



Special points of interest:

- Astrological Keywords
- Sample Chart
- Alchemical Meditation
- Sample Tarot Spread

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Astrology—Mercury

In Greek mythology Hermes was the god of weights and measures, commerce and cunning, boundaries, travel and travelers, wit, literature, oratory, and poetry. As the Roman god of trade, Mercury lends his name to the words merchant, merchandise, mercurial, and mercenary.

Early Greek art represented the rod of Hermes as a staff surmounted by a circle topped with a crescent, just as his symbol is pictured in astrology. More contemporary images picture Mercury carrying the caduceus, a winged staff with two intertwined serpents. This staff, the symbol of trade is mistakenly used in the United States in place of the rod of Asclepius as the symbol of the medical profession.

Hermes was a translator or

messenger who bridged the divide between humans and the gods of Olympus. In astrology Mercury rules, agents, intermediaries and other “go-betweens.” His winged hat was the symbol of his ability to freely fly between the realm of the mortals and immortals. In astrology Mercury is often considered as a mediator or intermediary between parties. In Roman times it was the *caduceator* who negotiated peace treaties.

Hermes’s other symbols are the rooster, herald of the daybreak, and the tortoise, referring to the legend of Mercury inventing the lyre from the tortoise shell.

Along with Pluto and Persephone, Hermes was the only god who could leave the Underworld unhindered. As a *psychopomp* or “guide of souls” he



Hermes/Mercury

could escort the newly-deceased into the afterlife.

Dies Mercurii, or “Mercury’s day” is the Latin name for Wednesday. In Spanish it is

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Transmuting Mercury

The best qualities of Mercury are found in the ability to perceive, penetrate and reflect. Ruling the INTELLECTUAL URGES, these mental abilities express either like earthy Virgo whose comparative facility is directed toward analysis and practical application or like airy Gemini whose energy is chan-

neled outward as the fleet-footed communicator of ideas and travel. Mercury’s best quality is EXPRESSION and the worst is RESTLESSNESS.

Quicksilver is the metal of Mercury. Anyone having observed the behavior of Mercury’s metal is impressed by a brilliant and entertaining substance. It is a cross between a solid and liquid

substance that is difficult to contain and that will penetrate any porous surface it contacts.

In astrology the planet Mercury represents powers of discrimination, penetration, perception, memory and selection that were important for survival in lower

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Stellarian Honor Guard

For the quarter ending March 31, 2008

Regular Contributors form the solid foundation from which The Church of Light can grow. This column honors those who financially support the work of spreading the Religion of the Stars, Guardian Angels contribute more than \$500 in a quarter. The Stellarian Honor Guard includes those who contribute between \$100 and \$500 per quarter. We are grateful for your generous contributions to The Church of Light.



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Editorial

“Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.”

John F. Kennedy (1917—1963)

The Church of Light was founded in 1932 to “teach, practice, and disseminate The Religion of the Stars.” Our work is education. The ultimate goal of our education is to discover one’s role in God’s Great Plan. We provide a metaphysical course of study through which we believe each individual can discover his or her greatest abilities and thus best contribute to society and Universal Welfare.

The basis of our education is the 21 Brotherhood of Light Lessons written by C. C. Zain between 1909 and 1933. These teachings embody the wisdom of the Mystery School Traditions of the ancient past as well as the teachings of our predecessor organization The Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor.

Members in Albuquerque and the Fort Worth area have the added benefit of being able to attend classes and study with mentor teachers familiar with our traditions. Our publications, the Ninth House monthly newsletter and Quarterly magazine contain informative articles related to our tradition and are mailed to members who donate \$50 or more dollars a year to help defray production costs. The Quarterly is also available online at www.light.org for non-contributing members and the general public interested in our work.

Local members and members at a distance both have the opportunity to study the courses and pass exams under the guidance of our Membership Ministry. There are weekend “Intensives” offered a couple times of year, specifically geared for out of state members who are seeking training with skilled professionals. These are generally announced in the Ninth House and Quarterly. Our next Intensive on The Hermetic System of Progressions is scheduled for the weekend of August 15—17 2008.

Every other year we also offer our biannual convention as an opportunity for members from around the nation and around the world to convene in fellowship and partake of the instruction of mentor teachers who are eager to share their expertise. Our next convention is scheduled for the weekend of June 19—21, 2009. The theme for this conference is “A Magical Mystery Tour” and will embrace many facets of Astrology, Alchemy, and the Tarot. For those planning to make this conference their vacation, we will be offering two days of pre-conference tours and an exciting pre-conference intensive on the Tarot and Initiation. We hope you are able to join us at this event.

This Quarterly is the third volume in a series that will span another seven issues where each issue of the Quarterly will feature the influence of one of the planets. We will highlight each of the planets with articles related to the three branches of Hermetic Science; Astrology, Alchemy, and Magic.

We are delighted that you have chosen The Church of Light as part of your education. Our goal is to assist you in the realization of your Cosmic Work and the fulfillment of your role in God’s Great Plan.

Christopher Gibson





Mercury Associations

Thought-cell: Intellectual
 House influence: Thought
 Metal: Mercury/Quicksilver
 Gemstone: Cinnabar
 Color: Violet
 Musical tone: B

Mercury Figures

Accountant, agent, analyst, announcer, bookkeeper, broadcast journalist, broker, chauffer, columnist, commentator, courier, critic, diplomat, dispatcher, driver, file clerk, instructor, interpreter, librarian, linguist, mediator, messenger, negotiator, news anchor, postal worker, programmer, representative, secretary, stenographer, teacher, telephone opera-

Positive Mercury Traits

Agile, alert, articulate, astute, attentive, chatty, clever, coherent, communicative, conscientious, curious, erudite, expressive, focused, informative, ingenious, inquisitive, intelligent, judicious, knowledgeable, logical, lucid, mental, nimble, observant, perceptive, rational, reasonable, scholarly, shrewd, smart, talkative, thoughtful, verbal, vigilant, wise, witty,

Negative Mercury Traits

Anxious, apprehensive, calculating, canny, crafty, cunning, deceptive, devious, discontented, edgy, fanatical, fidgety, high-strung, interfering, intrusive, jumpy, long-winded, loquacious, meddlesome, nervous, nosy, overwrought, preoccupied, prying, rambling, restless, scheming, sly, snitch, snoop, stressed, tense, verbose, wily

(Continued from page 1)

called *miercoles*, in Italian, *mercoledì*, and in French, *mercredi*, all originating from the word Mercury. The English Wednesday comes from “Woden’s day” in honor of the Old Norse god Odin.

Before the 4th century BC, the ancient Greeks regarded Mercury as two planets; seen at sunset Mercury was known as Hermes, and at sunrise was called Apollo. The earliest recorded observations date to the 14th century BC where in Assyrian texts Mercury is referred to as “the jumping planet” no doubt due to his eccentric orbit.

Mercury, the innermost and smallest planet is heavily cratered and physically similar in appearance to the Moon, with no satellites and no substantial atmosphere. It takes Mercury 88 days to orbit the Sun and make a complete cycle through the Zodiac. Because Mercury enters retrograde motion three times a year he spends anywhere from two to six weeks in each sign of the zodiac. He is never more than 28.3 degrees away from the Sun and can therefore only form the conjunction, parallel, and semi-sextile aspects to that luminary. Because of its proximity to the Sun, Mercury can only be observed for a brief period during morning and evening twilight.

In Hermetic astrology Mercury governs the “Intellectual Urges” of the soul which seek expression through intelligence, perception, and communication. Both Mercury and the Moon rule the mentality, with Mercury governing the conscious or cerebral thinking and the Moon our unconscious or subliminal thinking. Individuals in whose chart Mercury is prominent tend to be mental, expressive, talkative, reasoning, logical, and rational. They are attracted to work that involves facts, figures, measurements, data, and details. They are mentally active, quick to learn, and seek outlets for communication both verbally and in writing.

Mercury is considered to be at “Home” in the intellectual signs of Gemini and Virgo which flank either side of Cancer and Leo. In his home signs Mercury finds ample expression for his love of facts, figures, trivia and details. Mercury is at his “Detriment” in both Sagittarius and Pisces. In Sagittarius his expressions are blunt, straightforward, and opinionated. In Pisces he is prone to anxiety, nervousness, and insecurity.

Mercury’s “Exaltation” is in Aquarius, a sign that allows full expression for his genius and intelligence. In Leo the sign of his “Fall” he can come across as a “know-it-all.”

Mercury’s “Harmony” is in the sign of Scorpio which bestows an excellent memory and detective-like mind. However, in Taurus, the sign of his “Inharmony” Mercury expresses a degree of inflexibility.

Alchemical Mercury



“Mercury is notable among the metals in that at ordinary temperatures it is a fluid the particles of which are set in rapid movement by the least outside influence. The fleetness of its drops as well as the swiftness of the planet, is well symbolized by the wings on the feet of this ancient messenger of the gods. A little quicksilver spilled in the laboratory and its drops are everywhere, elusive, quick moving, and of brilliant silver-white luster.”

Spiritual Alchemy—C. C. Zain

Alchemical Meditation

I, (your name here), am an intelligent, insightful, and perceptive being. I use the powers of my mind to understand other people and the world in which I live. I love the acquisition of knowledge and embrace every opportunity to learn something new.

