



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera!

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

December 21, 2010

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Email Dave@astroamerica.com

Two Years to the End of the World

MAYAN CALENDAR ENDS

DECEMBER 21, 2012, 11:13 AM GMT

gee, I can't wait!



NEW BOOKS:

THE chasm between the wonderful new books on Hellenistic and Traditional Astrology, versus reprints of the 1980's mythology based stuff, gets wider & more embarrassing year by year.

This week I got Melanie Reinhart's third edition of **Chiron & the Healing Journey** back in stock. First published in 1989, it's a book of heart-felt myths and beliefs. Accept the book & its contents for what it is and it's wonderful. Ask "why" or, "where's the astrology" and it collapses. Which is sad.

Also new this week, **On the Heavenly Spheres, A Treatise on Traditional Astrol-**

ogy, by the Portuguese team of Helena Avelar & Luis Ribeiro. The book is translated, but it's a good translation. As these two come to the subject from well-outside Anglo-American academia, the book is refreshingly free of the mal-translated terms found in many other Hellenistic/Traditional texts. This is a book chock full of techniques & explanations. It isn't necessary to master & use each & every one of them. The idea is to find the tools that are best suited to your own needs. Avelar & Ribeiro give you a lot to work with. A great book from the AFA.

And there's the latest translations from Prof. Dykes: **Works of Sahl & Masha'allah**. Both of these men were Arab Jews of Persian descent, of the 8th & 9th centuries. Parts of this have been previously translated (see my notes for details), but even so, there's a lot here: Horary, electional, and in Masha'allah, astrometeorology, too.

What I want for Christmas: A good new **Astrological Dictionary of Traditional & Hellenistic Terms**. In PLAIN ENGLISH, please. A well-written tome will still be in print in 300 years. Interested in immortality?

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

ASPECTS of discord, or antagonistic aspects, as we may better call the opposition & its derivatives, denote a life of combat, but, in themselves, they do not point either to criminality or to right living; they are simply *non-conformative*.

A predominance of trine & sextile aspects, signifying as it does an easy-going disposition, rarely occurs in the map of a criminal, for the criminal, or at least the detected criminal (and we have few if any maps of those who were *not* detected), does not live an easy-going life. But this absence does not represent badness, but dangerous & often painful experiences. Those criminals who have a very successful career up to a point often have many harmonious contacts to show the more fortunate episodes in their lives. The colossal swindler, **Ivar Kreuger**, whose map appears on pg. 75, has Venus & Jupiter rising and far more technically "good" contacts than "bad" ones, Jupiter being trine Moon & conjunct Sun & Mercury. — **Principles of Horoscopic Delineation**, 1934

ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

Notes

21	05:03	♀ ✕ ♀	
	08:13	☼ 29II 21	Lunar Eclipse/Void
	09:22	☾ ☿	
	13:44	☾ ♃ ☉	
	23:39	☉ ♃	
22	00:59	♀ ☐ ♃	
	06:23	♀ ♀ ♀	
23	07:26	☾ ♁ ♃	Void
	12:51	☾ ♁	
24	17:10	☾ ☐ ♀	
25	09:29	☾ ♂ ♀	Void
	15:15	☾ ♃	
	21:57	☾ ♁ ☉	
26	15:05	☾ ♁ ♂	
27	01:03	☉ ♂ ♀	
	12:22	☾ ♂ ♃	Void
	17:39	☾ ♃	

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

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STAR OF THE WEEK



SPICULUM M202118 Sagittari 1 vs 13

Notes: Two clusters and an nebula (20M) situated on the arrow-head of Sagittarius

Influence: Of the nature of Mars & the Moon & specifically mentioned by Ptolemy as productive of blindness.

POLIS mu Sagittari 3 vs 55

Notes: A triple star in the upper part of the bow of Sagittarius. From the Coptic Polis, a foal.

Influence: Of the nature of Jupiter & Mars. It gives success, high ambition, marital desires, horsemanship, keen perception and domination.

FACIES M22 Sagittari 8 vs 27

Notes: The nebula in the archer's face. **Influence:** It is of the nature of the Sun & Mars, and causes blindness, defective sight, sickness, accidents . . . — *from Fixed Stars*, by Vivian Robson

Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990



IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

Some hints for your safety

NEVER start anything of importance when the time would place Saturn in the 1st House of personal & physical affairs. He causes delay, frustration & denial, thereby destroying all hopes of success & pleasure in the undertaking; if he is stationary or retrograde, everything comes to a standstill on the one hand and there are unhappy repercussions on the other. In any chart at all, Saturn shows by house where there will always be "the devil to pay" later.

