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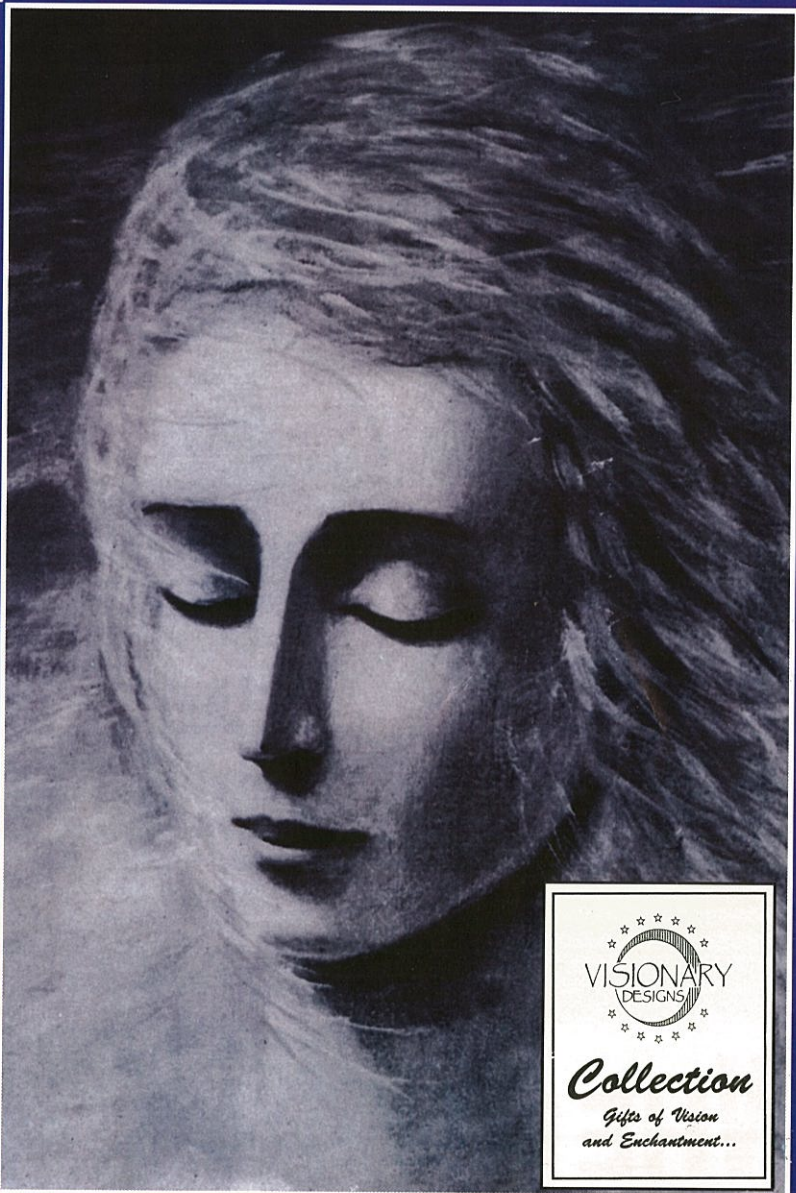
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The symbolism of the cosmic circle, the natural cycle, wheel of life or the year crosses all boundaries of time and culture. The one featured on this month's front cover is the Hum Mandala, designed by Robert Beer, silk-screen printed by and available from **Tantra Designs of Bristol**.

But, for a more down-to-Earth representation see the article by Teresa Moorey on pages 8-9.

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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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by Frances Caldwell, The Hendon Times, page-24, 28th December 1989.

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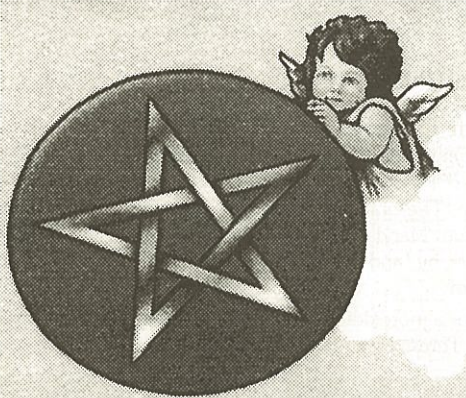
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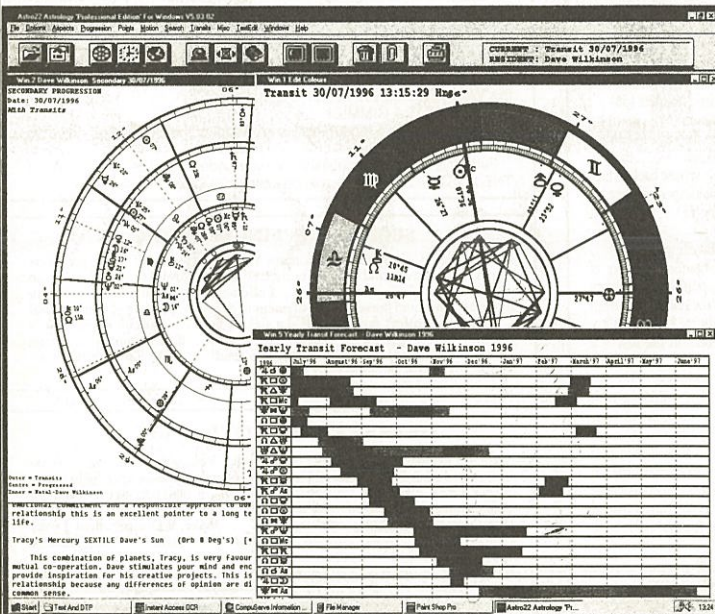
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Pagan celebration is arranged principally into eight seasonal festivals, based mainly on ancient fertility cults, many of Celtic origin. However, other meanings may be paramount today because the turning of the seasons is a metaphor for our changing lives.

Deity is felt to be immanent in nature, with the Goddess embodying the cycle, while the Son/Sun is he who travels it. Born at Yule as Divine Child of the Mother Goddess, he matures, mates, dies and is reborn. The role of the Goddess at times emphasises all the aspects of the triple goddess: Maiden, Mother and Crone.

Traditionally there are different levels of involvement in pagan culture. The esoteric approach exists in mystery religions, while the exoteric can be found in folk customs, many of which still survive to this day.

The Christian church sought to incorporate as many old customs as possible into the new church calendar, subverting the old pagan gods as demons or saints. Mystery religions are now enjoying a revival in Wicca, hedge witchcraft and others. A third approach is a personal, psychological one, in terms of what each season means to our inner growth.

New Year

Perhaps surprisingly, we step onto the Wheel of the Year at Samhain, October 31st, for this was the Celtic New Year. (Samhain is pronounced 'sawain' and means Summer's end.) The Celts saw the value of darkness itself in a way that is hard for us to imagine.

In the beginning was the eternal void, where all that lives gestated. Day began at dusk and the year began in Autumn. At Samhain the Goddess is Crone and the God is Lord of the Underworld. For our forbears this was a sad time be-

cause livestock that might not survive the Winter had to be slaughtered and frail members of the tribe might not see Summer again.

In the Christian calendar November 2nd became All Souls Day. This is the ghostly season when shadows lengthen. Samhain rituals emphasise the importance of dark, transformative aspects (rather than evil ones) and those of the beloved dead who wish to be present are invited to enter. Sexuality, too, is honoured as a force for regeneration and intense experience.

For the Celts Samhain marked the start of the storytelling season. A gentle family occupation was to sit around re-

way echoed by our bright Christmas decorations. All feasted in celebration of the Sun god being reborn to the Mother Goddess.

Modern Christmas customs have numerous connections with such old themes. Mistletoe, with its berries as white as the Moon, symbolises fertility and still we kiss beneath it for luck. Evergreens, too, are sacred to the Goddess, for they represent her unchanging presence.

Rituals to celebrate the return of light are appropriate at this time of year. Light candles of deep green and scarlet and reflect upon your gifts in life. What can you give in return? Pledge a gift to the Goddess in

the coming year and she will also have one for you; still your mind and you may know what this is. If not, the answer will be revealed in the coming months.

Imbolc

Imbolc, on February 2nd when the ground is usually white with frost and snow, is the next yearly festival. Imbolc means 'in the belly' and deep in the Earth's belly life begins to stir.

This festival is also called the Feast of the Poets when the Irish goddess Bride/Bridget is remembered — goddess of

childbirth, healing, smith-craft and creativity. In times past, a Bridie doll was made from a sheaf of oats, then laid in a special basket or 'bed' with a magic wand as part of a fertility rite.

Modern day pagans may choose to honour the advance of light and the triple goddess in other ways. One would be to light three white candles, each representing a project (which could be anything from writing a poem to planting a tree) for the coming year — one for yourself, one for friends/family and one for the Goddess. Spend an entire day on a creative project in celebration of the first stirrings of life.

WHEEL OF THE YEAR

by
TERESA MOOREY

In these times of estrangement from our roots, many people are returning to the observances of our forbears for a sense of belonging.

lating stories and talking of family members who had passed on.

A modern ritual might be to light a black candle and think about all the things that have passed from, or should pass from your life, then mentally let these go. Make a personal pledge to set aside time for meditation in preparation for future spiritual growth and development.

Yule

The Winter Solstice falls between December 20th and 23rd. This was a momentous time to the ancients who doubtless 'conjured' the return of the light and life-giving Sun in a

Spring Equinox

At the Spring Equinox, which falls between March 20th and 23rd, light and dark are in balance although light is gaining, so it is a time to celebrate the fertility of vegetation.

Many of our Easter customs, such as Easter eggs and Easter Bunny (originally a hare) echo older themes signifying fecundity. Hot cross buns display the Celtic cross, symbol of balance, and rituals may feature this symbolic wheel as the Sun's power increases from this point on.

An appropriate ritual would be to light candles of bright green or yellow and think about the plans you are 'hatching.' Decorate hard-boiled free-range eggs with food colouring and give them to friends, incorporate their wishes into your artistic theme. After eating, the eggshells should be buried or thrown into a stream for good luck.

Beltane

Beltane follows on April 30th when nature blooms. This feast celebrates the beauty of sexual love and fertility and magic fills the air as the young god courts the Goddess.

