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- Astrological Keywords
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- Tarot Spread Example
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- Stellanian Honor Guard 4th Quarter 2016

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The Sacred Hebrew Alphabet: Kaph Moving Towards Manifestation

Scenza

The eleventh letter of the Hebrew Alefbayt (AB) is Kaph. According to modern linguistics, Kaph is classified as a *voiceless velar stop*, as it is pronounced by momentarily interrupting the air flow near the velum, or soft palate, near the back of the mouth. The Ancient Kabbalists used a different name, but similarly defined the point of articulation of this sound as a *palatal*, indi-

cating that it is articulated by interrupting airflow at the palate, or roof of the mouth.

Recall that the Ancient Kabbalists identified 5 distinct points of articulation in the mouth. Beginning from the most recessed position and moving forwards, they are: guttural, palatal, lingual, dental, and labial. While it is still a working hypothesis, there appears to be some level of

evidence that there is a relationship between the point of articulation of a sound and its meaning and use in BH. This concept is called sound symbolism, or phonosemantics. Applying this concept, guttural letters, since they are produced in the most hidden and unseen portions of the mouth, appear to be associated with the hidden,

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The Semi Square: Getting Our Attention

Margaret Dissinger

The Semi-square aspect is formed when two planets are 45 degrees apart by zodiacal longitude. We can generally compute this as a sign and a half. It has an orb that ranges from 3 degrees for planets in a cadent house (3, 6, 9, 12) to 6 degrees for a luminary (Sun or Moon) in an angular house (1, 4, 7, 10). The waves of astral energy, radiated by planets in a Semi-square aspect, blend in a somewhat inharmonious and incompatible manner.

The keyword for the Semi-square is FRICTION. The areas of the chart where the planets are engaged in a Semi-square are irritating, somewhat like the grinding of the cogs of a squeaky wheel, which can attract mild

discord and difficulty. In a natal chart planets engaged in a 45 degree angle express with irritation. This is due to the fact that the thought cells characteristic of the planets in aspect have been conditioned by a lifetime of experiences of uncertainty and unpleasantness.

The Semi-square is comparable to the qualities of Mercury as it is vacillating, mildly inharmonious and grates upon one's consciousness. Ultimately a choice must be made between the situations signified by the two planets engaged in the aspect. It's like the

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Stellarian Honor Guard

For the period between October 1, and December 31, 2016

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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Spring Issue 2017
 ISSN: 009-6520
 Vol. 92, No. 2
 PUBLISHED BY
 The Church of Light

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The Church of Light Quarterly is the official publication of the Church of Light. It includes educational and inspirational supplements to The Brotherhood of Light Lessons.

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Editorial

Christopher Gibson

*"A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor a man perfected without trials." -
 Lucius Annaeus Seneca (4 BCE – 65 CE)*

There are times when life can appear to be an endless course of trials and tribulations. None of us gets through our human experience unscathed, and we all know some persons who seem to suffer more than others. According to the Hermetic cosmogony known as The Cycle of Necessity, our souls were birthed in the Celestial Realm by angelic parents. Once given life, that soul followed a path of involution downward into the physical realm to gain experiences in mineral, vegetable and animal forms, ultimately evolving to human form. Hermeticism informs us that our experiences with form are what allow us to grow in love and wisdom. I often reflect on the words of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a Jesuit philosopher, priest, and paleontologist, who reminded us: "You are not a human being in search of a spiritual experience. You are a spiritual being immersed in a human experience."

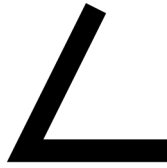
The physical forms through which we have our human experience are encoded by DNA. Here are the building blocks of physical heredity that determine, among many other things, the characteristics that create eye, skin and hair color, a predisposition to genetic diseases, and whether or not we were born with the happy gene.

Each of us also has a type of spiritual DNA, which Hermeticists recognize as the combination of planets, signs, houses and aspects that are encoded in our astrological chart of birth. This spiritual DNA impacts our character and maps our potential as human beings. What determines the extent to which we can fully express the potential of our physical DNA, or the astrological charts of our character, is the environment. The physical environment offers assistance or resistance to the fulfillment of our fondest dreams and desires and the expression of our soul's potential.

A continuous thread that weaves through The Brotherhood of Light Lessons is that all living things are influenced by both outer-plane and inner-plane environments. Since our survival depends upon our ability to best adapt ourselves to our environment, the more knowledge we can acquire regarding both outer-plane and inner-plane environments, the greater those chances of success. In *The Laws of Occultism*, and in *Esoteric Psychology*, C. C. Zain describes the astral environment as being frictionless. By inference, this would imply that on the contrary, the physical environment is where we encounter friction. In our process of acquiring greater knowledge of our outer-plane environment, we do well to understand the nature of friction.

The word friction has its etymological origin in the Latin word *frictio*, meaning "to rub". When surfaces that are in contact rub against one another, the friction between those surfaces converts kinetic energy (movement) into thermal energy (heat). In my childhood, as a Boy Scout I learned that by rubbing pieces of wood together, the friction could become great enough to start a fire. Heat is active energy spontaneously transferred from a hotter to a colder system or body. We experience this expression of thermodynamics when, on a cold winter day, we pour ourselves a cup of piping hot coffee, only to discover, in 15-minutes time, it has cooled

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The Semi Square Aspect

Measurement

Semi-square, 45° Zodiacal Longitude

The Semi-square is formed when two planets are one and one-half signs or 45° apart. The Semi-square is a moderately-weak aspect with a narrow orb that ranges from 3° for planets in a Cadent House (3, 6, 9 & 12) to 6° for a Luminary (Sun or Moon) in an Angular House (1, 4, 7 & 10). The waves of astral energy that are radiated by planets in a Semi-square aspect blend mildly and incompatibly with one another. For most students, Semi-squares (one half square, 45°) and Sesqui-squares (one and one-half squares or 135°) are the most difficult aspects to discern at a glance in a chart.

Keyword

The keyword for the Semi-square is Friction. The areas of the chart where two planets are engaged in a Semi-square are mildly discordant attracting small, disruptive annoyances. In Natal Astrology, these are often areas where an individual experiences mild frustrations and aggravations.

Planetary Comparison

The Semi-square is comparable to the qualities of Mercury, inasmuch as it is indecisive, vacillating and inharmonious to the two planets found 45° apart.

Application

The difficulties indicated by the Semi-square tend to express as anxiety, worry, criticism, recurring hurts, and uncertainty, are usually due to the way we respond to irritations in the environment. In order to redirect the energies of the two planets engaged in this aspect, the individual must learn to overlook small annoyances and maintain a constructive attitude.

(Astrology — Semi-square Continued from page 1)

bees that keep finding their way through the screen door on my motorhome on this beautiful day; I have to either close the door to the outside or stop to gently shoo them out. Murder is just not an option with a semi-square or a bee.

