

# prediction



# 1997

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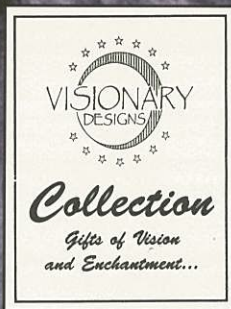
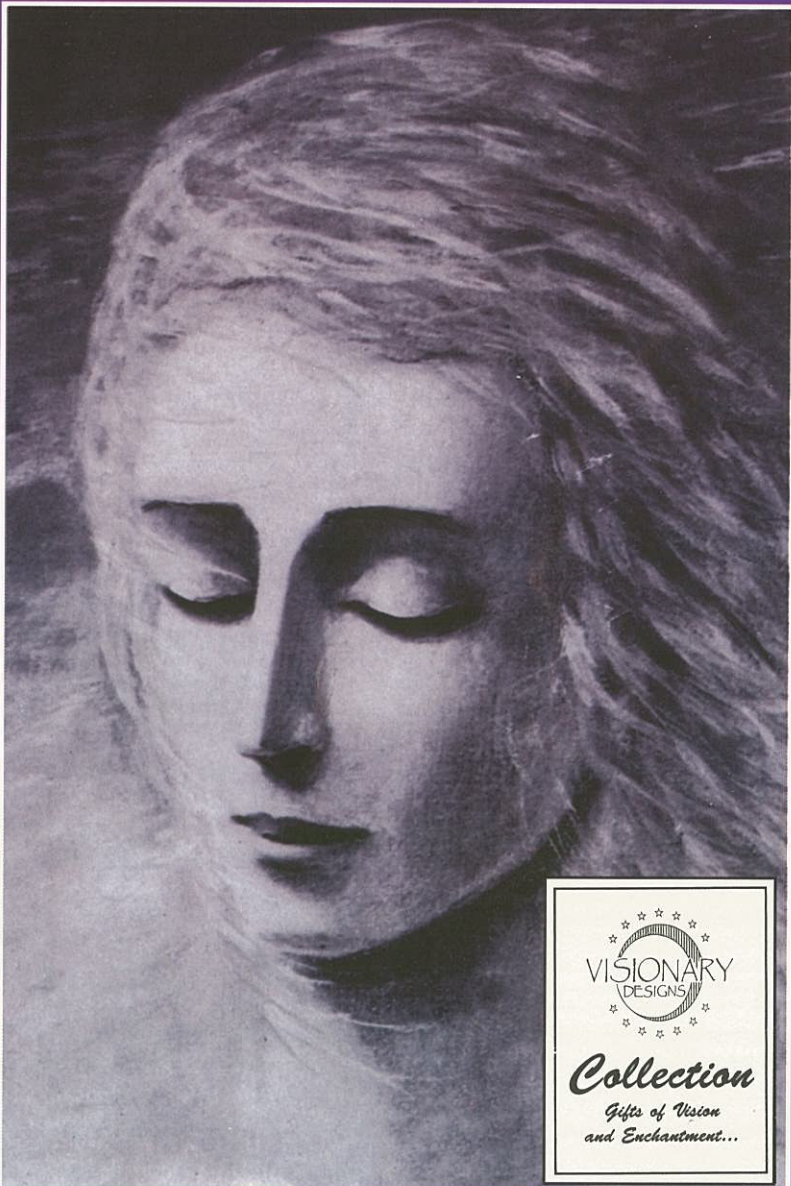
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The Chinese animal zodiac contains 12 signs each manifesting through five elements. February 7th sees the beginning of the year of the Fire Ox.

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### **Cover by Astro Arts.**

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- I cannot thank you enough. I followed your advice and did get what I wanted." D.G., Colorado, USA.
- Maybe it is mystic power, or maybe she is just exceptionally perceptive. But one thing is for sure, she got a lot right." The Guardian (S.L.).
- Everything you said has since happened, including tiny details which seemed irrelevant at the time." Pauline, London.



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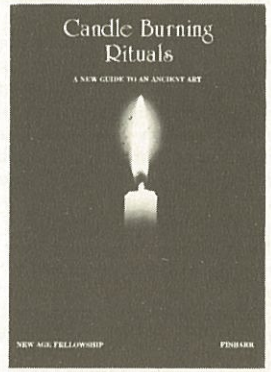
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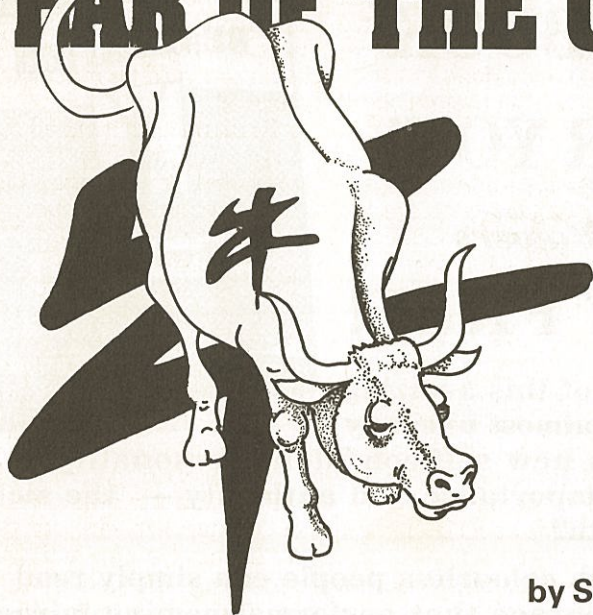
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# 1997 YEAR OF THE OX



by SELENE

**February 7th marks the start of the Chinese Year of the Fire Ox which ends on January 27th 1998.**

In general terms, the year ahead promises to be a rich and productive one, but only for those prepared to put in the time and effort. Get out there and conquer the world. The potential is certainly there in a Fire Ox year for the Fire element adds the impetus, the spark of creativity that can enliven and transform a year whose theme is dedication, hard work and harvest. This should suit ambitious types who already have an aim in view.

Travel is much on the cards, too, whether for business or pleasure, at home and abroad. Indeed, some may decide to act on an earlier inclination to live or work overseas and a Fire Ox year would certainly favour such an enterprise. Remember, though, that the powerful Ox combined with creative Fire is a volatile creature which, if not controlled, can be very destructive — so take care!

## The Ox personality

Oxen are, of course, the workhorses of the Orient and, as such, win medals for steadfastly doing all that back-breaking hard work that others prefer to avoid. Their human counterparts are much the same; reliable, steadfast and loyal: all admirable traits, you will agree. However, on the down-side, they can be stubborn, slow to reach decisions but quick to voice their views and absolutely abhor anything that threatens their security.

Jealous of his/her own authority, the Ox does not appreciate those who attempt to undermine him. So best advice for others is to listen to what the Ox has to say, do not question his judgment and, if you must disagree, try to persuade him with sound reason.

From the other side of the fence, the Ox needs to learn that he/she really does not

know everything and to accept others' advice when it is offered willingly. For, let's face it, other people admire and respect him.

Although slow to anger, the Ox can be surprisingly vehement when aroused and anyone falling foul of his wrath may be forgiven for believing he/she has just encountered a steamroller!

This is the key to the Ox personality: he/she simply wants — indeed, expects — to be in charge. But, to be fair, the Ox is perfectly prepared to make the efforts or sacrifices necessary to achieve his ambition...

What is more, he's got what it takes: determination, a strong sense of purpose and willingness to work hard and long. He's also eminently practical and, though not very imaginative or likely to dream up crazy schemes for making a fortune, will always find a way of overcoming any obstacles on the path.

Oxen therefore make excellent administrators and are often tempted into politics, banking and the boardrooms of large corporations. Indeed, they are usually successful in career and worldly status.

On a more personal level, Oxen make excellent marriage partners (though perhaps a little authoritarian with their offspring) for they are reliable, faithful providers who relish the security and comfort of a settled home life. Even if not madly romantic (though usually quite sensual), the Ox will willingly perform all those necessary domestic chores.

He/she will also get much pleasure working in the garden for this another important facet of the Ox personality: a love and appreciation of nature, the great outdoors. Oxen must be allowed space — quite literally — and cannot abide any sort of physical confinement. In fact it is essential for their well-being.

## Trends for each sign

This is not a particularly prosperous or progressive year



for the **Rat**. This is not to imply that major disasters threaten, merely that it is a time to re-trench your position, make best possible use of current resources and don't expect get-rich-quick schemes to succeed in an Ox year.

Try to resist any temptation to introduce dramatic changes into your life, whether in career or on the home front. If thinking of moving house, it would be better to delay such a decision until the financial outlook improves or you may find you have bitten off more than you can chew. Better, perhaps, to put your energies into improving your present home

It's not all work and no play, though, and opportunities should arise for a bit of self-indulgence such as a weekend break at a luxury hotel or a super new outfit to impress the neighbours!

The ambitious **Ox** should come into his/her own this year when past efforts at last win their just rewards. This is good news for those seeking a boost in status, either through more lucrative employment or public acclaim.

Those thinking of launching a business project are assured of success. This does not mean that times are easy, simply that your usual, hard-working ethic will pay dividends in the medium to long term: which is how you tend to plan your strategy anyway.

Romance, too, is on the cards for many Oxen who may feel that they can afford the leisure to get out and about and make new contacts. While those in long-running relationships may just decide to pop (or answer) the question.

Any difficulties that do arise are likely to be quite minor, easily dealt with, but may crop up unexpectedly, so be prepared. Keep plans reasonably flexible, too, as you may have to cope with surprise visitors or unscheduled travel.

Although it may go against the grain, the **Tiger** is advised

to maintain the lowest possible profile this year and conserve his/her energies for better times. Entrepreneurial types are likely to suffer the worst frustrations but will simply have to curb their more rebellious instincts to avoid defeat.

Don't clash with authority if at all possible and, if involved in litigation, try to settle out of court or delay matters. Mistrust and misunderstandings are the order of the day — not the best background for legal wrangles!

Tact and diplomacy may be needed closer to home too. Try to listen to others' opinions before taking action and do not be too quick to jump to conclusions if family and friends seem to behave out of character: your impatience could be the real culprit! Tread warily: impetuous words could cause serious rifts.

A somewhat ambivalent year is promised for the **Hare** who, though he/she may make some progress, is unlikely to achieve any major ambitions or gain the desired recognition. However, it is a good time for winning friends and influencing people for the future.

Any business problems that do arise can be resolved if you put your mind to it and exercise your well-known charm where it will have the most effect. Also, finances look a little more stable than of late, though you are unlikely to become a millionaire overnight.

Although you may feel disappointed by the lack of achievement, do not let worry jeopardise your health. Better to set a steady pace, relax and enjoy the company of others. This is not a time for making major changes so be content to make the best of what you've got.

Not a particularly exciting year in prospect for the **Dragon** who is unlikely to forge ahead in his/her usual break-neck fashion. Strangely, though, modest progress can be made despite this, mainly due to the fact that others will be especially supportive and

tend to protect Mr/Ms Dragon from his worst excesses.

The emphasis falls on relationships this year which favours new partnerships. So, if thinking of starting up a business for the first time, a joint venture would be most likely to succeed.

Romantically inclined Dragons do well, too. This is the year when you may very well find the love of your life and your feelings will be reciprocated.

Long-term relationships are also well-starred; which is good news for the already married. Domestic life should provide much happiness and those hoping to extend their families could receive encouraging news in the course of 1997.

A challenging year lies ahead for the **Snake**-born. You will encounter setbacks and delays to financial plans and greater opposition than usual. However, moderate success will come if you proceed with caution and resist the temptation to meet confrontation head-on.

Avoid any form of litigation if at all possible as you are unlikely to win. In fact, this is not a time to oppose authority in any of its guises: whether your boss at work, the local council or even the parking attendant!

Still, if content to let things lie fallow for a while, at least you are assured of a relatively settled home life. If you moved house last year, this is the time to put down deeper roots in the local community. Some Snakes may find themselves drawn into local politics or co-operative ventures where they will take on greater responsibilities. Others may opt for charity work.

The **Horse**, like the Ox, believes in hard work and will therefore share in many of the benefits the latter's year can bring to those prepared to muscle under and await results. Financially, the prospect is rosy, better than for some time now, and long-term projects should at last begin to pay dividends.

Romantically, though, the outlook is not so optimistic.

Those in established relationships should not rock the boat and those seeking new hearts to conquer could frighten away prospective partners by being overly possessive or demanding.

The only potential pitfall this year is a tendency to alienate others by being too pushy. Keep your opinions to yourself and don't criticise subordinates if you want to make the best of a potentially profitable year.

If hoping to upgrade your living accommodation, a boost in earnings should enable you to do so. Or you may decide to treat yourself to a well deserved holiday after all your hard work.

**Sheep** do not fare well in Ox years when everything they have achieved is liable to be lost beneath the latter's industrious plough. A time of upsets and disappointments, both personally and in the worldly sense.

Domestic issues are likely to take up much of your time and you will have to shoulder extra family responsibilities in what is in any case a far from easy year. Friends, too, could make greater demands of you.

It will be difficult to meet everyday needs in financial terms, so this is not a good time to take any sort of risk. Instead, proceed with caution, budget wisely and at least you won't end the year any worse off than you started it.

The year does, however, favour creative and artistic endeavours. So, if this is your métier, you may be able to gain a degree of recognition for your efforts as well as adding to your source of income.

The fun-loving **Monkey** is in his/her element this year. The social scene looks inviting and exciting with plenty of opportunities to make new contacts and enjoy your leisure.

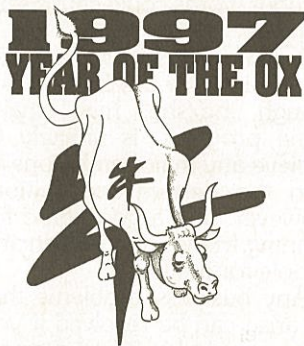
The romantically inclined could strike lucky, too, if looking for fresh fields to conquer rather than hoping to establish permanent ties. Travel is likely to be a prominent feature of 1997, both short trips and

longer journeys for business and pleasure — some will be planned, others unexpected.

Any problems that do arise during the year, and these are more than likely to be mere minor niggles, will be quickly dispersed by the Monkey's quick wit and clever tongue.

Do, though, keep a tight rein on purse-strings as money is likely to come and go equally rapidly. It would be too easy to spend, spend, spend with little to show for it at the end of the day when bills have to be paid.

An auspicious year for the **Rooster** when career advancement and financial success can be expected. Less unexpected, but equally welcome, is that money owing to you could be repaid or you may receive a windfall or recoup loss-



es thought to be permanent.

There could be cause for celebration on the home front, too. This may point to an addition to the family through birth or marriage or the welcome return of someone after a lengthy absence. Whatever the details, you will be delighted.

Business projects are well-starred and you should not have any major problems. Indeed, things run far more smoothly than usual and this will boost your confidence, enabling you to make even further progress.

This is also a good time for those involved in education, whether as a student or a tutor. Roosters taking examinations or hoping to acquire professional qualifications should find the going easier than expected

and be pleased with the results.

Each **Dog** must have his day but sadly this is not one of them. If prepared to sit quietly and let the year roll by, matters should remain much the same but any attempt to rock the boat or undermine authority is likely to jeopardise that which you already have: so take care.

Whatever you do, resist change simply for the sake of it as significant alterations to lifestyle are inevitable in any case, possibly due to straightened circumstances. Be prepared to go with the flow rather than attempting to impose your plans and wishes.

Mistakes and misunderstandings abound, so do try not to antagonise others by being over-demanding or voicing your opinions too loudly: despite good intentions, you could easily cause offence.

Concentrate your best efforts on the home front as this offers the greatest opportunities for contentment. Make the time to enjoy leisure hours with friends and family.

**Pigs** may fly, but not in an Ox year. It's a time for working hard to maintain the status quo and high-flyers will simply have to curb their ambitions for a while. However, slow, steady progress can be achieved by those willing to keep up the effort and exercise restraint.

The main bugbear is that money will be very tight so it is very important to curb any excesses and ensure that you budget carefully for the essentials. It is, though, an excellent time to become self-employed, perhaps by turning a hobby into a money-making venture.

Help could come from unexpected quarters, so don't be too quick to go it alone but be thankful for others' support in a year when it is possible to recoup losses and regain lost ground. Family life should run smoothly and travel will bring much pleasure. If fancy-free, the chances of encountering romance when on a journey are quite high!

# GRAPHOLOGY

by PETER MARSHALL

## KNOW YOUR WRITES

**Most of us are interested in ourselves and our handwriting will demonstrate what we are really like.**

Illustrated here are four singular personality structures. The first leans symbolically to the outside world with its sensitive reaction to all kinds of stimuli and is one with both an intuitive and intellectually reasoned approach. Word spaces are a little wide.

This denotes slight caution about contact with others: a protective measure for sensitivity. The lower extensions are plain and without any loops; showing one who likes to stand alone and independently. There is no elaboration here, just plain strokes that point to an appreciation of main essentials. Word endings appear short which attests to a blunt and frugal disposition hiding that sensitive inner nature. The

upper and lower extensions are almost equal in length which refers to appreciation of both intellectual and physical activities.

The second example can be called upright although there are some slight variations. This writer also likes to be independent. But the t-bars are mostly very short, registering a vulnerable degree of willpower which is confirmed by the uneven base-line.

The mixture of connected and unconnected letters imply intuition as well as a logical thinking process. Word spacing appears acceptably even, so the approach to social and interpersonal relationships is not very irregular. In places where there should be a

straight stroke there is a loop formation. Consequently we have a sensitivity to criticism. The final endings to words are sometimes short and other times normal so there can be bluntness and a reasonable attitude to others according to the mood of the moment.

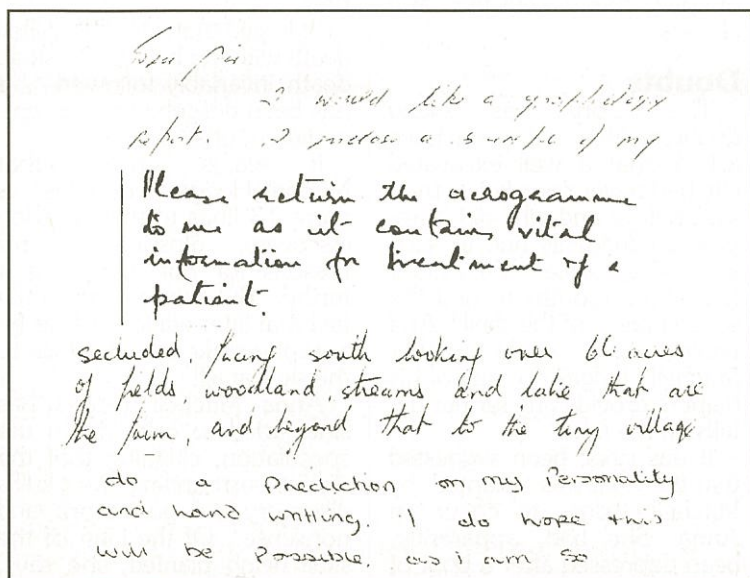
The third specimen has a good rightward slant featuring one who can express feelings with a normal emotional release, tempered with a sensible control. Consideration for the feelings of others is present without too much personal involvement.

T-bars are passably firm demonstrating a willpower that is similar. The s forms have a pointed top in some instances imparting a critical nature with a penetrating appraisal. The strokes reaching up to the intellectual sphere indicate an interest in the intangible and abstract world of theory, idealism and aspiration.

There is a general roundness to this script which is a feature of a naturally non-aggressive. The lower extensions are not at all neglected, therefore we know that instinctual urges and biological influences are adequately considered. An acceptable element of imagination is applied to these, as may be seen by the looping.

Some of the beginning strokes point to a slight conformity while the absence of them refers to an efficient directness at times. Again, the t-bars are not too high in most cases which shows an average amount of ambition.

With a slant of 65°, this writer is broadly affectionate, warm and sympathetic, quite receptive to the varied stimuli



(continued on page 52)

At the top of a set of stairs in the Museum of Mankind (part of the British Museum), there sits in a glass case one of the greatest mysteries in the world — a crystal skull. The skull is a mystery for many reasons. Its origin is unknown, as is its exact age, the skills required to make it are as yet still widely unavailable to us and even the story surrounding its discovery is vague.

The inscription on the glass case merely states that it is, 'possibly of Aztec origin, the colonial period at the earliest.' For a museum that authoritatively displays the fullest details for all exhibits, this is very unusual. However, the experts are literally working in the dark here.

The museum bought the skull from Tiffany's, the New York jewellers, in 1898 for the princely sum of £120. No-one here knew where it had come from although a story did go the rounds about it being part of the booty brought back from Mexico by a soldier of fortune.

The skull is so intimidating that museum cleaners have insisted that it is covered at nights with a black cloth. Part of the problem is that its eyes are perfect prisms and reflect an eerie glow of light, making one feel as if one is being watched by some unearthly being.

However, this exhibit is one of two so-called skulls of doom, both thought to come from the same area and, quite possibly, the same people. The other skull belongs to one Anna Mitchell-Hedges who got it from her father.

Mike Mitchell-Hedges was a flamboyant adventurer who roamed the Americas during the early 20th century. He fought with Pancho Villa during the Mexican revolution,

rode the range as a cowboy and gambled with millionaires. It was during one of these adventurous trips, so the story goes, that he found the skull. To be more precise, it was his adopted daughter, Anna, who found the skull.

In 1927 Mitchell-Hedges was excavating the Mayan city of Lubaantum in British Honduras. He was actually searching for clues to the exact location of Atlantis which he believed was in the area. He had taken Anna with him on this occasion and it was on her 17th birthday that she found the upper portion of the skull sticking out from underneath an ancient altar. Three months later she found the detachable lower jaw just a few feet away.

When asked many years later for her account of the skull's discovery, Anna said, 'My father gave the skull to the local Mayans who prayed to it. They told him that it was the image of their god, and that it had the power to heal, or to destroy. When we left later that year, the Mayans gave my father the skull as a parting present. He had been very good to them, bringing them medicines and clothes.'