Best known of the May Day customs is the maypole — phallic pole in soft earth, the dancers mimicking the ever-renewing spiral of life. With Samhain, its dark polarity, Beltane is perhaps the greatest of the festivals, celebrated by ritual bonfires, as were many of the other festivals at one time.

Beltane is named after the Celtic god Bel, the 'bright one' and rituals celebrate the union of goddess and god. Light candles of deep rose, crimson or green. Take a leisurely, scented bath; treat yourself to something delicious. Have a party or outing and affirm all the joys of living.

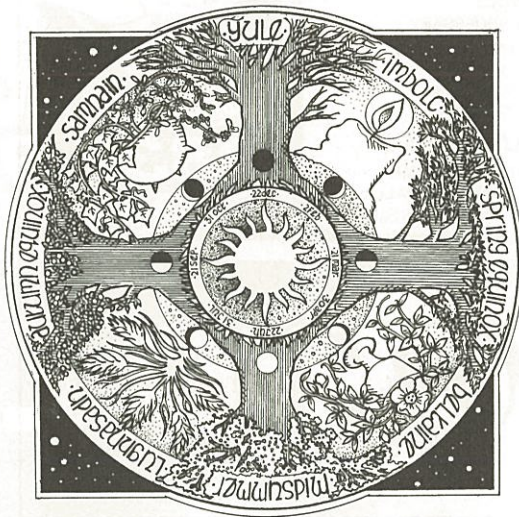
Midsummer

The climax of the year ar-

rives with Midsummer, June 20th-23rd, with evenings stretching to meet the dawn. The powers of the Sun are at their height now yet this is also a time of change for the journey back to darkness is about to begin afresh. The God, changed by love, prepares for his underworld quest.

Midsummer rituals emphasise the supremacy of the Sun. As this is a time for large gatherings, we may like to attend fetes, cricket matches and concerts (especially those held out of doors).

Inwardly, we think about fruition and change; where has success or fulfilment transformed us? It is a time to light



candles of any bright colour, think about the triumph of nature and pledge for yourself a meaningful journey into the coming darkness.

Lammas

Lammas or 'loaf mass' on July 31st marks the cutting down of the vegetation god, the first harvest, so is both a wake and a celebration. A well-known traditional custom is the making of the corn dolly from the last sheaf of wheat cut.

The dolly is tied with red ribbon, representing blood, and the seeds are kept to sow the following Spring when the god/son/Sun is reborn. Rituals at

this time of year therefore celebrate the harvest and mark the death — and the life — of the god.

In the holiday atmosphere we may feel lazy but now is a time to mark the positive aspects of sacrifice and make a commitment to give something — perhaps some of our precious time — to environmental projects. As the sultry evenings close in, light some honey-coloured candles and think of your sacrifices and your harvest.

Autumn Equinox

We arrive lastly at the Autumn Equinox, September 20-23rd. Light and dark are in balance, as in Spring, but now dark is gaining. The Equinox is a favourite time for hauntings, as we approach Samhain again. The last of the harvest is gathered in and a seasonal occupation is to make your own preserves.

Rituals may centre on an ear of wheat, based on the rites of Eleusis which observed, 'In silence is the seed of wisdom gained.' The Eleusinian injunction was 'Know thyself' so to pledge oneself to an inward path in the coming months would be appropriate indeed. Light purple candles and meditate on your

self-knowledge; might enhancing it also improve your life?

Spin of the Wheel

This has been a very brief spin of the Wheel, the true value of which can be discovered only with experience. Note the festivals of the year in your diary and consider what each means to you. Read, walk, gather leaves, feathers and shells, write poems, take pictures, create a scrapbook or an altar.

Get together with like-minded friends to celebrate the natural cycle of events. The more you open yourself up to the yearly tide, the clearer its meanings will become.

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GRAPHOLOGY

by PETER MARSHALL

Looking at Life

Our handwriting demonstrates how we approach the stimuli coming in daily from the world outside.

The five examples here show the personality make-up of each individual and how he/she evaluates life. The first is a rather quick thinker and also a sharp, perceptive one. The threading of word connections points to one who is always ready for any situation. There is a quick grasp of essentials, flexibility and foresight.

The writing is broadly upright which shows a wish to be independent and self-activating. There is a facet of introversion and a desire to keep others at a mental distance.

Introspection and an inner reserve are also present but carefully hidden, the wide spacing of words suggest this. Sometimes those in contact may think this writer a little too detached but observation and clever appraisal are not far away.

Our second example is of a writer who has a desire to be just slightly different from the average. Those circular i-dots refer to this. The lower extensions reveal some avoidance of responsibilities and an incompleteness in instinctual and sexual matters.

The writing is rounded. There is no definite aggressiveness by nature, only sometimes by circumstance. The upper extensions are not emphasised, conveying only small interest in the spheres of philosophy, aspiration and imagination.

The script adheres to the original school copy implying a leaning to conventional concepts and values taught in earlier years. This writer aims to behave in an acceptable manner but word-spaces seem slightly wide, alluding to that mental distance-keeping trait.

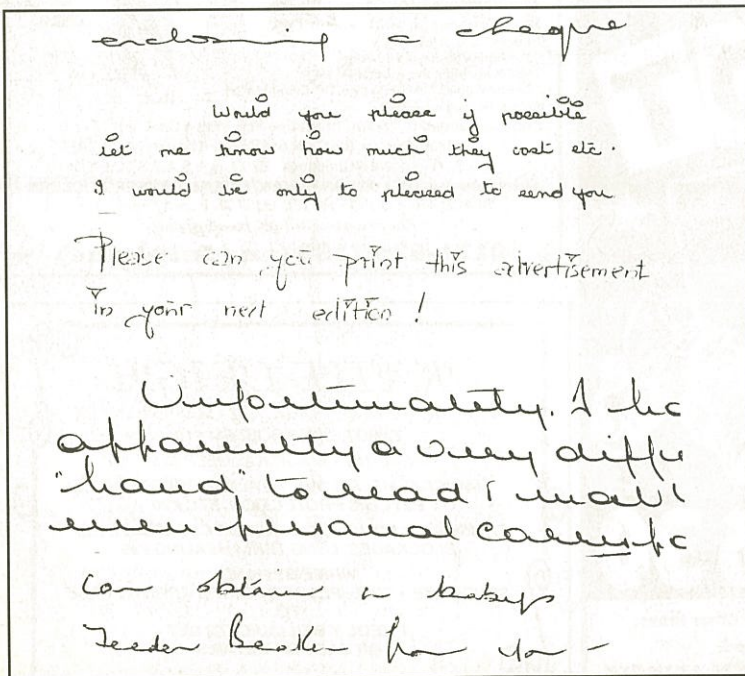
The writer of the third specimen certainly tries to be different. Those unusual i-dots are a sign of this. It has been written slowly so one knows the owner seldom makes rash decisions.

The lower extensions show a somewhat negative tendency. They turn away from the right side, which is symbolic of the outside world with all its inducements, to the left which represents the self and past experiences. The lower extensions here are also inclined to be negative.

This is another round style and, as with the first example, hints at a nature that is not belligerent. This is not exactly an assertive individual and will-power is not really forceful or determined. There is no firm drive or unyielding force. This is someone who would prefer harmony rather than discord and disruption of any kind.

T-bars are low, expressing a lack of ambition. The ovals are nicely closed so our writer will not easily give away any secrets if requested to keep confidences. Spacing of lines is tolerably good and implies a passable sense of organisation.

(continued on page 52)



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NEWS & VIEWS

Doomsday ... again

There have been countless claims that the end of the world is nigh down the centuries and now, on the brink of a new millennium, more and more prophets of doom seem to be popping out of the woodwork. The latest scheduled date for Armageddon, according to an item in *Fate* magazine, is May 5th, 2000.

Apparently this marks the 'dreaded cataclysm of the ages' when the skies darken, there will be 100 mph gales, earthquakes and fearsome electric storms. And what, you may well ask, is the reasoning behind all this?

Well, the planets are predicted to be in a unique alignment on that date. This, according to some, will cause the Poles to shift, the Earth to tilt on its axis and the world as we know it cease to exist. So, if thinking of taking a one-way trip to Mars, you'd better book now to avoid last-minute queues!

New ventures

The Magickal Dragon is a new occult/New Age shop and service that opened recently in the West End of Glasgow. Stock includes books, incense, oils, crystals, jewellery, etc and services include clairvoyance and Tarot readings, customised talismans, astrology and personal development advice. Opening hours are 10-8pm Monday to Saturday, 12-6pm on Sundays and the address is 49 Gibson Street, West End Market, Glasgow G12 8NN (☎ 0141-357 1740).

The Farnworth Christian Spiritualist Church now has a charity shop selling books,

tapes and crystals at Unit 22, Market Precinct, King Street, Farnworth, Bolton, Lancs (☎ 01204 706541). Opening hours are 9.30-2.30pm Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays and the shop also offers private readings, healing, open circle, etc.

Inner Vision stocks new and secondhand mystical items, books, handmade jewellery, etc and is situated at Unit 129, Long Gallery, The Old Crowther Market (well worth a visit itself!), 282 North End Road, Fulham Broadway, London SW6 1NH. Some services/readings also available; phone ☎ 0181-842 0309 for details or go along in opening hours which are 10.30-5pm Monday to Saturday.

Enigma is the name of the latest New Age shop to open in London, this time in Crouch End. It carries a large selection of crystals, self-help/healing books, Native American artefacts, natural soaps, aromatherapy oils and the like; Tarot readings and healers are available and workshops are planned. Opening hours are 10-6pm Monday to Saturday and 12-4pm Sundays; the address is 132 Crouch Hill, Crouch End, N8 9DX (☎ 0181-340 1091).

Elements of Shamanism

This is the title of an on-going course organised by Eagles's Wing Centre for Contemporary Shamanism between January and July 1997. This journey of initiation around the medicine wheel takes place in a series of

venues in different parts of the country.

The first meeting (January 31st-February 3rd) is at Little Grove, near Chesham, Bucks. For more information and course details contact Eagle's Wing at 58 Westbere Road, London NW2 3RU (☎ 0171-435 8174).

Anyone out there?

Since January 1996 a small astrology group has been meeting regularly, once a month, in Inverness and needs new members. Anyone interested in joining can find out more by telephoning Ian Rodgers on ☎ 01463 782709.

