

LONGEVITY CIRCUIT

Perpetuating techniques which contribute to a longevity lifestyle

Where Did Astrology Come From?

The origin of astrology is a mystery. I have always wondered where this ancient geometric science came from. Consequently Paul and I travelled a lot of the world looking for evidence of its origins. We've found bits and pieces here and there: in the caves of France, the Standing Stones of Callanish in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, and the Dolmens in Ireland. And we can't forget Stonehenge which was used for astrological purposes, nor the Chaldeans and their ziggurats. And there are historical writings in the Bible, the Upanishads, the Icelandic Eddas, and other religious treatises, but where and how did it start? According to historians and experts in ancient history (such as Joseph Campbell) the origins of astrology lie in the agrarian observations of the ancient Sumerian / Babylonian complex. I have previously written how these ancient people observed the moon, sun, the planets, and stars moving through the zodiac. It was the Sumerians that discovered that the the order of the universe can be understood mathematically, but what is odd is that the writings and evidences of all the other ancient astrological groups agree on the mathematical data, even though thousands of miles apart!

There are many things in astrology that are easily

explained mathematically. Five planets: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn are observable with the naked eye and thus it is understandable how they came to be subjects of influence. But the ancients "calculated" many astrological awareneses that are so technical and require thousands of years of observation to understand. I put "calculated" in quotes because I question that they obtained their information through calculations. Some of those calculations are so complex, so obscure, being based on phenomena that the ancient ones didn't have.

For example, let's look at the Moon's South and North Nodes. They go by other names: the North Node is also called Caput Draconis or the Dragon's Head and the South Node, Cauda Draconis or the Dragon's Tail. They are not physical phenomena for one thing, but are the degrees in the zodiac where the plane of the Moon's orbit crosses the plane of the ecliptic. These names were given because the ancients

noticed them when the Sun was close to them in its apparent orbit around the Earth and eclipses occurred during the new and full moons. Now astronomers know that the earth and the moon, always facing each other, revolve around each other. It is an apparent observation and misconception that the Moon revolves



The Callanish Stones (photo by V. Cornell)
Erected ~5,000 years ago and found on the west coast of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland.

around the earth. Actually they both move around the barycenter (the center of mass of two bodies). The moon, rather than being a satellite is actually a companion planet!

The Moon's motion is not constant because the barycenter, and not the moon, is what orbits the Sun. And the Moon's orbit is tilted at a mean angle of 5+ degrees. Thus the moon's orbit cuts the ecliptic (the path around the Sun) at two points called "nodes" moving slowly backward, completing the full circle in about 19 years. Because this knowledge is based on sophisticated astronomy, I have trouble believing that the ancients knew the moon was actually a companion planet and nobody seems to know how the Nodes came to be such important energy fields or archetypes. Please excuse all this technical stuff but I'm trying to make a point here because the North and South Nodes have been a part of every organized astrology around the world from the beginning! Eclipses, yes, but how did they know about the nodes and see the need to include them in their system?

So how and where DID astrology come from? One respected authority believes that "the whole edifice of astrology is so vast that it is easier to believe it was brought to Man by great beings of superior intelligence who came to earth to guide infant humanity as a labor of love." And do any of my readers remember the controversial 1950 book by Velikovsky who wrote that Venus came very close to planet Earth, perhaps bringing more intelligent life forms to Earth? His information came from Old Testament narratives and myths from other parts of the world that he believed were real events. It sounds outlandish, but if there is life on other planets then perhaps

another race brought the info. Or, perhaps it came in a vision "given by Cosmic Rulers, or other great forces serving under the Eternal Father." Or maybe this is all a hologram, a 3-D movie written by Creative Intelligence and perceived as real for our viewing pleasure! What do you think?

The Nodes and What They Mean

Now that we've explored their astronomical meaning, what is their symbolic meaning? Authorities differ, of course, but most agree that the North Node is positive and the South Node is not. The North Node is expansive and can bring good fortune similarly to Jupiter. Where it is in a person's chart indicates harmony with prevailing cultural trends, self advancement, and the bringing of benefits to activities regarding that house and sign. It can bring associations and alliances, but it's really where we look for self development. My experience with my clients has been that the North Node indicates what we need to learn to fulfill our Karma and what we didn't come onto the planet already knowing.

The South Node is restrictive and isolating in some way, requiring individualist and self reliant abilities. There is not the support and recognition from others. It does bring more independent thinking and attitudes. It can be the wisdom obtained from past lives or Karma. It shows where there is organization, discipline, and habits tendencies that influence the present. The South Node is what we came onto the planet already knowing, but it's the easy stuff that doesn't require effort so because it is easy we don't want to let it go and move into the



The Moon "captured" by the sacred stones at Callenish

North Node where there is a challenge. But since the whole point of being on this planet is to grow, it's a good idea to develop the North Node.