### Doubts

This story has many doubters. How is it, many have asked, that a well excavated city had never revealed its treasure before and why did it appear so suddenly and in such an obvious place? Why did it take three months to find the second piece of the skull? And finally, why would neither Mitchell-Hedges nor any of his helpers provide any further details on the find?

It has since been suggested that the skull was 'planted' by Mitchell-Hedges to cheer up Anna. She had, apparently, been depressed after a bout of

Malaria and it was, after all, her 17th birthday.

The mystery only deepened when, in 1954, Mitchell-Hedges published his autobiography, *Danger My Ally*. Despite it being one of the greatest finds in the world, he dedicated only a few sentences to the crystal skull.

### Reference

The single reference to the skull is made in a chapter that deals primarily with a trip to Africa in 1948. Here he wrote, 'We took with us also the sinister Skull of Doom of which much has been written. How it came into my possession I have reason for not revealing.'

'The Skull of Doom is made of pure rock crystal and according to scientists must have taken 150 years, generation after generation working all the days of their lives, patiently rubbing down with sand an immense block of rock crystal until the perfect skull emerged. It is at least 3,600 years old and according to legend was used by the high priest of the Maya when performing esoteric rites.'

'It is said that when he willed death with the help of the skull, death invariably followed. It has been described as the embodiment of all evil.'

It seems strange that Mitchell-Hedges devotes a mere 13 lines to this amazing discovery, glossing over his reasons for not discussing it further. But stranger still is the fact that later editions of his biography make no reference to the skull at all!

Anna Mitchell-Hedges has since tried to calm down the speculation, claiming that the stories surrounding the skull's discovery are guesswork and nonsense. Of the idea of the skull being planted, she says,

---

'My father was a level-headed man, he would not have spent many thousands of pounds on an expedition simply to plant a skull for my benefit.'

However, she too is staying tight-lipped about some aspects of the skull. She did, though, clear up one mystery that surrounded it.

On September 15th, 1943, the skull turned up in auction at the famous Sotheby's auction rooms in London. Mitchell-Hedges didn't put it there, though, it was listed as the property of London art dealer, Sydney Burney.

Apparently Burney had gained possession of the skull when a loan made to Mitchell-Hedges for an expedition hadn't been repaid on time. The skull had simply acted as surety for the loan.

The British Museum desperately wanted to own the only two crystal skulls on Earth so sent someone along to bid for the lot. This was H. J. Braunholz who recorded that he bid up to the Museum's limit for the piece, a total of £340. However, the lot was sold to a mysterious bidder at the back of the room for £400.

## Mystery man

The mystery man turned out to be no other than Mitchell-Hedges himself. Apparently Burney hadn't told Mitchell-Hedges that he had taken the skull but had sought to make a quick profit out of it. When Mitchell-Hedges saw it was up for auction, he simply redeemed it.

From that point on, the Mitchell-Hedges skull's history is easy to follow. He died in 1959 and left it to Anna, who has retained it in her possession, occasionally lending it out for exhibition. 'Eventually,' she says, she will reveal the full story of its discovery.

# Skulls of Doom



**What is the mystery associated with an ancient crystal skull, one of only two known examples, that the owner insists upon keeping secret?**

Until then, though, we are left guessing. Even a scientific analysis of the skull failed to make any positive progress. In fact, it simply prompted more argument.

In 1936, while Sydney Burney had the skull in his possession, he gave permission for the anthropologist Dr G. M. Morant to study it. The British Museum also granted permission for the skull in its possession to be analysed and Morant did a detailed comparison between the two.

His results were published in *Man*, the official journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain. Morant noted that while the skulls were similar in design and shape, there were two major differences.

The Mitchell-Hedges skull was bigger and had a detachable jaw, while the British Museum piece was one solid carving. He also concluded that the skulls were almost certainly based on a female skull and that the Mitchell-Hedges skull was the older of the two, despite it being more intricate in its detail.

He maintained it was possi-

ble that the Museum skull was a copy of the Mitchell-Hedges one. Morant argued that while it was possible for a copier to omit or change aspects of the original design, it was impossible for a copier to add finer details, particularly as these were so anatomically correct. 'The Mitchell-Hedges skull,' he concluded, 'almost looks as if it is from a scientific age.'

Morant further went on to add that, in his opinion, the Museum skull had characteristics indicative of ancient Mexican art and more than likely originated from the 14th or 15th century Aztecs. Of the Mitchell-Hedges skull, however, he felt disinclined to be even this vague about its origins.

So the skull remains a total and complete mystery until such time as Anna Mitchell-Hedges decides to tell us what she knows. One thing is certain, though. Whether it is ancient art at its finest, a harbinger of doom with untapped and terrible powers or simply a modern day con, the Mitchell-Hedges skull is as beautiful and as unforgettable as any other work of art on this planet.

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# NEWS & VIEWS

## Going to Goa?

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## On the Crest

**Nearer to home, you can** enjoy a weekend of clairvoyance in Paris starting Friday February 14th for £129. Organised by Gold Crest Holidays, the event includes three nights accommodation at a 3-star hotel, free local pick up, executive coach travel on the return journey, no overnight travel is involved and optional excursions are available.

Palmistry, astrology, Tarot, runes, meditation and psychometry workshops and professional private readings are included in the itinerary. For more information contact Gold Crest Holidays, Summerfield House, 23 Leeds Road, Ikley, W. Yorks LS29 8DP (☎ 01943 600666/FAX 01943 600006).

## 300 years on

**Amazingly, 1997 marks** *Old Moore's Almanack's* 300th anniversary. Surely this must be some sort of record? So, if you haven't already got your copy of this popular astrological guide to the year ahead, £1 will buy you one in most High Street newsagents or stationery/book shop chain-stores. All the old favourites are here: monthly Sun sign forecasts; daily events/festivals; Lunar phases, Sun and Moon tables; weather, gardening and fishing

guides; monthly predictions, football forecasts and racing tips; lighting up times and now, of course, a national lottery guide for each sign. This year's celebrity profiles are Patricia Routledge and Rolf Harris; what Moore could anyone ask for!

## On the move

**Are you moving house** between now and April? Channel 4's *Moving People* is looking for psychics, clairvoyants, Tarot readers and astrologers who are moving house over the next few months to feature in the new TV series.

Participants should be prepared to be filmed from start to finish, catching both the agony and the delight of moving home. If interested, please contact Elaine Downey at Chapter One Television on ☎ 0171-580 8636.

## Gooday

**Our friends Down Under** will pleased to know that there is now an Australian Spiritual Association which establishes links between churches, groups, individuals and societies.

Anyone interested in finding out more can contact Rev Barbara Moxham in Sydney on ☎ 02 9528 2376 or write to the Australian Spiritual Association Inc, PO Box 248, Canterbury, 2193, NSW, Australia.

## Seasonal celebrations

**Nature and Culture is the** title of a series of eight weekend workshops with Sheila Broun at Leeds Metropolitan University. The initial two, Samhain and Yule, have passed but the next, Imbolc, takes place February 1st and 2nd, followed by the Spring Equinox celebration on March 22nd and 23rd; the series cul-

minates in September.

The series explores aspects of symbolism, ceremony and expression relating to nature, the environment and human culture and each weekend session can be booked/attended separately and costs £30. Hours are 2-8pm on the Saturday and 10-4pm on the Sunday. For details contact Wendy Greenlay on ☎ 0113-283 2600 ext 4047.

## Predictive astrology Part two of Paul Wade's

*Written in the Stars* astrology course at Brighton College of Technology is devoted to forecasting and predictive techniques. The first in the series, Planetary Transits, takes place on February 8th followed by one on Advanced Transits on February 22nd.

The workshops take place between 10-4pm and cost £13 each. There are five in this series, other dates being March 22nd, April 19th and May 17th; although designed as a complete course, the workshops can be attended individually. Enquiries to BCT, Connaught Centre, Connaught Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 3WB (☎ 01273 736491).

## Too late!

**If you were hoping to combine** a holiday in Cornwall with a once in a lifetime chance to view a total Solar eclipse it's already too late despite the fact that the event doesn't take place until August 11th 1999. Some hotels in the Land's End area have been fully booked for several years already and even local camp sites were snapped up three years in advance.

Perhaps we should all be thinking of booking now for the sake of our grandchildren:

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# NEWS & VIEWS

the next total eclipse visible from Cornwall will be in 2090. Don't say you weren't warned!

## February Diary Dates

**Jan 30th-Feb 2nd. *The Wisdom of the Crystal Skulls.*** A ceremonial, four-day workshop with Arwyn Dreamwalker, a Native American shaman, and The Sacred Trust. Costs £225, residential, at Poulstone Court, Hereford. Booking/details call ☎ 01225 852615.

**1st-2nd. *The Power to Heal.*** Weekend workshop with David Furlong at Flint House, 41 High St, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2LU. 10-5.30pm daily; £65. For more info write or call ☎ 01273 473388.

**5th. *UFO Update with Ken Seddington*** for UNEX at Petersfield Community Centre, Love, Petersfield, Hants. Doors open 7pm; £4/£6 non-members. Enquiries to Lucy Pringle ☎/FAX 01730 263454.

**7th. *Open Drumming Evening*** with BAPS South West Branch in Sidbury. Bring drums, rattles, tamborines, etc and a cushion. 7.30 start; fee £1/£3 non-members. Call Kay Harrison on ☎ 01395 597613 for venue.

**7th-9th. *The Brighton Weekend*** with The Company of Astrologers at Queens Hotel, Brighton, Sussex. Fully residential astrology weekend with many guest speakers such as Geoffrey Cornelius, Maggie Hyde and Pat Blackett. Costs £176 (single), £156 (twin). Call ☎ 01227 362 427 for details.

**11th. *Beginners Guide to Horary Astrology*** with John Frawley and the Bromley Astrological Group at the Small

Hall, Bromley Central Library, High Street, Bromley, Kent. 7.30-10.00pm. Fee £1/£3 non-members. Group meets monthly, every second Tuesday, at this venue (adjacent the Churchill Theatre).

**14th-15th. *Liverpool Body, Mind & Spirit Festival.*** Bluecoat Arts Centre, Liverpool. 10-6pm daily; entrance £2/£1 concs. Stalls, healing, free demonstrations and workshops, arts & crafts, readings, etc. For more info call ☎ 01273 674 408.

**14th-16th. *Cycles & Symbols III: The Return of Soul to the Cosmos*** with Stephen Arroyo, Caroline Casey, Priscilla Costello and other guest speakers. Organised by Isis, San Francisco Bay area, CA, USA. Details call ☎ 001(510)222 9436.

**14th-17th. *Congress Barcelona '97*** with the Astrological Association of Catalunya. Simultaneous Spanish/English seminars. Details call ☎ 34-3-2192920.

**15th-16th. *Chakras, Colours and Archetypes*** with Ruth White at Flint House, 41 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2LU. 10-5pm; £60. Details call ☎ 01273 473388.

**21st-23rd. *Paranormal Weekend*** at the modern Park Hall Hotel, near Preston includes a visit to the reputedly much haunted Chingle Hall in the itinerary. This two-day/two-night residential package costs £199 per head. Bookings/details from Heritage Touring on ☎ 01305 266440.

**21st-24th. *Parallel Interface Astrology Conference***

with Manchester Astrology Group and AA at Manchester Metropolitan University, Humanities Building, Oxford Road, Manchester. Guest Speakers, lectures, workshops and master classes. Starts Friday evening 8pm, thereafter 10am daily start (various finish times). Costs from £5 for eve session, £50 for weekend exc. eve meals, choice of workshops Monday £35; day rates available. For full programme, bookings and details call Gary Parkinson on ☎ 0161-226 5481

**28th-March 2nd. *Weekend Spiritual/Holistic Seminar*** with Jean Chapman, Paul Crowther, Joe Cooper and Don Galloway for The Lynwood Fellowship at Grantham Lodge Hotel, Marston, Nr Grantham, Lincs. En suite rooms £95 twin/£105 single; deposit £30. Bookings Mrs R. Pearson, 36 Lady Francis Drive, Market Rasen, Lincoln, LN8 3JJ.

**28th-March 2nd. *Aquarian Age Astrology*** in Moscow, Russia. For more info email: boris@izraitel.msk.ru or write Russian Astrology, Moscow, 129626, PB 5, Russia.

**27th. *Experience the Spirit of India.*** A 29-day interactive journey through ashrams, temples, pilgrimage sites, orphanages, villages, wildlife and culture. We immerse ourselves in daily life which is a rare and unique experience of Hinduism, Indian spiritual life. \$3130 Australian dollars inc. twin share accommodation, and return airfares to Delhi or Madras, meals, guides, entrance fees and all transport. Call Ruth ☎ (Australia) 03-9568-1795.

# PALISTRY

by PETER WEST

## CHARACTER IN THE MAKING

**Many people have asked if the hands of children can be read using the same methods we use for adults and the answer is yes.**

However, one should bear in mind that when dealing with a young child he/she may only respond to a certain level of questioning depending on his age. It is always best to have a responsible adult present, one who knows the child well, like a parent, guardian or teacher.

For example, parents may complain that their son is too boisterous and even unruly at times. A quick check of the hands may show an aptitude for sports so, by having the alleged negative energies channelled into sporting activities, the child might well become easier to handle and understand.

Parents often do not understand their offspring for a number of different reasons. Some try to live out their own frustrations through their children. Others want more for their child than he or she will ever be capable of fulfilling.

Almost from the first year of its life a child's hands can show his/her talents quite clearly. Their emotional and physical disposition will be implied by the basic shape of the hand and, perhaps, a little later, the lines will confirm the details. Certainly by the age of five or six the lines of a child's hands should show in which direction it would be best to prepare him

to face. This does NOT mean you MUST show the child and MAKE it follow the path suggested. People change and so do children, often with much more rapidity.

They are far more open to suggestion and the mood of the moment than most adults - with very few exceptions perhaps. To prove the point we are going to look at the hands of a very young man indeed, just six years old, who we will call Tony. Even at such a young age it is easy to see that, from the width of the palms and the way the fingers are so widely spread, here is a rather determined little personality, one who has quite a strong character in the making.

When the space is wide between the first and second fingers it shows a confident and self-sufficient type. Children with this formation are very much a law unto themselves and do not take too well to any kind of interference in their lives from anybody.

When the index leans outward, far away from the middle finger as it does on the left hand here, it shows the boy will listen to what is said and done around him but may take a different inner view of things. This is the beginning of poor social adaptability that needs constructive, corrective effort

by the parents before it gets too much of a grip on the little lad.

However, this feature is less pronounced in the right hand, so it should be possible to curb this tendency fairly quickly. One of the reasons for this emotional withdrawal could be because his parents are temporarily separated. Tony is trying to understand the situation but already it is beginning to affect him and this is shown in his hands.

A wide space between the second and third fingers can indicate a lack of forethought. Long-term planning does not concern this type for only the day-to-day existence is of immediate or real importance to them. On Tony's left hand, however, this space between the second and third fingers is slightly narrower than on the right. He is able to plan ahead but may be slightly inhibited, trying to appear more self-assured than the reality.

Between the third and fourth fingers a wide space suggests one who must instinctively act on his or her own. This is the mark of a child who cannot abide vacillation: it prefers its own company and has a need to keep its individual identity.

Widely spaced thumbs complete this picture and the wider the angle the more self-reliant the subject will be. Here, the right hand thumb tip opens outward quite widely showing a generous and open-minded nature. Note that it is also low-set, which in this case suggests the inspirational type, someone who can be sparked off into new ventures at the drop of a hat.

On the left hand the space

between the thumb and the side of the hand is narrower. Tony is therefore more cautious than he appears; there is just a hint of reserve in all he does. These thumbs are relatively long and slim, suggesting a love of study (eventually): Tony already has quite good logic and reasoning ability for his age.

The lines on both hands are clear and well defined, with good long life lines that sweep out deep into the palm, then turn back to end under the mount of Venus. This suggests a strong love of change, of travel and things new but, at the end of any such exercise, this young lad wants to be back home, safe within his own four walls. Almost like a crab: he only feels really safe when he is at home.

The heart line is set rather low in both hands. His emotions are deep and strong but a little possessive and demanding. He knows what he wants but can be willing to compromise and negotiate.

Indeed, this trait may well be taken further as he grows older. He is likely to develop a strong sense of responsibility and become known for his deeply caring nature. I would advise him to seek employment where his need for variety, change and interesting conditions within the parameters of the job can be satisfied.

The right hand line of heart suggests a love of detail and organisational ability. This little chap will work well on his own initiative. A low-set heart line like this always suggest deep feelings. He can be generous, warm-hearted and rather intensely emotional. If he takes a fancy to someone or something it could be obsessive if allowed to get out of hand.

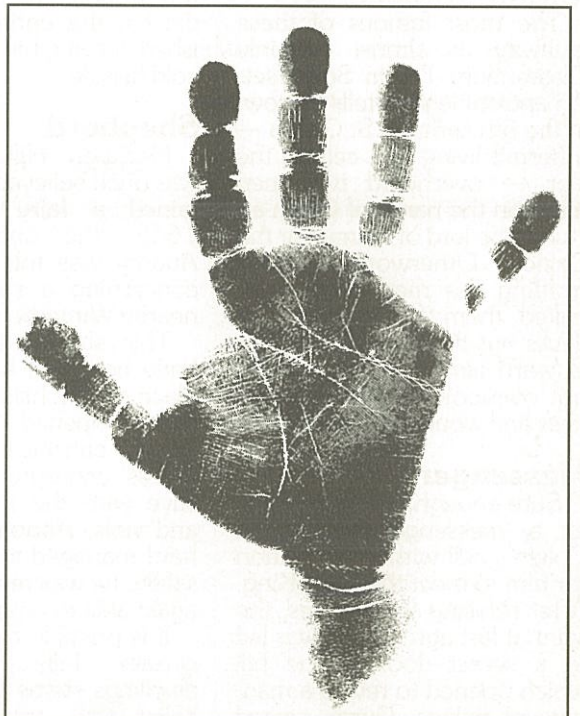
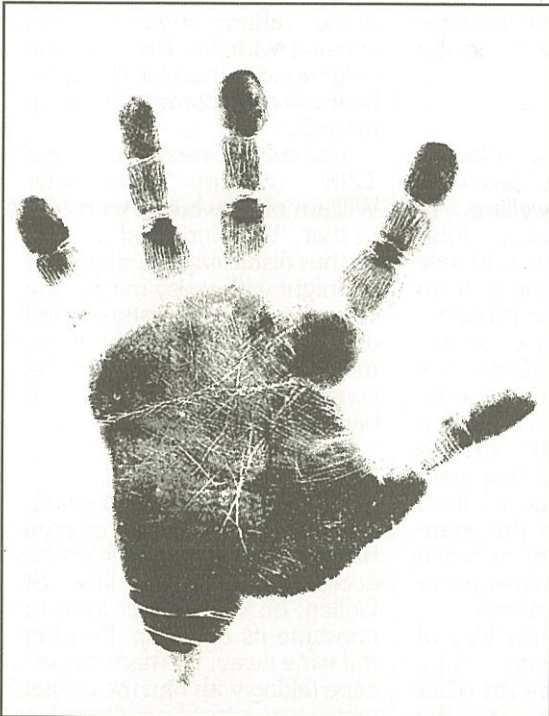
He has to be taught how to temper his emotions with reason. And that brings us to the quite different head lines. On the left hand the line rises slightly and sends a small fork downward. The main line continues to rise and merges with the line of heart, almost form-

ing a Simian line. This is a configuration that, when seen, denotes someone who has a conscious need to show courage or is afraid of showing fear.

Tony has had a lot of emotional unhappiness and domestic unrest. Despite his age, he seems to be taking control of his emotional responses, as far as any healthy young six-year-old is able to do. He is at great pains to be very careful how he responds to any and all emotional matters.

The right hand line of head cuts right across the palm and, in one so young, suggests hyperactive tendencies. Parents, guardians and teachers should heed such markings.

Any child like this needs careful and considered upbringing. If all the tendencies associated with these markings are not eased somewhat by careful nurturing they will be taken into adulthood. If this happens, a complex, forceful, egocentric, jealous and quite intense nature will develop.



# Fantastic Journeys

by JAMES CLARK

**Thes British Isles are said by local legends and traditions to hold many gateways to the fairy realm.**

Fairies have always been elusive creatures, difficult to catch even the slightest glimpse of. Perhaps, though, we don't need to wait for them to appear to us; maybe we can go to them instead. There are, after all, many places across the British Isles that are traditionally reputed to be gateways between our world and the strange realm commonly referred to as Fairyland.

The most famous of these gateways is almost certainly Glastonbury Tor in Somerset. An ancient legend tells us how, in the 6th century, St Collen — a hermit living in a cell on the Tor — overheard two men mention the name of Gwyn ap Nudd, the lord of Annwn or the Celtic Otherworld. Confronting the men, Collen rebuked them for speaking of devils but their only reply was to warn him that Gwyn would not overlook the saint's rudeness and would send for him.

## Messenger

Sure enough, a few days later a messenger arrived at Collen's cell with an invitation for him to meet the Fairy King. After refusing three times, the saint at last agreed and was led to a secret door in the hill which opened to reveal a magnificent palace. Gwyn, seated

in a golden chair, offered Collen something to eat but, aware that consumption of fairy food would lead to his falling under their spell, the saint declined stating, 'I do not eat the leaves of a tree.'

Realising he'd been led into a trap, Collen reached into his cloak to retrieve a bottle of holy water he'd brought along secretly and began to sprinkle this around him. As soon as he did so, the entire scene vanished, leaving him alone on the cold hillside.

## Shepherd

Hackpen Hill in Wiltshire was once believed to have contained a fairy dwelling. In 1645, the antiquary John Aubrey was told an odd tale concerning a shepherd from nearby Winterbourne Bassett.

This shepherd had apparently been led by fairies to a place on the hillside where the ground opened up to reveal a secret entrance to 'strange places' underground that were alive with the music of lutes and viols. Although the shepherd managed to return home safely, he was reportedly never again able to enjoy himself.

It is possible that the idea of certain hills being fairy dwellings stems from an older belief that entrance to the

Celtic Otherworld could be gained via burial mounds. Indeed, the ancient cult of the dead is widely held to be a major factor in the origin of fairy tradition.