Everyday I create time for meditation and contemplation in which I lift my finite mind up to unite with Infinite Mind and thereby partake of God’s great wisdom and insight. I am now free of any worry or anxiety as I know that there is a benevolent, creative, intelligence behind all manifestation that desires only that which is for my highest good.

I (your name here), am attentive to any habit system that I might have of focusing on the negative, and I am quick to replace any judgmental or critical thoughts with a positive, optimistic attitude. I am no longer a fault-finder, I am a praise-finder. At those times when pettiness or small-mindedness threaten to disturb my mental poise I quickly switch to expansive and broad-minded thinking. It is easy for me to continually think good thoughts about myself and others.

I accept that just as I have arrived at this juncture in my personal growth through the advice, instruction, and counsel of others, that it is my duty to teach, and share my knowledge with those who enter my life requesting my assistance.

So shall it be!

Dominant Mercury Personality

Pope Benedict XVI

Pope Benedict's visit to the United States in April 2008 happened to coincide with the search for a dominant Mercury personality to be featured in the Summer 2008 Quarterly. Most media coverage relating to the Pope referred to his intellectual capabilities with a sidebar about his daily routine of playing classical piano as a means of rest and relaxation.

Mercury rules the INTELLECTUAL URGES and includes the dexterity required for classical piano. With repeated reference to his "intelligence" it was natural to wonder how Mercury might factor into his character equation. After

computing Astrodynes for his birth chart it turns out he does have a dominant Mercury representing 12.1% of the total power of his energy.

About The Planet Mercury

Mercury's nature is best expressed as PERCEPTION and its impact on character tends toward an EXPRESSIVE nature at best and RESTLESSNESS at its worst.

In *Horoscope Maker and Reader* by Elbert Benjamine (out of print) he states:

"The electrical currents which carry messages over the nerves, and all

- **Dominant Planet: Mercury, Uranus and Jupiter**
- **Dominant Sign: Pisces, Sagittarius and Gemini**
- **Dominant Houses: First, Fourth and Tenth**

cerebral processes, including perception and comparison, are ruled by Mercury; and all expression of thought in speech and writing are expressions of the thought-cells mapped by Mercury.

"These thought-cells which so powerfully influence the intellectual ability, the intellectual interests and the habitual methods of objective thinking, have been organized in lower forms of life through learning to remember and recognize enemies, palatable foods, and suitable localities for shelter. Because their chief expression relates to the intellectual life, they are called INTELLECTUAL thought-cells. Aspects to Mercury affect the mental interests, the facility and accuracy of expression, and the type of cerebral activity. To the extent the thought cells mapped by Mercury are active, is the life influenced by thoughts about time, written or verbal expression, calculation, travel, the recognition of size, weight, form and color, or the solution of perplexities.

"When Mercury is prominent in the birth chart it denotes one who is mentally active, capable of taking an education, of functioning on the intellectual level, and of learning new tasks readily. He is at his best where he can attain

	☉	☽	♀	♂	♃	♅	♁	♂	♁	♁	MC	ASC
☉	☉	♂ 3.89 -3.89	♃ 0.88 0.88	♂ 3.68 2.76	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁
☽		☉	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁
♀			♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁
♂				♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁
♃					♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁
♅						♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁
♁							♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁
♁								♁	♁	♁	♁	♁
MC									♁	♁	♁	♁
ASC										♁	♁	♁

Data

- **Rodden Rating: AA**
- **AstroDatabank: "Taeger collection quotes birth certificate; Bordonni gives same information."**

and specifically the Catholic Church, is the religion of the Logos or Reason. He has also been associated with disparagement of what he calls the sickness of our times, “relativism.”

Sadly when religion becomes dogmatic it begins to view its own set of beliefs as “truth.” It loses its ability to question itself. Hermeticism teaches that truth is dual. There is the truth of reality and the truth of appearances. It teaches that from the material perspective, truth is in shadow and limited in its appearance. From a more refined spiritual perspective truth may be viewed in the light. The ability to see in the light is the result of an arduous evolutionary journey. From the Hermetic perspective the journey is as important as the result. The experience gained in discerning the difference makes the soul useful and gives it purpose.

To assist the soul in its journey the Religion of the Stars offers traditional Hermetic knowledge and the tools of Astrology and the Tarot as measuring gauges. For example, a study of the decanates of Gemini point us in the direction of how to discern the difference between observed or objective fact and the necessity to balance these observations with the ability to go within and touch the “pole star” with the “wee small voice” of intuition. Or, one might look to Arcanum XVII, whose divinatory significance is “Truth, Hope and Faith.” It is the Gemini card that tells us the first step to truth is “perception” and that perception must embrace both sides of a situation...it is dual. Arcanum XVII further warns of the dangers of drinking the elixir resulting from the quest...to those who are unworthy or lacking in humility it is destructive. A healthy religion will help its adherents mature and develop the ability and confidence to reach for the pole star and realize the factual or experiential foundation of “truth.”

From the “I Believe” perspective, it seems that Mercury in Pisces must ever be careful of where the “facts” are derived and whether they are fully measured.

Biographical Information:

Named Joseph Ratzinger, Benedict XVI is the youngest of three children born to a German policeman (Mars in fourth) and his wife (MC in Sagittarius) in Marktl am Inn, Bavaria, Germany. It seems safe to assume his family was devout Catholic since his brother is also a priest and his sister, who never married, kept his household until her death in 1991. At the age of five, after welcoming a visiting Cardinal and struck by the distinctive garb, he announced—perhaps prophetically—his intention to become a Cardinal. (With Sun in Aries in the first house trine Neptune in Leo in the fifth house and Uranus in Aries in the first house, it is not difficult to imagine how his imagination was caught up with this glamorous imagery.) His great-uncle was a famous German politician. His father was politically active, working against the trend toward Nazism and his uncle was a famous German politician.

Following his fourteenth birthday he was mandatorily enrolled

in the Hitler Youth program. This occurred in spite of the fact that his father was a bitter enemy of Nazism. Ratzinger states his father opposed Nazism because it was in conflict with his Catholic faith. The father was particularly embittered by the Nazi eugenics campaign during which a Ratzinger cousin with Down Syndrome, at the age of fourteen, was exterminated.

Young Joseph was a reluctant recruit, refusing to attend meetings (Uranus in the first would tend toward a rebellious attitude). In 1943, while in the seminary, at the age of sixteen he was drafted into the anti-aircraft corp. Illness (Jupiter, Mercury and Uranus in the first house of health in a T-square to the MC and Mars in the fourth and Moon opposition Sun squaring Pluto in the fourth) kept him from rigorous duty and in 1945 as the allied forces drew near he deserted his post to return to his family where American troops had established their headquarters. He was put into a POW camp and released a few months later whereupon he and his brother reentered the seminary. He distinguished himself as a student, achieved professorship by 1958 and is known as a prolific writer.

During his early academic career he was a close associate of Hans Kung, a radical modernist theologian and controversial figure (Jupiter and Uranus conjunct Mercury in the first house) who was an influential factor in the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. Ratzinger also served on this Council (Pioneering Sun in Aries in the first house making a grand trine to visionary Neptune in Leo in the sixth house of service and religious Sagittarian MC). In 1968 Ratzinger wrote a book entitled *Introduction to Christianity* in which he downplays the centrality of the papacy, saying it was too centralized, rule-bound and overly controlled from Rome. The Uranus conjunction Mercury and Jupiter likely explains his unconventional or “radical” tendencies in his early career. However, it isn’t surprising that he might also be subject to 180° change with Uranus and the Sun making the opposition to Moon in the seventh. It’s likely that his superiors (MC and Sun) considered him to be an intellectual force (Mercury in first) with the capacity for original and leading edge religious thinking (Jupiter, Mercury, Uranus conjunction). The T-square aspect of Jupiter, Mercury and Uranus square MC and Mars likely proved too much strife and stress for him personally and he began backing away from his earlier positions, seeking a position more in keeping with the Saturn SAFETY urges expressing through the ninth house of religion, philosophy and higher learning (Mercury trine Saturn).

The consequence of change was not as he anticipated. With the rioting of the student movement in the 1960s his reversal began. He saw the loss of respect for authority as stemming from of a departure from traditional Catholic teachings. This change of position stimulated antagonism from his peers who accused him of a radical departure from his earlier positions. Though he claims his core thinking did not nor has not actually changed, others do not agree with his assessment. (Uranus, the planet of debate, can argue any point of view!)

Saturn ruling the SAFETY URGES in the ninth house of religion and philosophy trine Mercury and Uranus in the first house likely stimulated his move toward a more conservative point of view and the creation of his personal image as being a “defender of traditional Catholic doctrine and values.” Because of the trine to Saturn it makes sense that he would be attracted to the “safest” path rather than the “radical” path which is associated with the energy of the T-square. The stress of taking the path of the reformer more than likely had a negative effect on his health.

His Birth Chart

Planets East and West are equally divided. Therefore his life’s energy is balanced between being molded by the environment and circumstances of life and exercising his influence over the same.

With eight planets below the horizon he likes the “private” life. Zain remarks that many planets below the horizon suggest a person who is seldom given credit for the abilities they possess because they are hidden. However, in this case the powerful T-square and grand trine to the MC suggest ample opportunity for notice and credit (or discredit).

