

Michele's Blog
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Zodiac degrees in the news

When I read about the infamous Josef Fritzl, I ran his chart, then began looking more closely at the 18th degree of Aries.

Josef Fritzl was finally convicted of kidnapping his daughter, imprisoning her for 24 years, beating her and siring seven children with her, one of whom died due to lack of medical attention. His data is April 9, 1935 at Amstetten, Austria, time unknown. Even without a time, you can see a peculiar conjunction of the Sun and Sedna at 18 Aries. The Sedna legend¹ includes betrayal by a father, though I would have expected to see it in the chart of the daughter (no data available) rather than in his.

Eric Harris, one of the shooters in the Columbine school massacre in 1999, had his **natal Mars** at 18 Aries. Jeffrey Dahmer, the murderer, necrophiliac and cannibal, had the **natal Moon** in 18 Aries.²

The 18th degree of Aries falls in the Scorpionic dwad, and I believe it to be a degree of passion, in the finest sense as well as in the most perverse. There are a number of events, natal charts and progressions/directions connected with it that have sexual connotations or indications of dark or hidden events, such as:

- Both Gaston LaRoux, who wrote *Phantom of the Opera*, and Anne Rice, who wrote *Interview with the Vampire*, *The Witching Hour*, and other books, have natal Mars in the 18th degree of Aries. Harry Houdini, noted for magic and the mysterious, had Chiron in the 18th degree of Aries.
- O.J.Simpson had his book, *If I Did It* published on Sept. 13, 2007. During the same week, Simpson was being charged with armed robbery, among other charges, connected with his attempt to recover some of his sports memorabilia. At the time, Simpson's **converse secondary progressed Venus** was at 18 Aries 25. (The original release was 400,000 copies, but it was later cancelled shortly after it was announced, in November 2006, but not before excerpts had been leaked on line.)
- Dr. Ruth Westheimer, psychosexual therapist and media personality, began her career with a 15 minute talk show, "Sexually Speaking" in September of 1980. At the time, her **converse secondary progressed Jupiter** and **converse solar arc North Node** were both at 18 Aries.
- On May 28, 1998, Brynn Hartman murdered her husband, comedian Phil Hartman, then committed suicide. At the time, her **secondary progressed Venus** was at 18 Aries 29.
- When the tomb of Egyptian King Tutankhamen was opened on Feb. 16, 1923 at 1:45PM, in the Valley of the Kings, **Mars** was at 18 Aries 54.

¹ I don't believe Sedna has been studied enough for definitive keywords. I'm relying on one of several legends concerning it when I talk about betrayal by a parent. However, it may well be a future keyword associated with it, when enough data has been accumulated.

² Fritzl, Harris and Dahmer are obviously extreme examples of the degree. It should be noticed that it is also the degree of Neptune in the chart of Mohatma Ghandi; the Midheaven of actress Meryl Streep; Venus of actress Katharine Hepburn; and Mars of composer Claude Debussy. These are cases of positive passion.

Also:

- When US President Bill Clinton was impeached by the House of Representatives, his **secondary progressed Moon** was at 18 Aries 14 in conjunction with the trans-Neptunian **Admetos** at 18 Aries 40. The source of the impeachment was Clinton's relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.
- Former US Senator Gary Hart ran for the presidency in 1987, but was derailed following a newspaper story on May 8, 1987 about an extramarital affair. At the time, his **converse solar arc Moon** was at 18 Aries 22.
- When Henry VIII, King of England, was excommunicated from the Catholic Church on July 11, 1533, his **converse solar arc/secondary progressed Midheaven** was at 18 Aries 19, in conjunction with his **converse solar arc Venus** at 20 Aries 38. (Most everyone knows the story behind this—Henry was besotted with Anne Boleyn, wanted the church to approve of a divorce from his first wife, and was eventually excommunicated after things got complicated.)
- Actress Vanessa Williams resigned her title of Miss America on July 23, 1984, following the publication of nude photos of her. At the time, she was in a **progressed full moon lunation**, with her **secondary progressed Sun** at 18 Aries 28 opposing her **secondary progressed Moon** at 18 Libra 26. Her **solar arc Jupiter** formed a conjunction at 17 Aries 09.