One of the oldest English fairy-tales is connected with just such a burial mound — a round barrow in Humberside known as Willy Howe. Late one night, a somewhat intoxicated villager was returning home after spending the evening with his friend in the neighbouring hamlet when he heard singing coming from the mound.

The story is recorded by the 12th century chronicler William of Newburgh who tells us that, 'Wondering who could be thus disturbing the silence of midnight with noisy mirth,' the villager went to investigate and discovered an open door in the mound's side. Through it he could see men and women banqueting at large tables.

## Goblet

Someone spotted him standing in the doorway and offered him a goblet of wine which he accepted although, like St Collen, he knew better than to consume its contents. Pouring the wine away, he made his escape taking with him the goblet which was latter found to be 'a

vessel of unknown material, unusual colour and strange form.'

Other routes to Fairyland are often reputed to lead through caves, tunnels and the like. In the 12th century, Robert, Prior of Kenilworth, told Gervase of Tilbury of a swineherd who one Winter's day lost a sow that was about to farrow.

Unable to find the creature, the swineherd reasoned that it must have wandered into what is now Peak Cavern in Derbyshire. Deciding that he'd rather risk the cave's evil reputation than his master's wrath, the swineherd entered after it.

### Light

After he had walked a considerable distance into the cave, he realised that he could see a light ahead and a short while later emerged onto a wide, Sunlit plain on which reapers were gathering in the harvest. He spotted and retrieved his missing sow and, after being kindly dismissed by the lord of the mysterious land he'd found, was taken back through the cave, eventually finding himself once again in the Wintry England he'd left behind.

Another underground passage features in the following West Glamorgan legend, set around Swansea and the Vale of Neath, recorded around 1191 by Gerald of Wales in his *Journey through Wales*. A 12-year-old boy named Elidyr, who was learning to read, became fed up with his teacher's harsh discipline and ran away.

For two days, he hid in the hollow of a river bank with nothing to eat until, without warning, two tiny men appeared and told him, 'If you will come away with us we will take you to a land where all is play-time and pleasure.'

The tiny men led Elidyr through a tunnel into a beautiful, but rather dark land of rivers and meadows where there was no Sun, Moon or stars.

The inhabitants of this peculiar place were small but perfectly formed with fair complexions and flowing hair. They ate neither meat nor fish, living instead on junkets (dishes of curdled milk) and rode horses which were the size of greyhounds.

### Chased

Valuing honesty above all things, they were greatly upset when one day, after many visits, Elidyr stole a golden ball to show to his mother. Two of them chased the boy back through the tunnel and all the way to his house where, in his haste, Elidyr tripped over the threshold and dropped his prize.

The men promptly picked it up and ran off. Ashamed, Elidyr returned to the river bank to look for the tunnel entrance but, in spite of spending the next year and a half searching, was never again able to discover it.

It may be worth noting that Elidyr's story is set in the vicinity of Craig-y-Ddinas in the Vale

of Neath — the rock where the last fairy court in Wales is supposed to have been held. (In 1880, at the time when Wirt Sikes was writing *British Goblins*, there were still a few old men and women who claimed to remember fairies appearing there, although by then they were no longer being seen.)

While most of these tales tell us of mortals stumbling across hidden gateways to strange lands, sometimes it is the inhabitants of the other place who find themselves lost in our world. The village of Woolpit in Suffolk owes much of its fame to a remarkable legend recorded by Ralph of Coggeshall in about 1210.

### Children

The village's name derives from pits into which captured wolves were thrown to be destroyed. It was by one of these pits that a group of villagers one day discovered two children — a boy and a girl — whose most striking feature was that they had green skin.

The children were taken to



From mankind's early beginning, the shaman worshipped everything he/she could see; sky, Sun, Moon, the Earth, rivers, mountains and trees. He worshipped animals, sex and the spirits of his ancestors. Everything had a spirit, be it good or bad. Man worshipped the force of life and assured fertility by performing the proper rituals.

Also fundamental was the fear of death. As religious ideas became more sophisticated, humankind sought assurance that death was not final. Then came the concept of a god of an afterlife — an underworld through which all souls of the dead must pass.

The fertility deity was a goddess, the female who gave birth, the custodian of the creative force. In early religions the mother goddess mated with the male god who was either a god of nature or the underworld.

Shamanism grew in the Neolithic period when mankind turned from hunting to grazing as a way of life. Stone Age man painted the walls of his caves with pictures showing men dancing in animal skins with antlers on their heads, surrounded by animals.

Neolithic man believed in sympathetic magic, the dressing up in skins and horns to perform certain rites that would influence the hunt and bring about a successful result. Shamanism was found in all the ancient cultures of Asia Minor, Egypt, Greece, Rome and in the Celtic areas from the Mediterranean to the Channel Islands.

Alongside the god of hunting came the goddess of fertility, both that of those animals on which man depended and of all life. With the development of agriculture there was a further elevating of the Goddess as she

cultivated the grain. So the year then fell into two halves.

In the Winter men had to hunt and so the God predominated; in the Summer food could be grown, so the Goddess held sway. As man learned to grow and store food for the Winter, hunting became less important and the Horned God begun to be looked upon as a god of nature, death and what lies beyond.

In the shamanic view of the world, all things are interconnected in a web of beginnings and everything effects everything else. The shamanic way is the way to honour all kingdoms — mineral, plant, animal and human — and to honour the four elements: Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Also to honour and develop the four aspects of ourselves: the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual.

With the celebrations of the seasons we attune ourselves to the flow of the Wyrð, the energy of life. Shamans (whom we in the civilised world have called medicine men and witch-doctors) are the keepers of ancient techniques used to achieve and maintain the well-being and healing of their community and themselves.

In shamanism the maintenance of one's personal power is fundamental to well-being. The shaman must stay centred and balanced, which is achieved by remaining rooted, in personal contact with the Earth. From this Earth connection the shaman is then able to reach into the spirit and thus become a channel between the energies of the Earth and nature and those of the spirit.

In engaging in shamanism one must move between what is termed the ordinary state of consciousness and the shamanic state of consciousness. It is in the latter that one contacts

one's guides.

The shaman depends on a special form of personal power which is usually supplied by his guardian, helper or power animal, a spiritual being that not only protects and serves the shaman but becomes another identity or alter ego. Without a guardian, helper or power animal it is virtually impossible to be a shaman, for the shaman must have this strong, basic power-source.

## Guardians

A guardian is an energy pattern that supplies information vital to your spiritual development. It operates beyond the normal range of physical perception. Any visual impressions we receive come from our higher selves via the subconscious.

A protective influence, a guardian assists the shaman to accomplish tasks and guards him from harm during both spirit journeys and physical activities. Some religious orders might call this a guardian angel.

## Helpers

Helpers provide assistance in shamanic work or supply the power or ability to perform certain functions. They usually appear in shamanic journeying in non-human form as trees, rocks, stones, crystals, gems or sometimes as fantasy figures.

## Power animals

A power animal is an expression of spiritual force in animal form. It is an energy pattern that personifies the characteristics, not of an individual animal but rather the group soul of a species in an aspect of one's own animal nature. The best known way to acquire a power animal is through inner visioning or visualisation.

A creature becomes identified as a power animal when it appears on four separate occasions. After the fourth encounter it should be asked, 'Are you my power animal?' It will then respond either verbally, telepathically, through im-

**Shamanism comes from and returns us to the basis of our understanding of the cosmos and our place within it.**

ages to your mind or in symbols which you will need to decode.

## The Wyrd

To understand shamanic philosophy it is important to grasp the concept of what is called the Wyrd, the foundation on which all such philosophy is based. The term Wyrd is the origin of today's weird, meaning strange or unexplainable.

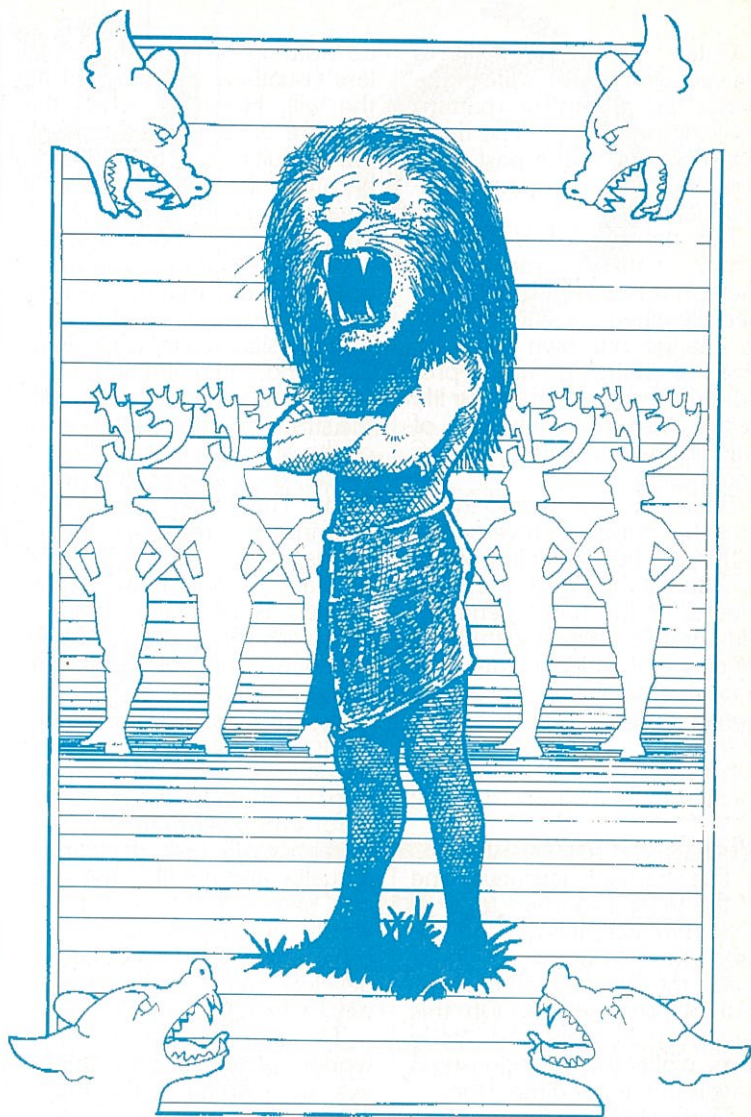
Wyrd essentially had this same meaning more than 1000 years ago in shamanic Europe, but in sacred rather than mundane realms. Wyrd was the unexplainable force — the great mystery underlying all existence. The essence of the Wyrd is that the universe exists within polarities of force, rather like the Eastern concept of Yin and Yang.

According to shamanic beliefs the universe originally consisted of two, mighty, unimaginably vast force regions, one of fire, the other of ice. When the fire and ice met they exploded, creating a great mist charged with magic force and vitality. This is the mist of knowledge existing beyond time, concealing wisdom about the nature of life that may be revealed to people travelling the shamanic path.

This creation cosmology was best preserved in Germanic and Norse myths and stories. The meaning of the Wyrd can also be understood through the image of a vast web of fibres, an image that appears frequently in early European literature and artwork.

The Celtic shamans visualised a fibrous web that flowed through the entire universe linking absolutely everything; each person, object, event, thought and feeling. This web is so sensitive that any movement, thought or happening, no matter how small, reverberates throughout the entire web.

In some of the incantations preserved in the British Museum, the journey of the shaman's soul into the spirit world was facilitated by a spi-



# WAY OF THE SHAMAN

by R.T. HILL

der spirit. When the shaman wanted to understand the complexity of forces effecting an individual, such as during initiations and healing, he visualised the pattern of fibres entering that person.

One of the central premises of Wyrd is that in certain states of shamanic consciousness the boundaries between inner and outer realities become permeable and can be transcended.

By working with guardian animals, we can get in touch

with abilities that were formerly outside our ordinary state of consciousness. For example, guardian spirits can give us access to many of those abilities that society has labelled paranormal. By embodying the fibres of the Wyrd that reverberate through us, these guardians can help us develop and enhance our sensitivity to the myriad influences which constantly effect us but remain beyond the scope of our physical senses.

# BEGINNERS' SIGNPOSTS

**Are you beginning to suspect that you can contact the unseen worlds but don't know how to proceed? Read on.**

by VANESSA CHANDLER

Perhaps you have felt the first light touch of a psychic gift. Alternatively, it may be that you have not yet had any direct psychic experience but are interested and wondering whether you can develop the necessary skills. Or you may have been driven to explore the paranormal by the feeling that 'there must be more to life than this!'

If so, you are not alone. There is an increasing number of people tentatively testing the waters of the unseen worlds.

This process is encapsulated perfectly in the first Major Arcana card of the Tarot, The Fool. If you can, take a look at this card. It doesn't much matter which pack you use as The Fool is generally represented in a similar way: a young man with a bundle of belongings over his shoulder, about to step off a high place.

Although this may seem like a warning to be careful, in fact the figure's hopeful expression points to the card's real significance. This person is going exploring, he doesn't know what the future holds but does know that he needs to change and grow and is very hopeful of a positive

outcome. Ring any bells?

Initially you will begin to look around for inspiration. Where, you may wonder, is the teacher, group, course or tradition that will suit your needs? We live in the Information Age so, having decided to explore a particular path, you start to look at how you might do so and discover that there is almost too much on offer. Information overload!

How do you choose? Sadly, I have to add that you will also need to be wary of the less scrupulous folk out there who will charge a great deal for very little or nothing at all.

Also, thanks to the aura of mystery surrounding the paranormal and psychic fields, you will find that some of the adverts you read are rather inscrutable. This may be intriguing but is not very helpful to the beginner.

False starts and trundling down one or two blind alleys may seem unavoidable at the outset before you find the thread which fits your hand and which, held tight through thick and thin, will lead you safely and surely to the heart of the Mysteries. The following paragraphs therefore aim to provide useful signposts to guide you safely past some of the early pitfalls and cul-de-sacs.

## Taking time

Firstly, don't rush into anything. No matter what sense of personal urgency you may feel (and this is not uncommon), take the time necessary to pick up brochures, talk to other people and sleep on it before making any substantial commitment of time or money.

Sadly, there are no quick fixes! Enlightenment, like Rome, isn't achieved in a day. If anyone tells you otherwise, my best advice is to courteously pass him/her by.

A genuine teacher will seek to build strong foundations because there is a very real danger that going too far too fast will lead the beginner into trouble. This can be frustrating because sometimes you make huge leaps of understanding and then you seem to stand still. This is actually right and proper.

Growth is a cyclic process and after any change there has to be a period of assimilation to ensure you don't overtax your strength. Consider the progress of a weight-lifting programme. You begin by finding out how much weight you can lift now, then increase it gradually, giving your muscles time to learn to handle each change before adding more weight. It's the same with your psychic muscles and understanding this fact can defuse a lot of frustration.

So be patient with your poor teacher when he or she insists that you do things gradually — irrespective of any ancient Egyptian connections! You may have attained a high degree in a previous life but your present psyche needs to be refined to that level before you can re-access those skills in this life.

## Many paths

Never trust anyone who tells you his/her way is the ONLY one. It is said that there are 1,000 paths to enlightenment. This means that although there is one Light, there are many, many equally valid ways to reach it.



Many threads, many paths, some of which have become formalised into the various traditions that can help to provide a framework within which to learn and work. Note also that the framework or tradition in which you begin is not necessarily the one in which you will end.

You may explore others and decide to return to the original or not as you choose but no one way should be regarded as necessarily suiting your needs for all time. However, change is healthy only as long as you are building on what you have already learned, rather than hopping from one tradition or teacher to another when the going gets tough.

Don't worry if you feel affinities to several traditions (eg Egyptian, Celtic, Christian, pagan, etc) and can't initially decide between them. Keep going and one will start to stand out.

What you may have been experiencing is hints of past lives surfacing. You may have worked/lived in those ways before and, as you begin to 'wake-up' in this life, naturally echoes from the past will surface from time to time. This can be confusing when you are a beginner yet there is nothing to fear.

Sometimes the best way to begin is to go to lots of 'taster' or introductory workshops. Finding out what you are not in tune with clears the undergrowth and helps you to see the way ahead more clearly. Which leads naturally onto the subject of money because the cost of even mini workshops and talks can mount up.

Right now anyone who makes his/her living in this field has to charge for it because money is our usual medium of exchange. However, financial gain is unlikely to be the prime motivation of a genuine teacher. He will do his best to keep the charges as reasonable as possible and may be prepared to negotiate or trade with a serious student who has limited funds.

## Attention!

Learn to pay attention. This is vital as there are nuggets of wisdom to be found lurking in the strangest places. Consider this: you can be said to be doing a jigsaw whose pieces may turn up at any time and in many different forms. For instance, one phrase in a book may strike an inner chord or someone otherwise crashingly boring will suddenly say something that has a deeper meaning for you.

Even a pattern of leaves on a tree or an acorn falling to the ground can trigger a shift in consciousness so that things you have been struggling to put together for a while suddenly shift and tumble like a kaleidoscope into a whole new pattern. Watch out for such moments, they are precious.

Even if you are not particularly drawn to Mother Earth, I suggest you take the time to get out and experience the living world around us. Breathe it in and feel the wild, living energies empowering you.

Too often 20th century lifestyles cut us off from this power-source and there is a vital, wild part of us which needs the nourishment that can be provided only by contact with the elements. It is these emotional energies that provide the motive power behind all magical and psychic work.

Trying to develop ability in the psychic fields by mind alone is like trying to run your car on air. You have the ignition keys, you know the theory of driving and which pedals to press and levers to move but without the fuel you'll get nowhere. No matter how hard you try.

## Keeping control

On the other hand, mental self-control is also vital. Emotional energy can be very powerful and quickly get out of hand without a disciplined mind in charge. The best way of developing mental discipline is through regular meditation.



There are many different forms of meditation from TM (transcendental meditation) which uses mantras, to guided visualisations. There are also many books on the various forms of meditation. These can be a useful starting point when trying to decide on the form of meditation which feels comfortable for you.

However, in order to become truly proficient there is no better way than learning from a good teacher. Happily, there are many around and you can find them either by word of mouth or through their adverts in local papers or specialist magazines.

## Discrimination

Finally, be discriminating. There is no need to frenziedly pursue everything that crosses your path. Once you learn to 'pay attention' you will develop an inner watcher, a sense that metaphorically pokes you in the ribs and says, 'remember that, it's important.'

Trying too hard can actually block progress. So relax, enjoy, go with the flow and good luck!

al decisions are made to pick up the threads of disaster in a deliberate way.

One writer stated clearly that this Four indicates a stage reached in mental development when occult secrets are not only needed but can be of practical help. And there lies the greatest of clues. It is the practical approach and decision making of a given situation that the Four of Swords is concerned about. Advice is given, a chance to delve into mysteries and secrets, if that is of help, with a redeeming factor of personal free will thrown in.

Sometimes stress increases to such a stage that the mind and body react. This can cause a breakdown, an illness or a need for hospitalisation for whatever ailment arises. Nature will allow only so much self-destruction before stepping

in to try to repair the damage.

In a person this often means a virus or an illness or disease can be created. Not deliberately, necessarily, although psychosomatic ailments must not be dismissed, but where too much work or stress or emotional reaction causes nature to rebel. Something has to give; usually the body but sometimes the mind.

The solution is to escape in some form, perhaps through illness or by recognising that a drastic getaway will work best. It all has to do with the individual and the personal circumstances but the answers keep coming back to the same point again and again.

The Four of Swords forces the issues simply because there is a need for action and a special need to resolve the sticking points that otherwise would

create a stalemate. Yes, the Swords Four seems to say, the advice is drastic and does take one away into some kind of isolation.

But it is a recovery programme, one which is going to allow a pause and time of reflection. Once this time has passed, whether it be recovery from illness, being shut off from the herd or locked away from some cause, then, but only then, can the journey of life continue without the obstructions which ground it to a halt.

Nothing need impede such progress, except personal decisions that ignore the warnings. The Four of Swords gently but firmly eases one into a backwater for a time, it is true, but the impetus of life's undertow will equally gently allow a drift back into the mainstream once again.

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by Stephen Pile, The Sunday Times, page-a14, 14th August 1988.

Assassination of Mr Rajiv Gandhi is forecast by Dr A Mukherjee.

by Tony Leliew, The Edgware Times, page-12, 15th September 1988.

Prediction of outright 1992 General Election victory for the Conservative party and John Major. Resignation and defeat of Neil Kinnock and the Labour party.

BBC-Radio interview, 9th January 1992; SKY TV news interview, 16th March 1992.

Widely forecast as early as January 1992 that Bush would lose Presidential Election. The Hendon Times, page 17, 2nd January 1992; Third Eye, February 1992.

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by Merle Adam, Times Group Newspapers, page-6, 8th December 1988.

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## FEBRUARY

### OPTIMISTIC PROSPECT

**February has all the potential for being the most decisive and eventful month of 1997.** The main spotlight is on the political arena where there is certain to be change and upheaval. Questions of leadership will be much to the fore and we are likely to hear a great deal about social welfare and the need for a more equitable distribution of wealth.

Aquarius receives overwhelming emphasis throughout the month. The most spectacular feature is the conjunction of Jupiter and Uranus on the 16th. Interestingly, this is the date when Mars opposes Saturn, so it looks as if government leadership will be under pressure.

Mercury and Venus also move through Aquarius during these weeks indicating the increasing popularity of a political figure whose progressive thinking will have a growing appeal to the younger generation.

Symbolically, Aquarius, together with the Uranus-Jupiter conjunction, signifies radical and revolutionary movements. This does not necessarily imply that everything is about to be overturned or that everything will fall into chaos. However, the forces of

change are on the increase now and a new sense of direction about how society is run will begin to appear.

Also, an increasing number of people, having been disillusioned with outmoded policies of the past, will develop greater awareness of what is really needed for a healthy society. The shift away from compulsive consumerism will continue and, in its place, will be a greater social conscience based on humanitarian values. These themes reflect the positive qualities of Aquarius and there's no doubt that changing attitudes will become very noticeable, not only during February but well into the future.

Generally speaking, the astrological pattern is wholly positive and encouraging. The only drawback is the retrograde movement of Mars from the 6th onwards and the adverse aspect to Saturn on the 16th. This indicates that certain diplomatic efforts will receive a setback and perhaps an important industrial contract will be lost to an overseas competitor.