Donald Trump's Nodes

I bet you didn't know that Donald Trump was born during a Lunar Eclipse!! Well he was and that means that his Sun in Gemini conjuncts the North Node and his Moon in Sagittarius conjuncts the South Node. In a natal chart, this means that the spiritual lessons of the Nodal Axis are a fundamental and very integrated part of his individual core identity. This also means that balance -- between the conscious and the unconscious, the rational and the emotional, the North Node lessons and the South Node gifts, are a very prominent, very central theme in his life. Having any planet conjunct one of the Nodes makes it much easier to tap into the energy of that Node because every time he expresses or experiences an activation of the planet, it's also related to the energy of the Node. And since it is his Sun in Gemini that is next to the Node, the energy of this mutable air sign is high and constantly activated. Like the wind it is constantly blowing, changing much too rapidly to gain any understanding or depth. Together with the South Node Jupiter Moon, it creates an over-inflated ego if unattended.

With his South Node conjunct his moon in Sag in his 4th house of family (and also the collective unconscious), his skills and karmic memories are brought into play, but it's also where he gets stuck! Sag is the "know it all," the pedant, the guru. He's here to tell us how to live our lives. His North Node Sun is a different story. It's unfamiliar, untested, and inflated so it's easy to see why he would resist maturing into a more responsible and responsive person when he (understandably) loves being the big boss!

Since his Moon is conjunct the South Node and his Sun conjunct the North Node in the 10th house of the controller, his emotional

nature is what is the most comfortable and familiar to him, so he needs to learn to bring that energy into more balance and conscious awareness by working with his Sun conjunct his North Node to become an enlightened leader. Since he is over 50 years old it is doubtful that he will ever make such an effort: the egotistical pull of Sagittarius is too seductive.

But I also want to add that since he WAS born on an eclipse, his birth is Karmic to our country. All his abuses and misapplied decisions are the mirror we need to push our humanity forward, or at least the American public.

And waddayaknow -- Boris Johnson also has his Gemini Sun conjunct the North Node and many have compared him to Trump: both being blowhards and failing to keep their promises! But Johnson was not born under an eclipse so his importance in British politics is not so Karmic.

Autumn Calendar



Saturn made a station at 13° Capricorn on Sept 18th and will move forward to 19° Capricorn by the end of this quarter. **Pluto** will also be going direct on October 3rd and in January 2020, Saturn and Pluto will finally be exactly conjoined at 22° Capricorn! It's an

important conjunction that occurs only every 40 years or so. (Pluto's wide elliptical orb means that its speed varies.) It occurred from 1914-16; from 1946-48; and from 1981-1983. It's a very difficult energy for most. Of course the more mature one is, the easier to use this energy productively. Some of the more difficult outcomes we have seen so far include the violence of mass shootings and use of war weapons, sexual violations and allegations, problems with garbage, power plays, toxic waste, mob psychology, and power of the masses. Also global warming, conservatives vs rebuilders, the use of natural resources that come from the ground, and fanatical adherence to one's principles (No, the planet Earth is not flat). One area of concern we have not seen regards the economy. Very often this conjunct causes a recession or financial concerns. In the last 4 years there have been numerous financial actions that are not positive or conducive to a healthy economy. This next year could find our country in a difficult financial year. The poor are getting poorer and the rich, richer, that can't last forever.

But if I thought Astrology was "bad" I wouldn't be involved with it so it's important to recognize the good in this combination of energies or archetypes as well. We are already seeing positive outcomes: large groups of people coming together to stop or change something, sexual abuses (i.e. Hollywood), children in schools demonstrating outside of the classroom, increased numbers of voters, and politicians addressing lobbyists inappropriate influence (read bribes). And what about all the "Gofundme" internet requests that are fulfilled: little acts of kindness.

Neptune remains in its own sign of Pisces. Now the opiate problem is recognized, but the hard part remains — how to fix it and, wily as Neptune can be, very little is being done in retribution. Will the company that is responsible for lying about the dangers be able to get away with it by declaring bankruptcy? Neptune is one of the most difficult planets to

explain, it can be the best and the worst of us. That's why Pisces, the home of Neptune, is represented by two fish swimming in opposite directions but tied together by a silver thread. Neptune turns direct on Nov 27th at 15° Pisces. We will see what we will see.....

Uranus went retrograde in August and will continue to do so through this quarter moving back to 2° Taurus. Because Taurus is an earth sign and Uranus is airy, this energy is contained somewhat. Innovative ideas need practicality! The internet will undergo changes in the next few years as the burden of use becomes greater.

Jupiter also went direct in August and will complete its sojourn through Sag on December 2nd moving into Capricorn. Now Jupiter will be more practical and the big expansions of Jupiter in its own sign of Sagittarius will be mitigated. This could add to the probability of a recession in 2020.

Our next **Mercury retrograde** occurs at 27° Scorpio on Halloween in the morning. It turns direct again at 11° Scorpio on November 20th. There's an intensity here we don't often see: Scorpio can be subtly cruel in speech. So watch what you say so you don't come to regret it later. Also watch the usual things: travel plans, rethink ideas, and wait to start something new until after the retrograde is over. And one thing more: there is conversation about what really constitutes the end of a Mercury retrograde. The obvious is when the planet's apparent movement turns direct, but some astrologers state that the retrograde really isn't over until the planet regains its original number -- in this case 27° which puts the time up to January 16th. What is my take on this? I've seen the veracity of both allegations. Some Mercury retrogrades seem to last a lot longer, and some don't. Anyway, it is never wrong to watch what we say and do whether there is a Mercury retrograde or not.

**And look for the next
issue of LC on Dec 21st!**