Power: With seven planets in angles he is a powerful figure in his environment. About those matters that he chooses to exercise influence, his *volume* of energy is sufficient to reach a high level of significance.

Society: Forty-six percent of his life’s energy expresses through personal houses suggesting that he is a powerful personal presence in any setting and that a major part of the energies of his life have been devoted to personal interests.

Trinity: With the greatest preponderance of energy expressing through the Trinity of Life (42 percent/37.76) one would expect to find a person whose attitude and action toward considerations of Life (birth, reproduction and religion) would take precedence over issues and interests related to wealth, associates and psychism.

Elements: Mostly harmonious fire (34.8 percent/+47.10) and water (31.2 percent/+8.53) he functions primarily on the energy of zeal and enthusiasm. He is also inclined to sympathy, emotion and receptivity (his music is likely a positive outlet for this energy).

Quality: With 53.9 percent on his energy expressing through mutable signs he is drawn to activity involving *adaptability* and the development of ideas and projects. However, this energy is slightly discordant (-0.77). His movable or *pioneering* energy is also discordant (27.4 percent/-17.26). Though the fixed energy is least powerful (18.7 percent/40.79) it is the most harmonious and he is probably most comfortable when he *fixes* a position and then works to *perfect* it.

Houses:

The first house rules personality, health, the body.

It is the most powerful house with 34.2 percent of his energy. It is also the most harmonious house with 40.69 harmodynes. The power of this house comes from two similar and one distinctly different stellar structures.

The first is a difficult and powerful T-square (described earlier) between Jupiter (RELIGIOUS urges), Mercury (INTELLECTUAL urges) and Uranus (INDIVIDUALITY urges) in the first house squaring the MC (mother, job, business, honor, reputation) and Mars (AGGRESSIVE urges) in the fourth (father, real estate, home, end of things). The second is a T-square from the Sun in the first opposition Moon in the seventh, square Pluto in the fourth. His solar or masculine energy is in direct opposition to his lunar or feminine energy and this sense of separation is exacerbated by the coercive forces (Pluto) of the environment and the father. From an astrological perspective he may have had great difficulty expressing his sense of masculinity vs. his feminine nature by comparison with his father and the other male figures of his environment.

His saving grace, in terms of creating an outlet for his energy, is the grand trine from the Sun in Aries in the first to Neptune in Leo and a Sagittarian Midheaven. The grand trine is within a degree of orb making it very powerful. Additionally, the Sun and MC are only five minutes apart which means in Hermetic (Standard) system of progressions the Sun and MC are trine by progression for his entire life as movement of the MC is linked to the progressed movement of the Sun. From this aspect one might predict a highly successful career and a high degree of acquired personal power.

It is likely that as a child before the adult energy of his midheaven was engaged (which would tune him into the grand trine) his life was fraught with obstacles and periods of separation (T-square). While this writer has found no biographical evidence, it is highly possible that as a child Ratzinger’s sensitive (Pisces) and hyper-intellectual (Mercury conjunct Uranus) personality may have expressed as “timidity and fretfulness” (*Horoscope Maker & Reader*) which may have been a challenge for his free-spirited Sagittarian Mother (MC) and aggressive father (Mars in fourth). He has described his own childhood as rootless, marked by the “shadow of the horror of the Third Reich.” (*Milestones: Memoirs 1927-1977* by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.)

With maturity it’s likely he naturally attracted opportunity and good fortune associated with the solar energy of his chart (Sun is most harmonious planet). That being a grand trine between his Sun in Aries in the first house, his Sagittarian MC and Neptune in the sixth house thereby redirecting the discordant T-square energy. The first house Sun is also sextile Mars in the fourth, serving to drain the opposition between the MC

(Continued on page 10)

(mother and authority figures) and Mars (militant father, home). As a young child these energies must have been challenging for him to harness. As he grew into his vocation and work, his good fortune may have helped to recondition and naturally redirect his discordant energy into greater confidence and certainty. Clearly he has been very successful in his church career occupying the most powerful position (Sun is his most harmonious planet with 20.87 harmodynes).

Interestingly, Jupiter, the Religious planet is the natural antidote to both Mercury and Uranus...this makes for a naturally occurring alchemical compound expressing through is personality. While one might expect him to have a nervous and hypersensitive physical body, he has the ability to find peace through his religion.

The second house rules money, personal property—moderately powerful with 7.5% of energy with 21.05 harmodynes.

With Venus (7.9 percent/14.03) in Taurus in the second house it is likely that personal possessions have come easily for him. Venus, at home in Taurus, facilitates the harmonious expression of this energy. He established the Ratzinger Foundation whose purpose is to fund scholarships and bursaries for poorer students across the world. The Foundation makes much of its money from the selling of Pope Benedict's various writings.

The third house rules thought, studies, short journeys, relatives—weak house with 3.9% of energy but ruled by most powerful planet.

Mercury (12.1 percent/-9.30) ruling the third house from the first house shows that he has a natural inclination to communicate and write. Mercury is slightly discordant so one might expect a little restlessness in his communications (though with the conjunction to Jupiter it is likely when his thoughts relate to religious matters, he is able to find greater peace in his thinking.

Fourth house rules father, real estate, home, end of things—second most powerful house with 14.2 % of energy with 31.99 discordynes.

Mars (8.5 percent /-22.72) and Pluto (7.7 percent/-4.62) in the fourth house help to make the fourth house the most discordant house in his chart. Strife and coercion, likely associated with "the dark shadow of Nazism" were part of his formative years. Both planets are involved in T-squares. The most powerful aspect Mars makes is the square to Mercury and the most powerful aspect Pluto makes is a square to the Moon. The combination of both stresses likely leads to a fragile constitution and irritable nervous system. Home is not a soothing place for him to be. In his autobiography he states: "Unemployment was rife; war reparations weighed heavily on the German economy; battles among the political parties set people against one another; endless illnesses visited the family. But there were also many beautiful memories of friendship and neighborly aid, memories of small family celebrations and of church life."

Fifth house rules speculation, children, love affairs, entertainment—weak house with 2.4% of power with 8.84 discordynes.

Cancer is on the cusp of the fifth house and is ruled by Moon in Libra (5.8 percent/-17.68). The most powerful aspect made by the Moon is a square to Pluto (11.81/-11.81). The ability to experience personal pleasures is subject to fluctuating, coercive factors in his home life and open enemies. Apparently, he has managed to create many open enemies from the more progressive leaning theologians of the Catholic Church as a result of his early work as a reformist and later switch to "Defender" of traditional Catholic dogma.

Sixth house rules work, illness, food, employees—moderately powerful with 6.4% of energy with 28.15 harmodynes.

Neptune (5.8 percent /17.72) in Leo ruling his sixth house is harmonious but weak. According to Zain, Neptune in the sixth house can lead to difficulty in diagnosing illness. Also, with the UTOPIAN thought cells expressing through the house of service it might be expected that impractical employees and disorders due to sensitivity may be experienced. That Neptune is in harmony contributes to his IDEALISM as opposed to a VAGUE sense of reality.

Seventh house rules marriage, partnership, public, open enemies—moderately powerful with 9.8% of energy with 18.83 discordynes.

Moon in the seventh (7.4 percent/-17.68) becomes powerful in the sense that it is an angular house and a luminary. The only good aspect it makes is a very weak sextile or opportunity aspect to Saturn...his mentality is colored by the systematic, logical and tough taskmaster. Because his natural desires are for fluctuation it must wear on his constitutional health. That the Moon is in mutual reception with Venus likely contributes to his love of music. In general from this discordant position one might expect that his Domestic energy expresses from CHANGEABLENESS rather than ADAPATION. It makes a powerful square to Pluto which does not bode well for a good relationship with the public.

The eighth house rules death, inheritance, taxes, money of others—weak house with 2.6% of energy with 6.83 discordynes.

Empty, with Scorpio on the cusp and therefore co-ruled by Mars and Pluto, both of which are discordant, one might expect that matters associated with the influence of the dead, death, gifts, legacies, the public's money and the ability of those owing to pay would be unpleasant matters for him. The sexual abuse scandal coming to pass during his watch as Pope may be an expression of this energy.

The ninth house rules publicly expressed opinions, books, religion, long journeys—moderate energy with 5.5% of power with 5.91 harmodynes.

With Saturn in the ninth one might expect that publicly stated opinions, policy and positions would be governed from the conservative SAFETY urges. He likely finds security in dogma.

The tenth house rules the mother, job, business, honor, reputation—the third most powerful house with 10.1% of total

energy and 1.17 harmodynes.

In his autobiography he states that the father's profession as a policeman was a hardship on the mother (MC opposition Mars and square Jupiter, Mercury and Uranus) who worked hard to create a home in the challenging public houses assigned to policemen. That his mother had to work so hard contrasted with her true nature. According to Benedict she loved nothing better than to go on long hikes in nature with her children. The fact that Jupiter, ruler of the tenth, is in the first house suggests that his personal issues (possibly health concerns) were an obstacle for his mother. However, the MC is also in a grand trine from the Sun in the first and Neptune in the sixth. This stellar compound bodes well for endeavors related to business (sixth and tenth houses are business houses) and his vital personal interests. It is likely his mother also recognized his ability and helped to facilitate his growth in these areas.

Eleventh house rules hopes, friends, acquaintances—the weakest house in the chart and slightly discordant with 1.49 discordynes.