However, since benefic Jupiter receives so much emphasis throughout the month, we can hope that a more expansive and optimistic prospect is coming into view.

#### **Remus**

### HOW TO READ THE SYMBOLS

**At the side of each monthly forecast in the following pages are different symbols, representing the various matters that may affect you.**

Here is the key: *Heart*: love affairs. *£ sign*: money and material matters. *Sword*: quarrels and disputes. *Sun's face*: health. *Letters*: correspondence and documents. *Linked*

*rings*: partnerships. *House*: domestic matters. *Suitcase*: travel. *Black cat*: general good luck.

These symbols indicate the highlights of the four phases of the month as interpreted by the above key. For example a sword and a heart together stand for disputes about love. The sword by itself would mean disputes in general. Letters on the same line as the Sun would refer to a document concerning health matters. The symbols are, therefore, an additional guide to the trends prevailing in your affairs.

# ARIES

MARCH 21 TO APRIL 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

## Everything may seem to hang in the balance during February.

Your ruler Mars continues to occupy your opposite sign forming a rather stressful angle to Saturn mid month. Tensions that may have been building up are likely to come to a head and you'll need tact if a problem is to be resolved amicably.

The unusually powerful groupings of planetary aspects in the second and third weeks of the month point strongly towards a realignment of certain aims and objec-

tives. Although you may feel as if everything is about to crumble into chaos, there is a kind of rescuing force woven into this pattern. Unexpected luck is indicated with events around the 12th helping you to see your way ahead.

In many ways this is going to be rather a dramatic month for Arians. The trend suggests that you are nearing the end of one cycle of experience and are about to turn over a new leaf. The feeling of burning your bridges could be a major feature during the weeks ahead — maybe a decision that you have been contemplating for several months.

This may sound rather drastic but the underlying pattern is highly constructive. Although the situation may contain unavoidable stress, the final result will be a feeling of real liberation which will stir fresh creative energy into action.

Close personal relationships are likely to be strongly emphasised throughout February. This is where you could experience the stressful trends, especially around mid month. If a fairly long-standing relationship has not been go-

ing well lately, you may need to face up to the situation and ask yourself what you really want or if perhaps you have been expecting too much of the other person.

Venus is in a helpful sector of your Solar chart most of the month. This will help towards a co-operative atmosphere if problems are to be discussed.

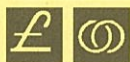
More positively, it's a favourable time for new romantic attachments with every indication that cherished hopes and wishes will be realised via an unexpected turn of events. The most encouraging dates are the 7th, 11th and 15th. These are also favourable dates for social life and making new friends.

In purely practical affairs, you'll make best progress through co-operating with others rather than trying to go it alone. It's an excellent time to join forces to further a special objective or widen your horizons in some way. Any group endeavour or social project should make tremendous progress.

It may not be the easiest of months but provided you act decisively then you'll attract good fortune your way.

# TAURUS

APRIL 21 TO MAY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

## February is a month of great potential and new horizons.

This is indicated by a powerful grouping of planets in the topmost sector of your Solar chart. Jupiter alone would indicate expansion in career and worldly status. But this planet actually conjoints Uranus on the 16th, signalling an unexpected lucky break. However, to make the best of this you should cast some of your usual caution to the wind and not be afraid to make changes.

Jupiter also links forces with

your ruling planet on the 6th and then with Mercury on the 12th — both dates being important for career and finances. Yet another auspicious date is the 14th with Jupiter forming favourable aspects to both Mars and Pluto.

Taken together, this seems to point very strongly to a substantial boost in your material position very soon. Any major changes taking shape now are almost certain to favour you over the months that follow. After what may have been a fairly hard struggle over the past year or so, you can expect to reap the rewards for your efforts.

The only main bugbear during February is likely to be poor health and lowered vitality. You can do much to offset this negative trend by taking extra care on dates when adverse aspects are in force — notably the 4th, 10th and especially the 16th and 17th.

Don't allow others to pressurise you at work but stick stubbornly to what is (to you) most essential. If you don't do everything immediately, it won't all fall to pieces. The current pattern of the zodiac is unusually supportive and the Fates

are very much on your side.

From a different point of view, it looks as if travel or a message from a distance will lead to some interesting developments on or soon after the 8th. A fairly lengthy journey around this time could turn out to be not only inspiring but decidedly therapeutic. Taureans who have been feeling a bit frayed at the edges since early in the year would do well to take a short break at this time.

Journeys of a mental and spiritual nature receive a powerful emphasis, too. Deeper or philosophical interests will become more absorbing and perhaps something you read or a person you meet will have a profound influence on your thinking. Anything that requires imagination, foresight or deep thought will certainly bring benefits during the second week.

Finally, if there is a question of a possible change of residence hanging in the air, expect to see positive developments later in the month. It's a time when you will become much clearer about what you wish to achieve and what your real priorities are.

# GEMINI

MAY 21 TO JUNE 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

**Friends' or partners' affairs are likely to have a significant impact early in February.**

The prevailing pattern shows a positive trend so whatever happens is almost certain to make you feel optimistic.

This encouraging trend continues throughout the month, bringing increased scope and incentive to broaden your horizons and enrich your lifestyle. New influences are beginning to make themselves felt, inclining you to feel rather

restless and perhaps impatient with routine. If you're hankering after a change or to launch out in a new direction, expect better opportunities during February.

Basically, an increasing desire for freedom is indicated in the current planetary pattern. The conjunction of Jupiter and Uranus on the 16th may signal a restless phase but also promises a lucky break and perhaps a chance to achieve a long-standing ambition.

Think very carefully and seriously about what you really want now. What worked well for you in the past may no longer give you much fulfilment or sense of direction. But the situation is changing and events are manoeuvring you onto a different path. Take note of unusually helpful trends in the second and third weeks if you wish to make any major decisions.

The theme of widening horizons may be experienced quite literally in terms of far-flung journeys during February. If so, you can expect your travels to bring you much enjoyment and perhaps a great deal of unexpected luck. This is certainly going to be a good month for

business journeys, long-distance contacts or important communications. By far the most significant dates for travel are the 5th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th.

If it's not geographical horizons that beckon, your mental and spiritual horizons should brighten. Educational interests are brought very much to the fore at this time, making this a highly progressive and inspiring month for things of the mind.

Something will throw you into a very reflective or philosophical mood. Mentally and spiritually it could be that a new window on the world is about to open which will lead eventually to a vast enrichment of your ideas and outlook.

At a more immediate and concrete level, the prevailing trend is particularly helpful for teaching, writing, journalism, publishing and anything to do with the lively exchange of ideas. Geminians will be very much in their element.

It's not the best of months for romantic affairs but if you don't force issues and are content to bide your time, a potentially painful situation will be resolved before long.

# CANCER

JUNE 21 TO JULY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

**Favourable financial developments should help you clear a way through any difficulties.**

Joint financial affairs receive a tremendously significant boost and perhaps quite suddenly you'll be able to push ahead with desirable changes much sooner than anticipated.

There is a significant link between home and work in the coming month. This may generate some stress during the second week. It's a time when develop-

ments that have been emerging in the background will come more into the spotlight. What you want to do may not coincide with your partner's hopes or wishes. Try to talk any such disagreements over calmly. You might be viewing things from too narrow an angle.

Nevertheless, if you are leading a fairly freewheeling lifestyle, don't be afraid to jump at opportunities if you feel that a change is long overdue. There is much to suggest that new developments will bring great financial benefits.

There are certainly some unusual astrological combinations during February — not least of which is Jupiter's link with both Uranus and Pluto in the third week. This does seem to make an important impact on material life so perhaps it's going to be an interesting phase for property, money and possessions.

There is something unexpected in this pattern, too; more than just a hint of unexpected luck. If you're not a gambler, then perhaps an investment will come to fruition or you'll receive good news relating to longer-term financial interests.

The most significant dates for all such matters are the 2nd, 6th, 7th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 26th. If you need any special advice or assistance financially or wish to raise funds, you'll have best success at these times.

The enormous material emphasis during February also has a less obvious side. This relates to subtle psychological changes which may have been building up over the past few years and will now become more manifest. This may actually have to do with your attitude to material objects.

You do tend to be rather possessive of things, a bit of a hoarder. In the end you can make a prison of your possessions. This attitude is likely to undergo a deep transformation from this month onwards.

You'll become more aware and sensitive to what you really do want or, rather, what you really do need. It is a great month for making moves towards a more detached approach to life.

The month draws to a close on a light-hearted note with pleasant journeys, visits and perhaps romantic encounters!

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# LEO

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JULY 21 TO AUGUST 21

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1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

**Personal relationships will become a major focus of attention during February.**

There are strong hints that a pattern is about to undergo an important shift. The trend is not necessarily against you but it does seem that restlessness and dissatisfaction will make themselves felt.

On the more positive side, this is an unusually promising month for new romantic attachments. Developments will be swift, unexpected and dramatic! You'll probably get

the feeling that Fate is taking a hand in these affairs for now you are much more likely to meet up with kindred spirits, either romantically or in new friendships.

Dates of highest significance are the 5th, 6th, 7th, 12th, 14th, 15th and 16th. Whatever happens, it is bound to bring something new and entirely positive, maybe a factor that will play an enduring part in your life well into the future.

The pattern will stir up excitement and give you scope for pulling yourself out of a rut. As this also focuses very strongly on relationships, there is perhaps potential disruption woven into the picture. Existing relationships may be tested and those that fail could very soon dissolve. If you feel that a relationship has lost all its former vitality, you can expect that events will intervene to shake things up.

Jupiter and Uranus in your House of Partners denotes a need for fresh experience, a desire to break free of any restricting ties. If, therefore, a parting of the ways is imminent, this will probably turn out to be for the best.

In practical matters, the first

week of February favours your work, particularly if you are seeking suitable employment or a greater degree of initiative. After any struggle to build up your credentials, your efforts should finally begin to pay dividends.

Communications on all levels are likely to flow smoothly and swiftly from the 9th onwards. Positive results will be obtained in negotiations and lively discussion. Exchanges of ideas will be highly stimulating because just about everyone you meet in the latter half of the month will somehow enrich and broaden your mind.

Although you may not have planned any major journeys for February, there are indications of a fairly lengthy trip around mid month. However, this may be more of a duty than a pleasure. Relatives may be demanding, too, so there's a need for patience.

Avoid travel if possible on the 16th, 24th and 25th. The 15th and 26th are the best dates, not only for journeys but also for entertaining.

Be prepared for encouraging financial developments as the month draws to a close.

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# VIRGO

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AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER 22

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1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

**You will be coming face to face with the forces of change during February.**

What's more, you will probably welcome this and find yourself in a position where you feel much more confident about moving forward and breaking new ground.

The main harbinger of this change is the conjunction of Uranus and Jupiter on the 16th, backed up by several very positive planetary movements all pointing to a time of great opportunity and

expansion, particularly at work. This also links with domestic affairs so perhaps a change here will give scope for improving your home life. It is certainly not a time to hold back or be over-modest about your capabilities. This is a time to go for what you want.

Any financial ups and downs are perhaps only a temporary blip in an otherwise encouraging trend. Mars in your 2nd Solar House indicates increased pressure on finances and a need to budget for potential emergencies.

The most difficult dates are the 16th and 17th. Proceed cautiously in any major financial transaction. You may get over-enthusiastic about a money-making project but this may turn out to be a bit misplaced on closer investigation.

Heavier outgoings may of course be due to mundane mishaps such as the car breaking down or urgent domestic repairs. Don't skimp on these matters for doing things on the cheap will only be more expensive in the long run.

Provided you heed these warnings, the underlying pattern does favour your efforts to improve fu-

ture financial and material prospects. Remember, it is an excellent month for seeking to enhance your job prospects and your earning capacity. Be prepared for unexpected opportunities cropping up between the 12th and 16th.

Turning to more intimate affairs, this probably won't be a month of spectacular encounters but it does seem that the ground is being prepared for something that will eventually pull you out of the doldrums.

Experiences in the recent past may have inclined you to be a little cynical about romance. To continue in this attitude will create unnecessary barriers to potential new relationships. If this has been the case, ask yourself what part you may have been playing in creating this negative scenari instead of always blaming the other.

If new romance is about to enter your life, it could come via your work or through a change of job. Later in the month you will be more in demand socially and this will enlarge the prospects of meeting someone special.

Whatever happens, don't give up hope!



# LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

## You'll probably have little cause to complain this month.

Expect everything to run smoothly and luck to attend your efforts. However, underneath this positive surface you may be plagued by a feeling of restlessness, an uneasy feeling that something is not quite right.

The most likely source of this contradiction will be between external, material circumstances and emotional affairs. This isn't to say that romantic attachments will be ill-

fated. On the contrary, new amorous links are likely to flourish while Venus transits Aquarius.

The main troublesome factor in the pattern is a rather stressful angle between Mars in your sign and Saturn. The latter occupies your House of Partners so here's where the root of all difficulties lies and where things may need sorting out. Long-standing relationships are most at risk.

Saturn tests the strength of established situations and forces you to make necessary adjustments. Indeed, this probably is going to be a testing time for Libran relationships generally but if you can weather any storms then you'll go from strength to strength. However, if an established relationship has gone stale, this will be a time when you'll have to face up to the situation.

For single and unattached Librans, the picture is entirely encouraging. Romantic interests are particularly highlighted when Venus is strongly activated on the 6th, 7th, 11th, 15th and 21st. You'll also notice that your social life and popularity undergoes a marked

enrichment then, bringing better scope for romantic contacts and new friendships.

From a different angle, this Venus factor combines with other powerful planets to stir up creative energies and bring you better scope for self-expression. Librans in the arts or entertainment should make tremendous progress. The conjunction of Jupiter and Uranus mid month suggests a lucky break and the chance of a more professional position.

There's an unusual emphasis on spare-time interests throughout the month and much to suggest that you'll be giving increased attention to these. If you have been considering turning a spare-time occupation or hobby into something more businesslike, now is the time to get organised. Initiatives towards greater independence via your creative abilities could bring surprising success.

Apart from potential difficulties in established relationships, you have everything going for you during February. If you wish to make any major changes to your lifestyle now is the time to act decisively.

# SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 TO NOVEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

## February could be a time of radical changes and new beginnings.

With such a powerful focus on domestic affairs a change of residence may be imminent. If so, you have certainly picked an appropriate and fortunate time to go ahead.

Even if you have not previously considered moving, something may happen to turn your mind in that direction. The most significant dates for these matters and all to do with domestic and family life

are the 6th, 7th, 10th, 12th, 13th and 16th.

The central theme of new beginnings may have various implications. It could be that you are taking up a new job or going ahead with plans to improve your lifestyle. Alternatively, your attitude to life may have changed radically over the past year and will now begin to affect the way you live.

The two most prominent planets in this picture are Jupiter and Uranus which form an exact conjunction on the 16th. Jupiter is a fortunate planet, associated with expansion, enrichment and fresh opportunity. Uranus is the planet of change and of the unexpected. So, together, it looks as if stirring times lie ahead.

There is something highly liberating in these two planets. They may incline you to feel extremely restless. But at best they bring you the scope and incentive to break free of restrictions and express more of your real self.

Psychologically, this powerful configuration suggests the emergence of fresh creative energies and new interests that will influ-

ence your life strongly. It's a time when you are likely to find a new and much more meaningful sense of direction and purpose.

The only negative feature during February is the adverse aspect between Mars and Saturn around mid month. Take extra care of your health or be prepared to shoulder extra responsibilities due to another's poor health. Try not to let the demands of work put you in overdrive during the third week otherwise you may end up exhausted.

Financially, interesting developments are afoot. Don't be surprised at an unexpected bonus in the coming weeks. Developments around the 5th, 12th or 14th are likely to throw an encouraging light on finances. Everything seems to point towards a fairly substantial boost to your resources. If you are in business, now's the time to take advantage of any new avenues opening up.

Whatever happens during February, your ideas about the future will be undergoing quite a radical shift. The outcome should make you feel extremely optimistic about the direction you are taking.

# SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

## A powerful Lunar influence in your sign early in February gives the month a lively start.

Socially you'll be in demand, particularly on the 2nd when you are advised to keep arrangements flexible. There is also likely to be interesting news concerning a financial matter. A somewhat confusing situation will at last be clarified.

The most outstanding feature of the month is the conjunction of your ruler Jupiter with Uranus on the 16th. This occurs in a sector of

your Solar chart that has much to do with the way your mind works. It is likely that your thinking will undergo a fairly radical shift. You may meet up with someone who inspires you with new ideas and interests which could eventually change your life in some way.

It is most definitely a favourable month for study or anything that helps you to enrich and widen your mental horizons. An added bonus is that the pursuit of knowledge will have a spin-off in terms of enhancing social life and new friendships. If you have been feeling rather isolated and out on a limb, this pattern is about to change.

Dates of most significance for all these matters are the 2nd, 6th, 12th, 14th, 15th and 16th. These are also exceptionally favourable dates for travel. Furthermore, if there is important news heading your way during February, these are the times when it will arrive. Be prepared for the unexpected. Events taking shape in the affairs of members of your family circle will also create an optimistic mood.

Financially, the prevailing trend is largely supportive but there may

be a need for care in dealing with legal or official matters earlier in the month — most especially around the 8th. Information might prove rather deceptive or double-edged. Be prepared to check details and go over the ground more than once if in doubt.

Although the 16th is otherwise extremely favourable, there is a warning signal regarding a financial or business matter. Avoid any risks and consider the longer term implications. Something which may seem fail-safe at first glance will contain hidden complications.

An unusual link between Saturn and Pluto later in the month is especially significant for Sagittarians who now have Pluto in their sign. It suggests a link with the past, the revival of something pushed into the background. A creative interest may begin to draw your attention once more, perhaps due to meeting someone who encourages you to take such things more seriously.

Towards the end of the month there are also signs of a romantic revival. Something you gave up as hopeless may now begin to show a more heart-warming prospect.

# CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 19



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

## February could turn out to be a month of far-reaching decisions.

There's no need for alarm because the underlying pattern of the zodiac is very supportive. The indications are that your material status is about to undergo a shift and become much stronger.

Certain difficulties cannot be entirely ruled out with Mars and Saturn at odds with each other around mid month. But you'll feel the brunt of this adverse trend only if

you are indecisive or refuse to face up to a long-standing domestic problem. A build up of tension or conflict of loyalties between home affairs and worldly ambitions may be brought to the surface. Be prepared for a critical phase in these matters on the 16th and 17th.

Positively, the pattern of events is now encouraging you to reorganise, get your priorities in better perspective and see clearly where improvements can be made. The general pattern is extremely helpful, indeed fortunate, especially for financial and material interests.

In the earlier part of the month, you can expect to be engaged in quite a kaleidoscope of activity. Mercury's presence in your sign until the 9th brings scope for varying routines, dabbling with new interests and getting out and about.

Mentally you'll be in good form which will help greatly in discussions, negotiations and any kind of intellectual activity. This is also the best time of the month to get in touch with people who are in a position to help and advise you.

A potentially deceptive situation may arise when Mercury conjoints

Neptune on the 8th. Keep your wits about you, especially if wheeling and dealing or attempting to sort out legal or official matters.

At best, however, this combination of planets can denote fresh inspiration and the breaking down of barriers and restrictions. The upshot will probably be a feeling of greater freedom in your creative and imaginative abilities.

The most spectacular developments are likely to manifest in finances during the month ahead. Important dates here are the 5th, 6th, 9th, 12th, 14th and 16th — perhaps also the 26th when there will be good news concerning your career or a job application.

With Uranus and Jupiter looming large in the money sector of your Solar chart, unexpected opportunities are likely, leading to a substantial boost in resources. It's a fortunate time for new projects or expanding business ventures.

Anything to confront in February will be of an emotional or domestic nature. Much will depend on your willingness to take an easier attitude and not be so hung up about having control.

# AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 18



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

## February promises unusual and unexpected developments.

There is a noticeable theme of luck and expansion with increased scope for self-expression and much optimism about the direction your life is now taking.

The obvious highlight of the month is Jupiter's conjunction with your ruler, Uranus, on the 16th. This has all the makings of an exceptionally lucky omen and could herald a sudden boost in your financial or social status, suc-

cess in business or perhaps good news concerning a group project or campaign.

As Jupiter is ruler of your 11th Solar House this is going to be an important month for developing new friendships or getting more deeply involved in activities that somehow widen your social horizons. New friends coming into your orbit will be destined to play a fortunate part in your future.

What you will experience above all else during February is a marked increase in the momentum of life. This does not mean that things are going to get out of your control or be difficult to cope with.

On the contrary, you'll experience this as a great enrichment in your main aims and objectives. Something you have been working towards will suddenly take a quantum leap onto a new level. This is bound to be very welcome.

Dates when you are most likely to experience favourable developments in your personal life are the 6th, 7th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 26th. These are excellent dates on which to begin something new. And, incidentally, this also applies

to romantic affairs which are almost certain to generate a feel-good factor. In fact, romance is likely to be quite dramatic, especially around the 7th and 15th. If the forces of destiny are going to weave something special you can expect it to happen now.

The fact that your network of friends and social contacts is on the increase will greatly enlarge the prospects of meeting someone very special. Aquarians who have long been seeking a more meaningful and enduring relationship stand a good chance of realising their cherished hopes.

But there are some potential pitfalls in this otherwise splendid month. Take care if you are setting out on a journey when Mars is adversely placed on the 4th, 6th, 16th and 24th. Delays due to mechanical breakdowns are the main bugbear. Relatives also are inclined to make heavier demands on these dates. The best way to handle this is with patience and tolerance.

Apart from this, however, expect many good things to be heading in your direction in February when you are more than usually favoured.

# PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

## Venus joins forces with your ruler as February arrives, creating a good atmosphere.

A journey or a message early month will contribute greatly to the general feeling of goodwill but tread tactfully on the 4th when there is a danger of financial disputes.

There does seem to be an underlying stress in the financial area, probably because the pressure of expenditure gets unavoidably heavy at times. However, provided

you remain well organised and realistic in dealing with money, then problems can be avoided.