No degree is malignant within itself. The 18th degree of Aries is a degree of passion, intensity and focus, which are not always channeled into mayhem. It should be noted that this degree is right before the 19th degree of Aries, which is considered to be the “exaltation” degree of the Sun. I am not going to get into 19 Aries right now, except to say that many of the events, progressions and directions associated with it seem to have a common theme of defiance, and that too may be reflective of the Scorpionic dwad in which the 19th degree of Aries also resides.

The Sabian symbol for 19 Aries is “The magic carpet.” Combined with the Sabian for 19 Libra, “A gang of robbers in hiding,” this does seem to be applicable to the intense nature of the degree as depicted in the events and birth charts previously mentioned. The concept of a magic carpet also seems to lend itself to the Scorpionic dwad.

However, some of the other symbol systems show images better attuned to the events connected with this degree, but only if one uses the 18th degree rather than rounding up to the 19th. A number of the symbol systems for Aries 18 depict this degree as a man and woman, which reflects the theme of the sexual examples previously given. I include this here to illustrate that sometimes the researched events seem to have greater affinity with the degree itself rather than the degree rounded up.³

³ I frequently use both the actual degree and the degree rounded up when working with clients. I acknowledge that this may be an unconventional way of using the symbol systems. Also, out of the 17 symbol systems I routinely use in research, I have yet to see all of them consistent about a particular degree.

Sepharial: *A man and woman standing hand in hand, looking with affection towards one another.*⁴

Cochrane: *Concerned with relationships and sharing with others. Marriage is important to this person. May have a charismatic influence over others.*⁵

Henson: *Sexual emotionalism and romance (physical passion); mental fertility; electricians (with 13-14 Taurus-Scorpio and Gemini-Sagittarius); a creator; capable of great concentration; actors; orators (with 18-19 Gemini-Sagittarius and Taurus-Scorpio); noble and sincere; corpus callosum cerebri.*⁶

Carelli (Excerpt): *Wedding night in the King's palace. The Queen, still in a bride's attire, waits for the Prince Consort, seated on the marriage bed in a queenly yet modest attitude.*⁷

A number of famous, and allegedly passionate unions have begun when 18 Aries was present in progressions and directions. To name a few:

- When actress Ava Gardner wed singer Frank Sinatra on Nov. 7, 1951, her **solar arc Moon** was at 18 Aries 27, in conjunction with her **natal Midheaven**, and opposing her **natal Saturn**. Most biographies say that intensity, passion and jealousy marked the union from the start.
- Princess Caroline of Monaco wed Prince Ernst August of Hanover on Jan. 23, 1999, when her **solar arc Ascendant** was at 18 Aries 01.
- On April 30, 1988,⁸ Celine Dion began a romantic relationship with her manager and future husband, Rene Angelil, with her **secondary progressed North Node** at 18 Aries 25. This relationship is also said to be passionate and intense.
- Queen Elizabeth II of England, as Princess Elizabeth, met her future spouse, Philip of Greece, on July 22, 1939.⁹ At the time his **converse solar arc Venus** was at 18 Aries 22, opposing his **converse solar arc Midheaven** at 19 Libra, and in conjunction with his **pre-natal Eclipse** of 17 Aries 59.

Back to Fritzl for a moment: I couldn't also help but notice that Fritzl has **natal Pluto** at 23 Cancer 50 in conjunction with the asteroid **Arachne**. Martha Lang-Wescott's book, *Angles and Predictions*, offers this about the combination of Pluto and Arachne: "...intrigue designed to manipulate or mess

⁴ Sepharial. **The Degrees of the Zodiac Symbolized.** (Abingdon, MD: Astrology Classics, 2004). 53.

www.astroamerica.com

⁵ Cochrane, David. **Astrology for the 21st Century.** (Gainesville, FL: Cosmic Patterns Software, 2002). 122

www.astrosoftware.com

⁶ Henson, Donna Walter. **Degrees of the Zodiac.** (Tempe, AZ: American Federation of Astrologers, 1981). 3.

www.astrologers.com

⁷ Carelli, Adriano. **The 360 Degrees of the Zodiac.** (Washington, DC: American Federation of Astrologers, 1951), 19.

www.astrologers.com

⁸ Source for date: http://www.astro.com/astro-databank/Dion,_Celine?lang=e

⁹ Source for date: <http://hubpages.com/hub/A-Very-Royal-Prince---The-Life-Of-Prince-Phillip--The-Duke-Of-Edinburgh>. I also recall seeing this date in a recent biography of the couple.

psychologically with another, or entrapment (underline mine) situations that reveal who's really in control."¹⁰

Natasha Richardson

The tragic death of Natasha Richardson on March 18, 2009, shows, to me, further indication that transits and progressions can (and should) be viewed together in significant events, though I rarely move beyond conjunctions and oppositions. Richardson's **secondary progressed Sun** was at 4 Cancer, opposing **transiting Pluto**. In addition, her **CONVERSE solar arc Mars** was also at 4 Cancer.