I find myself in complete agreement with Dane Rudhyar in his article "Are 'Bad' Aspects Necessarily So?" especially as it relates to understanding the role of the semi-square in our quest toward spiritual development. Hopefully by this time in our psycho-social development we are fully cognizant that harmony and discord are relative to how we have applied our principles of alchemy to our natal and progressed horoscopes. It is no longer about moral judgements of what is good or bad, just what is. Rudhyar suggests that the Semi-square aspect is about engagement. The previous reference to cogs is his. In the words of Pogo, "we have met the enemy and he is us." An example of this aspect could be a 12th house Venus in Sagittarius Semi-square to a Libra Midheaven (the MC is the more powerful of the two points). Early in life this person constantly felt the need to be appreciated in order to be successful, often engaging in risky or expensive behavior. It was a constant frustration and caused self-doubt until through alchemical application, the venal MC was toned down and got all the love-lost indulgence out of the 12th. Now this Semi-square manifests by using the energy of the aspect toward combining the Venus and Jupiter energies by expressing love for higher thought and spiritual purpose.

Recall at this time the methods proposed in past articles about how to look at these aspects methodically?

Get your charts and list the semi-squares.

Engage in an activity (writing, art, etc.) to help you see how they manifest in your life.

Meditate on each semi-square for more inspiration

Repeat for each semi-square in natal and progressed charts.

These aspects, all aspects as a matter of fact, signify relationships. With the semi-square this relationship presents as mild tensions that obstruct our progress. The semi-square stands up and says "Halt" and while the dominant planet in the aspect is the path of least resistance, the semi-square presents a different opportunity that may work better. The semi-square is full of energy to be used to get where we are going in our spiritual development as long as we are willing to be open to other ways of doing things.

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(Hebrew Alphabet—Continued from page 1)

unseen nature of Spirit, while labial letters, with their point of articulation as obvious and overt as possible, are likewise associated with the obvious, overt objects and constructs of the material universe. Consonants occupying an intermediate point of articulation, most specifically linguals, are associated with the bridge between spiritual and material, the mind or mental plane of being.

From a phonosemantic point of view, Kaph, as a palatal consonant, most closely resonates with the idea of *the movement from spirit to matter*. This symbolism is reinforced by its intermediate position as a palatal consonant, an analysis of the letters and construction of the letter's name, as well as a consideration of the gematria of the letter Kaph.



As a palatal, the letter Kaph appears to exist in a point of articulation intermediate between gutturals, which are most closely associated with spirit, and linguals, which are associated with the mind. Hence, symbolically speaking, palatals appear to indicate a point of transition between the spiritual and mental planes of being. This idea is further reinforced by analysis of the letter's name, Kaph. That is, unlike English, in BH each letter has a specific name. In BH the letter name Kaph is comprised of "K" and "PH", with a short "a" vowel in between. Analyzing the points of articulation of these distinct letters, we see the letter "K" originating at the palatal position, and then moving to "PH", a labial consonant. This symbolism is consistent with the idea of a letter indicating a transition from spirit to matter. Finally, the gematria of the letter "K" in BH is 20, which resolves down to

"2" (i.e., $2 + 0 = 2$), once again supporting the idea that the letter Kaph relates more to the material than spiritual world.

Of course, it must be acknowledged that much of this argument is still based on conjecture, as one of the main thrusts of this tour through the letters of the Alefbayt (AB) is to determine whether sufficient evidence exists to defend a proposition of phonosemantics, or sound symbolism, in BH. This idea is difficult to prove, but one of the more promising lines of research would be to follow an *inductive approach* by analyzing the use of each letter in Biblical Hebrew. Through a close and careful study of the use and association of the specific sounds of the AB in their natural context, it may be possible to demonstrate empirically

that different letters have different meanings and values within the language. Magnus (2010) has performed a similar and very intriguing analysis of the letters of the English language, and has offered evidence that the letters of the English language, consciously or unconsciously, may also demonstrate sound symbolism. A similar method could be applied to investigating the use of the letters in BH, in order to empirically answer the question as to whether sound symbolism exists in BH, and if so, the associations of the various letters.

References:

Magnus, M. (2010). *Gods of the word: Archetypes in the consonants*. Retrieved from: <https://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0943549523/margosmagicalett>



Philanthropy

Philanthropy, the altruistic concern for human welfare and advancement, is derived from the Greek words *philo* (love) and *anthropos* (mankind). As a religious non-profit, The Church of Light is dependent upon the philanthropy of its members to continue to bring the life-affirming philosophy of The Brotherhood of Light to the world.

2016 was a difficult year for The Church of Light; product sales dropped by 32%, the number of student exams being passed were down by 30%, our new memberships dropped by 21%, and donations by 6%. Nevertheless, the reason that we were able to close



our books in the black for 2016 is due to your generosity. Most churches pass the collection plate every Sunday, however, we are different in that our small congregation of approximately 600 members is scattered around the nation and the world. We pass the basket in the form of fund-raising letters 3 – 4 times a year. We are dependent on your donations to keep going. Please consider setting up a monthly pledge to help support The Church of Light. Our ability to continue our organization, soon to be a century old, is through your philanthropy—thank you.

Mundane Astrology 2017: Cycle Charts

Christopher Gibson

Every year, the Spring issue of the Church of Light Quarterly is dedicated to the subject of Mundane Astrology. The source of the word mundane can be found in *mundus*, Latin meaning “world”. Mundane astrology, is the astrology of worldly affairs, which has its roots in the ancient Near East. Mundane Astrology explores correlations between the movement of the planets and corporate entities such as countries, states, cities, and communities. By calculating the birth-chart of nations and analyzing their progressed aspects, we can determine what trends will be taking place within any particular country. It is also useful for the mundane astrologer to explore the birth charts and progressions of political leaders in order to gain insights into the personalities and behaviors that might drive political decision-making. Of special interest are the Mundane Cycle Charts which are calculated for the precise moment a planet passes over the equator from south to north declination. A Cycle Chart represents a type of mass-influence dominating social, political and cultural trends as indicated by the planet for which it is erected. What makes a Cycle Chart unique is that they are calculated from nation to nation using the capital city of each country, for that moment when a planet passes over the equator. A good example for grasping the concept of a Cycle Chart can be easily pictured by the Sun, which annually at the Vernal Equinox passes from south to north declination, marking the first day of spring. The cycles of the other planets are not as readily visible and are frequently more erratic in their timetables. A list of the factors governed by the specific planets can be found in Course XII of The Brotherhood of Light Lessons; Mundane Astrology, by C. C. Zain. We include the Cycle

Charts annually in the Spring Quarterly; they can also be found on the student page of our website: www.light.org.

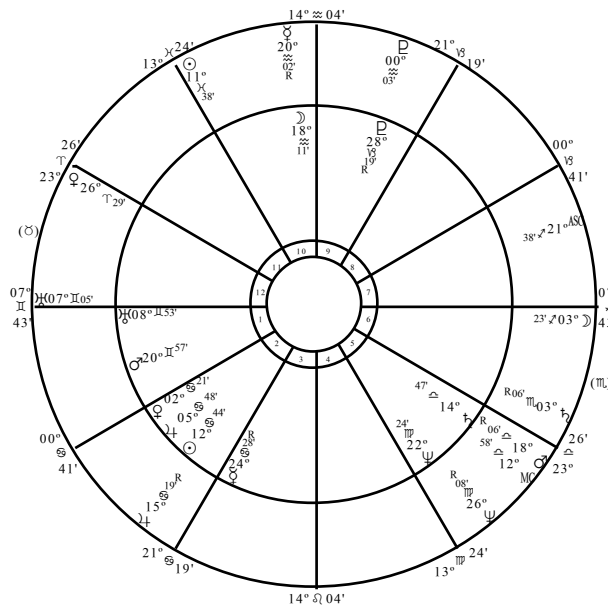
A good mundane astrologer must be well-trained in order to know how to synthesize trends using information from all of the aforementioned charts. As the bulk of Church of Light members live in the United States, the emphasis of this article is on the political trends of this country, which also have an impact on the world.