New premises

The Golden Bough Bookshop and healing centre recently moved to *much* larger premises to accommodate the increasing stock which, besides books, includes Tarot cards, relaxation music, aromatherapy oils, etc plus a selection of healing crystals. Opening hours are 10-5pm Tuesday to Saturday (call ☎ 0181-667 1944 for details of late night opening) and the new location is 270 London Road, West Croydon CR0 2TH which, as locals will recognise, is opposite the Cannon Cinema so is easy to spot.

Therapeutic massage and healing are available on the premises and it is planned to run lectures/workshops from early 1997 onwards.

All a bad dream?

If you believe you've been abducted by aliens, you'd better think again because, according to psychologist Dr Susan

Jeanne



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NEWS & VIEWS

Blackmore, you may simply have been dreaming or on the verge of sleep. Back in medieval times, apparently, it was not uncommon to believe one had been visited by a succubus or incubus during the night.

But times have moved on and fashions change so now people are more likely to report alien visitors who whisk them off to a spaceship where they are operated on, sexually manipulated and returned to bed. However, such experiences can be explained by the confusion of sleep paralysis, claims Dr Blackmore, bringing us all down to Earth with a bump — and I thought it was the spacecraft landing!

Home and away

We have just received notice of a one-day event which, although not taking place until April 6th, is likely to be overbooked. This is Dorset's 2nd Annual Conference on UFOs, Crop Circle Formations and Government Conspiracies. So, if interested in reserving a ticket, contact David Kingston on ☎ 01305 266 832 as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Along similar lines, UFO

'97 takes place April 19th and 20th at Hourne Farm, Steel Cross, Crowborough, East Sussex. Again, advance booking is recommended, especially if you require overnight accommodation. For details send large SAE to Alan Hilton, 'Highland Glen,' Gravesend Road, Shorne, Kent DA12 3JW (☎ 01474 823883/FAX 01474 823963).

Also in April this year, 16th–28th, is an organised vis-

it to the sites of healing and divination in ancient Greece. Participants include Brian Clark (Australia), Demetra George (USA) and Melanie Reinhart (UK) and details can be obtained by calling ☎ 0171-435 0987.

Aquarian Age Astrology is

the title of the 2nd Annual International Conference which takes place in Moscow, Russia, February 28th–March 2nd. Details from Russia, Moscow, 129626, p/b 5 or Email boris@izraitel.msk.ru

Closer to home, the

Congreso de Astroligia takes place in Barcelona, February 14th–17th. The event offers a wide-ranging programme of lectures and workshops with simultaneous translations into English and Spanish, so language will not be a barrier. Details/bookings from Associació d'Astrologia de Catalunya, Passeig de Sant Joan 196, 1^o 2^a, E-08037-Barcelona (☎/FAX 34-3-2192920).

A question of space

In response to a recent letter from a reader in Leeds and others' comments, I should perhaps explain the two distinct aspects of Occult Question Time. Firstly, this is a service the magazine offers to readers free of charge and, because of its very nature, some of the replies to questioners will be both personal and lengthy.

However, often readers' questions raise points of general interest or concern which are then published in the magazine on the OQT pages. These are usually extracts from much

longer replies sent to the individual enquirers or may be short responses to simple queries raised. Sometimes, of course, letters to Magda are of such a personal nature that the respondent asks for the information to be kept confidential and we comply.

So, to those of you who think there should be more and lengthier OQTs in the magazine, sorry, we simply haven't the space and if you really want the answer to a specific enquiry, perhaps you should write to Magda yourself for a personal reply. — Ed.

One-stop Tarot

Sally's One Stop Psychic Shop, 180 High Street, Ponders End, Enfield, Middlesex now runs various courses in Tarot, palmistry and mediumship. To find out more drop in at the shop between 10–10pm seven days a week or telephone Sally on ☎ 0181-373 0171.

January Diary Dates

10th. Predicting your Year Ahead with Richard Swatton for BAPS South Norwood group. A talk on combining Sun sign astrology with the Tarot. Starts at 7.45 pm at 43 Wharnccliffe Gardens, South Norwood, London, SE25; £2/£3 non-members. For details call ☎ 0181-653 7993.

10th–11th. Evolutionary Astrology with Jeffrey Wolf Green. Friday evening talk (7.15–10pm) and Saturday workshop (9.45–5pm) at the Columbia Hotel, 95–99 Lancaster Gate, London W2 3NS. Costs £15 Friday, £45

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NEWS & VIEWS

Saturday or £55 for both if booked before January 7th. Bookings/details ☎/FAX 0118 9470804.

11th-12th. Let's Talk Tarot with Katanya. Weekend workshop at 33 Kestral Close, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 SWD. 10.30am-5pm; £125. For details call ☎ 01403 256024.

17th-19th. Australis 1997 Congress with the Federation of Australian Astrologers and many guest speakers at St Mark's College, Adelaide, South Australia. Write to FAA-SA Inc, PO Box 616, Elizabeth SA 5112, Australia, call Sue Parrish on ☎ +61 8 327 0297/FAX 61 8 287 2029 or E-mail tparkin@adelaide, dial-ix.oz.au for details/bookings.

17th-19th. Paranormal Weekend and Ghost Walk in York. Fully residential, staying at the Forte Posthouse. £119 per person; bookings/details call ☎ 01773 719490/FAX 01773 530207.

18th. Astro-Geography with Christeen Skinner. One-day seminar for the Faculty of Astrological Studies at the ASC, 396 Caledonian Road, London N1. Fees £30/£35 non-members; 10.30am-5.30pm. For details call ☎ 07000 790143 or Fax 01689 603537.

18th. Chiron — A Centaur Among Centaurs with Melanie Reinhart. A BASS seminar at Stakis Hotel, Bath; 10-5pm. Bookings/details ☎ 01373 465147.

18th-19th. The Psychic Connection with Katanya. Weekend workshop in Horsham. Call ☎ 01403 256024 for more information.

20th. The Alexander Technique. First of six Monday evening workshops with Paul Smith at Flint House, 41 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex. 7-9pm; £45/35 concessions. Details ☎ 01273 473388.

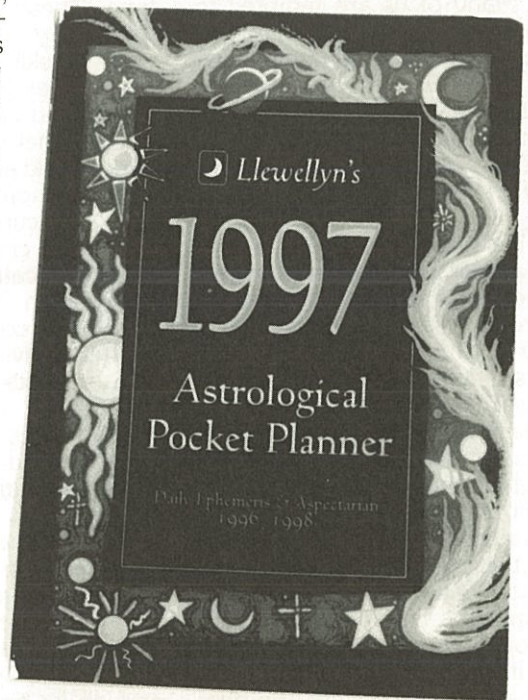
25th-26th. Psychic Awareness and Wisdom. Week-

end workshop with Colette De L'Enclos in Chiswick, London W4. Cost £125; 10.30-5pm daily. For details/bookings call ☎ 0181-995 8711.

26th. Introduction to Contemporary Shamanism. One-day workshop at Eagle's Wing Centre, 58 Westbere Road, London, NW2 3RU. 10am-5pm. Cost £35/£25 low waged, £15 unwaged. For details call ☎ 0171-435 8174.

POCKET BOOK

Llewellyn's 1997 Astrological Pocket Planner is a boon to the working astrologer who wants quick access to a daily ephemeris and aspectarian for 1996-1998 (EST & PST only not GMT). Then, as its title suggests, there's a monthly engagement planner for jotting down important dates and the usual diary section complete with Solunar information. On sale through selected outlets, the Pocket Planner costs £5.99/\$7.95.



PALMISTRY

by PETER WEST

A QUESTION OF VALUES

The things we learn as young children tend to stay in our minds for many years and are often the basis for how we judge others: in other words, our sense of values.

As we grow older we learn to appreciate and adapt these values which we learned as young children as we gain or lose through life's many and varied experiences. Most of us profit but many lose. Today, with the accent on life so full of stress, at work, at home or in relationships of all kinds, this stress is never really very far away from the surface.

Many of us are tempted to take certain courses of action to ease or face up to whatever it is that we feel threatens us. As we consider what we should do, as against what we actually do, it's very likely we will have to consider our sense of values.

The line of head

Leaving aside, for the moment, the shape of the hand, I prefer to assess such attitudes by examining the head line first. Others prefer the life or heart line or deal with the shape first. In this particular exercise this may not be quite the right thing to do. A sense of values comes from the innately emotional side of life but a look at the head line first will give a good idea of how your subject expresses him/herself in such moments.

It pays to learn first not only what he/she says but also how he says it. He may not wish to

cause offence or may prefer to shoot from the hip. In this day and age most folk tend to be diplomatic but there are quite a few who call a spade a spade and care little for the thoughts of others.

When there is a short, straight line of head the subject tends to appreciate straightforwardness and usually has a rational turn of mind most of the time. These are the folk who get to the root of a problem very quickly indeed. Often, these types have specialist interests and can express themselves rather well; but they can appear cold and inflexible.

When there is a long line of head that curves gently downward as it crosses the palm it is an indication of a strong imagination but, perhaps, an inability to concentrate. There is often a diversity of interests. Such subjects are more flexible and likely to compromise. These types, therefore, will tend to use diplomatic phraseology rather than to state facts baldly.

In either case, if the line is clear, well formed and with few interference marks then both types are fairly perceptive in their own way. They have a reasonable approach to life and all its problems but they express themselves in their

own way according to their particular set of values.

The heart line

We should now turn our attention to the heart line. A generous and understanding nature is always indicated by a low-set line of heart. The lower the line moves into the palm the warmer the inner nature. This is a sure-fire indication of an innate understanding of the problems of others. These folk have a good sense of values and find it very easy to put themselves into the shoes of others, probably because they have experienced similar problems.