If Mercury is retrograde, expect change of plan, errors in documents, etc. and if the Moon is in any cadent house (3rd, 6th, 9th, 12th) you may not land where you planned. And malefics angular upset you.

Any planet or Arabian point in 29 degrees of any Sign or conjunct 19 Scorpio, the "cursed" degree; or 24 Taurus, Caput Algol's fatal degree, or 29 Taurus the place of the Pleiades or Weeping Sisters (which gives you something to weep about) will harass you. It is always better to have the Sun, Moon, ruler of the Ascendant, and Part of Fortune above the horizon.

The moving finger

In astrology, mathematical distances between planets constitute aspects which, like a moving finger, move on to certain & sure mathematical culmination in an event or development in the native's circle — no matter if he no longer lives at the time. Those remaining in his circle continue to react to THEIR aspects, in a manner of speaking. It is no use to hope that an aspect will operate against its nature; a square will not register as a trine . . . [part of a discussion of JFK] — both from **The Way of Astrology**, 1967

Mangling Hellenistic Astrology

ON Friday I was asked if I knew of **Chris Brennan & Zodiacal Releasings**. Turns out, once I'd hummed a few bars it came back to me, but I had never checked out the score. These releasings have to do with the Aphasia, which is described in Vettius Valens. Starting at birth, you go sign by sign. Each sign has a certain number of years, which are counted, starting at birth. When the time allotted for one sign ends, you are "released" into the next.

Googling, I quickly turned up **Zodiacal Releasing 1.48**, by Curtis Manwaring. (Go download. It's a simple calculation routine.) My preliminary instructions said, Use the Sun for day births, the Moon for night births. Since the output is in signs, I presumed that meant to use the Sun's sign. So I used Aquarius. (The program is a bit sticky. To make it work, click on SIGN NAMES SHORT/LONG. Also, calculations are in whole days. The time makes no difference. Do Not Use GMT, unless that's where you were born.)

To date, I have had three releasings (Aphasia): Aquarius to Pisces, Pisces to Aries, and Aries to Taurus. The first date was within two weeks of getting kicked out of London, a life changing event. The second date was within a week of deciding to leave New York, move to California, and start what became this business, another life changing event. The third date, two years ago, was two weeks prior to my much-delayed marriage, an elected event (*thanks, Debbi!*).

That's impressive.

Damn impressive.

But then I found it wasn't right. Manwaring's software has a default of Leo, and by now the sources I was Googling were implying that day births are Leo, and night births are Cancer. I'm a day birth, so I tried Leo. The dates were garbage.

But then I read that what was really meant was to use the sign of the Part of Fortune (for some things), and the sign of the Part of Spirit (or Daemon: **Al Biruni**) for other things. These two Parts are related, as one is the reflection of the other, with the Asc/Dsc as the mirror. As I'm a full moon birth, both of these are in Sagittarius. I tried that. The dates were meaningless.

By now I was just plain puzzled, so I also tried the Ascendant, which is Gemini. Those dates, also, were gibberish.

I needed someone else to try, so I tried

the wife. She was a day birth (early Taurus), so I tried that. She said she doesn't remember dates, and while that's common, the results should be plainly obvious, so when she didn't recognize anything, I had an inspiration. What if the Sun was for boys & the Moon was for girls? Elizabeth's Moon is in Libra, so I tried that. There was one releasing. The date was within two months of leaving academia & moving to Santa Fe. Another life-changing event.

But the texts I was reading all had to do with Time Lords. Time Lords are Firdaria, which is **Abu Ma'shar**. So I found an **online Firdaria** & went at it. Gave it my date of birth. The results were completely different from Aphasia, which establishes the two systems as fundamentally different. But the Firdaria results were, again, garbage.

Which, by the way, was the same sort of disappointing results I had always gotten with Vimshottari Dashas. Which is why, to answer an earlier question, I don't feature **Vedic astrology** in this newsletter: I don't understand it. I can't make it work. The dasha dates look like gibberish to me.

This made me all the more curious as to what was actually being translated, if it was being translated, and understood, correctly. I haven't the space to bore you with the details, but it seems to me that both the translators, as well as many of the exponents of Hellenistic astrology, have previous backgrounds as psychological astrologers. While I bless the very soul of astro psycho-babble, it is a foggy discipline at best. Could it be that, lacking the ability to read charts precisely, the Hellenistic crowd has transferred their earlier psychological fuzziness into their Hellenistic studies, wholesale? That they are, in other words, simply not demanding enough? If so, they are caught in a most delicious trap. Hellenistic astrology, aka the Tradition, is full of the most intricate details. Lacking clear comprehension (go look at the translations, for heaven's sake!), are they spinning their wheels? Just as they had, previously, with Dane Rudhyar & his likes?