USA Chart

In outlining national trends for the current year, we do best to first examine the natal chart and progressions for the United States. Most Astrologers agree to July 4, 1776, as the birth date for the United States; however, they differ in opinion as to the exact time of birth. There was a lengthy process that led up to the ultimate signing of the Declaration of Independence. On June 7, 1774, the Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia was urged by Richard Henry Lee to declare independence. At the request of the committee Thomas Jefferson worked on a draft of the declaration

from June 12 to 27, 1776. A draft read in Congress on June 28 was hotly-debated July 1 through 4. On July 4th, The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Congress; however, it did not gain the approval of all thirteen colonies until July 9. The signing of the Declaration took place on August 2. The 18th Century English astrologer Dr. Sibley cast a horoscope for July 4, 1776, at 10:10 P.M., London Time (5:10 P.M. local time in Philadelphia). This gives the Ascendant for Philadelphia as 13° Sagittarius 12'. He later published an imaginative illustration showing the birth chart for the United States as being presented to

(Continued on page 7)



USA Chart

July 4, 1776, 2:14:43 a.m. LMT
Philadelphia Pennsylvania, 39N57 08; 75W09 51
Progressed to January 20, 2017

(Mundane Astrology Continued from page 6)

Washington by the Angel Gabriel. In *The Astrology of America's Destiny*, Dane Rudhyar rectifies the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence to 5:13:55 P.M., placing the Ascendant at 13° Sagittarius 10'. In *Mundane Astrology*, C. C. Zain gives the birth time of the United States as 2:13 A.M. and the Ascendant as 7° Gemini 35'; however, he does not reference any documentation to support that time in his book. It is possible that this time was chosen based on the process of rectification, or there might be a historic record that he had access to that informed his decision. Among astrologers, there tend to be two camps when it comes to the chart of the USA: those who prefer the Gemini rising and those that follow Sagittarius rising. Although Church of Light instructors follow the U.S. Chart as outlined by Zain, which works fairly well when following progressed aspects, students are encouraged to investigate other charts and compare key events to the major progressions operable at the time of the event. One cannot possibly comment on all the progressed aspects currently in orb in the US chart; therefore the focus of this article will be narrowed to a few key progressed aspects.

Of great concern is the fact that, since December 2014 the major-progressed Ascendant has been in opposition to natal Mars in the 1st House. Mars is the planet of both militarism and violence.

Although we have not openly-declared any acts of war during the last two years, there has been a domestic epidemic of gun-violence and mass shootings. The most significant of these have been the Charleston Church Shooting of June 2015 that killed 9; The Umpqua Community College shooting of October 2015 that killed 9 and injured 9; the San Bernardino mass shooting in December 2015 that killed 14 and injured 2; and most significantly, the Orlando nightclub massacre of June 2016 where 49 persons were killed and 53 injured. Most recently, on January 6, 2017 a gunman opened fire at the Fort Lauderdale airport

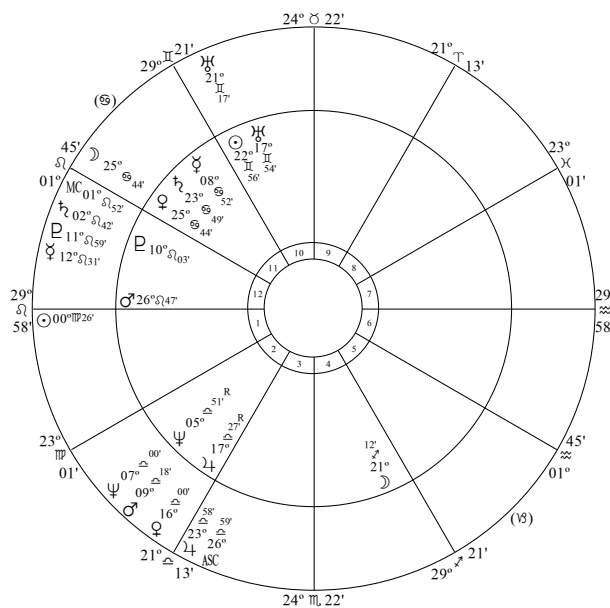
killing 5 and injuring 6 persons. This progressed Ascendant opposition Mars aspect remains in orb until June 2017.

The birth chart of the USA has a very prominent 2nd House, with Venus, Jupiter and the Sun all positioned in the Sign of Cancer. The nation's attention is consistently on the economy. Progressed Jupiter in the US Chart has been moving very slowly in retrograde motion since June of 1906. A century later, in November of 2006, retrograde Jupiter entered a square with natal Saturn, an aspect that remains in orb until 2045. Normally, Jupiter progressions last 9 – 11 years, but the retrograde motion of Jupiter has this aspect lasting nearly four decades. Both Saturn and Jupiter are the business planets, and since 2007 the US has

been part of a global economic downturn considered to be the worst since WWII. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the recession ended in June 2009, however, for the 564,708 homeless people in the U.S., the recession feels as though it is still operating in full force. Saturn is located in the 5th House of the US chart and is the ruler of Capricorn on the cusp of the 8th House of taxation, pensions and insurance. The regions of the US Chart that this aspect stimulates guarantees ongoing discussions about the solvency, sustainability, and budget impact of Social Security, Medicare, and affordable health insurance (Obamacare). With the duration of this aspect, the recession might feel like a

computer program running quietly or not so quietly in the background for the next 28 years.

A more short-term aspect impacting the economy, which entered orb in late October of 2016 is represented by Venus, the chief ruler of the 2nd House, forming a square with natal Pluto. Pluto can be found in the 9th House of international trade, imports and exports. The US is the world's third-largest exporter after China and the European Union. However, we import more goods and services



Donald Trump

June 14, 1946, 10:54 a.m. EDT
 Jamaica, Queens, New York, 40N41 29; 73W48 22
 Progressed to January 20, 2017

(Continued on page 8)

(Mundane Astrology Continued from page 7)

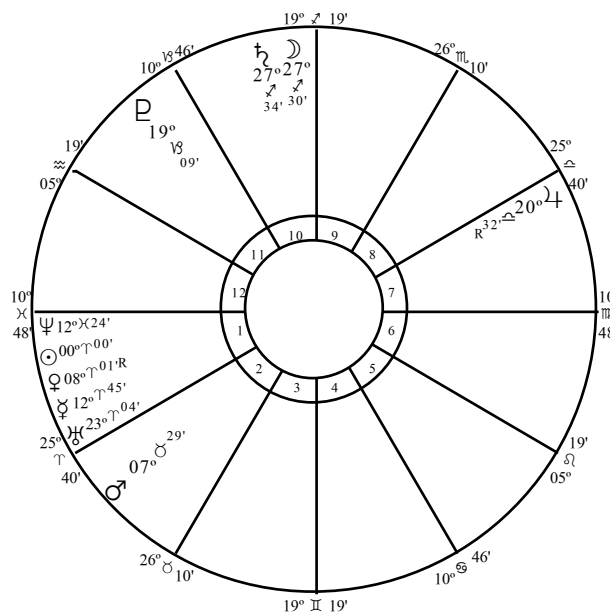
than we export, and we currently are experiencing a trade deficit of about \$532 billion. During the 22 months that this aspect is in orb, we might see an ongoing struggle to restructure international trade agreements. This might include the trilateral trade-bloc agreement of Canada, United States and Mexico, known as NAFTA.