When the heart line has a branch line or starts from the radial side of the hand between the mount of Jupiter and the life line the subject will be a carer; they are natural listeners. When the heart line starts on the mount of Saturn it implies a cold emotional nature and the sense of values is tinged with a strong selfish streak. They may not understand that other folk can be more sensitive than they are.

When the head line is tied to the life line at the start it means uncertainty in how the subject decides things. The sensitive side to the nature is often emphasised and, of course, these people will be quite generous to those who need help, especially where emotional matters are concerned. There is little difficulty in expressing their sense of values.

The wider the gap between the start of the heart and life lines, the less a sense of values takes in the needs of others. Often, an antagonistic, selfish

is Mars, even though we know that Martians do not exist: it is a nonsense answer because it is a nonsense question.

Scientists fall into another trap. They develop world models which are self-limiting. It is, of course, difficult to avoid this trap when you realise that we live in a self-made, self-limiting structure. Most of the inhabitants of this world live in a hierarchical society.

Social evolution has dictated the development of this arrangement. The consequence of this not only has an effect on how society is organised but also has far-reaching effects on the way we, as individuals, think.

Personal thinking patterns are constrained by the boundaries imposed by the accepted hierarchy. Within such a structure there is only one 'king of

Essentially, one element is just as important as the next. The manner and order in which the elements have evolved from Aether has been communicated by various sources and, in general, Eastern and Western perceptions agree.

The Sanskrit term for the elements is the *Tattvas* which means, in the literal sense, a form of motion. These are referred to in the *Upanishads* as 'the five vital airs.' According to Blavatsky the *tattvas* are 'both Substance and Force, or Atomic matter and the Spirit that ensouls it.'

The *tattva Akasha* is described as the sound vibration; *Vayu*, the tangiferous vibration; *Tejas*, as luminiferous; *Apas*, as gustiferous and taste; and *Prithivi* is described as the odiferous *tattva*. Each of the

duced *Apas* (Water). The combined activities of the other *tattvas* condensed water into *Prithivi* vibrations (Earth), which completes the evolution of the elements.

In the Hermetic tradition, Agrippa agrees with the Eastern teachings that the elements are eternal and, as such, would have no primary or hierarchical order, only interaction (change). He also agrees to a polarising influence in the beginning which diffuses through the elemental structure. He states that, 'all elemented inferior bodies are compounded from these four elements by transmutation and union.'

Agrippa's conviction is that matter or substance is eternal, regardless of how much the elementary form may change. This posture, of course, is in direct opposition to any biblical

BEGINNING

the castle' but the most penetrating criticism is that we tend to assume that the importance lies at this very apex.

Elementary my dear Watson

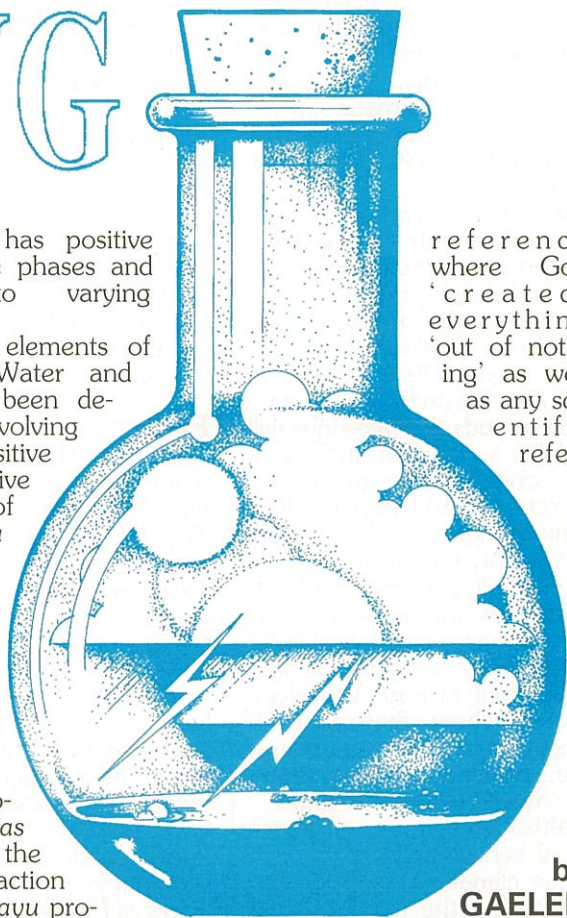
The correct assumption, however, is that the important part of any dynamic structure is located in the area of most activity. It is here, at this point of activity, that change is occurring, creation is in existence, and whatever happens here will have a certain effect on the whole structure.

The system of the elements does not boast a hierarchy as such but assumes that the point of activity is the most important. The element Aether is usually considered as this point of activity (although rather than a point, it is more like an all-encompassing presence).

five *tattvas* has positive and negative phases and intermix to varying degrees.

The four elements of Air, Fire, Water and Earth have been described as evolving from the positive and negative currents of *Akasha* (Aether). From this motion appeared *Vayu* (the Air element). The interaction of *Akasha* and *Vayu* produced *Tejas* (Fire) and the subsequent action of heat on *Vayu* pro-

reference where God 'created' everything 'out of nothing' as well as any scientific refer-



by
GAELEN

ence to a Big Bang appearing out of nowhere. The concept explained here is not that of a beginning but of a continuum.

Climatic cycles

The manner in which the recent scientific disclosure agrees with the formation of the elements is interesting. Agrippa described the elements in the following manner: Air — Moist/Hot; Fire — Hot/Dry; Water — Cold/Moist; Earth — Dry/Cold.

The Eastern teachings show the evolution of the tattvas in the following order: Aether (from which all emerge), Air, Fire, Water and Earth. Professor Wheeler has found the climate cycles run in the following order: Warm/Wet; Warm/Dry; Wet/Cool, Cool/Dry.

This shows two direct correspondences. Firstly, the four different types of climate described can be directly attributed to the action of the four elements of Air, Fire, Water and Earth. Secondly, the cyclical order of the climatic formations directly corresponds with the order of evolution of these elements.

Wheeler arrived at his conclusions through analysis of the seasonal growth of ancient Sequoia trees (big tree redwoods named after a Cherokee Indian chief). For instance, warm and wet conditions encourage abundant growth and during such periods the tree-rings will be fuller and thicker. In hot and dry conditions the growth will be retarded and thus produce thinner rings.

Not only have climatic conditions followed the influence of the generation of the elemental cycles but these influences have affected people throughout history. Wheeler's research shows that great advances in art, science, literature, social and political behaviour moved together at times.

Although Wheeler attributes social behaviour in each cycle to the climate, it can be seen clearly that the developments

are governed by an underlying elemental influence during the course of each period. An influence that is neither global nor universal but cosmic.

Air

Wheeler describes the warm-wet periods as 'the Golden Age.' This is a period of optimism where enlightened governments are prominent. These are good times with stable societies producing inspired literature and music. Learning becomes fruitful and scientific achievement is evident.

The warm-wet cycles have all the indications of strong influences from the element of Air. The Italian Renaissance, the Elizabethan period in England and later the Industrial Revolution were all warm-wet times. During these times of Air influence, painting is impressionistic and abstract. The dominant shapes are slender and there is an association with Spring in the flowers represented.

Sculpture takes a similar form, portraying ideal or god-like subjects. The architecture during these periods has a curvilinear outline, such as Gothic with pointed arches, ribbed vaults and slender columns probing high up into the air; the advent of skyscrapers in the 1920s reflects this influence.

Fire

Periods when the Fire element is dominant, support dictatorships and moral decline. The 1930s were a warm-dry time when people relinquished their responsibilities to the influence of dictators such as Stalin, Hitler and Mussolini.

Rounded structures, as seen in mosques and domes, symbolise warm-dry architecture with curved arches and windows. Michelangelo's marble nudes with rounded limbs are typical of such periods, while artists produce childlike and imaginative painting, as in the works of Picasso and Dali.

Water

In cool-wet times, important religious leaders come to prominence: Confucius, Jesus of Nazareth and the prophet Mohammed were active during these cycles. This Water influence is also prominent in the literature of these times which is focused on emotions and takes the form of lyric poetry and simple rhyming verse.

Paintings tend to depict nature; simple objects such as animals, birds and landscapes become popular subjects. Ornamental and elaborately decorated clothing is favoured by women as in Elizabethan times and architecture favours baroque and rococo styles.

Earth

Finally, the cool-dry periods indicate that art and fashion become functional and realistic. Practical clothes are worn, long skirts and high bodices are popular; the Victorian era is an example.

Surfaces are thick and shapes angular. There is a demand for a realistic portrayal of scenes; sculptures have a clean, natural appearance. Architecture of the period is practical, solid and generally built on a square plan with rugs and tapestries to keep interiors warm. These social trends are indications of how the Earth element influences behaviour during such times.

The end of the Earth (cool/dry) period then gives way to Air (warm/wet). The wheel turns and the cycle is completed.

Wheeler's enquiry into the cyclical patterns of history took initial investigations by Douglass on to their next stage in the usual manner of scientific progress.

From the time our forefathers first introspected about existence the mystical answers appear to be unsurpassed. It is encouraging to note that we can take the fruits of scientific enquiry and apply them to ancient knowledge in a way that supports the mystic.

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Anubis, the dog-headed deity revered by the ancient Egyptians, wasn't only the god of dogs, he was also lord of the desert jackal. He would have looked after wolves, foxes and hounds, hyenas, coyotes and dingoes, too, if the ancient Egyptians had known about the latter.

Even the word 'dog' covers every canine from Chihuahua to Great Dane. Anubis was regarded as the god of man's best friend and it is time to take a closer look at him. Anubis, the dog-headed god, is probably our oldest folk legend.

Anubis is usually depicted as a man's body with the head of a jackal. In the Egyptian pantheon he is the son of Nephthys, the weeping goddess who was sister to Isis. His father is sometimes supposed to be Set, the god of evil, and sometimes Osiris, the lord of the dead.

Legend has it that Anubis was responsible for embalming the murdered Osiris, while Isis and Nephthys wove the bandages for the mummy. He said, 'I have come to protect Osiris' and preserved the mummy from all decay.

Anubis is also lord of a rather strange ceremony, that of 'The Opening of the Mouth.' The idea behind this ceremony seems to have been to force the lungs into taking in air and thus revive the corpse, an early form of artificial respiration.