Special care is needed in regard to longer term investment and joint financial interests during February. Don't rush into any new commitments or let yourself be talked into doing anything that is even slightly risky. If in doubt get sound advice. Dates when you may need to budget more carefully are the 6th, 10th, 16th and 25th.

Even if there are certain problems to contend with, you may feel unaccountably optimistic throughout the month. Jupiter, the great benefic, is now activating an area of your chart that stirs up the deeper levels of your mind. This planet denotes a strengthening of faith in your abilities and that things will move in the right direction.

Indeed, the old astrologers would have said that this planetary position signifies the intervention of divine providence. Jupiter forms an exact conjunction with Uranus mid month which gives even more of a boost to this idea. If you are in need of a solution to a problem, this is the time when

something good will materialise.

More straightforwardly, Jupiter throws a favourable light on all matters relating to health. Any worries concerning the health and well-being of those close to you are likely to fade into the background now. Pisceans who work in the health professions or who take an interest in alternative therapies should experience a great deal of success. Exceptionally favourable dates for these matters are the 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 15th and 16th.

Pisces has always been associated with healing and the search for mystical knowledge. If you already take a serious interest in such matters, you'll find help along your chosen path. Someone you meet will have a deep influence on your thinking, helping you to clarify your goals and gain fresh insights.

The same trends are exceptionally helpful to those in the arts. You are now entering a phase of increased creativity and opportunity. Don't underestimate your abilities.

Apart from the financial quirks, events of February could turn out to be unusually significant in your destiny.

# Lunar Lore Gardening

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Cold, damp. More than average rain or snowfall in some areas.
- 2, 3
- 4 After 08.45 hours reorganise and tidy rock gardens.
- 5 Continue all day.
- 6 After 09.22 hours prune nut trees, remove suckers.
- 7 Continue all day.
- 8 After 08.35 hours some seeds may be sown under glass.
- 9 Prepare asparagus plots. Sow early peas in pots.
- 10 After 08.30 hours clear drains and gutters. Burn rubbish.
- 11 Sweep lawns with a besom brush and rake well.
- 12 After 10.57 hours sow potatoes, garlic and radishes.
- 13 Complete planting of new fruit trees.
- 1 Continue until 16.15 hours.
- 15, 16
- 17 After 02.15 hours sow tomato seeds indoors.
- 18 Sow broad beans and onion seeds.
- 19, 20, 21, 22, 23
- 24 After 15.24 hours parsnips and carrots may be sown.
- 25 Use netting to protect flowering fruit trees against birds.
- 26 Continue all day.
- 27 After 02.58 hours prune willow, buddleia and raspberry canes.
- 28 Continue all day.

**VICTORIA MATTHEWS**

**Greenwich Mean Time has been used throughout**

# The Planets This Month

- ☉ **The Sun** begins February in 12° 10' Aquarius and enters Pisces on 18th at 14.53 hours. It ends the month at 9° 26' of the Fishes.
- ☾ **The Moon** is New on the 7th at 15.07 hours and First Quarter is on the 14th at 08.59 hours. The Full Moon is on the 22nd at 10.28 hours. There is no Last Quarter this month.  
As the month opens the Moon is in 14° 16' Scorpio and enters Sagittarius on the 2nd at 04.52 hours. It then enters Capricorn on the 4th at 08.45 hours; Aquarius on the 6th at 09.22 hours; Pisces on the 8th at 08.35 hours; Aries on the 10th at 08.30 hours; Taurus on the 12th at 10.57 hours; Gemini on the 14th at 16.54 hours; Cancer on the 17th 02.14 hours; Leo on the 19th at 13.53 hours; Virgo on the 22nd at 02.39 hours; Libra on the 24th at 15.24 hours; Scorpio on the 27th at 02.58 hours where it ends the month.
- ☿ **Mercury** begins the month in 18° 45' Capricorn and enters Aquarius on the 9th at 05.54 hours. It enters Pisces on the 28th at 03.55 hours and ends the month still in the first degree of the Fishes.
- ♀ **Venus** begins February in 27° 16' Capricorn and enters Aquarius on the 3rd at 04.29 hours. It passes quickly through that sign and enters Pisces on the 27th at 04.02 hours. It ends the month at 1° 2' of the Fishes.
- ♂ **Mars** is in 5° 46' Libra as the month opens but, while still in the same degree, turns retrograde on the 6th at 00.38 hours. By the month end it has retreated to 2° 50' of the Scales.
- ♃ **Jupiter** is in Aquarius all month. It advances from 2° 26' on the 1st to 8° 35' of the Water Bearer by the 28th.
- ♄ **Saturn** spends the month in Aries and advances from 3° 36' on the first day to 6° 28' on the last day.
- ♅ **Uranus** is in 5° 4' Aquarius as the month opens and advances to 6° 34' by the 28th.
- ♆ **Neptune** is in 28° 0' Capricorn on the first day. By the month end it has advanced to only 28° 55' of the Goat.
- ♇ **Pluto** spends the month in Sagittarius and advances from 5° 14' on the 1st to 5° 35' on the 28th.

**All positions are for 00.00 hours GMT.**

# Reading the Aspectarian

In the aspectarian we list the principal Lunar and mutual aspects for each day of the month. A Lunar aspect is a specific distance, measured in degrees, between the Moon and a planet; a mutual aspect is between one planet and another, excluding the Moon but including the Sun.

First of all memorise what the symbols stand for:

♈ Aries, ♉ Taurus, ♊ Gemini, ♋ Cancer, ♌ Leo, ♍ Virgo, ♎ Libra, ♏ Scorpio, ♐ Sagittarius, ♑ Capricorn, ♒ Aquarius, ♓ Pisces.  
☉ Sun, ☾ Moon, ☿ Mercury, ♀ Venus, ♂ Mars, ♃ Jupiter, ♄ Saturn, ♅ Uranus, ♆ Neptune, ♇ Pluto.

The major aspects:  
♌ (0°) conjunction: good or bad according to planets involved

\* (60°) sextile: generally helpful.  
□ (90°) square: mostly challenging.  
△ (120°) trine: strongly helpful.  
♁ (72°) quintile: creativeness.  
⊞ (135°) sesqui-square: usually unfavourable.  
⊠ (150°) inconjunct or quincunx; stressful.

The minor aspects:  
⊥ (30°) semi-sextile: slightly favourable.  
⊏ (45°) semi-square: somewhat stressful.  
♁ (72°) quintile: creativeness.  
⊞ (135°) sesqui-square: usually unfavourable.  
⊠ (150°) inconjunct or quincunx; stressful.

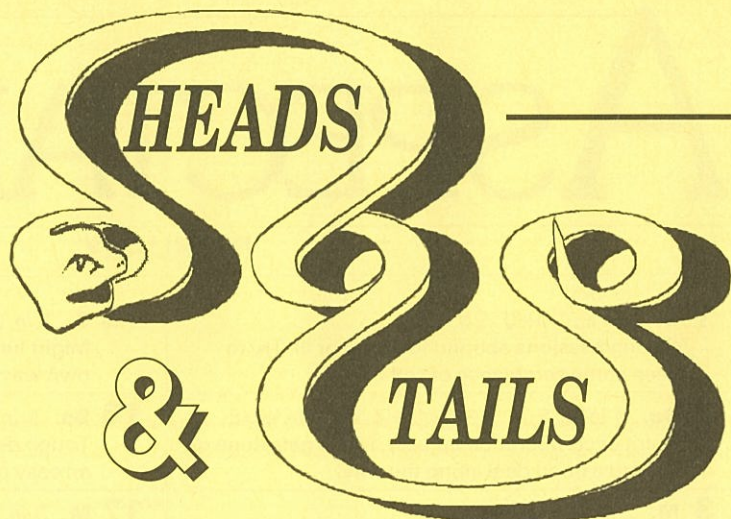
Each month the Moon travels right round the zodiac making every aspect to every planet at least once. When there are several aspects in one day we group them after one Moon symbol thus:

☾ △ ⊞ ♁ ♃ ♁ ♁  
This means Moon trine Sun, Moon sextile Jupiter, Moon square Venus.

# ASPECTARIAN

FEBRUARY

- 
- 1 S.** ♃ in ♎ . ☾ \* ♃. ♀ \* ♁.  
Strong passions abound for good or ill. Try to keep some semblance of self-control.
- 
- 2 Su.** ♃ in ♎ . & ♄ . ☾ \* ♀ \* ♂ \* ♃ Δ ♃ \* ♃ \* ♁ \* ♂ \* ♀ \* ♂ .  
Spirit of co-operation aplenty. Much gets done or moved a good deal along the way.
- 
- 3 M.** ♃ in ♄ . ☾ \* ♂ .  
May be asked or told to take on extra responsibilities at work.
- 
- 4 T.** ♃ in ♄ & ♋ . ♃ □ □ ♂ ♀ .  
Listen to those who want to help. Go off at a tangent and pay the price.
- 
- 5 W.** ♃ in ♋ . ♃ ♃ ♂ . ♃ \* ♂ .  
Short period full of surprises with some deft switches of direction and opinions.
- 
- 6 T.** ♃ in ♋ & ♃ . ☾ \* ♃ \* ♂ Δ ♂ \* ♃ \* ♂ \* ♃ \* ♂ \* ♁ \* ♂ \* ♁ \* ♂ .  
♀ \* ♃ \* ♂ .  
An impossible day! People so intensely wanting or causing things to happen.
- 
- 7 F.** ♃ in ♃ . ☾ \* ♂ . ♀ Δ ♂ \* ♃ \* ♂ .  
Throw off the fetters. Do your own thing.
- 
- 8 S.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃ . ♃ □ ♂ . ♃ \* ♂ .  
Another scandal could break in the news that will lead to something even more interesting.
- 
- 9 Su.** ♃ in ♃ . ♃ ♃ ♂ . ♃ \* ♂ .  
House-hunting beneficial — buying or selling.
- 
- 10 M.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃ . ☾ \* ♃ \* ♂ \* ♃ \* ♃ \* ♂ \* ♃ \* ♃ \* ♂ \* ♁ \* ♂ .  
Rash Monday. Rudeness, bad tempers and selfishness much in evidence.
- 
- 11 T.** ♃ in ♃ . ☾ \* ♂ \* ♃ \* ♂ .  
Ongoing romantic partnership takes on a deeper intensity or a new one could start.
- 
- 12 W.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃ . ♃ □ ♂ \* ♃ □ ♂ □ ♂ . ♃ \* ♂ \* ♂ \* ♂ .  
♂ Δ ♃ .  
Hectic but memorable. Try to clear the air and make a fresh start.
- 
- 13 Th.** ♃ in ♃ . ♃ □ ♂ . ♃ Δ ♂ \* ♃ \* ♂ .  
Travel and communications generally full of problems.
- 
- 14 F.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃ . ♃ □ ♂ Δ ♂ . ♂ Δ ♂ \* ♂ . ♃ \* ♂ .  
Debts repaid, borrowed items returned; even a tax rebate is possible.
- 
- 15 S.** ♃ in ♃ . ♃ Δ ♃ Δ ♂ Δ ♂ Δ ♂ \* ♂ Δ ♃ Δ ♂ .  
Might have to be a little two-faced to get your own way. But then, so might others.
- 
- 16 Su.** ♃ in ♃ . ♃ Δ ♂ . ♂ \* ♂ ♀ . ♃ \* ♂ .  
Tough decisions and firm actions needed. Not an easy day.
- 
- 17 M.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃ . ♃ □ ♂ □ ♂ .  
Relationships generally poor except within the family.
- 
- 18 T.** ♃ in ♃ . ♃ □ ♂ □ ♂ .  
A trifle fragile perhaps and unable to get down to the nitty-gritty of the day.
- 
- 19 W.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃ . ☾ \* ♂ \* ♂ \* ♂ . ♃ Δ ♂ .  
Past events/experiences see you through another tough day.
- 
- 20 Th.** ♃ in ♃ . ♃ \* ♂ Δ ♂ \* ♂ Δ ♂ .  
Sparkle and steal the limelight. Make the most of everything.
- 
- 21 F.** ♃ in ♃ . ☾ \* ♃ \* ♂ \* ♂ .  
So you think you can talk your way out of problems?
- 
- 22 S.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃ . ♃ \* ♂ □ ♂ .  
Be constructive. Don't attempt things which you cannot win.
- 
- 23 Su.** ♃ in ♃ . ♃ □ ♂ □ ♂ ♂ .  
If anything is going to go wrong, today is the day.
- 
- 24 M.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃ . ♃ \* ♂ \* ♂ \* ♂ . ♃ □ ♂ .  
Keep a watch out for those who would deceive, blatantly or otherwise.
- 
- 25 T.** ♃ in ♃ . ♃ Δ ♂ \* ♂ ♂ Δ ♂ \* ♂ .  
Forgive — but don't forget. Develop a strategy and stick to it.
- 
- 26 W.** ♃ in ♃ . ♃ Δ ♃ .  
Keep to your chosen path, make sure others realise your intentions.
- 
- 27 Th.** ♃ in ♃ & ♃ . ♃ Δ ♂ Δ ♂ □ ♂ □ ♂ □ ♂ .  
A hint of ruthlessness on your part is needed. Enjoy the power game.
- 
- 28 F.** ♃ in ♃ . ♃ □ ♂ .  
No self-doubts — you CAN do it. Get in there and win!
-



**The position of the Moon's Nodes** in the natal chart is of great importance to astrologers, especially those who understand the essence of karmic law in relation to the birth chart. In general use, it is accepted that the North Node is beneficial when in aspect to natal planets and the South Node is unfavourable.

The real meaning of the Nodes however goes beyond this. Indeed in Hindu or Vedic astrology the Nodes of the Moon are considered, not as mathematical points (as we think of them in the West) but as actual invisible planets!

Since our understanding of the visible universe is so limited, it is not perhaps wise to laughingly dismiss this. But however we view the Moon's Nodes, the fact is they have a very prominent role to play in the interpretation of the natal chart.

### **What are the Moon's Nodes?**

The Latin terms for the Nodes translate as the Dragon's Head and Tail which are still common terms among some astrologers. Astronomically the Moon's Nodes (in common with the Nodes of any other planet) are the calculated two points (in direct opposition to each other) at which the Moon's orbit intersects the ecliptic as it travels from the North to South latitude and back again.

The North Node is thus seen as the ascending Node and the South Node as the descending Node. In the ephemeris the zodiacal degree of the North Node only is given with the South Node being exactly opposite by degree and sign; ie. North Node 21 Aries - South Node 21 Libra.

The North Node is seen as

beneficial because the qualities of that sign are necessary to the individual to fulfil the karmic destiny in this lifetime. The South Node is therefore considered malefic, because the qualities of that sign are already well developed in the individual (whether for good or bad will depend on the natal aspects) and their overuse can make the individual miss the opportunities that the opposite sign (the North Node) offers in this lifetime for spiritual growth.

The word spiritual is important, in that it is the desire of the soul to grow and experience in each incarnation that which will lead to spiritual fulfilment. Many astrologers recognise that while the correct use of the natal North Node may give material benefit, the true meaning is spiritual and connected with the growth in awareness of the soul.

An understanding of the natal nodes, firstly by sign placement and then by house placement, gives vital clues into how this growth can be accomplished in this lifetime.

### **The Nodes in the natal chart**

The Nodes as they are seen to travel 'backwards' through the zodiac, stay in one sign for

two years approximately at one time. So, as with the natal sign placement of Saturn, for example, those born within a two-year period will share the same nodal signs.

### **The North Node**

By sign placement the North Node shows us where we can essentially grow in this lifetime by using the qualities of that sign. The house placement is important, too, as it shows how the individual can use this sign's qualities to make progress in this lifetime. This 'growth' and 'progress' that the North Node offers is not so easily acquired, however.

Very much will depend on aspects, ie. the more favourable the aspects to the Nodes then the more easily the qualities of the North Node will be integrated into the personality. With difficult aspects many distractions will hinder the spiritual growth and progress although the impetus to overcome these will be great.

The pull of the South Node is usually stronger than that of the North due to familiarity. Since the South Node often gives clues to past-life qualities and circumstances that have an influence on this incarnation, it takes great strength of will to move on to use the qualities of

# ASTROLOGY TODAY

**Usually three times a year,** Mercury slows down, becomes stationary, turns retrograde, stationary again and then begins, thankfully, to move direct.

The movements of Mercury have immense influence over communication and the way in which plans and ideas can unfold.

When Mercury is in direct motion, all matters pertaining to travel, decisions, communications and business affairs can proceed rapidly and without interference. We can confidently plan new activities, journeys and projects.

When Mercury is stationary, there is an opportunity to think over important decisions and to begin work on new plans and ideas. Do not expect results during this period — they will not be very obvious and are unlikely to become so until Mercury moves past the degree in the zodiac at which it went retrograde, once it is moving forward again.

When Mercury is moving retrograde, all communication will slow down and obviously possible manifestations of this are confusion, changes of plans, indecisiveness and all kinds of unpredictable factors which interfere with progress. Our telephones or cars may literally stop working, there may be problems and slow-downs with public transport, you will find an error in the proofs of your new brochure just after it has gone to press, important documents will not arrive in the mail, etc.

Health problems, equipment breakdowns and disintegration of negotiations can delay progress throughout the whole retrograde period of Mercury. This is the likely time for, say, rail workers to go on strike. This is the time when the local coun-

cil decides to dig up the road right outside your home.

It is a good idea, if at all possible, to delay finalising important decisions during the retrograde period of Mercury. It is also advisable not to sign contracts or launch important new projects at this time. Any important or delicate negotiations are unlikely to go well until Mercury is not only direct but has passed the degree where it went retrograde.

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## TRANSITING MERCURY RETROGRADE by JOY HICKLIN-BAILEY

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It should be obvious that the people who are most likely to be affected and frustrated by Mercury going retrograde are those who are most in tune with this planet. These will include people who are involved in the teaching profession, journalists, writers, public relations people and the legal and travel industries.

It is always useful to know in which house of your natal chart Mercury is moving retrograde. Expect all matters ruled by that house to be subject to delay,

frustration and revision. When Mercury is stationary — hardly moving at all in the sky — and aspecting a natal planet exactly, we can be sure that both the planet and the aspect will be very important in the future development of our plans.

It is not always easy to see this, however, and the effects of the retrograde and stationary periods of Mercury are not manifested until Mercury has returned to direct motion and has indeed passed the position in the zodiac at which its retrograde motion began.

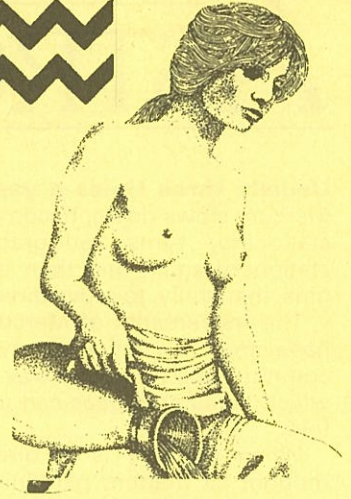
Is there anything positive about the retrograde period of Mercury? There is no doubt that, during these periods, we can find time to ponder on issues which are important in our lives. By withdrawing slightly from the hurly-burly of life, we can find excellent guidance by contacting our unconscious minds.

When Mercury is stationary and retrograde, we have time to think very carefully about all the possible consequences of our proposed actions or decisions. We may find that new information comes to us which enables us to make better, more effective decisions. We will find these periods very useful for finishing off projects and jobs that were started when Mercury was direct.

As the new year opens, Mercury is retrograde in Capricorn where it has been since December 1996. This retrograde phase ends on January 12th.

In the rest of 1997 Mercury is retrograde in Taurus between April 15th and May 8th; in Virgo between August 17th and September 10th; then in Capricorn and Sagittarius between December 7th and December 27th.

# AQUARIUS



by JOHN YATES

**The most usual adjective** applied to Aquarians is 'mad.' That's in the zany, off-beat sense — which brings in a couple of other well used epithets. Weird, oddball and the like continue the sequence.

The general impression seems to be that Aquarius is so far detached from everybody else's reality that he/she doesn't actually live on the same planet as the rest of the human race. Not true.

The real Aquarian concern, par excellence, is humanity. But, as with anything else, a certain distance lends objectivity and it's in pursuit of that perceptive gap that Aquarians seem — and often are — set apart to the extent that their ways appear incomprehensible to others.

Looked at as part of the astrological houses representing the different ages of man's development, Aquarius' natural home, the 11th sign/House, is where the individual, having established his/her place in the order of things in the 10th House, then begins to turn his attention to what he can create for the world from that standpoint. It's the diametrical opposite of and complement to what occurs on the purely personal level in the 4th and 5th Houses. On a more mundane level it is also the house of friendship and co-operation.

It is, if you will, the point at which having achieved one's material success, one turns one's mind to what is to come in the future and to the responsibilities of being an elder. The

new task is to teach tomorrow's generation from hard-won but profitable experience.

This is an Air sign, concerned with thought, and a Fixed one at that, wanting to nail down the ideas into a workable system for the benefit of all. So

## Aquarius' year ahead

**The most outstanding feature of your chart** for the coming year is your ruler, Uranus, forming a stellium, or multiple conjunction, with the Sun, Jupiter and Neptune. If ever there was a harbinger of lucky breaks, this is it! It will seem at times as though the Fates are beavering away in the background for the sole purpose of making things turn out right for you, often in the most unexpected of ways.

If there is a danger at all in this configuration, it is that of overconfidence to the point of going completely over the top and believing that you are the invincible fount of all wisdom. You're not but, fortunately, your proverbial detachment should ensure that you are sufficiently aware of any such potential pitfalls that you are able to steer clear of them and remain on an even keel.

Handle matters in that way and you should benefit to the full from this most auspicious combination of planets.

Your energy level should be well up, too. An easily flowing aspect between the stellium and Mars suggests that you will have no trouble finding the get up and go to accomplish pretty well anything to which you set your mind.

The most likely arena for these efforts will be — surprise, surprise — in conjunction with others, though maybe not on your usual broad stage. The general line up tends more towards

one-on-one efforts where your normal habit of remaining slightly aloof will be challenged in no uncertain measure.

It could well be that you will have to share something on a much more intimate level than comes most easily to you. Indeed, with the North Node conjunct Mars, both in Libra, one of the prime tasks looks like learning to relate to a significant other or others, rather than dispensing largesse and wisdom to society as a whole.