With Saturn in the ninth house governing friends it is likely that his friends are fellow conservative clergymen and those persons associated with his publishing interests.

Twelfth house rules secret energies, disappointments, astral entities—second weakest house with 1.58 discordynes.

It's likely these matters are of very little concern in his life. But to the extent they are, issues would be generated from the first house Uranus and ninth house Saturn.

Spiritual Astrology

Mercury is found in the VICISSITUDES decanate of Pisces. His communication urges express from the need to have an eventful life. According to Zain, Mercury in this decanate implies the desire and ability to enter into and succeed in a wide variety of careers and lends the quality of adaptability and likeability. Clearly his Mercurial or intellectual talents have led him into a variety of opportunities for service to his vocation. He has been a writer, teacher, benefactor, defender of the faith, confidante, counselor and spokesperson for the Pope, ultimately achieving the role of Pope.

His ASC is in the Andromeda or SELF SACRIFICE decanate of Pisces. With the personality expressing through this decanate he is likely to have experienced restrictions and limitations with regard to his physical body, personality, personal magnetism and/or health. Often these conditions are assumed voluntarily as the price enacted by the world for the sake of assisting in its progress. He has been quoted as saying that before being elected the Pope he had been looking forward to a quiet life of writing. Zain says this decanate readily grasps the true meaning of universal brotherhood and gains the most from alleviating physical and mental suffering of their fellow humans. This placement suggests that he is a sympathetic person who truly desires the best interest of others.

His Sun or sense of significance is in the PROPAGANDA or

third decanate of Aries. Zain says that persons born with this decanate have the power to destroy the crystallizing influence of licentiousness and selfish greed. They may become the valiant heroes to successfully fight against the sordid conditions that oppress civilized life. In the philosophical field they work to release Andromeda, the human soul, which is all too often found chained to the rock of materialism. Whether one agrees with his publicly held positions, much of his commentary does seem to address his perception of materialism and its impact upon the soul. Of course, one must consider the environmental perspective from which he makes his judgment.

Draco the dragon or second decanate of Libra is the constellation where his Moon is found. His mentality expresses through the INDEPENDENCE decanate, Zain says that persons born with this decanate prominent often find opposition to their view which they feel obliged to "slay." They are natural exponents of liberty in thought and action, and rebel against restrictions. They are enthusiastic members or leaders of progressive movements, fighting the tendency toward crystallized conservatism. Now, this doesn't really sound like the image the public in general holds of this Pope! However, it's interesting to note that in his early career, during Vatican II, it did describe him. The fact that his Moon is in a T-square (opposition Sun and Uranus and square to Pluto) indicates great pressure on his psyche in this matter. As an astrologer, it seems clear that he is probably conflicted when it comes to some of his publically stated positions with regard to human freedoms and the institution of the church.

Conclusion

Without a doubt, this is a very complex human being who most likely has never experienced the freedom to express his true nature. His autobiography is fascinating for what it reveals about his Mercurial nature. Two things stand out. The first is the elegance of his communication. Clearly he is very intelligent—a brilliant and eloquent communicator. The second is the insight into the boundaries of war and institutions that give definition to the expression of this intellect. Here is a man whose ruling planet is Mercury. It is likely he's been in search of "truth" his entire life. Yet, because of the rigidity and harshness of his formative life, he seems to have been forced to look at only one side of the fullness of life. In reading his words, there are glimpses of a compassionately brilliant soul trying to expand and earn its freedom in the scheme of creation. Is he a soul searching for "truth" with far too many obstacles along the path? Can't help but wonder about how happy the folks on the other side will be to have him working on their side once he is free!

By Vicki Brewer



These Challenging Times....

Two Points of View

Regarding general astronomical phenomena:

"The sign occupied by each of the major planets, and the aspects that form between these planets from time to time, have an influence over the trend of world events. Where these events chiefly will take place must be determined from the specific birth charts and progressions, or lacking these, from the Cyclic Charts, of the nations, cities and communities of the world.

"The whole world often is somewhat affected by a given astronomical relationship; but as a rule certain regions of the earth are much more affected than others. For instance, the discovery of the new planet, Pluto, early in 1930 was coincident with a financial depression which affected the whole world. For about seven years after its discovery Pluto was continuously afflicted by the square of the disruptive planet, Uranus, and at times also by the square of Jupiter and the opposition of Saturn.

"No country in the world escaped serious difficulties. But some countries were more influenced than others, and to determine where the influence would thus most pronouncedly be felt, something more than these general astronomical positions had to be known."

—Excerpt from Course XIII, Mundane Astrology by C. C. Zain

In this article the charts for The United States are progressed to significant dates and offered as a means of providing context for those interested in Mundane Astrology. Zain strongly recommends that to determine the specific influence of a phenomena one should look to the chart of the country using the major progressions as well as transits for the slower moving planets.

Here are two points of view from long-standing Church of Light Hermeticians. They represent interesting perspectives from members with vast experience in the financial markets as well as astrology.

Donald Baker: After more than three years in the Army and college majoring in finance and investments, I started attending CofL classes in New York City about 1948-49. Actually, I think I was a CofL candidate from birth. My father erected my birth chart when I was born in July, 1924. He had been studying astrology since he graduated from Princeton in 1908 and then graduated from Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons. I am blessed with the following close grand trine: Uranus in the first house in 21 degrees of Pisces, the Sun in the fifth house in 19 degrees of Cancer, and the Moon in 18 degrees of Scorpio in the eighth house. After college, I worked for more than five years in a retail brokerage house and then for roughly forty years at a major investment advisory company.

Dave Carrothers, who has his Sun, Ascendant, Mars and Jupiter in Taurus, the sign of money, works as a Finance Manager and Bookkeeper for Catholic Community Services in

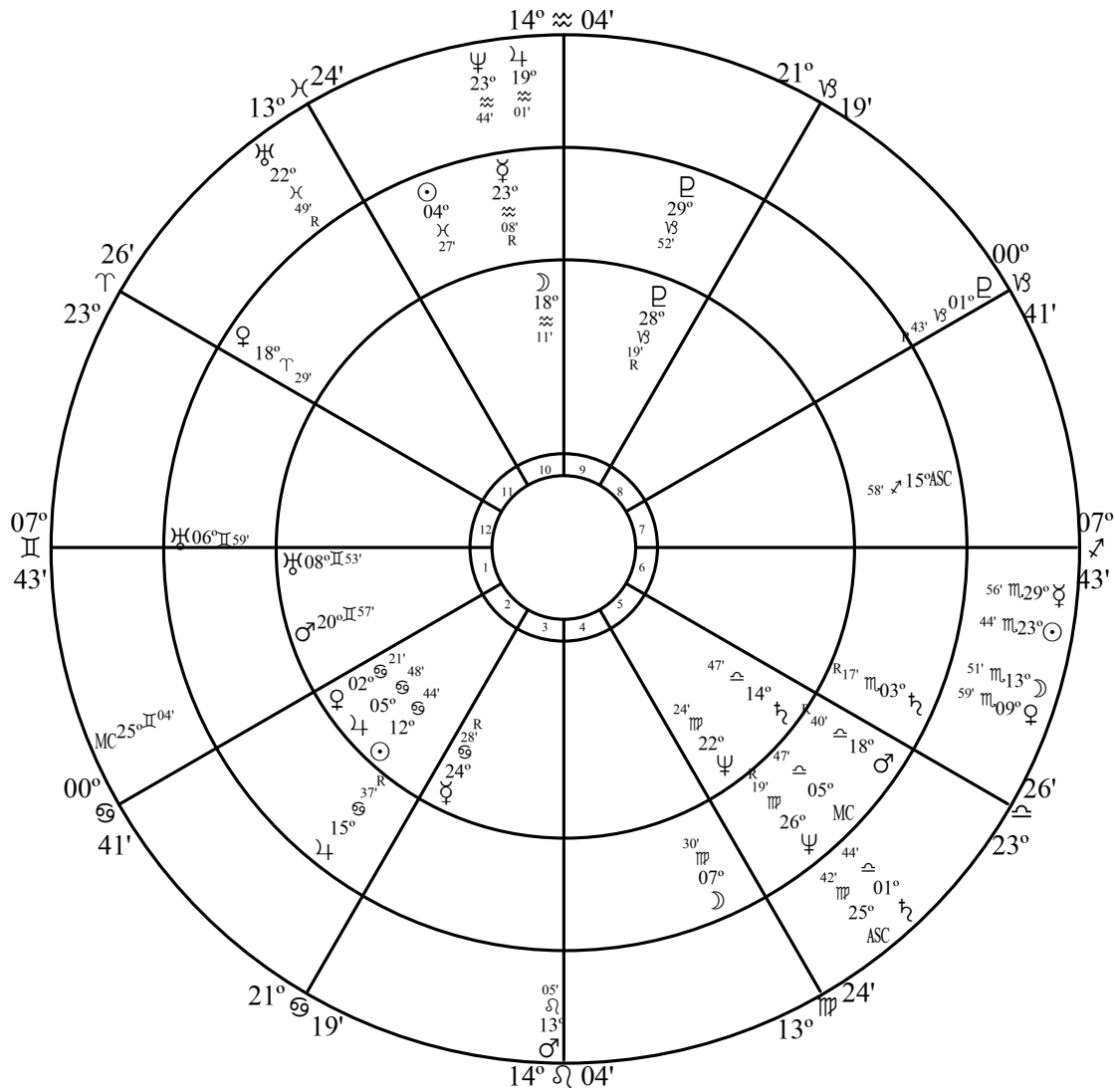
Reno, Nevada. At the age of 20, Dave began his study of metaphysics in 1973. By 1988 he had traveled as far as India on his spiritual quest. In 1990, after reading C. C. Zain's book *The Next Life*, he joined the Church of Light, became a Hermetician in 1993, and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2001. Dave began doing astrological readings in 1987, and continues to offer free natal readings via email on his web site at www.zaintarot.com.