In *The Book of the Dead* Anubis receives the mummy at the door of the tomb chamber. He is shown in the tomb standing by the bier with his hands protecting the dead. In the scene where the soul is judged Anubis has to inspect the scales that weigh the heart and must ensure that they are correctly balanced.

Weighing

It is for Anubis to make sure that the dead person is not handed to the 'Eater of Souls' by accident. Anubis must then produce the heart for weighing against the feather of truth,



Much lore surrounds the canine-headed god of ancient Egypt who still has relevance today in a multitude of ways.

by E. A. ST GEORGE

then return it to the deceased. He is the 'Dweller in the Chamber of Embalment' and 'the Governor of the Hall of the Dead.'

Anubis had strong associations with the dead, with graves and funeral rites. This was probably because the Egyptians observed that jackals and wild dogs hung around graveyards though not, one fears, for the preservation of dead bodies! Nonetheless Anubis got the reputation for guiding the soul of the dead through the dark Underworld; after all, dogs can see very much better than men by night.

Perhaps a bit later, mankind realised that the dog, with its fine-tuned senses, could guide

a traveller across the desert towards an oasis as well; thus Anubis became the god who showed the way. Indeed, one of his formal titles was 'The Opener of Ways.'

Anubis was also regarded as the god who opened the road to the North. His fellow jackal god, Ap-uat, opened the road to the South. Anubis also had special connections with the Summer Solstice.

The magical dog who knows the way should be perfectly familiar to us today as a guide-dog for the blind. The human may not see, but the dog can see and lead.

Admirers of Anubis might do well to seek out a copy of the book *City* by Clifford Simak.

The story titled *Desertion* is a gem of Anubis lore. If this book is not available at your local library, *Desertion* has been published in a number of science-fiction anthologies and a nice friendly librarian might even feel moved to track it down for you.

None of the animal-gods of Egypt liked to see their Earthly children mistreated. If you harmed a cat, then Bast might scratch you to death and if you harmed a dog, then Anubis might come along and bite you. The latter was a very serious threat in days when medicine was still primitive and rabies meant inevitable death (left untreated, it is still a dreadful death).

I, for one, miss the days when the gods cared for animals as well as humans. Too often churchmen have taken the line that the animal world doesn't really matter. The re-

get someone to show you the way as that sort of artificial respiration comes under Anubis magic.

Ideally, an Anubis-person would want a dog of his/her own although this isn't always possible, of course, if you live in a rented flat. The dog god can ensure that you get a little exercise and if you are working with an animal god, then things like walking the dog are a part of the job. Many people think of this sort of thing as an exercise in metaphysics; they forget that there is a very practical side to working with an animal god.

Staff

Egyptian temples didn't just run themselves, they needed cleaners and laundry personnel, cooks and bottle-washers and so on. Those temples looked great because of their large and well trained staff; like

canine occupants, the wolves, hyenas and foxes etc. You may have thought that the study of mysticism meant a remote life, cut off from the rest of the world, but dog food and walkies have their place, even in mystic studies.

Travel

Many people who really want to touch Anubis magic are interested in the god of travel — safe travel in these hazardous days. Anubis is at something of a disadvantage here because of our quarantine regulations which prevent dogs from returning to this country without spending six months in kennels. So, although you can certainly invoke Anubis for safe travel, I would suggest that you leave your hound in this country.

There is a modern myth concerning a dog-headed driver who has been seen on motorways, apparently chasing after cars whose drivers have done something to offend him. Many people would laugh off such a story and ask what the driver was drinking when he saw this nightmare. Yet Anubis was god of safe travel long before Saint Christopher so, if he wants to travel the motorways and make them safer, perhaps we'd better not discourage him.

Anubis is very much a 'god of the Quest.' It doesn't matter to him whether your quest consists of a fast trot to the nearest oasis for dates or a long and mystic journey across the globe in search of the Sacred Spear or the Holy Grail. He remains the friend who is with you when others have failed and fallen by the wayside. 'God is not male or female. God is Friend' is a phrase from a book written this century yet that phrase would certainly apply to Anubis.

Wolf

It is impossible to consider Anubis the dog without considering the wolf god at the same

DAY OF THE JACKAL

turn of a few animal gods might just teach the human race some serious lessons it has forgotten but would do well to remember.

There is more than one way to invoke the dog god. To invoke a friendly god who will walk with you through life is one thing but to invoke Anubis as Lord of the Dead is quite another. Most of us don't plan to get involved in mummification today; embalming humans or animals is seldom practised now.

Artificial respiration, on the other hand, is something we should all be familiar with and that does come under the 'Opening of the Mouth' ceremony. If you don't know how,

any theatre, those working backstage outnumbered those seen by the audience.

The sacred animals of Egyptian temples still needed cleaning, grooming and all the rest. If you're going in for Anubis magic, or any other animal magic, this is also a part of your job.

For those of you who cannot have a dog, there's still plenty of work that needs doing so one answer might be to give a couple of hours of your time each week to helping out a canine charity. All charities need volunteers, even if it is just a matter of addressing envelopes or rattling collecting boxes.

Visiting a zoo is also a part of your work — get to know the

time. They are very much a part of each other. The dog that defends your property is also the wolf that attacks an intruder.

Dog may be man's best friend but will also savage man's children, sometimes without warning. If you plan to use the magic of Anubis, be aware that you will come across a very wild streak in that magic. It may look tame and friendly, like your dog wagging its tail, but Anubis magic may drag you into very strange adventures.

Guards

Guard dogs also come under Anubis. Recently we have heard a great deal about dangerous dogs and the harm they can do when out of control. There is another side to this picture, though, for I know of two dogs who saved women's lives when their owners were attacked and there are, of course, many instances of property being defended by a guard dog.

If you really need a guard dog, it might be wise to talk to a good dog-training school before committing yourself. You don't want your dog harming an innocent person or a child in the park, you want him to deal with a mugger or worse.

Hunting dogs also come under Anubis but it depends on what you plan to hunt. Remember that Anubis looks after foxes and wolves so would be displeased to find you hunting animals that he would regard as part of his creatures. I would not, therefore, be inclined to invoke him to look after the local fox hunt.

Right, you've decided to invoke Anubis — not, I hope, for mummifying anything but for safe travel. You'll need a portrait or statue of the dog-god. You'll need orange candles. Storax would be the traditional incense but I would suggest aniseed as a substitute.

Music might include the soundtrack from a film about dogs or a non-military march. There are a number of New

Age tapes available, including several with 'sounds from a wolf pack' on them, any one of which would be appropriate for an Anubis invocation.

If you are thinking of a major offering, you might give a sum of money to the local dogs' home; Anubis would certainly wish to see his children fed and cared for. In days gone by, you would have been expected to support your local temple and its sacred animals. If you want to tune into the Egyptian gods today, then you must expect to make offerings to the gods. Canned dog food and British bank notes might look like strange offerings to an Egyptian god but you would be play-



ing by the ancient rule book.

Temples, of course, have changed since ancient Egyptian times. Few churches allow animals inside except, perhaps, at special animal-blessing services. Cruft's dog show has become our main festival of Anubis in this country so be prepared to pay a visit to such an event.

You should not, however, reckon on attending Cruft's on your own. Children must be educated in the way of the gods and it would be proper for you to take a couple of children along to join in the admiration. As a servant of Anubis, you should also try to take children to the zoo to admire canines like wolves. Books make splen-

did presents for the young and animal stories encourage children to read. There are numerous inexpensive books on sale for youngsters and Anubis would certainly approve of children reading animal stories.

You don't have to appear eccentric in any of this. You don't have to explain Egyptian gods to non-believers. It is a natural and normal thing to take children out to films, zoos and dog shows or give them presents from time to time. The children will probably love you for it and your deity will be pleased with you too.

Sirius

Dog owners take their animals for a brief walk before bedtime yet few of them seem to pause and look up at the stars at night. True, there is much light pollution hiding the night sky but the Anubis worshipper should be able to find Sirius, the dog star, in the night sky.

This was regarded as a very magical star in ancient Egypt and even today is visible from London's suburbs, unlike the rest of the stars that make up the constellation of the great dog. The smaller dog constellation yaps at Cancer while the celestial hunting dogs help the Herdsman. If you're going South for a holiday, away from civilisation, you might take a star map with you and trace those ancient constellations.

There is some evidence to suggest that mankind is not the only intelligent life-form in the universe. We've known this instinctively since the early storytellers told us tales of strange places and dog-headed men.

Anubis is a god of exploration. Somewhere out there in the night sky — many light years distant — there is a planet inhabited by dog-headed men. They've been waiting to meet us for thousands of years. Let's go ... and may Anubis guide our spacecraft and our footsteps on the quest that awaits us.

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Other Dimensions

Dowsing beyond the physical plane.

Many people associate dowsing only with divining for water, leylines and Earth energies. Yet it can be applied to a myriad usages including dowsing in spiritual dimensions.

In 1994 I moved into a flat with my partner. Originally a stable block in the courtyard of an inn dating back to the 15th century, during the 17th century the stable loft was converted and used for accommodation.

After a couple of months, I began to sense a 'presence' and on more than one occasion saw the side profile of a ghost/spirit in the doorway of the living room. I didn't feel frightened, simply intrigued.

A few days later my partner, Pip, had a similar experience. He also saw the vague outline of the ghost, exactly where I had seen it. Shortly afterwards a friend who stayed the night also felt a presence in the room.

I wanted to communicate with the spirit, but how? I am not a medium. However, being quite an experienced dowser I decided to use my crystal pendulum to try and make contact.

I began by centring myself using a simple relaxing meditation. It is very important in spiritual or occult work to protect oneself psychically as this technique guards one against any unwanted psychological or psychic influences. I recommend the following simple exercise.

Take a couple of deep breaths, breathing in slowly and deeply. In your mind's eye visualise a cloud of beautiful blue light directly in front of your chin. Take a deep breath, slowly drawing in some of the blue cloud. As you exhale, imagine blowing out colourless air.

The blue cloud in front of you contains an infinite amount of

the colour so you can never run out of it. Take another long inhalation drawing it deeper into your lungs. As you exhale, see the blue light coming out of your lungs and gathering as a cloud around your body.