Fairly obviously, for many this is going to mean romance and not a few will at least begin to *think* seriously about tying the knot this year, even if it takes a little longer to come to fruition. Others, probably the majority for whom the pattern manifests in this area of life, will just go ahead and do the deed. Certainly the planets are very much in your favour if you choose to go this route now.

Another prominent feature is Pluto in your 10th House. This house is about worldly achievement and standing and Pluto, after the manner of a large powerful bulldozer, will be determined to make something shift in that department.

The most obvious scene of activity in which this would be likely to occur would be whatever you perceive to be your career. This doesn't necessarily mean the way in which you earn your living (though as like as not this will be the case for



here we find the thinkers, intellectuals, radicals, revolutionaries — and eccentrics — all looking for the better way.

It's little wonder that the much trumpeted Age of Aquarius was heralded by the 'flower-power' generation who foreswore what they saw as the excessively harsh and selfish ways of their forebears in favour of a New Age notion of the brotherhood of man. Once Aquarius arrives on the scene, things will never be quite the same ever again.

As usual, a fair chunk of all this stems from the influence of Aquarius' ruler, Uranus — a planet as far from the common run-of-the-mill to Earthlings as his children appear to be. This is the first planet beyond the boundary of Saturn, the sign's old ruler and the limit of vision in ancient times.

It represents, symbolically, the beginning of a new, invisible but powerful and very dif-

<b>POSITION IN THE ZODIAC</b>	ELEVENTH SIGN
<b>CORRESPONDING TO</b>	JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 19
<b>PRINCIPLE</b>	THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN
<b>ELEMENT</b>	AIR
<b>QUALITY</b>	FIXED
<b>PLANETARY RULER</b>	URANUS
<b>SYMBOL</b>	THE WATER BEARER

ferent order. Quite literally too, for, like no other planet, it orbits the Sun on its side with its pole rather than its equator facing us — distinctly odd from our point of view.

It is this totally alternative perspective which gives our Aquarian the reputation for individuality over all else and, no doubt, accounts for the somewhat cynical approach to life that is also a noticeable trait.

There can be a ruthless streak, too, though this is normally from the best, 'cruel to be kind' type of motive. Since keeping his distance, the better

to perceive the whole, extends also to emotional concerns, Aquarius is not prey to sentiment and will, therefore, do what has to be done when others would shirk the task out of misplaced sympathy.

Whatever else we may think of him, the Water Bearer is prepared to pour out what he has to give for a world thirsty from the boredom and aridity of congealed habit and the routine grind of life. That is his gift and one without which we would be greatly poorer — were we to refuse it just because it seems strange at face value.

the majority of people) but that by which you define yourself as making a worthwhile contribution to society and for which the rest of the world knows you best.

Here, Pluto will lend you his power to bring about the things which you consider important and to make far-reaching changes which could — and almost certainly will — have long-term repercussions for the rest of your life.

It could arrive in any form from a total change of career to suddenly finding that you have much more clout in a project dear to your heart. Again, Jupiter and Mars provide some extra horsepower so you're going to come close to being unstoppable. Heed the previous caveat, though, and don't get carried away with your new-found ability to make things happen.

I don't actually think that there is much danger of that, though, since Saturn gets in on this particular act from the cusp of the 2nd House. His presence points to a sort of safety brake by way of your cashflow.

Either the latter will be erratic and you will find that you have to put in a superhuman effort at times just to keep you head above water or, if you get it right beforehand and apply a degree of self-discipline in such matters, you will plan your budget better than ever before. That way, not one penny is wasted and the universe rewards you with solid achievement of your aims for the

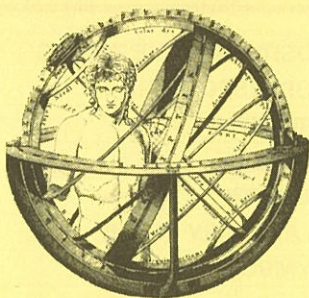
least amount of expenditure.

The other significant — and unusual — element in the chart is the fact that the Moon has no aspects to the rest of the planetary line-up. Unaspected planets usually manifest at the extremes of a continuum. That is to say that either they 'go underground' and just don't appear to have any visible influence whatsoever or they 'hide' behind you and 'work you from the back.' In the former case no-one sees anything of them; in the latter they are strikingly obvious to everyone but you!

Taking into account that the Moon is in Gemini, the ruler of which, Mercury, is placed right on the cusp of the 12th House and conjunct an also otherwise unaspected Venus, suggests that the most likely outcome is that you remain detachedly content within your own thoughts and no-one else is fully aware of what is bubbling under the surface. This, of course is right up Aquarius' street!

Since the Moon is in the 5th House, it seems as if you will be cooking up something extremely creative for later on. In the meantime, it can but lend an air of mystery which can be very attractive in the love stakes!

It's going to be a peculiar 12 months, full of change, striving and achievement. Don't get carried away with it all and it could turn out to be one of the best years of your life.



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY FORECAST

★ INDICATES AN EXCEPTIONALLY LUCKY 12 MONTHS AHEAD

- 1 Splendid year. Employment, ★ financial and romantic matters most promising.
- 2 A mixture of events and adventures that will need a lot of stamina to maintain the pace.
- 3 Young people likely to be the key to real success and pleasure this year.
- 4 Stick with WHAT you know, not WHO you know. Family life has difficult stages.
- 5 You become more self-reliant and ★ self-willed. Favourable financially.
- 6 Just how you deal with matters for good or ill depends on the mood of the moment.
- 7 Excellent for those who want to ★ start or expand their own business.
- 8 Extra bills around Oct/Nov period otherwise a reasonably good year ahead.
- 9 Encouraging for those involved in business, politics, legal or teaching professions.
- 10 Slow, steady start building to a rousing crescendo of varying activities.
- 11 Take the initiative, ladies, even in ★ matters of love and romance.
- 12 A strong desire for greater independence and freedom will grow and grow.
- 13 Will suit the active and inventive. May tend to ignore the needs of those close to you.
- 14 Travel abroad may suddenly become possible. Could be to do with work.
- 15 Busy period. Much to do, not always a lot of time to get it all done.
- 16 Keep to the straight and narrow. Some folk may be working against you.
- 17 Domestic affairs strongly marked. Heavy expenditure is likely around August/September period.
- 18 Relationships of all kinds liable to end. New faces may not stay for long.
- 19 October marks an exciting new period as a new behind-the-scenes project gets under way.
- 20 Some opposition as you push ahead with your ambitions.
- 21 Do things by the book and you can't go wrong. Losses are likely if you don't.
- 22 Friction in family/domestic area. By July the worst could be over.
- 23 Not the best of years. May-July period adverse for travel.
- 24 Joint money and business affairs problematic around the March/April period.
- 25 Reasonably profitable in the long run — but it won't seem like it at the start.
- 26 New friends, romances even. Will ★ suit those in the public eye.
- 27 Intense and tiring year. Others look to you for leadership.
- 28 Delays to ideas and plans. Red tape or just others being obstructive.

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*This precious knowledge was passed on in whispers in ancient times, and only the very few were privileged to possess it.*

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**J.V.L.:** "My business is doing well. The phone has just rung and someone else has made an appointment! Before your course I was about to close my business down."

**A.T.P.:** "Have had a wonderful thought brick for a friend. She had been trying to sell the lease on her guest house – it had been on the market for years. I decided to do the Wheel chart and within two weeks she found a buyer."

**H.C.:** "Have had great success with the Money-Bags Mascot Chart. We are literally 'awash' with cash in our business account. May I now please have the Golden Harvest Chart and leaflet."

**S.M.B.:** "I have just received Lesson A and found it to be just about the most inspiring literature I have ever read."

**M.S.F.:** "Am revising, recapturing the sheer wonder of all you have taught me – with such amazing, spectacular results."

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# OCULT QUESTION TIME

SEND YOUR QUERIES  
TO MAGDA  
(Please include sae)

## FAIRY LOVERS

Following on from a reader's query about invasion by an incubus or succubus (October 96), others have detailed their experiences but would prefer to maintain anonymity. However, should anyone care to correspond with readers who would be grateful to share actual experiences of a similar nature, please write to me and I will pass their letters on to those concerned: **GENUINE REPLIES ONLY PLEASE.**

One reader mentions that incubus/succubus entities are known locally as Leanan Sith or fairy lovers. These entities are thought to drain one of excess psychic energy in order to avoid overloading the system; rather like earthing an electric appliance.

However, anyone who has experienced this sort of viola-

tion is advised to set up a protective barrier around him/herself, especially at night. This can be done quite simply by placing a piece of natural amethyst under the pillow or mattress and mentally seeing this give off a coloured light that spreads out to form a protective cocoon or aura around the bed and its occupant.

## PRE-CHRISTIAN FESTIVALS

*What are the main pre-Christian festivals and are these still celebrated by Wiccans, as I am told? — H.B., Cork.*

The pagan year starts with Samhain at the end of Summer, which is what the name means, celebrated on October 31st and into the following day, that is All Saints Day in the Christian calendar.

The next festival is Imbolc,

February 2nd, corresponding to Candlemas in the church calendar. Then comes Beltane on May 1st, the original Spring festival celebrated on May Day with its associations with the sowing of seeds, growing of crops and the conception of children.

The last main festival is Lughnassad on August 1st, a time of harvest and fruitfulness, a time to celebrate, dance and drink wine or, in other words, enjoy the fruits of the earth. The ceremony traditionally ends with the making of a corn dolly which is kept until the following Imbolc to symbolise the death of the Green World which comes to life again after the Winter months have passed.

These, then, are the major festivals of the year as celebrated not only in pre-Christian times but also now by neo-pagans, Wiccans and the like.

## OLD ORDER CHANGETH

*Once read about the old order changing to new, possibly in a poem, but cannot trace a reference. Can you help, please, as this seems to connect to the upcoming New Age. — T.P., Cheltenham.*

The saying does come from

## graphology

(continued from page 11)

from the world outside and quite quickly responsive to sadness and happiness. There is an implication of adherence to the original school copy here, showing a leaning to things of a conventional nature.

In most handwritings one will discover opposing traits, both negative and positive. They do not necessarily cancel each other out but should be

balanced against one and another. Humans have an extremely complicated function of thinking and this will understandably appear in the writing as it firstly originates in the brain. Therefore our character and personality will naturally superimpose itself on the style learnt at school. The longer a writer clings to the school copy the stronger the implication of the writer being an adherent to accepted, orthodox and customary concepts.

Our last example has a leftward slant of 85° and the implications are an unwillingness to display emotion and feeling re-

sponses freely. The average person often finds it rather awkward really to understand and fathom writers with a marked left slant. They appear to hold back and hide their inner reactions and put on a facade to disguise the true self. The spacing of words in this last specimen is wide which is evidence of a wish to operate a mental distance between self and those with whom daily contact is made. This is primarily self-protective in case others may try to impose themselves.

This script is definitely rounded without any sharp angular forms. Consequently we

a poem, Tennyson's *The Passing of Arthur*. The full quotation goes, 'The old order changeth, yielding place to new, and God fulfils himself in many ways, lest one good custom should corrupt the world.'

### EGG SYMBOL

*I found an egg under some rubbish in my garden and wonder if it could have a Roman curse attached to it as I have had to undergo eye operations since this discovery.* — R.A., Thornton Heath.

Far from symbolising a curse, the egg you found is in fact a symbol of life and regeneration. So you have certainly not been cursed but, instead, have been given a sign and a symbol.

So put aside negative feelings which make you think evil things have been happening to you. This will bring about favourable changes that will make the current situation very much better for you and those around you.

### ASTROLOGICAL ROOTS

*Is it possible to find out where astrology originated in its current form?* — P.R.F., Shoreham.

The Greek work astrology,

simply means the science of the stars; this is further qualified as the science of the influence of the stars on humankind and our own planet Earth.

Astrology was once taught at the best universities, especially in the 15th and 16th centuries, but modern astrology stems from Babylonia some 2,300 years ago, with data going back some 2,000 years before that time. Egypt also has its place in modern astrology with the cult of Hermes Trismegistus.

The Greeks promoted astrology within their philosophy; for instance, Aristotle and Plato certainly acknowledged its existence and worth. A Greek astronomer, Ptolomey, wrote the first astrological textbook, according to many sources, and this is probably the basis of astrological writings over the past 1,800 years.

### PYRAMID QUERY

*Recently I bought a book entitled The Egyptian Magic Box by Basil le Croix. I constructed the pyramid from the instructions given but need to find out the ancient written names of the guardian angels Phorlack and Shinanim which are mentioned but not illustrated. I*

*would be grateful for any help you can offer.* — P.W., Wooton Bassett.

It is my understanding that these two angels are not intended to be part of the procedure of this aspect of pyramidology. However, if any reader would care to send in more information from his/her own experience, I will gladly pass this on to the querent.

### ZODIAC KEYWORDS

*I read of special keywords for each sign of the zodiac a year or two ago but cannot recall what they were and have been unable to track down the reference. Can you help, please?* — M.C., Farnborough.

I seem to remember that the following keywords were included in an astrological diary. However, as they are well-known general interpretations, I don't expect the original author will mind me quoting them here.

ARIES Self; TAURUS Money; GEMINI Mind; CANCER Family; LEO Children; VIRGO Work; LIBRA Marriage; SCORPIO Sex; SAGITTARIUS Travel; CAPRICORN Career; AQUARIUS Friends; PISCES Confinement.

have a guarded and hidden friendly nature that is basically non-competitive and definitely not aggressive.

This is the writing of a female aged 24 and she still holds to the school copy, showing some conformity and inner care concerning sudden changes in life. Word spacing is acceptably good, even and well organised. There are no definite beginning strokes to words and this attests to a preference for straight facts and essentials. Similarly the capital I has no elaboration, confirming that desire to get straight to the point.

Middle zone height is only 2mm displaying an ego which does not overstress its presence. Although the slant betrays a small degree of introversion, our writer is not withdrawn or abnormally reserved, it's just that care and caution about too freely demonstrating her feelings is usually present. This writer prefers to act and behave in a socially acceptable manner whenever possible.

So accordingly we have four different personality assessments. The first writer's script leans out to the environment, the next one judges circum-

stances with a cooler appraisal, the third inclines to the world outside with a little sensible care but nevertheless friendly attitude and the last, with a small trend of introversion, is more wary about revealing her true and actual inner responses.

Only very rarely do people think, act and write exactly the same. They may become similar but not identical. This also applies to writing.

In the past handwriting analysis was associated with fair grounds, the pier and the lounge but, today, has been lifted from these places and put into the science laboratory.

# The MASTER GRIMOIRE of MAGICKAL RITES & CEREMONIES

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One or two "modern grimoires" have appeared in recent years with magickal formulae of worthwhile use. These grimoires were on open sale in many shops. They were very good and news reached us about how they had helped many people. But The Master Grimoire of Magickal Rites & Ceremonies is not for sale in bookshops and **never will be**. And unlike other modern grimoires it is a **preciously serious document** for the aspiring magician who **SEEKS GENUINE INSTANT CHANGES IN HIS CIRCUMSTANCES**. But this is not to say that one must already be a practising magician in order to perform the rites and ceremonies given in this grimoire. It is inconsequential whether you are already a practitioner of the magickal arts or not. All that matters is your **sincerity**. But sincerity in what? Sincerity to seek whatever you desire in life...power...money...a better life...prestige...spiritual advancement.

The Master Grimoire is above all else a **practical** document. It presents the world of **ceremonial magick** in a practical manner. It is a thoroughly unique document in that it is **THE ONLY WORK EVER TO REVEAL THE SECRETS OF THE OLD, BANNED GRIMOIRES**, and present them in a **TOTALLY WORKABLE AND PRACTICAL MANNER FOR THE MODERN PRACTITIONER**. That is another reason why this work will attract controversy. Many magicians, of the selfish variety, will detest the fact that the age old secrets of powerful grimoires are being revealed in this document. So called "occultists" will declare that such knowledge should not be made known so easily. These people have **their own selfish reasons**, for being jealous of the precious knowledge now revealed to the layman in this work. This Master Grimoire is a defiance of such controversy and small-mindedness! Such esoteric knowledge, its author believes, **can be of stupendous benefit for so many and should not remain the special property of a very tiny, greedy minority**.

This Master Grimoire is a work consisting primarily of **EGYPTIAN AND CABALLISTIC MAGICK**, the **two most potent systems of magick in existence**. Much has been written about these systems, but **little has ever been given away** as to how they could or can be used for the attainment of practical objectives. Hypocritical modern occultists say that it is "wrong to use these powers for the pursuit of money, power, etc." whilst conveniently ignoring the fact that **THE ANCIENT MAGICIANS USED SUCH POWERS FOR THESE VERY PURPOSES!**

Belong and hypocrisy is kept out of this Master Grimoire. It is a **practical, modern grimoire** for the man and woman of today. In fact we think you will find it to be the **most revealing magickal document that you will have ever read**. Whilst giving the **TRUE SECRETS OF CHANGING SITUATIONS THROUGH CEREMONIAL MAGICK** it also explains the "why" and "how" of magickal operation. It demolishes the traditional myths surrounding "white" and "black" magick; and reveals so much concerning the philosophical aspects of magickal practice that may even cause some "old hands" at magick to re-examine their beliefs and attitudes! The philosophical aspects of The Master Grimoire are related only to the **practical applications of the magickal rites and ceremonies that it contains**. This is not a scholarly work. It is utterly down to earth and practical. And it contains the **most powerful magickal formulae ever revealed** (much of it, incidentally, being very simple to perform; not involving hours of preparing strange herbs, etc., as found in many occult books). It is not a question of whether these rites and ceremonies "will work or not", but whether **one actually wants what one desires in the first place**. The author cautions the reader on this point. Do not use an Egyptian rite for prosperity **unless you really want prosperity**; do not use a cabalistic ceremony to gain the love of another unless you **really want that love**. This may seem unnecessary and even silly advice, but one is dealing with **POTENT MAGICKAL FORCES**, never revealed in full to the layman before, **THAT ARE AS AUTOMATIC AS DAY FOLLOWS NIGHT IN THE EFFECTS THAT THEY CREATE**. You may read this grimoire for magickal inspiration and knowledge, but do not apply its contents unless you are **absolutely sure and sincere that you want the things that you seek**. The author of The Master Grimoire is **Nathan Elkana**, a multi-millionaire with worldwide business interests. Of course this is not his real name; a true ceremonial magician will never reveal his true identity as secrecy in all matters magickal is always essential. He has studied and practised ceremonial magick for over 20 years. Before he began practising magick he was totally broke and without a friend in the world. That his fortunes should change so radically following his initiation into ceremonial magick can certainly be no coincidence. "To practice Egyptian and Cabalistic Magick is to practice the art of becoming rich and powerful. Only a fool or a saint, once possessing such powerful magickal formulae, would turn his back on the fabulous dividends to be obtained from practising such magick". With the full confidence of a Master Adept he reveals the awesome secrets of Egyptian and Cabalistic Magick in a direct, "prove it for yourself" manner. "It is not necessary for me to spend chapter upon chapter trying to convince the reader of the powers of ceremonial magick. One week of practising the Secret Arts will convince one a thousandfold of the powerful efficacy of these formulae". Nathan Elkana's work is carefully documented with many true stories of how people in apparently hopeless and desperate situations transformed their plight through the invincible powers of ceremonial magick. But the case histories of this grimoire are small compared to the wealth of vitally important instruction and information given.

A brief description of the contents is as follows:

- In nine days flat a desperate unemployed man receives £2,800 "out of the blue", a tax rebate, and a lucrative job offer, after performing the Money Magick Rite
- In one month a man lands a £5,000 lottery win and gets a job promotion worth £1,600
- A young waitress, not particularly bright or attractive, tries Cabalistic Magick in an ambitious bid for wealth. Two years later she has become a millionaire, owns several restaurants, and marries a rich banker
- A special money rite for "immediate day-to-day" situations. Extremely simple it is for those desirous of meeting short-term financial obligations
- Unveiled: Cabalistic Secrets of Moses and Solomon
- The truth about **astral travelling**. Many authors complicate this subject, others over-simplify it: the result is that few ever achieve it. The Master Grimoire explains **exactly how it is achieved**, and reveals the **secret magickal rite** for attaining a successful astral projection within one week of beginning the instructions
- Astral travelling is **absolutely safe**, even fun. **Practical uses** are illustrated by true stories such as the one of how a woman satisfied her suspicions about her husband's nocturnal activities during his business trips abroad
- A woman, disillusioned with the non-result of spells to get her lover back, turns to the powerful forces of a Cabalistic Rite. Within days he is back. This particular rite should only be used when all else has failed. It is particularly powerful and fast-working
- A young ambitious man feels "blocked" from getting ahead by those above him. The Cabalistic Power and Domination Rite changes the situation overnight
- Tired of her husband's bullying a woman finds a highly effective magickal formula for dealing with him
- Beauty, intelligence, **money are no match for winning the opposite sex compared to the awesome powers of Cabalistic Magick!** Highly potent formulae are shown for getting any beautiful women or handsome man
- An ancient Egyptian rite, 3000 years old, miraculously saves a businessman from bankruptcy
- A young man, always taken for granted by people, tries magick and almost overnight finds himself the centre of admiration and respect! Even his marriage was saved as his wife began to see him in a new light
- **The Enemy-Defeating Rite:** for taking care of those who unfairly oppose you
- A middle-aged widow, in financial difficulty, unexpectedly gets and weds a wealthy bachelor
- **To Compel a Stranger to Introduce Himself/Herself** Cabalistic ceremony: it builds an **irresistibly magnetic-compelling effect** on the person you wish to influence. Perhaps not "ethical", but if you really want someone this will work for you
- **Make Someone Contact You Rite:** can be used for all sorts of situations, including re-awakening the interest and passions of an old flame!
- **The "Bombshell" Venus Love Ceremony:** it enabled one girl to get her boyfriend back from a rival, and persuaded him to marry her immediately! Another woman used it on her always "too busy" husband and found him turn into a hot latin lover!
- A woman, plain and unattractive, found her true Soul Mate and became the envy of her more attractive sisters
- A middle-aged man, distraught at his wife walking out on him, turns to ceremonial magick. Within a week she is on the door
- **The magick power of talismanic seals.** Plenty of books abound on this subject, most of them full of theory and speculation. In The Master Grimoire you get the know-how of "Cabalistic magick forces" and you are shown how to **instantly use talismans** to change your luck and fortune. Avoiding the complications of most books The Master Grimoire shows how to **immediately "charge" magick talismans to help you study better, pass exams, possess lustful effect on the opposite sex, gain frequent wins at bingo and other games of chance, attract good luck in all undertakings, gain physical protection wherever you go, and much more.** The Master Grimoire is priceless for just this one chapter alone!
- **How to use magickal ritual to heal yourself and others.** Demonstrates the powerful healing methods of ceremonial magick. A woman who had suffered for years without relief from a painful stomach ulcer suddenly finds pains greatly reduced after trying magick. A month later her doctor pronounced her completely healed. Even more amazing stories of miraculous healings of "hopeless" cases are related!
- **A fabulous ancient beauty rite:** a woman in her mid 30s uses it and finds facial lines receding. Four years later they still haven't reappeared! An unattractive man uses it and suddenly finds himself the centre of female attention
- **The sensational Ancient Youth Ceremony:** partially revealed in other grimoires, but here it is in its **complete form** for the first time! This is a centuries old jealously guarded magickal secret, and like the other rites and ceremonies is **very easy to perform!** Case histories include an elderly man who gains incredible virility, a woman loses weight and feels 25 years younger - even attracting the attention of younger men; a middle-aged divorcee finds herself transformed, facial lines receding, hair texture stronger, bust firmer, and as an exciting "bonus" acquires an adoring young lover!
- **Evil-crushing magickal ceremonies that reverse psychic attack,** and create total invisible protection for yourself, for loved ones, and property!
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# Love Tokens

by MARION PEARCE

**Our modern Valentine's Day is named after a Christian saint but its roots go back to a riotous festival in ancient Rome.**

The traditional day for lovers and romance, Valentine's Day, February 14th, can be traced back through the centuries from the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia.