On January 20, 2017, real-estate mogul and reality-TV star, Donald Trump took office as the 45th President of the United States. This comes as the result of one of the most unpredictable and unconventional elections in history, which might be signified by the Progressed MC square the Natal Sun, which became exact in Late October 2016. From January 3, 2017 to January 3, 2019, the Republican-dominated, One Hundred Fifteenth United States Congress will convene in Washington D.C. This will be the first time since the Herbert Hoover landslide of 1928 that we have had a Republican President and a Republican-dominated House. This has led to widespread speculation that during the first two years of the Trump presidency conservative attempts will be made to turn back advances made in environmental protection, LGBT and women's reproductive rights, among other key concerns. This is reflected astrologically in November 2017, when in the US chart the progressed MC enters conjunction with natal Saturn. This aspect becomes exact in November 2018 and will probably be reflected as voter backlash during the mid-term elections when all 435 voting seats in the US House of Representatives and 33 Class I Senators will be up for re-election.

Perhaps the most encouraging aspects that are active from February 22, 2017 through February 21, 2019, are the Progressed Sun and progressed MC, which will both be forming trines to their natal positions, something that happens during a two-year window every 120 years. The first and last time this happened was at the end of the Gay Nineties, from October 1898 to September 1900, a peri-

od of widespread social activism and political reform known as the Progressive Era. As the Sun is one of the co-rulers of the 2nd House of banking and the Treasury, we might see a two-year flurry of vital financial activity attributed to the new administration. What we must keep in mind is that, in Mundane Astrology the Sun governs the ruling classes and the upper echelons of society. Although the United States does not have an aristocracy, it does have a higher level of wealth inequality than other developed nations. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has determined that the wealthiest 10 percent of U.S. households own 76 percent of all the

nation's wealth. In 2014, the median income of U.S. households stood at 8 percent less than in 1999, a reminder of the widespread erosion of the middle class. What most people don't recognize is that the bottom 40 percent of Americans actually have an overall negative net worth: they owe more money than they have in assets. It is possible that the economic growth generated by the progressed Sun and MC trines may only impact the top ten percent of earners and might not be distributed equally among all levels of American society.



Sun Cycle, Washington DC
 March 20, 2017 6:29 a.m. EDT
 Capitol Building, 38N53 24; 77W00 34

Donald Trump's Chart

The day following the November 2016 election, news anchors were claiming that American voters had overwhelmingly chosen *Donald Trump* to be president. This is far from the truth, as Hillary Clinton had won the popular vote by just under three million voters. A December 20, 2016 article in Time Magazine revealed Clinton's final tally to be 65,844,610 votes, compared to Donald Trump's 62,979,636. However, she lost the electoral college by a wide margin, with only 227 votes compared to Trump's 304. The news pundits scoured the data of exit polls to identify the demographic supporting Trump, which surged among non-college-educated, rural, white males. This led the Washington Post to describe the elections as "the revenge of working-

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(Mundane Astrology Continued from page 8)

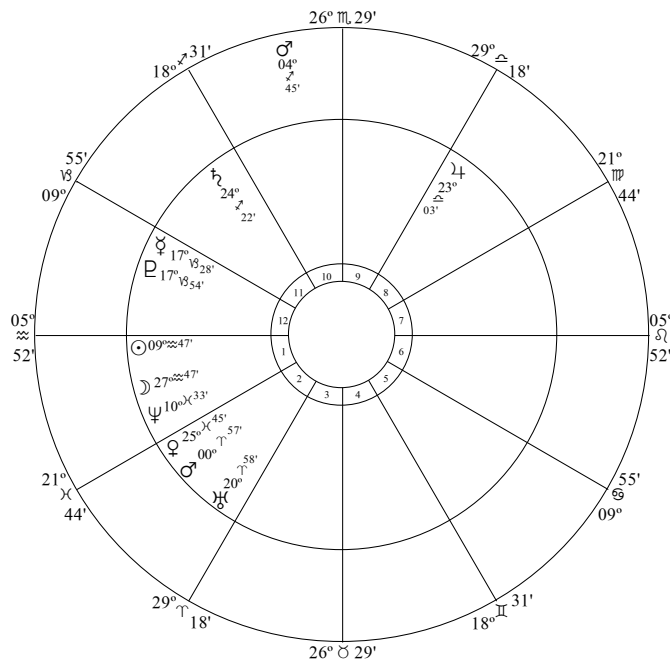
class whites". In the aftermath of this election, we are left a deeply-divided nation.

Throughout the campaign, Trump, claimed that the elections were rigged. According to a December 11, 2016 New York Times article, American intelligence and law enforcement agencies are united in the belief that the Russian government deployed computer hackers to sow chaos during the campaign. However, post-election, Trump dismissed reports of Russian interference as the result of bumbling and biased intelligence agencies.

The 2016 elections were difficult for astrologers to predict as Trump was the only candidate to publicly provide a birth certificate. The debate over Hillary Clinton's birth time has gone on for decades and curious astrologers would do well to read Justin Wm. Moyer's Washington Post article entitled "This is not to be trusted: Astrologers are battling over Hillary Clinton's true birth time."

The horoscope, or astrological chart of birth, gives us insights into people's characters, temperaments and motivating desires. Donald John Trump was born June 14, 1946 at 10:54 a.m. in Jamaica, Queens, New York. Trump's natal chart and progressions can offer some clues as to how he might function as chief of state for the next few years. Leo is the most powerful sign in President Trump's chart, with its 29th degree on his Ascendant and Pluto and Mars in Leo in his 12th House. The ascendant is most often used to describe one's appearance and personality and male lions are known for their manes. On a humorous note, there are almost as many articles circulating around Donald Trump's hair as there are about the man. Mars, at 26° Leo, in conjunction with his Ascendant, can contribute to poor impulse control and aggressive sexuality. Trump has been described in

news articles in martial terms that include abrasive, bullying and defiant. Since Mars also forms a square to his Midheaven, his mean-spirited comments attract a lot of public attention. An article came out in the September 26 edition of The Atlantic entitled "Donald Trump's Cruel Streak" describing the history of abuse and public humiliation that he has directed towards others who dared to stand up to him. Because the Ascendant/Mars conjunction in Leo is such a prominent feature of his chart, it is sometimes hard to discern what is Trump's real personality and what is Trump's persona - Trump playing the role of Donald Trump.