Planetary Transits 2008-1010: A Challenging Mix

By Dave Carrothers

How will we on earth choose to deal with the challenging mix of Saturn, Uranus and Pluto Energies present from October 2008 through August 2010? We will want to do our best to manifest the highest and most constructive uses of the aforementioned energies during these times. People who "go with the flow" will tend to have negative thoughts and behaviors during these astrological transits, unless they make a continuous special effort to stay positive and work toward the common good. God's help will likely be requested by many during this time.

Saturn in Virgo will be opposite Uranus in Pisces, for 21 months starting October 27, 2008, thru August 4, 2010. Events are most likely to happen when the planets are within one degree of orb of opposition (180°) to each other. Due to the retro-



USA Chart

July 4, 1776; 2:14:43 AM; Philadelphia, PA 39N57 08 75W09 51

Progressed to November 15, 2009

First Saturn square Pluto: In this chart look to the eighth house transiting Pluto and fifth house transiting Saturn for triggering events. One might also expect that by major progression the ninth house international relations and sixth house of labor will be affected.

grade motion of the planets the aspects will repeat several times during the following dates:

October 27, 2008, to Nov 14, 2008. The aspect is exact on November 4, 2008. January 26, 2009, to February 14, 2009. The aspect is exact on February 5, 2009. September 9, 2009, to September 21, 2009. The aspect is exact on September 15, 2008. April 17, 2010 to May 8, 2010. The aspect is exact on April 26, 2010. July 15, 2010 to August 4, 2010. The aspect is

exact on July 26, 2010.

Saturn in Virgo wants you to be clear, precise, practical, definite and orderly. It likes to perform useful tasks and do good work. Try to avoid being critical of yourself and others. Eat healthy foods and get plenty of sleep. Take good care of yourself. Saturn rules death by disease and poverty. Saturn wants to feel safe.

(Continued from page 13)

Uranus was last in Pisces from 1920 thru 1928, its back again in 2004 through 2012. Uranus in Pisces is idealistic in the extreme, especially in religious beliefs. Self-sacrifice and or a desire to escape reality by abusing alcohol or drugs can be a danger. Spiritual ideals can inspire people at this time. Uranus is very individualistic and disruptive. Uranus rules hurricanes and tornadoes; with Pluto it rules earthquakes.

Saturn in Virgo has its feet very much on the ground and Uranus in Pisces has its head in the clouds. The challenge of this opposition is in trying to honor the best of both and in doing some of each.

For ten months starting November 2, 2009 thru August 29, 2010, Saturn in Libra will form a square aspect (90°) to Pluto in Capricorn. Hermetic Astrology allows a one degree of orb aspect between planets in progression. Events are most likely to happen when the square is at its strongest between the following dates:

November 2, 2009, to December 7, 2009. The aspect is exact on November 15, 2009. January 10, 2010, to February 15, 2010. The aspect is exact on January 31, 2010. August 13, 2010, to August 29, 2010. The aspect is exact on Aug 21, 2010.

Saturn in Libra is interested in being mature and responsible in all relationships with other people. During this period of Saturn people will be interested in fairness and justice in their interactions with others. They could prefer serious committed relationships with others only after careful thought. Relationships can be lost at this time.

Pluto in Capricorn desires authority figures that it can look up to and respect. Pluto foments transformation and change. On its higher side Pluto in Capricorn expresses as universal welfare and cooperation in practical matters. Pluto seeks high spirituality. Avoid destructive and criminal behavior now. Pluto and Neptune rule floods. Pluto and Mars rule pestilence.

The stress and obstacles during this transit will involve the pursuit of social justice for all in the world. Those who feel they are getting the short end of the stick may be tempted to rebel if their grievances and hardships are not adequately addressed.

Great opportunities for growth and service await us in the coming years.

An Economic Overview

By Donald Baker

From an economic and financial standpoint, the period beginning with 2009 and extending through the mid years of the century's second decade range from poor to dangerous. In the previous article, Dave Carrothers, informs us as how to cope with the squares and oppositions involving Saturn, Uranus, and Pluto, and gives the dates these aspects enter, become exact, and leave one degree of orb.

Around 500 B. C. the Chinese philosopher Confucius said, "Study the past if you would define the future." To see how the aforementioned aspects may work financially and on the general economy, we shall examine how this trio coincided with the "Great Depression" of the early 1930's.

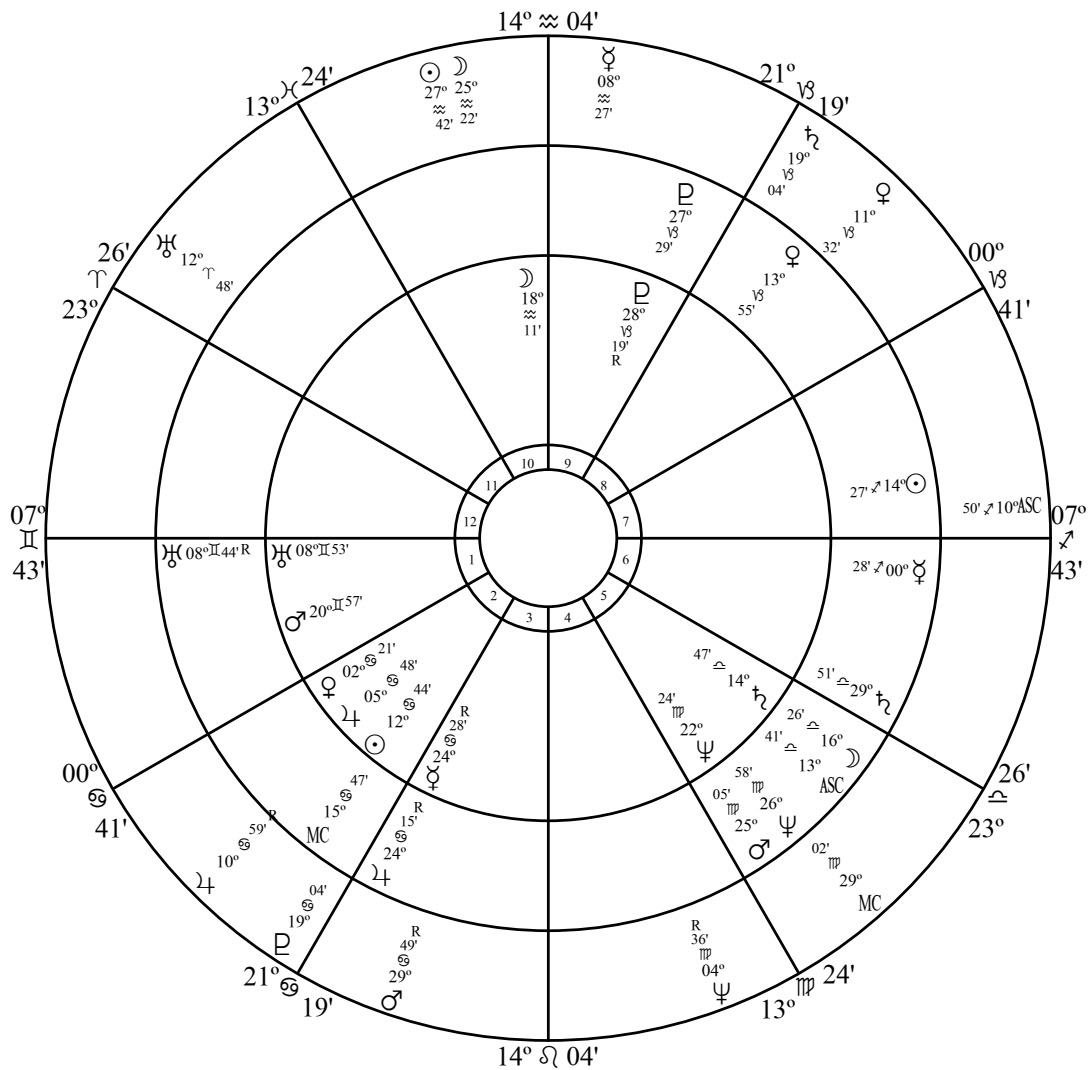
In September 1929, the general public, many on 10% margin, were very active in driving stock market prices to a peak of 31.92. This speculative bubble burst under the square between Uranus and Pluto, which became exact five times from April, 1932 to January, 1934 (see CS XII, *Mundane Astrology* Chapter I). Saturn was square Uranus five times from early 1930 to late 1931. Additionally in 1931, Saturn and Pluto were in opposition three times in February, July, and December. As if these aspects were not bad enough, Jupiter (finance) and Saturn (business) were opposition to each other from approximately mid-1930 to mid-1931. By June, 1932, the Standard & Poor's Composite Index of many stocks in the industrial, railroad, and public utility industries had plummeted 86% from 31.92 to 4.40.