Lupercalia was held on February 15th and was a very popular festival conducted by a group of young men who were priests known as Luperci, hence the name. These Luperci were divided into two ancient colleges, *Luperci Quinctiales* or *Quintilii* and *Luperci Fabiani* or *Fabii*. The colleges were said to have been founded by the mythological creators of Rome, Romulus and Remus, twins who were suckled by a wolf in a cave.

It was in this cave — the Lupercal Cave at the South West corner of Palatine Hill — that the ceremony of Lupercalia commenced. Goats and a dog were sacrificed to honour the festival.

The leaders of the teams of young Luperci had their foreheads smeared with blood which was then wiped away by wool soaked in milk. The young men then had to laugh, which seems strange, but we do not know why. Next, the feasting began: a joyous and riotous affair.

Vestal virgins made a sacred cake from flour and the first ears of the crop from the previous year's harvest. The crop was collected on alternate days between the May 7th and 15th by the three eldest Vestals and only they were allowed to prepare the roasted and ground ears that went into the sacred cake.

This specially prepared spiri-

tual food was called *mola salsa*. So special was it considered that it was served only on three days of the year; February 15th at Lupercalia, June 9th at Vesta (Vestalia was a special holiday for bakers and millers) and on the Ides of September (the 13th), a day honouring Jupiter and marking the dedication of the temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus.

Next in the festivities came a race between the two young Luperci who, naked except for the strips of goatskin cut from the sacrificed animals, would run round Palatine Hill, the boundary of the ancient city built by Romulus, thus creating a sacred circle to ward off evil spirits. Interestingly, these goatskin strips were called *februa*, meaning that which purifies and may indeed be the origin of the naming of the month February.

The Luperci also carried goatskin thongs made from the remains of the sacrificial animal. Referred to as 'Juno's cloak' (named after the goddess Juno who was often depicted wearing a cloak made from goatskin) these thongs would be used by the Luperci to strike women who they met



on their path.

This was eagerly awaited by the women who considered the symbolic thrashing to act as a cure for barrenness and to encourage fertility. This part of the ceremony was, therefore, symbolic of both purification and fertility.

Much later, of course, some orders of Christian monks would flog themselves with thongs to purify themselves from sin and one wonders if this practice had its origins in the ancient Roman ceremony of Lupercalia.

When the Luperci's ceremonial race was Christianised in 494AD, by Pope Gelasius I, the origins of barrenness and fertility were forgotten. The race was now interpreted as representing sinful mankind running up and down hill to escape the Flood, thus demonstrating how ancient rituals were altered to fit Christian myth.

The original date of February 15th for the Roman Festival of Lupercalia is now remembered a day earlier on the 14th. This, of course, is St Valentine's Day when cards are exchanged between lovers; it is also the date when birds traditionally mate.

Pepys makes a reference to the custom of Valentine cards in his *Diary* for 1667. 'This morning came up to my wife's bedside (I being up dressing myself) little Will Mercer to be her Valentine, and brought her name written upon blue paper in gold letters, done by himself, very pretty and we were both well pleased with it. But I am also this year my wife's Valentine, and it will cost me £5. But that I must have laid out if we had not been Valentines.'

It is interesting to note that the sending of cards was known during the 17th century. They were certainly expensive, five pounds must have been a considerable sum of money in those days.

Many customs originated to mark this special day. The names of single boys and girls

were placed on pieces of paper which were then folded and placed in separate containers. These were then drawn in pairs, called Valentines, and were supposed to show who they would eventually marry when they reached adulthood.

Various romantic tools were used to divine one's future mate on this day. On St Valentine's Eve five bay leaves were attached to a damsel's pillow, one at each corner and one in the middle. Then a hard-boiled egg would have its yolk removed and replaced by salt. The whole adulterated egg, including the shell, would then be eaten by the young girl who would go to bed, to be disturbed by dreams in which she would be able to see her future husband.

Another popular form of divination was to have the names of several potential suitors written on pieces of paper. These papers were then rolled up and placed in wet clay. The papers with their covering of clay were then placed in a bowl of water. When the clay dissolved, the papers would rise to the surface of the water and the first to do so would reveal the name of the damsel's future lover.

The name Valentine was chosen as it is a corruption of 'galantin,' meaning a lover or gallant, a common name in ancient Rome. Valentine himself was a priest in 3rd century Rome. There he was imprisoned by the emperor, Claudius, for comforting persecuted Christians. While in prison Valentine performed a miracle, restoring the sight of his gaoler's blind daughter. The prison guard, named Asterius, was so impressed that he converted to Christianity and Valentine baptised him.

This does not appear to have done him much good because the poor man was beaten with clubs and finally beheaded. This unfortunate event was said to have occurred on February 14th, 269AD. I have no doubt that he died true to his faith, as a good Christian.

# The Butterfly Option

by MICHAEL VINTER

**Let's face it. No matter how terrible the world, nobody gets out of it alive.**

**M**ind you, we rarely venture to reckon when or even how the event may take place, only that it will, either by disaster or genealogical longevity. Let's concentrate on the latter because to some extent we may, by discretionary behaviour, exercise some measure of control over the former. We are not forced, for instance, to court disaster with nicotine, alcohol, nor by reckless driving on the public highway.

That leaves us with a still-calculable span. Or does it? The trouble is that so many awkward scientists keep shifting the goal-posts. Recent extemporising in medical circles suggests two possible responses to mankind's oldest, most challenging lure, the Holy Grail of Immortality.

Firstly, let's put it under the microscope of logic which, after all, offers the most persuasive evidence that nature alone dictates that there can be no death as we fear it, only a change of circumstances: circumstances that are largely unknown. However, even ancient man decreed through his tomb carvings that life in all its forms must be governed by certain basic rules.

So, by way of example, let's consider the humble butterfly. Did it *begin* life as a butterfly? No, it began as an egg, just as we do. In the due order of life it next became a caterpillar, which in turn became the pupa (chrysalis) which ultimately gave birth to the imago.

And after this? Ah, then what? Note the detail: at

every stage it emerged to a new dimension of life, leaving behind an empty shell, a discarded body. It isn't hard to figure that, prior to each transition, the creature — the primary life-cell encapsulated in its brittle shell — can have no awareness of a realm outside.

And even if thus informed by some mystical means or other, can we not logically suppose that fear alone would have made it less than eager to sally forth into dimensions of existence it could not possibly conceive, *terras incognitas*? For this creature, though, there is no option, 'go' it must.

I put it to you: surely we cannot be less evolved than insects of the field? Mind you, they've been around a lot longer than us and will probably be around long after we've gone. However, this convinces us only that if there's any option about departure, then we're just not going to leave.

## Setting limits

'We deserve to live 500 years,' emphasises one eminent scientific doyen. However, it is open to debate what he means by that. A threat or a warning? For, make no mistake about it, a life-span of such magnitude would pose incredible threats to our planetary larder, not to mention logistics. There will not be sufficient living space to go round. But by then, of course, the overflow population will probably be surviving somewhere in space amid gigantic



star cities.

That, also, dictates a need for limitations, either of birth control or disaster. So, yes, we can easily determine a natural demand for famine or war. Indeed, one is a natural outcome of the other because nobody is going to sit quietly by and starve even if he/she has to rob others.

Well, we have more or less accepted that the clock of life is wound just once, which may or not be true. Perhaps some clever spark will one day learn how to slow it down.

Many have tried, among them such names as Winston Churchill, who of course centred his hopes around the monkey-gland theorem of several decades ago. Suppose the technique had been a success, though, who would wish to exist for 500 years along with the spectres of aches, illness and discomfort that may haunt our old age?

Ho, hum! Medical laboratories in several countries are even now in hot pursuit of a rogue gene said to be responsible for such objections. Once identified and eliminated through genetic engineering, it follows that future generations will actually be born *without* that very gene.

This signals that a dramatic slowing of the clock is almost within our grasp. To stop it altogether, though, or even to reverse it for those of us old codgers who missed the bus to begin with has to be another matter altogether. Mind you, many have tried and are trying even as I confide these ideas to my computer.

## Deep-freeze

Most famously, there is a substantial body of hopefuls and optimists, mainly in America (where else?), who have already pinned their hopes on the deep-freeze technique. This means that on the instant of death or shortly thereafter, for the time-span is critical, their bodies will be whipped

away to the Alcor Foundation of California to be immersed in liquid nitrogen and encapsulated until such time as science makes it possible for them to be revived and updated to whatever kind of world awaits them.

I understand the Foundation is doing brisk business. Indeed, there are even group-parties of friends and families now awaiting resuscitation together.

Still others have elected for the head-only option, which comes a lot cheaper. Presumably they anticipate that medical science will eventually be able to provide new bodies on which to graft their heads. Needless to say, this will entail an addition to the original account. We can only hope they will have the financial reserves to meet it!

Fortunately, we have Professor Ettinger's option to consider as a less gruesome alternative to the decapitation process. Instead, he argues, it will become possible to 'record' a human personality (call it the soul, for want of a better word), intact with all its memory bank, and store it within some kind of super-computer.

This handy concept drags neuro-science into the picture: an electronic afterlife! The question is, can anybody prophesy whether or not consciousness will prevail during the period of storage? After all, it's likely to be a long wait until the day when it will become possible to transfer the personality into a new brain,

not to mention a new body.

Awaiting the technological development that enables the return trip would surely imply a period of torment, one that could last for centuries? Think of the hazards which will be running through the mind: what happens if some clumsy oaf should accidentally erase the recording?

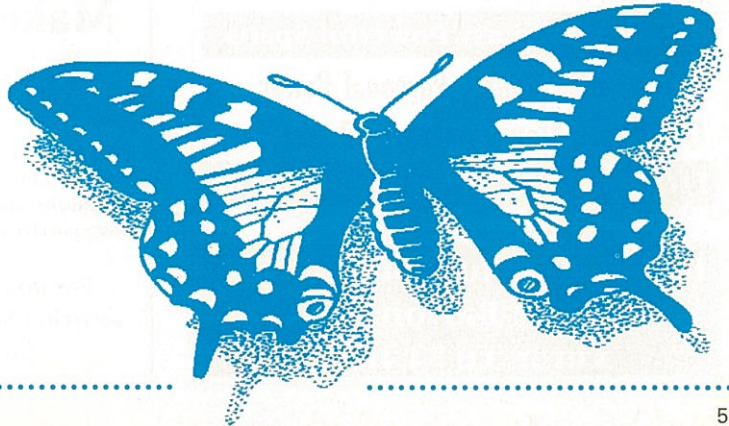
However, we do not need to worry overmuch about finding a new host. Even now there is research afoot which suggests that science will ultimately produce a kind of robot able to think for itself, even to reproduce itself.

So the electronically stored personality could end up finding itself resurrected in the mind cells of a bionic machine. Mister Data of *Star Trek*, no less, but with all the humanistics so lacking in that fictional android. It's mad, but it might just be mad enough to come true — I kid you not!

It seems that neither space nor death may be the final frontier after all. But the bottom line must be whether that, or any other kind of post-mortem survival, be worth the plug?

It may turn out better to accept the butterfly option — wait and see what nature herself holds in store for us. Whatever the case, though, it looks as if, before very long, science may be able to offer humankind the options.

Altogether now: who wants to live forever? See you in Star City!



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**On the face of it, learning to become a magical adept has nothing in common with stage magic, conjuring, or has it? by MARGARET BRUCE**

novices. When charlatans adopt the same strategies for personal advantage, it is because they and not the methods are flawed.

Is a doctor a charlatan when he prescribes a placebo for an incurable patient? And does he become a magician if the placebo works?

The Priests of Bel were not the first to exploit the myth that magic belongs to an indispensable elite; nor were they the last. Modern society is built on the same fallacy that empowers privileged and largely superfluous confederacies of 'wise ones' to thrive at the expense of productive if credulous citizens.

Elitists are not above distorting ancient rituals for their own purposes. The Egyptian 'negative-confession' that pro-

claimed the worshipper's virtues and good deeds was a therapeutic ritual that enhanced the individual relationship with the Divine.

The Church inverted this ritual in the Sacrament of Confession, thus burdening the laity with guilt from which ordained priests alone could grant absolution. The process of seducing individuals away from their natural relationship with the cosmos continues daily with the proliferation of professional 'experts' and corporate bodies.

Individual identity and cultural memories are suppressed. Ancestral knowledge is ridiculed as superstition and even recent history is distorted to fit the destructive dogmas of decadent societies. Victorians are stereotyped as prudish

hypocrites simply because that is how modern propagandists describe them.

For 2,000 years, Church ritual implied that the Mystery of Transubstantiation was the miraculous result of priestly agency when, in fact, our forbears KNEW intuitively that grain was a living deity requiring no priest or shaman to make it so. Such direct awareness is beyond most people unless they can be tricked into experiencing what seems miraculous.

When Moses transformed his rod into a serpent he failed to impress Pharaoh who had seen the same trick used by priests in the training of temple acolytes. It took magic of a higher order to release the Israelites from their bondage.

Likewise, our pagan ancestors remained unmoved by elaborate Church ritual which they burlesqued in children's games that caricatured the performance of the priest and the Latin of the Mass. Earlier generations were no pushover for sophisticated humbug, thanks to an upbringing that pitted them against the ruthless trickery of nature and the cunning of their fellow humans. Our first ancestors needed neither priests nor *soi disant* experts because they alone dictated their destiny and lifestyle.

Restoring a modern urban human to this self-assured status calls for mind trickery as subtle and bewildering as any known in the Temples of Memphis and Karnak. Congregations of most faiths seldom relinquished their magical roots, while the priesthood drifted ever farther from reality.

Even Egyptian scribes had less idea of what they were illustrating than the herdsmen and hunters of the Nile Valley. This ignorance among the elite culminated in the vandalism perpetrated by the Pharaoh Akhenaton whose fanatical 'innovations' led to the fall of the Egyptian Empire.

We see the same unwitting

destruction of mystical tradition in the actions of the Second Vatican Council and in the mutilation of the Anglican liturgy by trendy clerics. But folk-memory is tenacious and fragments of the old magic still survive in Greek, Coptic and Roman iconography where they continue to elude the priesthood yet are treasured by the unsophisticated believers.

Pagan resistance to change and conversion has nothing to do with the relative merits of different religions. It is the gut feeling that mythology absorbed from infancy remains the foundation for spiritual development. Switching to alien beliefs severs contact with one's magical roots.

The records of 19th century anthropologists and explorers provide well-documented evidence of shamen and natural healers 'cured' of their magical gifts the moment they were converted to Christianity. Even today instinctive resistance to change of any kind is a powerful force that manifests in civil unrest, often involving normally docile model citizens.

The virtue of any mythology — including theoretical science, the superstition of the intellectual — lies not in its literal truth but in its ability to expand the awareness of what can be achieved when one believes. In prehistoric cultures, the awakener of inborn magic was the Mother.

Together with the immunising colostrum in the first breast feed, the maternal bonding process prepared the infant for a healthy, self-sufficient lifestyle. Like other young animals, the child learned the basics of survival through play and firm discipline.

Magic was distilled from games, songs, tricks, riddles and folk tales that opened the mind in a non-intellectual way to the acceptance of infinite possibilities. Each child grew up able to find, make, maintain

and replace everything necessary for a fulfilled lifestyle.

All this without recourse to 'experts' or 'authorities.' Wiser generations knew that, 'The hand that rocks the cradle rules the World.' Any culture that does not actively acknowledge this fundamental magical reality is doomed to extinction.

Education and the mechanics of modern society tend to condition rather than instruct and many people spend a lifetime building illusory defences against imaginary threats. Trickery is the means by which populations are exploited and none of us can avoid the negative illusions.

We can, however, use our own positive trickery to vivify our therapeutic magic and help neutralise the damage inflicted upon us. Even featherless, tormented battery hens can be restored to happy normality when they discover their ability to forage in meadow and cornfield.

Luring each emaciated prisoner from her cruel confinement into unfamiliar freedom needs patience and guile. But that is easy compared to the mind-bending shock-tactics needed to free the average citizen from his or her slavery to illusion.

Magic is not an escape into whimsy; it entails confronting reality and changing it in accordance with the True Will. As our original forbears knew, the magic that ensures survival comes from within and not from a privileged priesthood. The advice given to young Egyptian postulants on the lone path of initiation was paraphrased by the Psalmist as 'Put not your trust in Princes nor in any child of man;' which gem of ancient wisdom can still save many a bitter disappointment and personal tragedy.

### **Magical mind tricks**

Three potent 'tricks' help dispel harmful illusion and revive your latent magic. The first of these, on which all practical

magic is based, is the Magical Retirement. This entails withdrawal from as many human influences as possible and can be as simple as a religious retreat or a total isolation in some remote place.

The aim is to switch off all contact with society for a period of weeks or months in order to experience your own immediate relationship with the cosmos. Any degree of withdrawal is better than none but those determined enough to spend, say, six months entirely alone and close to nature find that a miracle has occurred in their perception of reality.

Although this first step is crucial in serious mystical and magical work, it is the fence at which every half-hearted seeker falls. Inertia sorts out the losers and ensures that even moderately proficient adepts remain rare.

Ancient Egypt, despite her sound magical tradition and absence of computer-age distractions, produced few adepts. And the passionate piety of closed religious orders did not turn every novice into a miracle-working saint. Yet both systems provided the perfect environment for awakening true magic.

The magical retirement can change your relationship with reality for ever. So much so that 'magical' things will begin to happen even before you have taken the next step on the path.

The second stage of 'mind-trickery' is to replace banished illusions with beneficial alternatives. The fact that these may be as unreal as those they displace is totally irrelevant; the effect and not the authenticity is what matters.

Enlightened cultures used heroes and gods as patterns for their own lives. Everybody apes the images around them, so wise societies ensure that only wholesome role models are permitted.

Censorship? Yes, but it is constructive censorship and

# How's Tricks?

not the modern kind that propagates degeneracy and conceals vital information. Earlier generations were pretty shrewd. They knew that every idol has feet of clay but to disclose this flaw destroys their function as role models. Only today do we deliberately devalue our cultural heritage by ridiculing folk heroes of the past.

The aspiring magician has to recreate perfect role models by making classical mythology an integral part of everyday life. Emotional involvement in mythological tradition, be it Greek, Roman Egyptian, Hindu or any other sound cosmogonic theme, enables the novice to identify with deities and folk heroes and the powers they represent.

The Biblical admonition to contemplate only the purest and noblest images derives directly from Egyptian and Cabalistic magic. The late Aleister Crowley recommended classical and occult fiction as sources of role models.

Even non-occult authors draw their inspiration from the archetypal denizens of their racial memory. Choose with care the heroes and gods who most excite your imagination for it is they who will lead you into the realm of magic.

The third way of tricking the mind into awakening the inner magic is to arrange your activities in harmony with seasonal and planetary rhythms. The secular calendar bears little relationship to any kind of reality and is being progressively undermined to eliminate knowledge of traditional seasons and anniversaries.

The Aspectarian section of PREDICTION will show you the Lunar phases and the most favourable planetary aspects for particular ventures. Our recent ancestors based their year on the four cross-quarter days; not very different from the pagan Sabbats. These governed both religious and secular affairs.

English quarter days are Lady Day (March 25th), Midsummer (June 24th), Michaelmas (September 29th) and Christmas (December 25th). In Scotland the quarter days are Candlemas (February 2nd), Whitsuntide (May 15th), Lammas (August 1st) and Martinmas (November 11th).

In both cases it is the season rather than the calendar dates that matter. We are concerned with the living entities of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter and how we are to relate to them both physically and spiritually.

Only wild creatures and a few remote farmers and fisherfolk still have direct contact with these realities. The closer you can get to that same unsentimental awareness of what the Earth is doing in relation to yourself and the cosmos, the better your chances of recovering real control of your life and your magical birthright.

Use your initiative by commemorating those anniversaries related to natural events like Harvest Festival, Easter and such folk customs as well-dressing. Now reduced to mere numbers, your calendar was once a round dance of images and entities moving — and carrying you with them — to the sweet relentless rhythm of seed-time and harvest, migration and courtship, birth and death.