Mars Cycle, Washington DC

January 29, 2017, 12:09 GMT, Progressed to March 20, 2017
 Capitol Building, 38N53 24; 77W00 34

The Sun, ruling planet of Leo and the most powerful planet in Trump's chart, falls in conjunction with the planet Uranus in the sign of Gemini in the 10th House of career. The Sun rules the Power Urges of the soul, which express as pride, self-confidence and a need for authority and control. Uranus governs the Individualistic Urges, which express as originality and unpredictability. Uranus is third in strength in Trump's chart, and he has been described as a wildcard, erratic and unconventional. Since the negative trait of Leo is domination, and the discordant qualities of the Sun are dictativeness, at his worst Trump could be a narcissistic megalomaniac. At his best Trump could turn out to be a gracious

and magnanimous head of state. At any rate, Trump is astrologically wired for being the boss and not for working collaboratively with others. Over time he will have to learn to work with the legislative and judicial branches of government, which are in place to ensure that citizens' rights are protected.

In astrology, eclipses are historically associated with disasters, and the prediction of eclipses was particularly important to ancient stargazers in Egypt, Babylon, India,

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(Mundane Astrology Continued from page 9)

Greece, China and Meso-America. Less studied is the impact of eclipses in an individual's natal chart. A solar eclipse only takes place during a New Moon (conjunction) when the Sun and Moon are in the same degree of declination (parallel). A Lunar eclipse only takes place during a Full Moon (opposition) when the Sun and Moon are in the same degree of declination north or south of the equator.

Donald Trump was born during an eclipse in Angular Houses, making the Sun and Moon his most powerful planets, as measured by astrodynes. The Moon is his second-most discordant planet, which falls in the sign of Sagittarius. Sagittarians are known for their honesty; however, when afflicted the sign can express as brutal honesty, or tactlessness. The new president appears to have a need to say whatever comes to his mind, often tweeting his responses to the world. On December 6, 2016, The New York Times published an article titled: "The 289 People, Places and Things Donald Trump Has Insulted on Twitter: A Complete List", outlining his continuous insults flung at journalists, nations and politicians. His hair-trigger need to respond to world events on Twitter leaves many concerned about the impact of his impulsiveness on international diplomacy.

Perhaps the most significant progression in his chart that positioned him as a shoo-in for the presidential election is the fact that from July 2015 – August 2017, his major progressed Sun is in conjunction with his Ascendant. The Sun is the planet that governs bosses, leaders, rulers and dictators, and the Ascendant places the spotlight on self. It has been estimated that during the campaign Trump received between \$2-\$5 billion dollars in free media advertising. When asked during his campaign about fundraising goals, Trump was quoted as saying: "There's no reason to raise that, I just don't think I need nearly as much money as other people need because I get so much publicity. I get so

many invitations to be on television. I get so many interviews, if I want them."

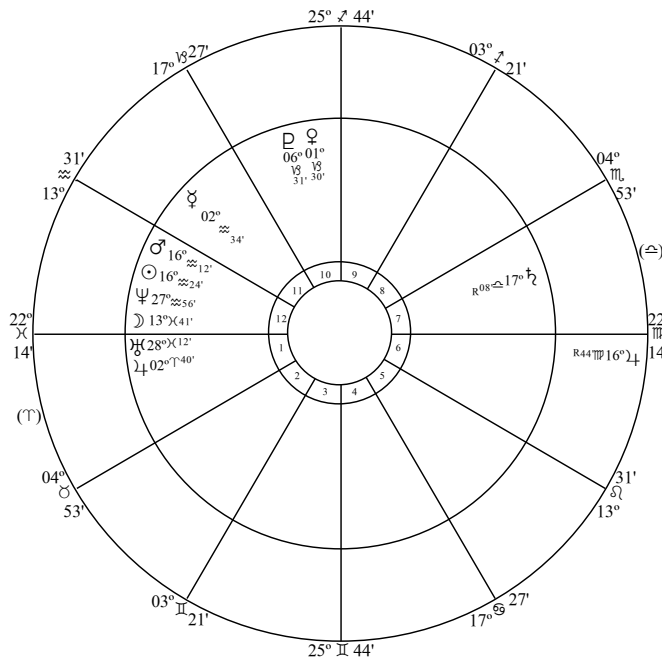
In November 2016, Trump's progressed Midheaven entered conjunction with Saturn in his 11th House of friendships, where it remains until March of 2019. This promises the support of a conservative congress and other allies in politics but leaves him vulnerable to a bad reputation.

Donald Trump's natal chart reveals a masterful self-promoter. His dominant Sun is in the 10th House of reputation and honor forming a trine, or luck compound, with Jupiter, the planet of prosperity in his 2nd House of personal wealth. Much of Trump's fortune comes from real estate and golf courses that bear his name. His new properties will be branded under the name "Scion" usually meaning the descendant or offspring of a noble family. As newly-elected president, Trump, has the ethical obligation to disengage himself from his businesses and financial interests. Most presidents and other federal employees place their investments in a blind trust in order to avoid the appearance of

impropriety that could arise from a web of financial entanglements. From July of 2017 through May of 2019, Trump's major progressed Venus will be conjunct his natal Jupiter in his House of personal wealth. These planets, known as the benefics in astrology, promise growth of personal assets during his first two years as president. Hopefully, the prosperity reflected in his personal chart might also influence national economic growth.

The Mars Cycle Chart

On January 29 of this year at 7:09 a.m. EST, Mars passed over the equator from south to north declination. This is the commencement of a new Mars Cycle which remains in effect until January 2, 2019. The Mars Cycle reveals infor-



Jupiter Cycle, Washington DC
February 5, 2011, 13:48 GMT, Progressed to March 20, 2016
Capitol Building, 38N53 24; 77W00 34

(Continued on page 11)

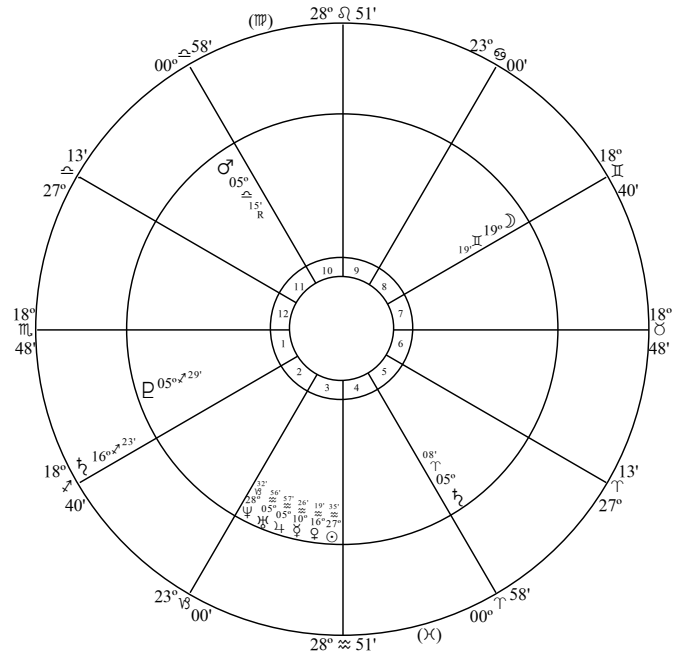
(Mundane Astrology Continued from page 10)