Continue to draw in greater and greater amounts of the blue light. As you exhale, see the blue coming out of every pore of the skin, pushing out negativity and inharmonious energies. Visualise the blue gathering around your body (about four feet all around you). Inside this blueness you are safe and protected.

After this meditation I then asked the spirit's permission to use dowsing as a means of communication. My pendulum swung clockwise in a strong circular motion, giving a definite 'yes.' Generally speaking, although each of us is individual, a circular clockwise motion usually indicates a positive response while anti-clockwise usually indicates a negative.

Questions

I then prepared a list of carefully constructed questions, enabling a yes or no answer. This stage is very important; you must structure your questions clearly, vague questions will elicit confusing answers.

Once you have asked the spirit's permission to dowse/communicate and have a list of questions ready, politely pose the question, remain mindful that sensitivity and compassion are needed. Don't ask questions that would hurt the feelings of another or cause a negative reaction.

I gained a lot of information, such as the gender of the spirit (female), where she lived, her occupation, her age at death and her burial place. Pip also

asked the same questions, although I didn't tell him the answers I had received.

He used L-shaped rods (when they cross indicates a 'yes') and, to our delight, the answers we received were exactly the same. Neither of us had dowsed on this level before.

Convinced now of the flat's ghostly occupant, certain strange incidents that occurred could be put into context and later confirmed through dowsing. For instance, the clock on the electric cooker (which had always worked perfectly) suddenly decided to go backwards.

One day when I was vacuuming the hallway the cleaner cut out. When finally I went to the fusebox I found it had already been switched off, yet I was the only person in the flat.

About six months later my partner and I witnessed a sudden flash of bright, white light which quickly dissipated. We both sensed the presence of the spirit. The following day I called the electricity board in, in case the flash of light could be a fault. But there was no fault, the system was working perfectly!

We felt that this flash of light was a sign that the spirit (who we called Mary) wanted to communicate with us. However, I was now six months pregnant and felt that I really did not want to continue dowsing. My ability to concentrate was easily distracted and it simply didn't feel right.

A like-minded friend and sensitive called Dawn came to assist. She asked Mary who she wanted to communicate with. The reply was Pip. Dawn and Pip worked together using L-shaped rods.

Through their sensitive dowsing it was revealed that Mary was unhappy and Earth-



by MARIA WHEATLEY

bound, unable to leave the physical plane and ascend to a higher place of being. Her Earthly life had been full of sadness. Dawn decided to return the following day and try to release Mary's trapped spirit.

I had a disturbed night and only managed to get a couple of hours' sleep. Upon waking, Pip spoke of a very vivid dream, a dream about Mary.

Dreams, feelings and intuitions are important aspects of spiritual work and those that leave a strong impression should always be taken seriously. Quite often spiritual forces and energies speak to us via our dreams.

When asleep or in meditation, the ego-conscious, analytical and logical part of our nature, represented by the left hemisphere of the brain, is less alert. While the psychic and receptive aspect of our nature, represented by the right hemisphere of the brain, is more active and dominant.

Dream

In Pip's dream Mary was garbed in a dress and bonnet typical of the style worn during the 17th century, the time of her Earthly existence. She was desperately unhappy, sadness and fear surrounded her. Her lover then appeared, his angry head charging through the wall of the bedroom (although the wall was not there when Mary and her lover were alive).

He stormed into the room, enraged, bitter and drunk. He grabbed Mary and pushed her down a flight of very steep stairs to her death. Her young illegitimate son witnessed the crime. This, then, was the cause of poor Mary's anguish and unrest.

Sudden death or deep-root-

ed pain often keeps a soul from departing from the physical plane. Such seemed to be the situation in Mary's case. Dawn agreed. Pip's dream had symbolically exposed the events which had led to Mary's death and Dawn's dowsing confirmed that Mary's lover, stricken by grief and remorse for his actions, had committed suicide in an adjacent building.

For centuries their unhappiness had gone unnoticed. Perhaps those who had stayed on the premises might have felt a presence or sensed an atmosphere. However, nothing had been done to help these lost and trapped spiritual beings. It now seemed an appropriate time to help them, to assist their Earthbound souls to their ultimate liberation.

Our true empathy lies in our heart and soul. In spiritual work it is the guidance of the heart-centre or chakra which allows the mind to become receptive to healing energies. So, guided by her heart chakra, Dawn carefully selected flowers, crystals, candles and incense for the release of Mary and her lover.

Once again using the dowsing rods, Dawn asked where to place the gifts and appropriate locations were found. Now meditation and prayer were required to create a peaceful, harmonious atmosphere. Thoughts of love and light were used while flickering candles emitted their soft and comforting light.

The candle in the hallway where Pip had 'seen' the angry lover's face burnt erratically, one moment burning normally, the next burning wildly. Flowers and crystals were placed where Mary had died. We felt that this first session had helped to create a brighter vibration.

Dawn later dowsed to see if

Mary's spirit was still present and the rods responded with a yes. However, the reply was much weaker than prior to the release procedure; Mary's presence was waning.

Another 'light session' was arranged. Once more incense and candles were used alongside a healing meditation. After the session the atmosphere in the flat had changed significantly; it felt warmer and lighter. We all felt that Mary and her lover had, at long last, departed; their tragic past had been laid to rest.

I felt that Mary wanted her life-story to be heard. Her own intense feelings of unrest and torment had kept her Earthbound. But, once her tragic tale had been told, this enabled her to forgive her lover's actions and thus release centuries of emotional pain. Through forgiveness and understanding her spirit became lighter, allowing detachment from the Earth plane. This in turn assisted her lover to depart too.

Their presence was dowsed for again but this time the rods did not move. We said farewell to our spiritual friends.

This experience shows that dowsing is far more than a receptive tool used to detect and locate physical substances such as minerals, water or Earth energy. It can be utilised on many different levels and can even be used for communication with the unseen, spiritual worlds.

Anyone can dowse. All that is required is an open and focused mind. When asking a pendulum or the rods a question, full concentration is required. And, when dealing with the spiritual and elemental beings who share our world, compassion is needed and, more importantly, right motive.

"I Was Always Poor – But Now People Envy Me. I Still Can't Get Over It"

My name is Nancy Kline. Perhaps the only thing that marks me off from millions of other American women is that *whatever I touch seemingly turns to gold.*

I cannot believe this myself but friends have started calling me 'The woman with the Midas touch'. It seems as if *whatever I happen to want I just happen to get.*

I do not have any 'connections' with rich people – in fact all my family and friends have always been what some would call 'poor'. I am a divorcee with two grown sons; and trying to make ends meet was never easy for me.

Until now. Or perhaps more accurately until earlier this year.

People are wondering why everything has changed in my life – so fast and so dramatically.

I am now about to be remarried to a man nearly 15 years my junior; previously I could not get any man of any age to look at me, let alone want to marry me. And people say I suddenly look younger.

Not only do I look and feel younger, but I have also lost 14 pounds in weight – entirely without dieting or exercise.

MONEY FROM EVERYWHERE

Until just recently I never had money to spare – now I have *much more cash than I need coming in every day.*

I will tell you how all this has happened in just a moment.

My son has just bought me a \$10,000 automobile and \$1000 spending money in cash for my birthday – until a few months ago he was almost flat broke.

My younger boy who had always been a poor student has suddenly started doing well at school – much to everyone's relief.

And a short time before writing this I received another \$1000 in a royalty check from a publisher. I had always wanted to be a published writer – and now this dream has also come true.

HOW DID ALL THIS HAPPEN

It all started after I read the extraordinary story of a man whose head was lacerated by a helicopter tail rotor. He was immediately able to consciously lower his blood pressure to 130 – the doctor was astonished, for a man in his state should have had a blood pressure reading of 200 with shock setting in. The injured man needed 24 stitches; but amazingly required no medication except novacaine. *This man was back at work the next day as if nothing had ever happened.*

How was this man able to take control if his blood pressure and avoid shock in a terrifying incident that would have totally incapacitated any other mortal?

Frankly I would have simply found it impossible to believe but for the fact that since reading of this case I have personally had access to this man's written testimony to his employer concerning the incident, which was corroborated by an independent witness. The fact is – as I was soon to discover – *this man possessed a secret concerning the way the mind functions.*

It was this 'secret' which gave him complete control over a life-and-death incident.

According to this man one can take control of the way the body works AT WILL and within seconds.

I was intrigued to say the least. But his claims went far beyond the mind's power to control the

body. He claimed that *within a certain phase of consciousness* all of the good and beautiful things in life could be literally MAGNETIZED by the mind.

Now although I was fascinated I was also a little skeptical. These claims sounded a bit like those made for books which promise untold riches and good fortune by following their instructions. I was always a 'sucker' for such claims, and many times I had mailed my money off to an advertiser feeling guilty that I had wasted my hard-earned money in this way. When I received the books and applied the instructions nothing happened – and I was always just as poor and as unhappy as before.

But a part of me always wanted to 'believe'; secretly I had always hoped that one day I would find something that *did work* – something that really could change my life for the better. In fact it was this secret belief which kept me going because I was often very miserable and lonely.

MY LIFE CHANGES

I was eager to put this man's ideas to the test. His instructions took just ten minutes to carry out. *Immediately I felt better in mind and body.* Afterwards I suddenly felt somehow in 'control' of things. I performed the instructions every day, and after seven days I found that *nothing at all could upset me.*

My nerves seemed suddenly calmer. Little things that one time would make me fly into a rage no longer had any effect on me at all. The feeling was strange – and exhilarating. I couldn't understand it – for the first time in my life I felt in control of everything; and it didn't seem to require any special effort to be so! Already people were noticing the change in me – and were wondering what had 'happened'.

Deep down I knew that now – at last – my life could be about to change.

A YOUNG MAN DESIRED ME

I'm sorry to say it, but I'm not one of those 'ageless' women: my lined face and graying hair cruelly remind me of that.

My morale hadn't been high – but after a week of trying this new 'secret' I felt sufficiently confident to try the next stage of the instructions. I wanted to feel young and desirable.

Three days later my son introduced me to an older friend of his; and I felt an instant 'chemistry' with him. But I had absolutely no idea then that after only 11 weeks he would ask me to marry him.

I don't know what has happened – but my face seems less wrinkled, and my hair seems darker. I do know; however, that it has a lot to do with the new 'secret' I am using.