I think eclipses, also, have impact on progressed and directed planets. She had her **solar arc directed Moon** at 6 Aquarius, in conjunction with the solar eclipse of Jan. 26, 2009. And of course the **transiting North Node** was at 7 Aquarius.

I ran the diurnal chart for Richardson for the day of the accident, March 16. In diurnal charts, the house cusps should be viewed closely to see if they align with any progressed, natal, or transiting planets. In her diurnal chart, Richardson had 4 Cancer on the 11th house cusp. (I use the Koch house system.)

The 11th house usually gets a lot of innocuous definitions—groups, hopes and wishes, etc.—but one that I keep seeing over and over again is that it can frequently signify Uranian events, or things unfolding in a Uranian—meaning sudden--manner, most likely due to Uranus being the natural ruler of the 11th house. Surprises, sudden events, accidents are common in Uranian manifestation, especially when represented in a diurnal chart. Radical changes in thinking and doing can also occur when the 11th house is activated, especially if Mars is involved. However, the manifestation does not have to mean death.

Planetary stations, retrogrades, etc. I just finished reading a good article in the winter solstice edition of the NCGR Journal by Roy Kirkland called "Decision Points: An Unusual Key to Prediction."¹¹ It reminded me again of how important the degrees are *preceding* birth where planets station, go direct, or go retrograde. In the converse progressions, the corresponding year is important. For example, if Mercury stations at a certain degree 25 days before your birth, there will be significance attached to your 25th year. Moreover, the degree on which it stations will be an important point in your chart.

On June 5, Venus will be in 29 degrees of Aries, and Mars will be at 29 Aries on May 31. Both thus square the upcoming eclipse point on July 21-22 (depending on what time zone you're using) at 29 Cancer.

The upcoming Jupiter/Neptune conjunction, and the asteroid Pandora. Retrograde Saturn will go direct on May 17, 2009 at 14 Virgo. Jupiter turns retrograde on May 15 at 27 Aquarius, and Neptune will turn retrograde at 26 Aquarius in late May (placing both in my solar return on May 29, along with Chiron in the 26th of Aquarius degree). The asteroid **Pandora** will also be at 26 Aquarius around this time as well. Martha Lang-Wescott says that Pandora symbolizes surprise, unexpected results, and crisis. Regarding Neptune/Pandora, Lang-Wescott notes that "...with Pandora providing the adjectives...(people) are going to get more than they bargained for."¹² So consider the Pandora factor in your interpretation if that Jupiter/Neptune conjunction in 26 Aquarius makes a significant impact in your natal chart.

¹⁰ Lang-Wescott, Martha. **Angles and Predictions**. (Cody, Wyoming: Treehouse Mountain, 2007). 79. www.treehousemountain.com

¹¹ Kirkland, Roy. "Decision Points: An Unusual Key to Prediction," Geocosmic Journal, Winter Solstice 2008. Pp 5-10

¹² Lang-Wescott, p.436

If you have any natal or progressed planets at any of these station and retrograde degrees, they can be activated by the double emphasis of having the degree in the initial retrograde. It also puts it in the diurnal chart for the day it turns retrograde, so run your diurnal charts then too.

Follow-up to last blog re 6 Aquarius. I don't remember a time when I've heard of so many plane crashes in such a short time span. Much of this is traceable back to the 6 Aquarius eclipse and its theme of "consequences of great heights." (Please see my January blog for more on this.) The Sabian symbol for 7 Leo has to do with the constellations in the sky, and is appropriate in my opinion.