mation about aggression, violence, war, military action, and the police force. However, war is a series of cumulative actions that must be reflected elsewhere, not just in a cycle chart. Nevertheless, as previously-mentioned, natal Mars in the US chart is currently opposed by the progressed Ascendant from the 7th House of open enemies. This is an aspect that peaked in spring of 2016 and leaves orb in June 2017. In the Mars Cycle, only Mars, for which the chart is erected, is progressed by transiting motion. May 25 – 28, Mars will be in opposition to Saturn in the Cycle Chart. Prior to those dates, transiting Mars is active in the US Chart, triggering the opposition of the progressed Ascendant to natal Mars. May is a month where we need to remain vigilant to threats from enemy nations. During the month of May, President Trump has minor progressed Mars in conjunction with his natal Ascendant and progressed Sun. Transiting Mars will also conjunct his natal Sun May 23-25. When predicting the potential expression of Mars progressions, it is uncertain as to whether they represent one being the victim of violence or the perpetrator. On one hand, this could signal a time of a security breach, however, considering his history of poor impulse-control and a penchant for tweeting insults, late May could be a time of diplomatic crisis. Cycle charts are progressed by transit motion, and Mars transits generally last only 3 – 5 days. On October 22 – 25, 2017, transiting Mars will oppose natal Mars in the Cycle Chart. With the opposition stretching between the 2nd and 8th Houses, news may focus on military spending, or possibly the use of fatal force by law enforcement. According to data collected by the Washington Post, there were 963 officer-involved fatal shootings in 2016, down from 991 in 2015. This period in October may represent a time of reflection on the 2017 year-to-date totals for overall death rates due to gun violence.

Jupiter Cycle

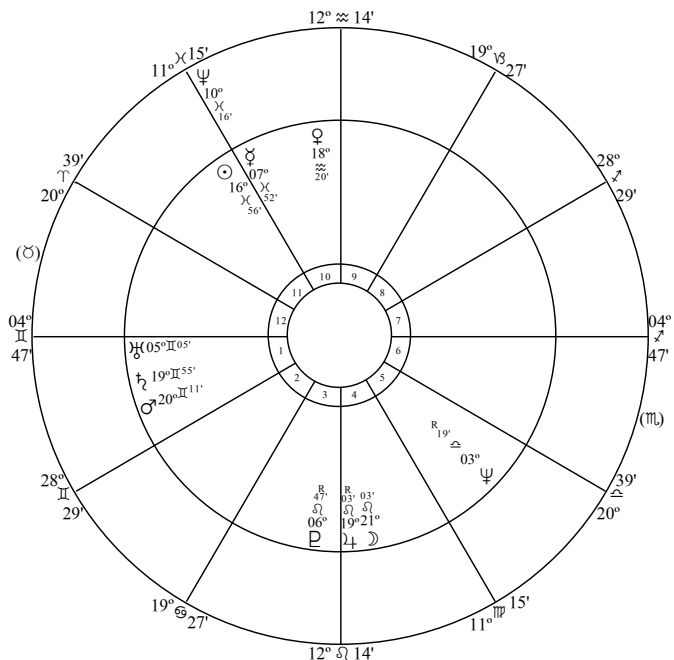
Financial trends, retail sales, treaties, court decisions and matters of trade all come under the rulership of Jupiter. Jupiter cycles can last 9 – 12 years. The current Jupiter Cycle Chart commenced on February 5, 2011 and goes through May 25, 2022. Jupiter can be found in the 1st House of the cycle chart governing the nation's health. Throughout the duration of this cycle The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has caused a significant reduction in the number and percentage of people without health insurance. The ACA or Obamacare has been

(Continued on page 12)



Saturn Cycle, Washington DC

February 16, 1997, 5:27 GMT, Progressed to March 20, 2016
Capitol Building, 38N53 24; 77W00 34



Neptune Cycle, Washington DC

March 7, 1944, 15:06 GMT, Progressed to March 20, 2016
Capitol Building, 38N53 24; 77W00 34

(Mundane Astrology Continued from page 12)

Neptune cycle, which began in 1944, places Neptune in the 5th House of entertainment, motion pictures and television. Since the end of WWII in 1945, the world of television has exploded to the extent that 2013 statistics indicate that 79% of the world's households own a television set. February 17 through April 13, 2017, and again August 21 through February 13, 2018, transiting Neptune at 12 ° Pisces forms a semi-sextile to the MC in the Cycle Chart. This could be a period of favorable growth in the television industry or even represent new advances in home-entertainment that may be featured on the market.

Pluto Cycle

The current Pluto Cycle chart commenced February 26, 1988. Since that time, Pluto has expressed his transformative powers through the 3rd House of communications, mail, newspapers, periodicals and telephones. Some of the biggest changes we have experienced in the last three decades includes the transition from landline to mobile phones. In the late 1980's, the earliest of those phones were the size of a brick and used only by political, business and entertainment elites. Now they are in common use around the world, and the landline is becoming a technology of bygone days. Although the internet had been evolving in earlier decades, it was the late 1980's that ushered in the use of the internet and the personal computer. Prior to the explosion of the internet in the 1990's newspapers, radio and television had a hegemony on our source of news. As we make major shifts in technology, we also shift our sources of news and communi-

cation thus, in this Pluto Cycle we have seen a decline in newspapers and the revenues of the US Postal System. In the world of business, Pluto governs group activity, either for the self-interest of the group or for social good. Internet search engines and social media like Facebook are continually being mined for data and spending habits. The dark side of Pluto expresses as inversion, and in the last year we have become more aware of the use of the internet in creating false news and the release of private emails by foreign powers in order to influence the American political system. Both activities are governed by Pluto's position in the 3rd House. In cycle charts we only progress by transit the planet governing the chart, and this year from April 13 – 26 transiting Pluto will be square Venus in the 8th House of the cycle chart. During this period news stories might appear revealing sources of false news or further exposing internet hacking. This aspect will be repeated in 2018 from January 18 – February 19.

I encourage the student of Mundane astrology to review these charts and compare them to world events as reflected through the news. For Church of Light members in the United States, recent years have brought greater uncompromising polarity between citizens who are self-identified as conservatives or liberals. This will be a good year to focus on our personal alchemy and working to remain positive as we watch the events unfold on the national and world stage. Our attitude is the most important tool we have to shape our future.

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(Continued from page 4)

In an internet article on the semi-square aspect (www.myastronomycharts.com) they describe the semi-square as "...energy that is blocked between two planets or parts of the individuals [sic] psyche. With the Semi-square this energy appears to be more deeply blocked and thus it manifests as external events...that need dealing with." This resonates with our belief that the semi-square comes out of repeated conflict in our earlier soul growth. It's happened so many times, so now it manifests externally, habitually, and constantly until we take the time and care to work through it.

As I move through the semi-squares in my natal and progressed horoscope (there are nineteen, and they certainly have caused enough friction to get my attention), I must admit that working with them is a pleasure. They are easy

to recognize when they pop up. They are easy to alchemize by looking for other ways of doing things. They give immediate relief from the stress in life when given just a little attention, and our intention for a Spiritual Life is greatly augmented through their energy. And just in case you wondered, after 3 bees, I closed the outside door.