It is in your power to bring all this to life again if only you can outwit your own scepticism. Traditional priesthoods may carry less weight in today's materialistic society but the 'tricks of the trade' flourish in other walks of life.

Such practitioners would despise the concept of magic — real or imitation — but their

methods remain those of the charlatan throughout the ages. The neophyte must use the same calibre of mind deception to refute mass illusion and awaken the inner magic.

Even today it is clear that the instincts of what the patronising elite call 'ordinary people' are healthier than the grotesque dogmas of manipulative 'experts.' Magic is not dead but merely suppressed.

## The credibility chasm

Intellectuals may cry 'Cuckoo' at the idea of temporary isolation from their precious computers and shaky human relationships but the wise cuckoo demonstrates the practicality of applied magic. His voice mocks the folly of the world but he looks too much like a hawk to invite disrespect.

He takes charge of his destiny the instant he emerges from his egg. He renders his doting foster parents oblivious to his huge size and ruthless behaviour and proves more than a match for the odds that are stacked against him.

With no biological parents to guide him, he has only his inner magic and the matchless self-confidence of a born Magus. Once fledged, the cuckoo puts human navigational skills to shame by spreading his new-feathered wings and heading unerringly for the tropical homeland he has never known.

So don't underestimate what one small magically-aware individual can accomplish unaided. And if, at the end of your experiments in magical mind-trickery, you have bridged the credibility chasm to become as smart and self-reliant as the cuckoo, you may count yourself a true adept.

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# MOONSTRUCK

by ALEX GAZZOLA

Stare up at the sky on a clear night and often you will be able to see one of the many changing faces of the Moon. Our nearest planetary neighbour, it is an unusual and barren place which directly influences life on our Earth.

We know, for example, that the Moon causes tides in our seas and oceans by means of its gravitational pull. But there are more interesting characteristics and mysteries surrounding the Moon, some of which continue to intrigue, so maybe Earth's satellite effects us more than we would care to admit.

## Origins

The Moon's very origins have been the subject of debate for many years, with astronomers and physicists failing to reach agreement on the matter. One theory suggests that both the Earth and the Moon were originally a single planet, the Moon being formed from a fragment of the Earth that broke away.

Alternatively, the Moon could have formed from particles of rubble, debris and dust which once circled the Earth then gradually grouped together to form a small planet. Either of these theories is supported by the fact that both planets have been shown to be of equal age, 4,600 million years.

An alternative suggestion, favoured by some, implies that the Moon was once a planet in its own right, independent of the Earth. According to this theory the Moon, orbiting the Sun, approached the Earth and was pulled towards it by the force of gravity. Once captured, it could no longer escape.

In the 70s an American writer, George H. Leonard,

made the extraordinary claim that alien beings were living on the Moon. He supported his theory by analysis of many photographs of the Lunar surface in which, he claimed, evidence for artificial intelligences at work could be seen.

His controversial observations included machines on the surface of the Moon, controlled by a non-human life-form, digging and excavating at surface. Towers and other artificial constructions could also be discerned in the photographs, asserted Leonard.

Leonard's claims have now largely been dismissed as fanciful and absurd. Few, if any, of the photographs that he used

to 'prove' his theories show anything more unusual than the rocky, rugged and irregular terrain of the Moon. Sceptics claimed that the objects Leonard discerned in the photographs were nothing more than illusions created in his own mind.

It is well-known that humans tend to look for patterns when staring at an unfamiliar object, picture or scene. So, according to his detractors, Leonard could have been seeing something that he wanted to see but that simply wasn't there.

## Lights

Transient Lunar phenomena (TLPs) are lights and glows

**Is the Moon, the nearest body to us in space, just a dead lump of rock or something more?**



appearing on the Moon which have been reported regularly over the last two centuries. Most that have been observed by astronomers are described as red glows and these have aroused great interest and speculation.

So how can such a dull and lifeless planetary body produce sporadic lights? It is possible that the Sun's particles rebounding from the surface of the Moon could produce a TLP but a more likely explanation is that escaping dust and gases are the cause. This theory is not without its problems, however.

The volume of dust and gas required to produce effects visible from the Earth has been put at a tonne at the very least. An explosion of this material would cause moonquakes similar to our earthquakes yet no evidence of such disturbances has been found.

More importantly, the Moon has no atmosphere whatsoever, so it is difficult to come up with an explanation for why any gases should be trapped in its interior. Could these lights suggest some life-form on the Moon after all?

### **Moon madness**

Astrology is the study of the influence of the Sun, Moon and planets on human life. The Moon specifically has been shown to effect people's behaviour in a number of ways. Lunacy in human patients has long been blamed on the Moon in folklore. The Bible mentions this connection and the term lunacy is derived from the word *luna*, the Latin for Moon.

Statistics show that there is an increase in the number of murders, suicides and violent acts in general when there is a Full Moon. This would suggest that in some way it could be responsible for affecting the mental state.

Electrical energy in the human brain has been directly linked to the phases of the Moon, so we should not be surprised if mental disorders too have a Lunar connection. After all, the Earth's seas are directly effected in very visible ways. Could the Moon not also effect the water that is present in all of our bodies, producing unpredictable side-effects?

Werewolf legends are also based on the presence of a Full Moon. But a distinction must be made between a werewolf and a lycanthrope. The former is a person capable of undergoing a complete transformation into a wolf, the latter someone suffering from a recognised mental illness that makes him/her believe he is a wolf.

However, the Full Moon the-

## **MOONSTRUCK**

ory effecting the human mind is correct, it would seem that this could cause cases of lycanthropia in disturbed people. This would also suggest a rational origin to the werewolf legends.

Non-harmful Lunar effects have also been discovered. Studies on human reproduction have revealed a startling link to the phases of the Moon. A higher than average number of births have been recorded during days of Full Moons and links with women's menstrual cycles have long been mooted.

Relatively recent scientific evidence supports this view. Two independent studies, both carried out this century, revealed that the onset of menstruation in women reaches a peak during a New Moon. Both studies used samples of more than 10,000 women so it is hard to dismiss them.

### **Other moons**

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto are known

as primary planets. Our Moon and all the other moons of these primary planets are known as secondary planets, but perhaps this is rather an unfair term.

Titan, Saturn's largest moon, may be hiding a surprising secret. It is known to be the only moon in the Solar system which possesses an atmosphere and Titan itself is believed to be almost entirely formed of ice.

Under the surface, scientists have suggested, the building blocks of life may be forming. Unfortunately, because of Titan's remoteness, it will be extremely difficult to prove whether or not this is the case.

A close encounter case which occurred in Mendoza, Argentina, also suggests that life-forms could exist on one of the Solar system's moons. Two local casino cashiers encountered five be-

ings while driving home in the early hours of the morning of September 1st 1968. The witnesses described these humanoids as being 5 feet tall, with strangely large bald heads.

Interest was aroused by this event due to some inscriptions which the alien beings made on the side of the car being driven by the cashiers. The local Space Research Centre's analysis of these carvings suggested that they represented various planets and moons in our Solar system.

In particular, two parallel lines drawn between the Earth and Ganymede, one of Jupiter's moons, were thought to suggest a journey between these two planets being undertaken by the strange beings.

The primary planets receive most of the attention by astronomers, physicists and astrologers throughout the world. But perhaps they should look a little more closely to their moons; they may be surprised at what they find.



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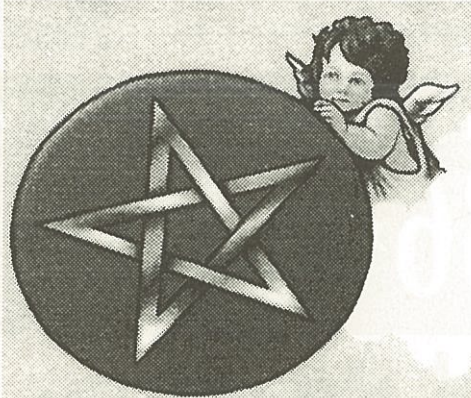
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## PENFRIENDS

FEMALE Arien wishes to correspond with those who, like herself, believe they have lived before. Box E686.

PISCAN male, 30, interested in spiritual dreams, elementals, auras, past lives and nature. Likes music, Pre-Raphaelite art, visiting cathedrals and historical sites, seeks correspondence with like-minded individuals in Devon area/anywhere. Box E692.

ADAM, Gemini, 19.6.69. I am a sensitive and wish to correspond with genuine, caring people into mediumship, healing, auras, clairvoyance and a host of other occult subjects too. Manchester/anywhere. Box E673.

SAGITTARIAN male, 19, seeks correspondence with anyone interested in the teachings of Crowley, the art of magic, the philosophy and wisdom of the ancient Egyptians and/or Tarot symbolism. Box E675.

PISCAN male, 37, seeks correspondence with enlightened, idealistic friends (anywhere) who share my interests in magic, dreams, spiritual development, crafts and the countryside. ALA. Box E676.

FEMALE, 15.10.62, seeks penfriends any age to exchange ideas. Interests are Western & Chinese astrology, reincarnation, Spiritualism, animals, dreams, odd coincidences/experiences, divination etc. E. Yorks/anywhere. Box E677.

AMERICAN male living in USA seeks correspondence from people anywhere in the world interested in *PREDICTION* subjects. Write: Patrick Trowbridge, 23466, Ely Nevada, USA, 89301, PO Box 1989.

SCORPIO lady, 30.10.32, interested in all aspects of healing, ascension, angels and all *PREDICTION* subjects would like to hear from like-minded souls. Write Box E690.

FEMALE, 15.11.56, Leo Ascendant, into astrology, graphology, palmistry, alternative healing, would like to contact similarly interested people for friendship/correspondence. I also love music, Ozrics, Hawkwind, Ambient, Goth and Metal. Box E701.

AQUARIAN female, seeks anyone with stellium in Aquarius or any other sign. Also spiritual interest in the stars, myths, ancient sites/temples, past lives, lucid dreams, Knights Templar, Cathars, etc. Box E703.

DREAMY female, 34, seeks friends anywhere esp. Ireland. Interests: music, poetry, fairy realms, Spiritualism, runes, myths & legends, stone circles, rainbows, walks in the woods, spiritual development etc. ALA. Box E706.

AQUARIAN male, 37, wishes to hear from anyone interested in Chinese/Japanese/Oriental spiritual subjects. I Ching, Shinto, healing, Spiritualism, supernatural beliefs, Japanese arts, Hokusai, super etc. ALA. Box E707.

MALE Capricorn, 29.12.52, seeks correspondence with anyone any age interested in the Tarot to exchange views. Box E709.

GEMINI male, 17.6.66, seeks penfriends with

interests in magic, history, music, travelling and the environment. Shropshire/Wales/anywhere. Box E714.

## CONTACTS

WOULD anyone like to join me on my journey of enlightenment? Along the way we may talk of Aleister and Thelema, magic, Cabbala, mysticism and the mystery school tradition. Female, 29, Notts area. Box E693.

FEMALE Capricorn, 39, studying Cabbala, magic, psychology and astrology related subjects. Seeks working group in the E. Dorset/W. Hants area. Box E694.

AQUARIAN female, early 60s, interested in all aspects of the paranormal/supernatural wishes to meet/correspond with like-minded folk in and around Bristol area. Box E695.

SCORPIO female, 21, novice hedgewitch, interested in herbalism, ancient sites and cultures, animals, art and music seeks like-minded friends in North London area. Box E696.

MALE Capricorn, 30s, wishes to contact/correspond with kindred spirits interested in spiritual development. Interests include natural magic, folklore, the Goddess, the Old Religion, ancient places and the countryside. Box E699.

EXPERIENCED male occultist seeks individuals interested in forming group for spiritual development and psychic awareness in the Tyne & Wear area. Interests include rituals, astrology, meditation and dream studies. ALA. Box E702.

GEMINI female, spiritual seeker, would like to meet/correspond with others. I am 37 with three children and live in North Wales. Box E704.

AQUARIAN guy, 38, interested in natural magic, nature, UFOs and all aspects of the supernatural seeks friends in the Sussex area/anywhere. Box E705.

ANIMAL loving 'lapsed' Wiccan female, Virgo Sun/Gemini Moon, 26, seeks new friends/contacts in the London area to help bring the Moon back in to the city. Genuine replies only. Box E708.

SCORPIO Indian male, 35, seeks like-minded friends. Interests include astrology, Spiritualism, telepathy, magical/mystical arts, alternative medicine, love, peace, eating out, travel, exhibitions and 60s/70s music. London area. ALA. Box E710.

WELL travelled, positive female, 20s, European artist/writer. Interests include music, paranormal, meditation and the alternative way of life. Seeks like-minded people, any gender, South West/anywhere. Box E712.

SENSITIVE male, 28, Libra/Gemini rising. Interested in astrology, palmistry, past lives, shamanism and Spiritualism. Would like to correspond/meet with like-minded friends. W. Yorkshire/anywhere. Box E713.

TWO ladies involved in natural magic (not Wiccan) looking for like-minded people to exchange views on this and similar subjects. Sussex area. Box E715.

ASTRO-TAROT reader seeks others, Falkirk area of Scotland, to form group for psychic development/divination/spiritual growth. Any subject welcomed for open discussion/investigation. No experience required, just keen interest. Box E716.

## MISCELLANEOUS

INDIVIDUAL (American), newly introduced to the Craft, would appreciate any help on sources to help expand my horizons. I've had a powerful surge of psychic abilities and feel I should try to complement the two. Write to Brant, M. Every, 4739 Highway 10, Jackson, Louisiana 70748, USA.

# LETTERS

Letters for publication are welcomed. Address: The Editor, Prediction, Link House, Dingwall Avenue, Croydon CR9 2TA. Correspondents must give their names and full addresses. All correspondence must be accompanied by an sae.

## A\*C\*G

IS THERE A reader out there who has had a positive experience with Astro\*Carto\*Graphy? I am thinking of moving both house and area and wondered if having this done would be of help!  
G.W. Nottingham

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HERE'S A SUGGESTION! I'm often reading of top stage personalities owing their success to the late, great Madeline Montalban who wrote for *PREDICTION* for many years. Would it be possible to reprint some of her best articles in the magazine from time to time so that a fresh generation could enjoy these?

Her writing was always so inspirational and her sense of humour shone through! I especially recall her piece on reversing a very long period of atrocious bad luck with the help of a young policeman in her quest to carry out a perfectly harmless ritual. Of course this worked and her luck improved; the article was both funny and informative.

Bel Bailey Herts

This page is intended primarily for individuals wishing to locate or dispose of occult items and those seeking astrological twins; it is NOT A DATING SERVICE. However, those wishing to contact other like-minded groups/individuals for correspondence or debate on subjects covered by this magazine may take advantage of this free service if limitations of space permit. Entries should not exceed 50 words (Contacts, 30), the age limit is 18, no repeats are accepted, box numbers, compulsory for Contacts/Pen-friends, cost £2, postal order/cheque only, DO NOT SEND CASH, and the Editor has the right to reject any that she finds unsuitable and is not obliged to give a reason for so doing. Address your advertisement to the Editorial Offices, PREDICTION, Link House, Dingwall Avenue, Croydon CR9 2TA.

## OOOPS!

ANYONE wanting to write to Box E697 in the December's Contacts column should mark their letter E679 as the figures were transposed in error. Sorry! (E697 belongs to a reader seeking an Astro Twin in the January issue.)

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# BOOKS

(continued from page 71)

approach. As will be expected, the mixed hand proves to be the most difficult to tie down.

It is fun working through this book because it also serves to give a better insight into our own needs and wants in this complex area of very personal relationships.

Recommended. — P.W.

## THE ORIGINAL JESUS

by Elmar R. Gruber  
& Holger Kersten  
(Element, £8.99)

A THOUGHT-PROVOKING SEQUEL to *The Jesus Conspiracy* in which the authors present a cogent and convincing analysis of the influence of Buddhism on the original teachings of Jesus.

Part one describes the cultural interchange that grew out of the Great Upheaval when Babylon was a multi-cultural city, bridging East with West, and the Phoenician trade routes extended from the Mediterranean to India. The religious syncretism of the Hellenic empire allowed Indian philosophy to reach many Westerners including Pythagoras, while under the later missionary zeal of Asoka in India, Buddhism continued its widespread influence up to the birth of Christ.

Part two explains the need to separate the original sayings of Jesus from the later evangelical writings of the Gospels, then compares in detail the correspondence between these, the Sermon on the Mount and Buddha's teachings. It also draws some interesting parallels from the legends that surround their birth and childhood.

Part three examines more closely how Buddhism spread to the West through the Therapeutae of Egypt and the Essenes. It considers the extent to which they may have influenced Jesus and how the Church which later Christianised his faith still displays a legacy of India.

A fascinating read. — M.M.

## SECRETS OF EAST ANGLIAN MAGIC

by Nigel Pennick  
(Hale, £9.99)

CONTRARY TO THE assertions of many modern academics, traditional forms of witchcraft and folk magic still survive in the British countryside. Pennick was initiated into one of these traditions in the 60s and here, for the first time, reveals some of the secrets of the 'nameless art' as practised to this day in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire.

In this fascinating guide to rural sorcery the reader is introduced to the rites and beliefs of the toad witches, wizards, warlocks, Horse Whisperers, Bonesmen and a colourful cavalcade of cunning men and wise women. It is often said that in our modern technological society there is no place for the old magics. This book belies that statement and reveals a secret, hidden world where traditional revived forms of paganism, magic and witchcraft exist and flourish still.

Highly recommended. — M.H.

## DESTINED FOR MURDER

by Sandra Harrison Young  
& Edna Rowlands  
(Llewellyn/Macmillan,  
\$12.95/£7.99)

I HAVE READ numerous astrology books but this is the first to make me feel physically sick. Subtitled 'Profiles of Six Serial Killers,' you'll understand why, though there are no detailed descriptions of the grisly crimes — thank goodness!

Perhaps it is the bare bones (no pun intended) of the stories that sets the imagination working. So, if you can be detached and objective, you'll find an excellent discussion of the question, 'Why do they do it?' There are full chart details, including midpoints and aspects, so this is not for the merely curious but offers an advanced technical discussion.

There is a listing of the important events in the lives of each of the killers, which include Jeffrey Dahmer, Dennis Nilsen and the Boston Strangler; all of whom, incidentally, were born under mutable signs — but what does this signify? Strangely, this book seems to raise more questions than it answers but is probably essential reading for the serious, but not faint-hearted astrologer. — J.T.M.

## SELF HYPNOSIS

by Elaine Sheehan  
(Element, £5.99)

THIS IS A very clear little book setting down and dispelling many of the myths of hypnosis and placing it in its correct context. There are many succinct definitions introducing complete clarity.

The historical section is well researched and shows how the subject developed and why its misuse as entertainment led it to fall into disrepute. Despite this, there is now much scientific research into the workings of hypnosis and the subject is once again enjoying considerable popularity.

The chapters on self-hypnosis are again crystal clear, with progressive instructions on how to achieve and benefit from this state. The various inductions described are simple to use and avoid any pitfalls of giving oneself wrong instructions.

The types of conditions that will respond to this activity are explained together with guidelines on contra indications. Advice is given for smoking, overeating, sex problems, self-esteem and so on. Altogether well worth buying and applying. — V.F.

## THE FENG SHUI HANDBOOK

by Lam Kam Cheun  
(Gaia, £12.99)

FENG SHUI REFERS to subtle systems of energies that move in our surroundings and effect how we interact with buildings, furniture, open spaces, etc according to the Chinese who have utilised this knowledge over the centuries.

Even with our rudimentary Western knowledge of such factors, we are perhaps consciously aware that where we place a bed in a room might affect how comfortable our sleep may be. Likewise, building a house at the top of a hill might not (apart from planning regulations!) be healthy for our psyche. It is far better to be snuggled up on a gentle incline near a river at the bottom of the hill.

This book by an authentic Chinese expert is one of the best I have read concerning this ancient art. It goes into great depth concerning all the energy interactions which can affect one's home environment, architecture and all the 'spaces' our three-dimensional bodies find themselves in.

The illustrative material in particular is excellent and helps provide a very high quality presentation of this art which, hopefully, will become utilised more widely in our Western architecture and interior designing. — M.R.

## THANK YOU AND OK!

by David Chadwick  
(Penguin/Arkana,  
£9.99/\$13.95)

AT THE AGE of 21 the author began formal study of Zen with a Japanese master. Over 20 years later, his second master came to the conclusion that his efforts had been wasted, hence the subtitle of this book, 'An American Zen failure in Japan.'


However, even if he never did reach the goal of Zen practice, this book is definitely not a failure. It is a detailed autobiographical account of the author's experience of his years spent in Japan.

Not only does he recount his Zen training and life in a Zen monastery but the greater part of the work is taken up with fascinating descriptions of Japanese cultural life as a whole. If you have never visited Japan, this book acts as a wonderful introduction.

Even those not particularly keen on Zen should, nevertheless, be much the wiser for reading this highly entertaining and enlightening work. — R.H.



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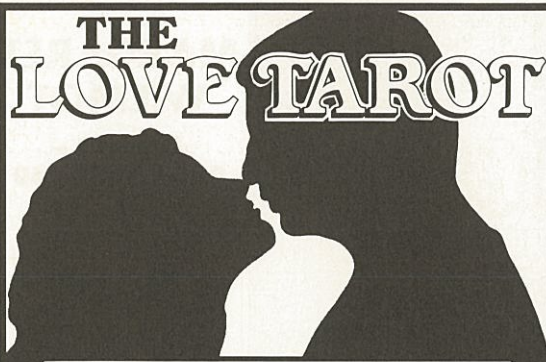
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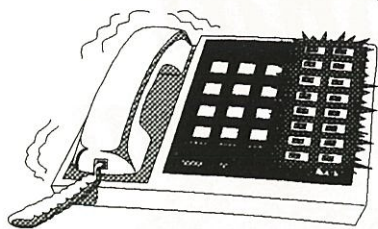
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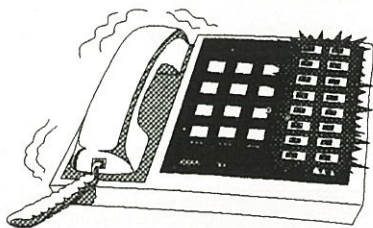
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