THIS 'NEW' SECRET

But *why* were these things happening – *why* should my luck change so quickly like this? After all I had always failed before. So what was going on? These changes seemed to be happening because I had learnt how to attune myself to a level of consciousness unknown to most people. The man whose incredible story had got me started with all this said that 'total success and happiness' was only possible through tuning into that phase of consciousness where contact with the Universal Mind could be made.

Please let me hasten to add that this is *not* hypnosis. In fact there is *absolutely nothing in it that would contravene anyone's religious or moral beliefs.* It certainly is not witchcraft. And there are no rituals. No tape recorders. No chanting. Everything takes place within your own mind – and with *perfect ease.*

It is so simple that a child can do it. My little 7-year old nephew was terrified of going to the dentist. I tried an experiment with him – it took less than ten minutes. He went to the dentist cheerfully and willingly!

This wasn't auto-suggestion. He performed

the instructions himself – he didn't need to say a word.

\$100 EVERY DAY

I asked Universal Mind to help Rick, my eldest boy. In less than a month he got himself a job with a \$28,000 salary, against all odds!

I was also shown by Universal Mind how I could make \$100 a day – *without leaving home!* I now need my father to come in and help – and I pay him \$75 a week for just a few hours' work!

My confidence now fuelled by these successes, I decided to try and interest a publisher with this secret. He balked at the idea: 'How is this so different to what's already been written in similar books?'

'I've tried other books and they didn't work', I said. 'Maybe this isn't "new" to you, but it is to me – and it worked whilst the others didn't.'

'I'm sorry, but I need more convincing than that', he replied.

'I want you to do something which will give you all the proof you need. Read the instructions carefully, follow them to the letter – and see if it can help you get an idea worth, say, \$5000.'

He did what I suggested, and two days later he was beaming from ear to ear. 'You've got yourself a deal. I did what you said, and the very next morning I thought of something that could make me not just \$5000, but \$10,000!'

RECEIVE WHAT YOU WANT

Once you are attuned to the right phase of consciousness you can ask the Universal Mind to *command whatever you want in life to happen.* This goes for anything, from *commanding \$5000 to enter your life to finding your true soul-mate.* and it happens with *perfect ease* – you are guided automatically and quickly by a higher source to the attainment of your goal. It is not witchcraft, and it is not hypnotism. All that occurs is that your consciousness vibrates at a different frequency; a frequency which is more relaxed and yet more alert, and brings with it the wonderful conviction that everything you desire in life will now be yours.

If all this sounds like a fairy tale to you I sympathize with what you think. Only a short few months ago I would have felt the very same. But I urge you to give it a try. Give yourself another chance. It could mean the beginning of a new and very exciting life for you.

SHY CINDY GETS HER MAN

My best friend Cindy is just 24-years old. She is so shy of men that even after the three years I've known her she still blushes when my sons are about. For some time she had been burning herself up over this guy she knew – but he was hardly aware of her existence; and she was too painfully shy to do anything about it. I share all my secrets with Cindy so she knew all about *why* my life had changed so much recently. She wondered if 'my' secret could solve her problem. 'You have nothing to lose by trying', I said, and showed her what to do.

A week later Cindy was dating her man!

She was over the moon at how it happened. He suddenly became interested in her – all without her trying to attract his attention!

Now Cindy is working on this secret to overcome her shyness – and she already feels much bolder!

With this secret I have made myself feel younger; I have lost weight without dieting or exercising; and I have found the guy of my dreams. And on top of that all my financial worries are well and truly in the past. I think you should at least give yourself the chance of seeing what it can do for you.

To receive your copy of Nancy's publication simply quote "I Was Always Poor – But Now People Envy Me" with payment of £5.

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THE TAROT

by JOHN CHRISTOPHER TRAVERS

THREE OF SWORDS

The Three of Swords has been labelled an evil card by some but this does not take into account the subtleties of its meaning.

This is a card of extreme emotions, where a removal of all that is traumatic, confusing, even evil is vitally necessary. Disruption has been deliberately caused by specific events personal to whoever is involved, which now needs to be forcibly removed. New events need to be established which can clear the causes of extreme action. The Three of Swords is just the card to do it.

There are times when even the most placid person can suddenly become angry, unkind, even malicious. Emotional traumas which can temporarily unbalance are often the cause. The three swords piercing a heart are indicative enough of such situations. The illustration is so explicit it hardly needs explanation. But it does need clarifying.

That the Three of Swords is a card of sorrow is evident; but it has frequently been described as a card of death too. But death of what or whom? It could be described as an influence of physical death and indeed it could indicate thoughts of ending one's own life; emotional sadness and despair often leads to such thoughts. What is being offered here is, in fact, a choice.

Grief and a feeling of being unable to go on without a loved one is not easy to come to terms with. But even though

the choice of ending one's life or of trying to go on living is being offered, it is also clear that no solution is being made clearly enough to accept.

No-one has to kill him/herself for love, it is not necessary to grieve beyond a reasonable period of time. Emotional healing does take place and the thought of death does recede. Situations and feelings can be transformed and changed for the better so that a future unfolds that is productive and successful, partially erasing the emotional problems of the past.



This is one aspect of the Three of Swords. The emotional indications of self-destruction can and usually are dealt with effectively eventually. But there are other kinds of self-destruction. The kinds that erode through jealousy or malice directed to others. These are not quite so easy to eradicate but at least the Three of Swords illuminates the complications and allows some kind of action to be considered.

Once the uncharacteristic actions of a person are thus revealed, then the solutions come into play more clearly. The Three of Swords has a tendency to strip away the surface to reveal what is underneath, be it hidden attributes or unpleasant thoughts and actions.

Malicious words or deeds are very familiar, spoken with intent or written to wound. The Three of Swords is not really concerned with intended actions, but those which are not usual or caused in the heat of a moment. Once the reason is clear, the way of healing the wound is also revealed.

Some writers on the Tarot dislike this card so much that they have described it as malign. Indeed, it has traditionally been known as the card of hatred, strife, separation and divorce, disillusionment and fraud, with personal misjudgment and generally bad behaviour thrown in. All true, up to a

point again, but not perhaps so malign a card as it has been painted.

There is always some kind of disruption or upheaval indicated by the Swords Three, always some kind of emotional reaction or outright sorrow. There may well be relationships breaking up, partnerships ending, or a demise of a much-loved figure, or sorrow over the departure of a lover.

These are events which all of us suffer and have to come to terms with at some point in our lives. The Three of Swords makes it clear that such disruption is part of the karmic pattern and cannot be avoided.

But there is always a rider to the main influences. Yes, there are emotional traumas to experience but there is also a way through them. The experience

will certainly be unpleasant and seemingly unnecessary but something good will come out of it. Even the unkind remarks or malice that has been flying about will eventually clear the air. Good after bad, healing after hurt.

One writer went so far as to say that this card indicates necessary strife and conflict, particularly wars and destruction. There is an element of truth even here, but perhaps in a far lesser way than described. Put all of the interpretations onto a more personal wavelength and they describe the many everyday problems that apply to most of us.

On that level the Three of Swords is indeed painfully accurate. Life often is a private war of emotions and personalities. We have all been there,

done that.

However, this is not the end of the story for the optimistic view one must take is to realise that most endings can lead to new beginnings. Once the fight is over, once the unpleasantness has been resolved (however it was created) then the future can be a new and clean page, without blots or blemishes. Occasionally, emotional trauma is necessary, acting as a catharsis, clearing away what has to be removed in any event, even though it is in a dramatic manner.

Then the Three of Swords comes into its own, as the healer of the broken heart; having been the cause of the problem in the first place, it is true, yet effectively patching up all of the differences with its soothing balm.

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STEPPING HAPPILY TO FULFILMENT

S.E.W. wrote: "I tentatively joined your Course cynically expecting the usual 'mumbo jumble' and instant success, providing I was prepared to pay extra for it. What a surprise, and how wrong I was! After only a few lessons my life is sorting itself out and I haven't felt so at peace in years."

I.R.B.: "Thank you for Lesson One and the Green Leaf Chart. I have been out of work for five months, and the week after starting the Course I got a job with good prospects."

H.M.: "I was absolutely determined that my husband's shoulder would be rapidly healed - already it seems almost back to normal! Isn't that joyous news? I am 'absolutely determined' about many, many things these days, and wonders happen frequently."

J. & P.M.: "So much good has happened! A very unhappy situation with neighbours has been resolved. Quite unexpectedly, a friend gave us a large sum of money and this was just the beginning, money has been coming in from unexpected sources."

C.E.G.: "Thank you for Lesson Four, Part One. Some wonderful things are happening to me! With the Tree Chart I have been able to help my friend."

N.T.D.: "On reading the second lesson I stopped a bad habit immediately. I am astonished."

J.B.: "Please note my new address - it is because of thought building that I have this house!"

D.E.: "The teachings are a wonderfully absorbing treasure. I am feeling elated in anticipation of a wonderful change coming into my life."

C.A.P.: "Thank you for Thought Bricks Lesson One. I feel free - as though I have been released!"


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ASTROLOGY SECTION



JANUARY

AVERTING NEMESIS

Usually when a New Year arrives the general feeling is one of hope. We hope that better times lie ahead and for a chance to improve matters by reflecting on past mistakes and mishaps.

There certainly does appear to be an underlying optimistic trend as Jupiter comes into an exact conjunction with Neptune on the 9th. It is significant that this occurs on the day of the New Moon and puts tremendous emphasis on Capricorn. What this suggests on a world-scale is that certain barriers are dissolving and greater understanding is employed in the area of international politics.

Capricorn has to do with power structures. Jupiter and Neptune suggest a trend towards the beneficent exercise of power based on ideals of a humanitarian nature. These planets also relate very strongly to environmental concerns, indicating a rising awareness of the effect humans are having on the planet.

Hopefully, therefore, we shall see the emergence of a more caring and conscientious attitude as the year progresses. Rampant materialism and commercial-

ism may continue to damage both the material environment as well as stultifying human consciousness but there is more than just a glimmer of hope that this trend is beginning to swing round.

Also on the 9th (everything seems to pivot on this important date) is an adverse aspect between Mars and Saturn. A resurgence of military conflict, either in the Middle East or in Europe, may loom large then. Diplomatic efforts will be at very high pressure but the chances of averting open conflict are good.