Suggested Reading:

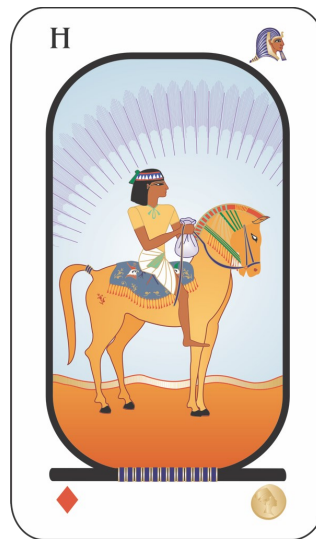
Benjamin, Elbert. *Beginner's Horoscope Maker and Reader*. Albuquerque, NM: Church of Light, 1972. (Out of Print, some copies available on Amazon)

Rudhyer, Dane. "Are 'Bad' Aspects Necessarily So?" *Astrological Aspects: Semi-Square*: www.khaldea.com.

Zain, C.C. *Astrological Signatures, Cs II*

Copyright: MountainCrone, January 2017.

Tarot Correspondence — The Horseman of Coins



Divination

“The Horseman of Coins denotes thoughts relating to health or money. Right way up, they tend to the prosperity of the client; reversed they are plots to unfairly obtain money from him.”

From The Sacred Tarot by C. C. Zain

Interpretive Notes

In the Hermetic System, the tarot represents a synthesis of the universe based on astrological symbolism.

“The Horsemen do not represent people, but thoughts or unseen intelligences. As thoughts are ruled by Arcanum I, each Horseman has a numerical value of I. In divination they are read as thoughts or intelligences that have an influence upon the life of the client. The one who thinks the thoughts is indicated by the Court Card nearest whom the Horseman is found in the spread.”

From The Sacred Tarot by C. C. Zain

From Our Tarot Spread Archives —The Magic Seven Spread

Tarot Spread Interpretation

The Querent asked: What surrounds my trip to Sicily?"

Card Spread

The Past: Deuce of Swords (reversed). "The divinatory significance of the Deuce of Swords is sickness through over-work; its inner interpretation is MARTYRDOM."

The Present: King of Coins (reversed). "The King of Coins signifies a person ruled by the sign Gemini: intelligent, restless, volatile and fickle. Right way up it denotes a Gemini man; reversed it indicates a Gemini woman. The dominant idea is I THINK."

The Future: Queen of Scepters (reversed). "The Queen of Scepters signifies a person ruled by the sign Leo: haughty, high spirited, ambitious and resolute. Right way up it denotes a Leo woman; reversed it indicates a Leo man. The dominant idea is I WILL."

The Ability to Control: Nine of Scepters. "The divinatory significance of the Nine of Scepters is a wise and profitable friendship; its inner interpretation is ILLUMINATION."

The Environment: Horseman of Coins (reversed). "The Horseman of Coins denotes thoughts relating to health or money. Right way up, they tend to the prosperity of the client; reversed they are plots to unfairly obtain money from him."

The Opposition: Arcanum VIII The Balance (reversed). "In Divination, Arcanum VIII may be read as Justice or Equilibrium."

The Outcome: Seven of Scepters. "The divinatory significance of the Seven of Scepters is success in teaching or publishing; its inner interpretation is DEVOTION."



Summary

The Past: Deuce of Swords (reversed) — With the exception of vacations, the Querent has been working three jobs, nine hours a day, six days a week for the last five years. He feels that he needs a break from work and the only way to get that is to be out of the country, unavailable by phone, text or email.

The Present: King of Coins (reversed). — This probably represents the female travel agent currently making the travel arrangements.

The Future: Queen of Scepters (reversed) — The Querent will be traveling with a companion whose dominant sign is Leo.

The Ability to Control: Nine of Scepters. — By focusing on friendships and illumination, the Querent can make the best of this trip.

The Environment: Horseman of Coins (reversed). — The travelers need to be wary of pickpockets or situations of being over-charged. There might also be concerns for their luggage arriving when they do.

The Opposition: Arcanum VIII The Balance — legal or bureaucratic matters might pose problems. The Querent is waiting on a passport renewal in order to travel. Other issues with Visas or Customs could arise.

The Outcome: Seven of Scepters. — Overall the trip should be successful. The Querent might find a way to write about the trip or integrate photos into lecture presentations.

Summary

The Querent is likely to have a good trip, as three of the cards are scepters, which show excitement and enthusiasm. As two of the cards are coins, extra attention needs to be paid to hidden costs and protecting personal property while traveling. The only Major Arcanum is in the opposition. The Querent's ability to travel could hinge on the timely receipt of his legal documents. Since the Deuce of Swords is in the past and the Seven of Scepters is the outcome, the Querent should be able to cast off his worries and cares and enjoy the experience of learning and adventure.

(Editorial Continued from page 3)

to ambient temperature. The heat of the coffee is transferred to the cooler atmosphere because, according to the laws of thermodynamics, the hotter or more energetic object always stimulates the colder or more passive object.

Thus it is with people who “rub us the wrong way”. They “turn up the heat”, or otherwise create friction in our lives. This friction forces us to either reaffirm our boundaries for self-protection, or readjust our boundaries in order to accommodate the needs of the other person. All of the discordant aspects in our charts work in a similar fashion, in that they turn up the heat in certain areas of our lives. When planetary energies converge at a 45° angle they create a mildly discordant relationship known as a Semi-square, meaning “half a square”. The Semi-square stimulates friction in a chart attracting mild discords between the matters ruled by the two planets engaged in the aspect. A Square aspect is 90° or twice 45°, and is a powerfully antagonistic compound that attracts obstacles. A Sesqui-square aspect is 135° or three times 45°, and is a mildly discordant aspect equal in power to the Semi-square. The Sesqui-square aspect expresses as agitation. The most powerfully discordant aspect is the Opposition, when two planets are opposite or 180°, four times 45° apart. This has the potential to be the most disruptive aspect in any chart as it separates the energies governed by the planets engaged in Opposition to one another.

For Astrologers, Squares and Oppositions represent the potentially catastrophic life challenges that often stop us in our tracks. These are the big life events where we feel as though we’ve been rear-ended by a pickup truck. Semi-squares and Sesqui-squares, although less powerful, can have a cumulative effect, like a neighbor in the apartment next door who likes to play Heavy Metal music at 2 in the morning. Over time the friction or stress can wear us down and have a deleterious effect on our mental and physical health.

The heat that is generated by friction, or surfaces that abrade against one another, can at times be great enough to cause failure or damage to mechanisms. Lubricants, substances that reduce friction between surfaces that are in mutual contact, can lower heat and extend the life of moving parts. An individual with a great number of Semi-squares in their astrological chart can function with continuous levels of mild stress, eventually having deleterious effects. In Mental Alchemy, a positive attitude is the lubri-

cant we apply when we have a preponderance of Semi-squares in our charts. Those of us who have consciously endeavored to cultivate a positive attitude at will, know that it is more easily said than done. Positivity requires a cultivation of the will and an electrical potential that is consciously and forcefully generating energy out into the environment. When we are in a passive, negative or magnetic state we are picking up on the forces in our environment or the moods of those around us and we become dominated by them – this we can do without any effort. The consciously positive person is in an active state, generating an energy from within and expressing it as an outward flow. This requires effort, energy and vigilance.