Apart from the stock market's collapse during the early 1930's, dust storms plagued the Dust Bowl, the mid-American farm belt from Texas and Oklahoma north to the Dakotas, causing massive migrations out of rural areas. National unemployment reached a peak of slightly more than 25% in August, 1932 (it is now roughly 5%). During the Great Depression the unemployment rate never dropped below 10% until February, 1941, when military production spurred nearly full employment by

Data

The timing for the charts presented in this article is taken from Course XIII, *Mundane Astrology* by C. C. Zain. The Church of Light acknowledges there are other USA charts held to be equally valid. The CofL position is that only when solid, verifiable experimental research is conducted by a cooperative community of astrologers will the community be able to resolve and validate which chart may be accurate. The CofL hopes to contribute further to that body of knowledge with a systematic study and evolution of shared principles.

The inner wheel shows the natal positions; the middle wheel the major progressions and the outer wheel the transits.



USA Chart

July 4, 1776; 2:14:43 AM; Philadelphia, PA 39N57 08 75W09 51

Progressed to February 17, 1931

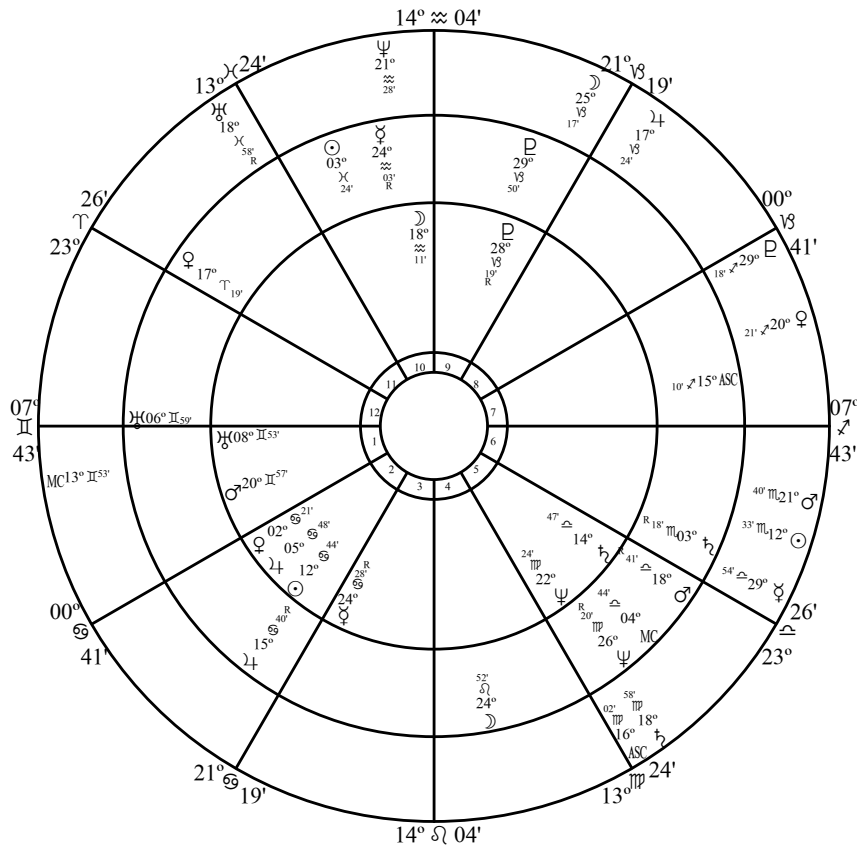
First Saturn opposition Pluto: In this chart look to the second house transiting Pluto and eighth house transiting Saturn for triggering effects. One might also expect that by major progression the ninth house international relations and sixth house of labor will be affected.

(An Economic Overview—Continued from page 14)

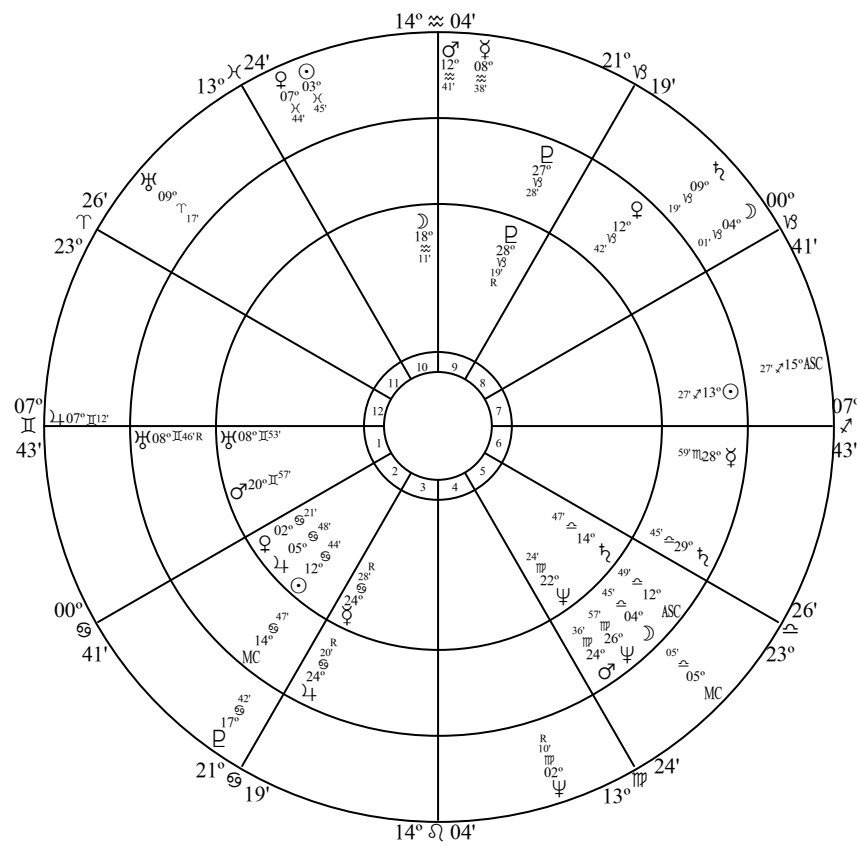
mid-1942; dictatorships (Pluto) arose or increased in power in many countries including Germany, Russia, Italy, Spain, and Japan; and thousands of banks failed, wiping out people's savings—especially small banks in agricultural areas.

In upcoming years, we are not only faced with the Saturn opposition Uranus and the Saturn square Pluto aspects discussed in the previous article, but the square aspect between Uranus and Pluto becomes exact five times in mid-June, 2012, mid-May, 2013, late October, 2013, the spring of 2014, and finally in the

spring of 2015. In addition to problems with such dictator countries as Iran, Syria, Venezuela, Cuba, Myanmar etc., terrorists could obtain nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction. Also, oil production may fall short of demand, and food shortages are a distinct possibility. Higher taxes and greater inflation seem likely. Whoever becomes our next president will be faced with extremely difficult situations. From an individual standpoint savings should be built up this year and credit card debt, if any, should be reduced or eliminated. Rare bargains in the stock market should be available in a few years.



USA Chart
 July 4, 1776; 2:14:43 AM; Philadelphia, PA 39N57 08 75W09 51
 Progressed to November 4, 2008
First Saturn opposition Uranus:
 In this chart look to the fifth house transiting Saturn and eleventh house transiting Uranus for triggering events. One might also expect that by major progression the sixth house of labor and food and the twelfth house (also first house because of the close conjunction with the ASC) of secret enemies and disappointments (citizenry that may also be secret enemies).



USA Chart
 July 4, 1776; 2:14:43 AM; Philadelphia, PA 39N57 08 75W09 51
 Progressed to February 22, 1930
First Saturn square Uranus:
 In this chart look to the eighth house (debt) transiting Saturn creating an obstacle with eleventh house (friends) for triggering events. One might also expect that by major progression the sixth house of labor and food will be in the obstacle aspect with the first house ruling the disruption and the citizens of the US.

(Transmuting Mercury-Continued from page 1)

animal forms of existence. However, just as mercury the metal is quite poisonous if not properly contained and directed so can the habits of thought associated with the INTELLECTUAL urges be poisonous to the nervous system and mentality of the individual. The correspondence to mercury poisoning can be observed as grinding concentration on a problem that can cause nervousness, neuralgia, neuritis, sciatica, hay fever, asthma and some bowel complaints. To the extent that the Intellectual urges are discordantly matched with the domestic thought cells of the Moon is there susceptibility to mental illness.

In addition to the above symptoms if one becomes conscious of experiencing: fretfulness; over thinking a situation or problem; feeling overwrought; mental fatigue; confused and unclear thinking; edginess; inability to control thoughts and speech and inability to concentrate you are likely experiencing the need for a little alchemical treatment. That treatment would be infusing your body, mind and soul with a little alchemical Tin, the metal of Jupiter.

The problem with alchemizing Mercury is that Mercury doesn't want to let go. The powers of discrimination that have gotten the soul this far along its evolutionary path are difficult to release. To let go and rely on others is not always comfortable.