Think of the other plane crashes we've had since the miraculous US Airways landing in the Hudson River with all 155 passengers and crew members saved. (And **transiting Mercury** was at 6 Aquarius retrograde on the day of the miracle, a pre-echo to the upcoming eclipse of Jan. 26. I have seen that unusual events can occur when Mercury hits the degree of an upcoming eclipse.)¹³

- A crew died when a South African-owned airline crashed in Egypt on Feb.20, 2009 (with **Mercury** in 6 Aquarius);
- A Turkish airlines crash on Feb. 25, 2009;
- An airline crash near Buffalo in upstate New York on Feb. 12, 2009 (with **Mars in 6 Aquarius 34**);
- The crash of an Air Force Jet on March 25, 2009, at Edwards Air Force Base in California (10:30 AM according to news accounts), with the **transiting North Node** at 6 Aquarius.

In addition, the previous blog mentioned that 6 Aquarius has been long associated with NASA, and NASA has been in the news lately as well, with its satellite for monitoring global warming plunging into the ocean near Antarctica on Feb. 24, 2009. And a professor and his wife were in the news accused of defrauding NASA. On Feb. 16, 2009, NASA also announced it was getting out of the space shuttle business; on or about the same day, space debris collided.

I had also mentioned 6 Aquarius in connection with nuclear-related matters. In early February—the exact date wasn't mentioned—British and French *nuclear subs* collided. Thanks to Harriet Sheeley for pointing out an article that said that plutonium from the Manhattan Project had been discovered in a landfill at the Hanford Site, a decommissioned nuclear research facility in Washington state, the discovery being publicized around Jan. 23. Seems it was in a bottle contained in an old safe. (I may just be feeling quirky today, but that last image sounds like it ought to be a Sabian symbol.)

The Sabian symbol for 7 Aquarius (6 Aquarius rounded up) is "A child born of an eggshell." Kaye Shinker sent me a note commenting on how appropriate the symbol was for stem cell research getting FDA approval, and I also noted the lifting of the ban on federal funding of stem cell research in early March.

¹³ Another example: On April 19, 2004, there was an eclipse in 29 Aries.. Not sure what happened elsewhere, but in Tampa, Fla. on April 13, with transiting Mercury at 29 Aries and retrograde, there was a collapse of an under-construction overpass that didn't hurt anyone, but led to a costly re-do anyway. Note that in this case as well as in the Hudson River case, Mercury was retrograding over the degree of the upcoming eclipse, and both incidents were Mercury related—travel, roads.

In addition, there was a theme park accident at Universal Studios when a stuntman fell from a considerable height on March 22, 2009. All of this occurred with the **transiting North Node** at 6 Aquarius.

All of which reminds me of something my first astrology teacher, Oscar Weber in Boston, once said. One of the best ways to learn astrology is by reading the newspapers.

The April New Moon will occur on April 25 at 5 Taurus 04, which squares the Jan. 26 eclipse point of 6 Aquarius. This can mark a time when the eclipse's themes could be in the news again.

Astro Twin footnote. I noticed that Nicholas Hughes, a marine biologist, professor, and son of poets Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes, committed suicide on March 16, 2009. I went back into the Astrodatbank files, because the chart seemed familiar. The reason is that he and actor Jim Carrey are astro twins, having been born on the same day. Both Hughes and Carrey had/have a **secondary progressed Saturn** at 6 Aquarius 59, which would have been in conjunction with the Jan. 26 eclipse degree. In Hughes case, his mother, Sylvia Plath, committed suicide also, when he was a year old. According to Wikipedia, Carrey went public with his own bouts with depression in a November 2004 *60 Minutes* interview. Both were born on Jan. 17, 1962. Hughes was born in Oxford, England, time unknown. Carrey was born at 2:30 AM in Newmarket, Canada, with the Rodden Rating being "A".

Delineation tidbit. From Ivy Jacobson: "Retrograde planets reveal the department of life (houses) where you know how to remain silent and when it is good policy to do so: they have a way of retiring to a stronghold within."¹⁴ Though this sounds more like Mercury retrograde, it could apply to other planets, and is well worth noting. It is also worth noting that "strongholds within" have a way of imploding, and that may carry significance with retrograde planets.

Pax vobiscum, and all that.

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¹⁴ Goldstein-Jacobson, Ivy. **Astrological Essays.** (Los Angeles, Cal: 1979). P. 85. (Available at astroamerica.com)