to an important consideration.

Let us turn to the winter ingress of 1888, which preceded the birth of this evil man.

Is it not remarkable that we find Mars in 15° of Aquarius, making up a most disastrous "T" square with his natal positions of Mars-Venus-Saturn?

It may be objected that thousands were born on the same day as Hitler and many must have had genitures that would appear virtually identical with his.

We shall pay some attention and make some suggestions with respect to this problem, so vital to a demonstration of the truth of Astrology, in the next chapter.

Meantime we have aimed at showing that Transits merit attention, both from the point of view of practical predictive work and as throwing light upon astrological principles.

In the old days, when there were only two known planets with a relatively slow apparent motion, it is understandable

that they should seem of small value. The discoveries of Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto have altered the position entirely; and it may be that, with the possible discovery of other planets with yet slower motion, it will be possible to rely upon transits and transits only, intelligently studied, to be our guides to future events.