SO I would like to hear from those of you bold enough to know. Try the Aphasia, try Firdaria. With either of them, with whatever methods you use, do you get dates that are of immediate relevance, Yes or No? Email me at dave@astroamerica.com. Tell me I'm just an old fool.

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

Part 18:

Personal Appearance

THE planets when rising & near the Ascendant modify the above types very considerably. In general the effect of a rising planet upon appearance is to give some of the characteristics of the sign it rules. Thus the Sun rising imparts some of the characteristics of Leo and in certain cases the native may easily be mistaken for this sign. Similarly the Moon rising tends to give a Cancer appearance. In the cases of the planets, however, the matter is rather more complicated as the appearance is usually more like one of the planet's signs than the other. Thus, Venus rising sometimes resembles Taurus and at other times Libra, and it is not easy to say which sign will be the one impressed upon the native. The general modifying effect of each of the planets when rising, or strongly aspecting the ascendant is as follows:

The Sun. Adds dignity & gives a fresh complexion, full stature, large head, round face, light or yellowish hair, growing thin, and blue or grey eyes.

The Moon. Renders the body short & often squat, tending to plumpness, and gives a broad chest, face & forehead, fleshy hands & feet, brown hair, grey, soft & limpid eyes, one often slightly larger than the other, and a pale complexion.

Mercury. Adds tallness & length to the body & limbs, and gives thin nose & lips, dark hair & eyes, olive complexion, and a quick, talkative & active manner.

Venus. Adds plumpness, and gives a short body with short fleshy hands, small feet, round cheeks, red lips, well-shaped mouth, smiling face, often dimpled, light brown & smooth hair, blue or brown eyes, clear complexion, and a musical voice. — **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**, by Vivian Robson.

From **The Manual of Astrology** by Sepharial

The Bodily Form

THE rising sign, the ruler of the ascendant & that of the sign intercepted in the first house (if any), and the planets closely aspecting the ascendant, considered with the signs they are in, will determine much concerning the bodily form to which the native will arrive at maturity.

Primarily, the ruling sign, or that which holds the eastern horizon, is the basis of the physical temperament, as set forth in the chapter on the "Signatures of the Zodiac". The modifying factors are the lord or ruler of the rising sign, and the planets in close aspect to the ascending degree, considered according to the signs they severally occupy. The peculiarities conferred by these signs will be found more or less reproduced in the body of the native. . . .

Venus rising confers greater elegance on face & figure. When closely aspecting the ascendant or its ruler, it gives some claim to good looks.

Venus & Jupiter in conjunction or opposition from any part of the figure gives blue eyes. It has been frequently noticed that when this position or aspect occurs, the native has very deep blue and almost violet eyes.

Leo, Sagittarius, Gemini & Aquarius produce tall persons.

Aries, Libra, Virgo, and Scorpio give medium stature.

Taurus, Capricorn, Cancer & Pisces produce small persons.

The Sun rules the first half of the male signs, and the second half of female signs; while the Moon takes the remaining halves of these signs. The Sun renders the complexion fairer, the Moon makes it darker, when ruling the half sign rising at birth. — **The Manual of Astrology**, by Sepharial.

HEAD TO HEAD

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Is This You?



0°-10° Gemini rising
The Gemini decanate

Appearance of the first decanate:

GEMINIANS are usually tall & slight, with long arms, hands & fingers. The face is usually thin & sometimes hatchet-shaped, both the nose, which is often aquiline, and the chin being prominent. The mouth is well-shaped with a pressed-out appearance of the lips. The eyes are wide-set, the complexion good. The brow is broad & the hair plentiful. The body is short in comparison with the legs, carried somewhat rigidly, particularly as to the shoulders, which are very flat & often high & wide. The women of this type often have rather masculine voices although feminine & smart in appearance.

THE first decanate is ruled by Mercury. This combination gives a kind and willing nature, an intellectual mind influenced by advanced thought. Yet there is often a certain wrong-headedness, which stands in the way of material success. The disposition is clever, versatile, nervous although stimulating. Men born under this sign make excellent journalists & love to influence others into their way of thinking.

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

- December 24:**
 563—Hagia Sophia dedicated for 2nd time
 1826—West Point's eggnog riot
 1914—WWI Christmas truce
 1946—Fourth Republic founded
 1955—NORAD tracks Santa!
 1968—Apollo 8 orbits the Moon