This can be problematic because to flux Mercury and create alchemical gold requires invoking the RELIGIOUS urges of Jupiter. Jupiterian thinking comfortably places reliance upon a higher power because it easily attracts pleasure and fortune from the environment. An over active Mercury must look at every gift horse in the mouth! It must analyze everything before accepting it. However, there is nothing quite as powerful or rewarding as the spiritual gold resulting from fluxing the Intellectual Urges and the Religious Urges.

Overly stimulated Religious Urges leads to placing too much faith in others or authority figures rather than developing the qualities of discernment. Learning to measure and discern the

quality of information or guidance one receives from others is the work of cool, neutral Mercury. Mercury's gift is the ability to hold a "belief system" to the light and determine if it leads to harmony, discord and/or wholeness.

Mercury in a thermometer measures temperature. The cool reason of Mercury measures passions that have been allowed to heat to unhealthy levels. It also tells when life is running too cold. If life is passionless and the joy of serendipity is elusive there may be too much Mercury. The life force is sending a message. It's time to step back from analysis and thought and step into faith. Life holds far more possibility than these wonderful but limited minds can ever imagine. Opening to the possibility of a *Higher Power, Larger Purpose* or whatever is bigger than self holds the possibility of pure transmuted gold. It holds the possibility of discovering the undifferentiated parts of self never *thought* possible!

Take pleasure in the god-given ability to think, communicate and solve life's problems. Also cultivate awareness that the *safety net* is as large as the ability to find Nature's or the Creator's bounty in all experience. Start small. Learning to believe in *you* is the same as learning to believe in God. It takes time and small steps. Next time restlessness from a seemingly unsolvable problem visits consciousness make the effort to reach out to someone else. If the first person asked can't help or gives bad advice, don't give up! Know there is a whole crew of folks here and on the other side rooting for you to succeed. In fact, each person is designed to make mistakes and then find success. If habitual thinking says you're the only one that can solve your problem...stand back, take a break. If you truly can't find someone to help with the solution then say a prayer. There is ALWAYS someone listening for a sincere prayer. In the calm of a moment the nugget will show itself for you to gather. Remember to always say thank you — thank you to your higher self for making the connection and thank you to the cheering section for their support!

By Vicki Brewer

The Church of Light Annual Membership Meeting

October 16, 2008 at 6 PM

Location: Church of Light Headquarters at 2119 Gold Ave. SE, Albuquerque, NM

For those members unable to attend,

Teleconference service is provided by Freeconferencecall.com*

The conference Dial-in number is: (616) 347-8100

The participant Access Code is 1049959#

* The person dialing-in will be charged for a long distance phone call based upon their personal long-distance phone plan.



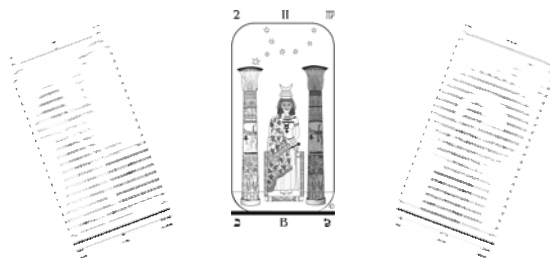
Save the Date Convention June 19-21, 2009

The Church of Light Convention Committee is busily preparing for next year's Convention to be held June 19-21, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Church of Light conventions are great opportunities for building camaraderie and learning from expert Church of Light mentors.

The conference theme "A Magical Mystery Tour" will take the participant on a mystical journey through the Brotherhood of Light teachings on astrology, alchemy, and the tarot.

Every year we also host pre-conference tours for those attendees planning to make New Mexico their summer vacation destination. This year our locations will be:

Preconference Workshop—Tarot and Initiation: the Three Paths



This year a special preconference presentation titled *Tarot and Initiation; the Three Paths* will be offered by Christopher Gibson on Friday June 19, 2009, from 9 a.m. – 12 noon

In *The Ritual of Egyptian Initiation*, the very first serial in The Brotherhood of Light Lessons, C. C. Zain writes about the rigorous trials an initiate underwent as preparation for acceptance into the mystery schools. Zain's descriptions were based on the translation of a more ancient, mysterious manuscript which also included the admonitions associated with each of the major Arcanum in *The Sacred Tarot*. Hidden within the overall narrative of initiation pictured by the major Arcanum are three separate paths of initiation which correspond to the Egyptian trinity of Osiris, Isis, and Horus. In this three hour tarot intensive taught by Christopher Gibson we will explore the possible sources of this secret manuscript, describe each of the three paths, and identify our personal path of progress.

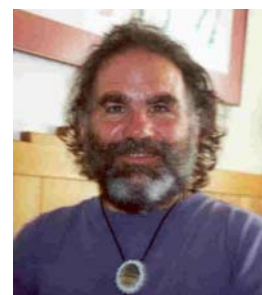
If you are interested in being a presenter at the 2009 Convention contact The Church of Light Convention Committee for an application at: 2119 Gold Avenue SE., Albuquerque, NM 87107-4072. Or e-mail to: marymeg@light.org

Medical Astrology Intensive with Paul Bergner—September 12—13, 2008

Paul's presentation on medical astrology uses sample horoscopic charts and medical histories to demonstrate the influence of the discordant planets, in the chart, on health. Topics covered will include the use of Astrodynes© in diagnosing natal predispositions, the impact of progressed aspects, and the onset of disease. The astrological signatures of the various methods of natural healing and ways to use them to counter the discords inherent in the constitution will be discussed.

Paul Bergner has practiced Astrology since 1971, and natural healing since 1973. He has engaged in

doctorate level studies at the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland Oregon. He is owner and director of the North American Institute of Medical Herbalism in Boulder, Colorado; which offers clinical education to professionals, in medical herbalism and clinical nutrition. He has authored seven books on medical herbalism, clinical nutrition, ethnobotany, and naturopathy. He has served as faculty at Naropa University, The Tai Sophia Institute, Seven Bowls school of nutrition, and the Scottish School of Medical Herbalism. Paul, who first joined the Church of Light in 1986, is one of our most popular and engaging speakers.



Paul Bergner



Sunday Services—Albuquerque

Sunday Services are held on the third Sunday of the month at 11am.

Our liturgy includes an opening and announcements by Rev. Paul Brewer, a discussion on the relationship of the sign of the zodiac to the current season and holidays by Rev. Christopher Gibson, a homily on a topic derived from Spiritual Astrology by Rev. Meg Dissinger, the Healing Ritual and petitions with Rev. Vicki

Brewer. Musical accompaniment is provided by Meg Dissinger on guitar and occasionally we have vocals by Radine Ramsey.

2008 Schedule of Services

July 20-Christmas in July
August 17-A Labor of Love
September 21-Dragon, Dragon

Sponsorship Program

The Church of Light offers a Sponsorship Program for financially disadvantaged members. Sponsors agree to financially assist a member in their C of L studies by contributing their membership fee, supplying lessons, and donating for the exam processing fee as the student studies the lessons and passes exams. To remain in the sponsorship program, an enrolled member must pass an exam once every six months with a grade of 75% or better. The next course is mailed only upon completion of the previous course.

A prisoner in the sponsorship program writes

“ Before I began my studies with the C of L my tab test here was a 6. Then in '04 or '05 I tested 11.0 with 12 as highest. I then took and passed the GED Test without any school. I scored very high in science, etc. It was clearly my C of L studies that raised my level of education.”

There are always more members wishing to be sponsored than we have sponsors. Currently there are eleven persons on the waiting list. If you are interested in anonymously sponsoring a member in need, please contact our Membership Minister, Rev. Patrick Ramsey at drpat@prodigy.net or call the office during our regular office hours. All contributions to the Sponsorship Program are tax-deductible.

Albuquerque—Astrology and Tarot Classes—Fall 2008

Classes will be offered at Church of Light Headquarters at 2119 Gold Avenue, Albuquerque on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30—8:30 pm.

Fall 2008

Introduction to Astrology

• Christopher Gibson
5 Thursdays, September 4 – October 2

Beginning Egyptian Tarot

• Allyn McCray
6 Tuesdays, October 7 – November 11

There is a suggested donation of \$8 per class.

Call 505-247-1338 for a brochure or calendar of events



Church of Light—Fort Worth



Classroom Fort Worth Branch Church

The Fort Worth branch of The Church of Light offers classes on the first and second Tuesdays of the month from 7-9 p.m.

2008 Schedule of Classes

- July 1st - Spiritual Astrology
- July 8th - Progressing the Horoscope
- August 5th - Spiritual Astrology
- August 12th - Progressing the Horoscope
- September 2nd - Spiritual Astrology
- September 9th - Progressing the Horoscope

Sunday services are held on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. - 1p.m.

2008 Schedule of Services

- July 15th - Leo
- August 17th - Virgo
- September 21st - Libra

All classes and services are held at Owl's Clover Bookstore, 3037 James Ave., Fort Worth, TX.

For more information contact Rev. Gail Carswell or Rev. Michael Foltz at: 817-921-5809.

Heavenly Myths—Dancing With Your Stars

On Sundays (except the third Sunday of the month) from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. member Veiga O'Sickey hosts an informal conversation group discussing the symbolism and mythology found in The Brotherhood of Light Lessons.

This is an opportunity to meet in an open forum with other Church of Light members and friends to discuss the ancient mythology of astrology, alchemy, and tarot and its application to our lives. You are welcome to bring a snack or potluck item to share with others.