A good example of this is in the realm of energy healing. If a healer is too magnetic or receptive, they start to sympathetically feel and take on the ailment, discord or mood of the person they might want to help. The magnetic or re-



ceptive person often feels like a sponge that soaks up and absorbs the energies from the environment. In such an arrangement, the patient can negatively impact the healer rather than the healer imparting positive energy to the patient. In order for a healer to be effective, he or she must maintain an energy potential that is slightly more forceful, electric or positive than the indi-

vidual they are trying to heal. The process literally can feel like energy is moving in and through the healer out towards the patient. The overall energetic flow, therefore, is not inwards towards the healer, but outward towards the person being healed. This ability to direct one’s energy flow is best acquired through the practice of engaging daily in a meditative state while picturing positive, vital-force moving outward from the body. Mastery over the frictions of life comes as we are able to sustain this feeling of positivity for slightly longer periods of time each day.

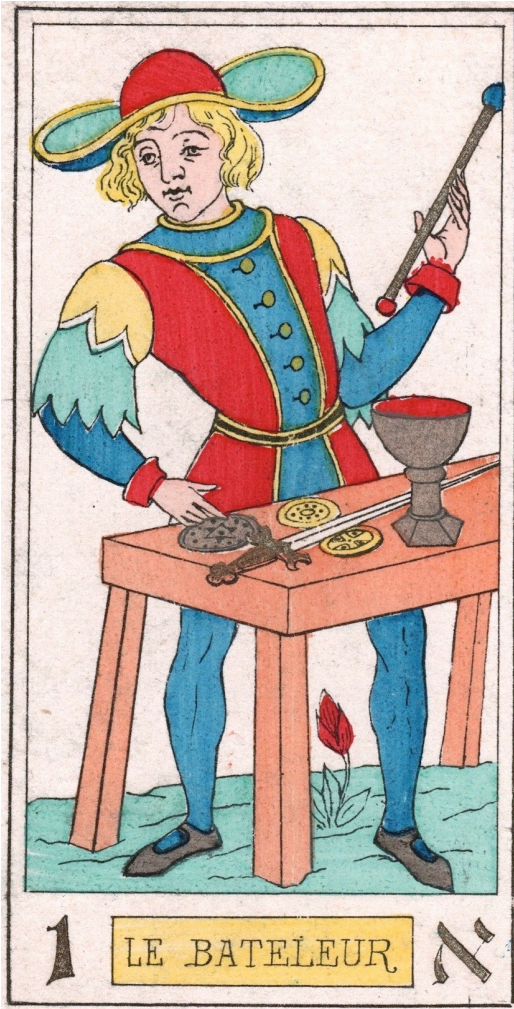
The ability to radiate a positive outlook on one’s world is essential to the work of mental alchemy, and crucial in dealing with the discords of our life experiences. It may be true that the frictions in our lives polish us, however, the value and brilliance of a gem is determined by how much light it reflects out into the world. As Stellanians it is through radiating that light that we must direct our constant effort.



Membership Room

Convention 2017: Magic

Dates: June 21-25, 2017



Objective: For participants to gain a greater understanding of the larger role of ceremony, ritual and magic in world culture and religion, and The Brotherhood of Light viewpoint on how unseen (occult) forces can be utilized to influence and alter the courses of events.

Online Registration

Go to our website: Light.org

Convention 2017

Schedule of Topics

- ◆ Religion and Magic: An Anthropological Viewpoint
- ◆ Ceremony, Ritual Magic and Magical Paraphernalia
- ◆ Rhythmic Breathing: Vitalizing the Magical Act
- ◆ Timing is Everything: Astrological Planning of Rituals
- ◆ Rallying Forces: Magnetizing Talismans, Amulets and Charms
- ◆ Mental Magic: The Importance of Directed Thinking and Induced Emotion
- ◆ Defense Against the Dark Arts: What Harry Potter can Teach Us About Psychic Self-defense
- ◆ The Path of White Magic: Radiating Life, Light and Love in the World



Location: Best Western Rio Grande Inn, Albuquerque, New Mexico

By popular demand we have again chosen the Best Western Rio Grande Inn to host our 2017 Conference. Located in Albuquerque's historic Old Town district, the Inn is walking distance to numerous unique shops, restaurants, galleries, and museums. A complimentary shuttle is available to transport you to and from the Albuquerque Sunport, Old Town Plaza, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, the Albuquerque Biopark and numerous museums. Our special conference 2017 rate is \$88 a night (plus tax) for up to four adults to a room. These rates are valid for rooms reserved from June 20—26, should you want to attend the pre-conference tours or stay on after the conference. We strongly recommend making your reservation in advance as the group rate expires May 20, 2017.

To make your room reservation and receive our special group rate call: (505) 843-9500.

Please identify yourself as a member of The **Church of Light**.



The Beacon

Would you like to receive monthly email notifications with up-to-date information about Church of Light activities, classes, events, new items, special offers and news?

If so, either go online to our website **Light.org** and register and choose "yes to be notified"

or send us an email to churchoflight@light.org with your request. We'll be happy to add you to the Beacon contact list.

The Order of the Sphinx: 12th House Research

We are pleased to announce that Hermetician Members of The Order of the Sphinx are currently working on an illuminating research project: exploring the 12th House. Under the guidance of Alicemarie O'Neil, Section Advisor for The Head, Order members are compiling data on notable personalities with active 12th House planets. Research participants are also writing insightful delineations on the charts

The results of this research may eventually be published on the website or edited into a book to assist students in understanding the different expressions of the mundane houses.



Branch Church - Fort Worth, Texas Activities



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

Religious services are held on the third Sunday of the month at 11 a.m.

A schedule for the upcoming month is available on their website at: owlswebnest.com

All classes and services are held at:

Owl's Clover Bookstore
3037 James Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas

817-921-5809



Paul Brewer



Vicki Brewer



Margaret Dissinger



Christopher Gibson

Participate with us live at Church of Light Headquarters in Albuquerque, New Mexico

First Sunday Roundtable Discussions

11 a.m.-12 noon

Join Yvette Fortin and Veiga O'Sickey as they facilitate monthly roundtable discussions on the topic of "Magic" based on the Brotherhood of Light Lessons by C.C. Zain



Patrick Ramsey



Yvette Fortin

Third Sunday Religious Services

Join our ministerial team consisting of Paul Brewer, Vicki Brewer, Meg Dissinger, Yvette Fortin, Christopher Gibson, Veiga O'Sickey, Patrick Ramsey and Radine Ramsey on the Third Sunday of the month at 11 AM Mountain Time for our monthly religious service.



Radine Ramsey



Veiga O'Sickey

Calendar of Third Sunday Services: March-August 2017

Date	Event	Officiant
March 19, 2017	Aries—Spring Equinox Service	Christopher Gibson
April 16, 2017	Taurus Service	Yvette Fortin
May 21, 2017	Gemini Service	TBA
June	No Service	Convention
July 16, 2017	Leo Service	TBA
August 20, 2017	Virgo Service	Yvette Fortin

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Building A Better World With A Better Vision! The Church of Light Vision For the 21st Century

OUR MISSION:

To promote Universal Welfare and the exaltation of human-kind 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.