Veiga O'Sickey

Welcome New Hermetician

Joyce Ditmanson



The Church of Light In Florida

On May 25th Church of Light members met in Satellite Beach, Florida. The festivities which were hosted by Leslie Marlar, Emmett Perry, and Diane Pinney, attracted several participants. The program included refreshments, introductions, an overview of the

Church of Light lessons, and a discussion of future plans for other events. To participate in future events planned for the Florida region call Leslie at 321-779-0604, or email her at:

leslie.marlar@gmail.com

The Dynamics of Progressions—August 15-17, 2008

In August we will be offering a weekend intensive on the Hermetic System of Progressions. From the time of birth forward the planets continue to move through our charts, these planetary movements are called Progressions.

Progressed Aspects can be likened to “astrological weather conditions” attracting such events as sunshine or storms with our health, wind-falls or losses with our finances, or times where we might either make or break off relationships, as well as numerous other activities.

Progressed aspects can take place between progressed planets as well as the planets in the chart of birth, stimulating temporary periods of heightened activity in our lives.

The Hermetic System of Progressions as taught by The Church of Light uses a unique combination of Major, Minor, and Transiting Progressions to determine the “triggers” that

attract specific types of events into our lives.

In this intensive we will learn what type of events are attracted by each of the planets, the energetic expression of each of the ten progressed aspects, the nature of major, minor, and transit progressions, and how to read a progression report indicating when aspects enter, become perfect, and leave orb.

In addition to lecture, these “hands-on” intensives allow plenty of time interactive exercises.

The program commences on Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon. It will be held at Church of Light headquarters in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

For out of state guests who want to participate we are just five minutes drive from the Albuquerque Sunport. There is plenty of lodging, restaurants, and shopping nearby. Please contact us if you need help

planning your trip.

The workshops will be facilitated by Meg Dissinger and Christopher Gibson. Each instructor is a Hermetician and Minister in The Church of Light with over 40 years of study in the field of astrology.

The intensives are being offered for the incredible low suggested donation of \$50 and are limited to 20 participants. We suggest you register in advance to secure your space.

For more details email:

christopher@light.org

marymeg@light.org, or

Call: 505-247-1338



Alchemy Intensive 2005

“From the time of birth forward the planets continue to move through our charts these planetary movements are called Progressions.”



Astrology Intensive 2004

Whole Expo—Santa Fe

On Saturday May 31st and Sunday June 1st, The Church of Light participated at the Whole Expo in Santa Fe.

Veiga O’Sickey, Paul Brewer, and Allyn McCray coordinated booth space at this two day holistic health and ecological conference. Other church members Alex, Patrick Ramsey, and F. Wellington helped staff the booth and offer support.

The event, which was held at

the Museo Cultural de Santa Fe featured a trade show and presenters on a variety of topics including astrology, divination, solar power, sustainability, permaculture, homeopathy, herbology, yoga, massage, gems, and essential oils.

The Church of Light maintained its presence with books, catalogs, and flyers on upcoming events, and offered mini-readings to introduce the public to hermetic astrology Egyptian Tarot.



Veiga O’Sickey, Paul Brewer, and Allyn McCray at Whole Expo—Santa Fe

Tarot Correspondence—The Magus



Divination

Expresses in the spiritual world, Absolute Being, which contains, and from which emanates, the infinity of possibilities. In the intellectual world, unity, principle and synthesis of numbers, and the will principle of acts. In the physical world, man the highest placed of relative being, who is called upon to raise himself by a perpetual expansion of his faculties in the concentric spheres of the Absolute.

Admonition

Remember, then, son of earth, that man should, like God, act without ceasing. To will nothing and do nothing is more fatal than to will and do ill. If the Magus should appear in the prophetic signs of thy horoscope, it announces that a firm will and faith in yourself, guided by reason and a love of justice will conduct you to the end that you wish to attain and will preserve you from the perils of the way.

Astrology

The commencement of all work is its formulation, and this is a mental activity. Before the universe became manifest it was conceived within the spaces of the Divine Mind, from whence it was launched into objective evolution by the power of creative thought. Thus does mental activity correspond to number 1.

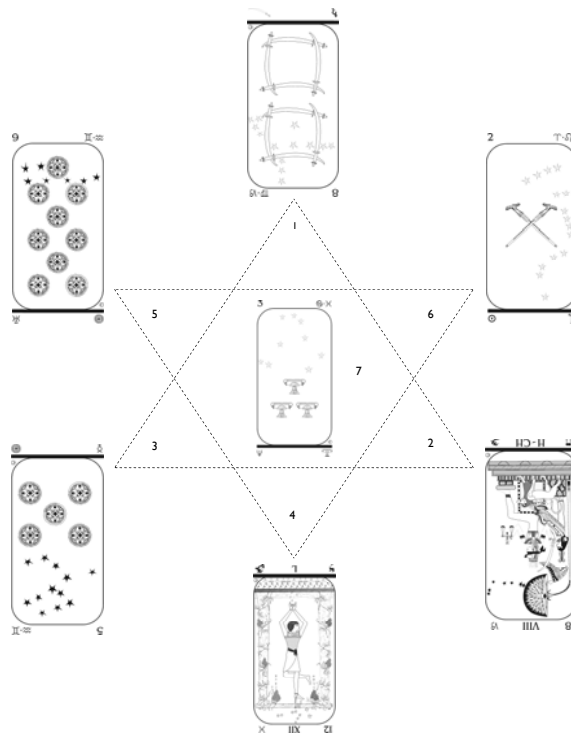
Excerpts from *The Sacred Tarot* by C. C. Zain

Tarot Spread Example—The Magic 7 Spread

The following question was asked in late May 2008:

“What surrounds the disappearance of (anonymous)?”

1. Past—Eight of Swords (reversed)
2. Present— Arcanum VIII, The Balance (reversed)
3. Future—Five of Coins (reversed)
4. Ability to Control—Arcanum XII—The Martyr (reversed)
5. Environment—Nine of Coins
6. Opposition— Two of Scepters
7. Outcome—Three of Cups



Tarot Spread Interpretation

In late April, 2008, a C of L student was abducted while traveling interstate by bus.

- 1) The past of the matter is represented by the Eight of Swords reversed. This could indicate that the student may have been abducted by a dishonorable person that she knew from her past.
- 2) The present of the matter inquired about is represented by Arcanum VIII—The Balance reversed. This represents that legal authorities have been notified, but may be limited in their ability to help by lack of resources.
- 3) Card number three, the Five of Coins reversed, represents the future of the matter inquired about. Perhaps the young woman is being held for economic gain or until a past debt has been repaid.
- 4) The fourth position in the Magic 7 Spread is a powerful position. It represents the querent’s ability to control the matter being inquired about. Here we have The Martyr reversed indicating that there is little she can do to escape the situation as she might be held in a state of servitude or where her mobility is

seriously restricted.

- 5) The forces in the environment favorable to the matter are represented by the fifth position in the spread. The Nine of Coins is here which could indicate that the missing person might be held in sequestration with other persons that that provide some camaraderie or friendship. Perhaps friends might pool resources to purchase her debt or pay her ransom.
- 6) The sixth card represents the forces in the environment which oppose the matter. Here we find the Deuce of Scepters. This might indicate that she has been placed into some kind of forced labor. This could also indicate that the detective’s tools are limited.
- 7) The seventh card is a synthesis of the reading and represents the final outcome. Here we have the Trey of Cups. This indicates being eventually reunited with family and close relationships, possibly by mid July.



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The Church of Light

Contribute Your Utmost to Universal Welfare

Vision Statement

OUR MISSION:

To promote Universal Welfare and the exaltation of humankind through the teaching and practices of the Religion of the Stars as outlined in the writings of C.C. Zain.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

A loving Cosmic Intelligence, of which we are all a part, whose infinite goodness guides us through undeviating natural law.

A Divine Plan manifests through progressive evolution in which each soul has a unique and important role.

A soul is completely moral when to the maximum extent of its abilities it adheres to the universal moral code: Contribute Your Utmost to Universal Welfare.

The realization of the soul's Mission and the attainment of Self-Conscious Immortality is the goal toward which each soul moves.

Love is the way to life. Unselfish Love alone makes immortality possible.

Through the proper exercise of one's mentality using Directed Thinking and Induced Emotion, it is possible to control one's own life and destiny, both here and hereafter.

Astrology is the Golden Key that unlocks the door to understanding the Soul's true character and potential.

The safe development of extrasensory perception (Extension of Consciousness) is the best tool for realizing each individual's mission in the Divine Plan and for verifying the survival of the soul after death of the physical body.

Religion is the sister of Science, and it evolves by incorporating new information as it is discovered and verified.

OUR VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY:

We are a powerful force for good and for spiritual enlightenment and expand the reach and experience of our members because:

We provide reliable and verifiable information regarding the nature of the soul and its relationship to Deity and other life forms;

We seek out reliable and verifiable information regarding life on higher planes of existence, especially in regard to the transition we call death and the nature of the next life;

We develop increasingly advanced tools and training in astrology, extrasensory perception, directed thinking and induced emotion toward the end of maximizing each person's happiness, usefulness and spirituality;

We promote the importance of the four essential freedoms: Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion;

We build a sense of community and spiritual purpose which uplifts and inspires our members to Contribute Their Utmost To Universal Welfare.