Alternatively, a threatening natural disaster could be in the news and this will bring home to us the urgency of the need to clean up our act if we are to leave a viable environment to posterity. There has perhaps never been such an urgent need for serious focusing on these matters.

Live for today and to hell with tomorrow seems to be the underlying attitude. Coupled with an almost exclusive emphasis on money and profit, this whole trend cannot but bring an appropriate nemesis. However, we can hope that the powerful energies of Jupiter and Neptune will stir up a better conscience to avert this.

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

Your ruler in your opposite sign gives a rather challenging month ahead.

This is no call for alarm as you react very positively when the pressure is/on. However, don't tempt Fate when this planet is in adverse aspect and liable to trip you up.

The trickiest date is the 9th when Mars opposes Saturn. Tensions and confrontations are likely for other people are bound to try your patience to the limit. Best to take a firm stance rather than lashing out

in a temper. Tact and diplomacy will get better results.

There's an accident prone element in this Mars-Saturn combination so avoid doing anything in too much of a hurry, especially if handling machinery, driving or doing anything that demands physical exertion (sports included). If you do need to sort out any antagonisms or problems, wait until Mars sits well with Uranus on the 20th. Then you can take decisive action.

Career and financial affairs gain significance throughout the month, though this is not the time to do anything too adventurous. With Saturn in your sign the best way ahead is through steady effort and perseverance, rather than your usual method of trying to leap ahead of everyone else.

Although there is an adverse trend on the 9th, this date also puts tremendous focus on your worldly aims and status. The Jupiter-Neptune conjunction, as well as a New Moon on this date, signify a breakthrough which eventually opens up wider horizons. Seemingly insignificant events could be tremendously fortunate. By far the

most favourable dates for career and money matters are the 4th, 5th, 13th, 17th, 18th and 27th.

In closer and more personal relationships, this may not be the easiest of months. Here you are most likely to feel the influence of Mars. As this fiery planet is in your House of Partners throughout January any underlying tensions are likely to come to the surface suddenly.

Feelings may change and romantic illusions come up against the cold light of reality. Basically, this is a testing time in love. You will be forced to confront your insecurities and realise that perhaps it is not always the other person who is to blame for conflicts.

This isn't to imply that everything is about to come crashing around your feet for, at best, your experience in and of relationships could have a deeply maturing influence on you now. Much depends on how committed you are to establishing a lasting union.

The good news is that influential friends are about to appear during the coming months which could be the result of an unexpected change of direction in your life-pattern.

TAURUS

APRIL 21 TO MAY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Mercury retrograde until the 12th could mean confused signals from other people.

Special care will be needed to sort out a legal or official matter. You're not usually impatient but because you'll have a lot on your plate early in the year you might be tempted to cut corners and have to cover the same ground again later on.

Be absolutely clear about your priorities now, particularly in longer term interests. If in doubt about a certain decision wait until

after the 12th when events are likely to give you a clearer perspective.

Such a powerful accent on your 9th Solar House during the coming month suggests that travel and long-distance links will be significant. The weekend of the 4th and 5th is likely to bring news or visitors from a distance. This is almost certain to have a positive and uplifting effect on your spirits.

In the third week of the month long-range trips could feature prominently. It's an excellent time for business trips and important communications. Unusual opportunities may arise, enabling you to broaden your horizons and be more adventurous.

Even if you are not contemplating any major journeys in January, nevertheless it is a fine time to plan future trips, either for business or pleasure. Others are likely to come up with interesting suggestions here so try and keep an open mind.

The most propitious dates for travel in the coming month are the 9th, 12th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 26th and 27th. But watch your step later in the month when health matters might interfere with travel.

From a different but no less significant viewpoint, the theme of widening horizons may equally well apply on a more intellectual or spiritual level where good progress can be made now. People you chance to meet, especially in the latter half of January, will inspire, influence and encourage you to consider new ideas. All to do with the enrichment of your mind will be of great and lasting benefit whether you are just beginning new studies or are well advanced.

There may be occasions when you feel overloaded with extra chores and responsibilities. Work pressures are liable to reach a peak around the 9th so watch your health. If you feel that life is not giving you a fair deal at present, particularly where work is concerned, take heart from the fact that the astrological pattern indicates a change for the better from late January onwards.

Although day-to-day living may not leave you with much time to yourself, it is nevertheless a positive start to the year with at least one pleasant surprise heading your way.

GEMINI

MAY 21 TO JUNE 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Affairs of the heart benefit while Venus occupies your House of Partners until the 10th.

Married Geminians and those in close relationships will experience greater harmony — which implies that this is a good time to confront any underlying tensions. A powerful combination of the Moon, Venus and Pluto on the 6th and 7th points strongly either to a lovers' reunion or a new relationship that could change your life in a very positive way.

After these dates the trend continues to favour romantic encounters but, with the fiery planet Mars making several adverse aspects in January, the situation may become emotionally fraught at times. Mars is the planet of passion and can incline you to behave impulsively and irrationally.

The 9th, 14th and 28th are rather suspect dates for new romance. More encouraging are the 18th, 20th and 25th when any new love is more likely to have a deeper and more enduring quality.

In practical affairs, it seems that personal and particularly joint financial interests will occupy much of your attention. Changes in your circumstances will make it possible for you to take a more expansive view of current investments and put your financial affairs on a sounder footing.

However, don't do anything important without making absolutely sure that anyone else involved agrees. Double-check any legal or official agreements. Anything to do with personal pensions, shareholding, investments and insurance should definitely be given

very close attention now. Keep your feet on the ground, don't do anything over-risky and you can expect a fortunate month ahead.

Important dates for financial and business interests are the 9th, 13th, 17th, 18th and 27th. Later in the month there could be sudden good news and perhaps an unexpected boost to your finances. Avoid gambling, though, on the 29th and 30th.

Where you might experience some aggravations and irritations is in the sphere of social life, especially when Mars comes into adverse aspect around the 9th, 12th and 14th. You may gravitate into uncongenial circles or be obliged to attend a gathering in which you experience tensions.

For a happier deal out of social life, the 2nd, 18th and 25th have the best on offer. Choose these dates, too, for entertaining or to promote your creative abilities.

Unusual planetary activity in the latter half of the month will have far-reaching effect — perhaps an important decision which ultimately changes your life in a way that is highly liberating and creative.

CANCER

JUNE 21 TO JULY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Matters close to home will be a major focus of attention.

While the pattern is helpful and supportive on the whole, there does appear to be an element of stress when Mars comes into adverse aspect, especially around the 9th and 14th. Any problems then are likely to be of a practical nature. If you have youngsters, keep a watch on them on these dates as they will be accident-prone.

The prospect improves in the latter half of the month when you'll

be feeling more positive about any changes that you wish to make in your home. This is an excellent time for construction projects, alterations and redecoration. If you have to employ a workforce in the home, you'll get good results.

Favourable planetary trends coming into force on the 20th and 25th favour those considering a complete change of residence. Developments in your career are likely to give you greater encouragement in such matters.

If money has been your main obstacle, this is unlikely to be so once Jupiter becomes active in Aquarius from late January onwards. Both personal and joint financial interests come under an increasingly fortunate trend from this time, enabling you to take a more expansive and long-term view.

Until the 12th you will need patience as other people's behaviour is likely to be unpredictable and unreliable. Don't expect speedy agreements in negotiations and be prepared to go over the same ground twice if in any doubt. Better to wait until after the 12th if you want a more positive and straight-

forward response from others.

In one way or another, the influence of certain people will be an important feature this month. Even where experience is rather negative, this is likely to open your eyes and teach you something useful. However, in the latter half of the month your experience is sure to be very positive, particularly if you are involved with others in a business project.

At a deeper and more psychological level someone you meet in the third week will stimulate your mental energies, perhaps causing a change of attitude and a broader view of life. A discussion with a friend later in the month will work wonders if you have an emotional problem you wish to talk over.

Venus in your opposite sign from the 10th onwards augurs well for more intimate relationships. Not only do established ties of love and affection benefit greatly under this harmonious planet but there is certainly a much brighter prospect for new romance. If things become doubtful in the second week, this will turn out to be just a blip in an otherwise pleasing state of affairs.

LEO

JULY 21 TO AUGUST 21



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

The pattern of the zodiac greatly favours serious thinking about the future.

Where things have been a little vague or half-hearted in the past, you'll now begin to be more positive. A great deal depends on your ability to develop clarity of mind and to get a good idea of the direction you now wish to take.

January may not be the easiest of months, simply because circumstances will tend to place limitations on what you would ideally

wish to do. However, provided you can be patient, progress will be seen from late month onwards.

The trickiest dates are the 9th, 14th and 23rd. Events in your immediate surroundings are likely to upset routines and force you to abandon plans. Tread tactfully with relatives and neighbours as there is a danger of confrontation.

Taking a broader view, you may now realise that something you thought important is no longer so or that perhaps you made a false start several months ago. This is not totally bad news as past experience will have made you a lot wiser. Before long you will be on the road to success and unlikely to make the same mistakes again.

Don't worry if the pace of life seems rather sluggish in the first half of January. Use the time to get your thoughts together, tie up loose ends and relax. From about mid month onwards you can expect a livelier trend generally.

With such a distinctly powerful accent on matters of a practical nature most of the month, this is a fine time to focus on occupational and career interests. If you are ap-

plying for a job or hoping to work more independently, the astrological trends swing in your favour from the 12th.

Between the 16th and 20th is almost certain to be favourable for financial prospects or a business project. There's also good news regarding money matters on the 26th and 27th. These are, incidentally, excellent dates for bargains.

Travel receives a significant focus around the 9th and 12th but is unlikely to be of a leisure nature. Be prepared for extra duties that may entail a journey. Also make sure the car is in good working order as there are indications of breakdowns and don't take risks if weather conditions are poor.

For romance this month may be rather disappointing. Events around the 6th and 7th will appear promising but you'll soon harbour doubts and may quickly decide to call the whole thing off.

For existing relationships, there may be an element of emotional crisis on the 23rd. However, this will provided a good opportunity to confront difficulties and achieve a deeper level of understanding.

VIRGO

AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

The hectic pace begins to abate as Mars leaves your sign early in January.

At last, you'll find yourself more the master of your time and find wider scope for leisure interests.

If health has been something of a worry, you'll begin to regain your old equilibrium and feel more at one with the world. This is not to imply that you can cast caution to the winds. An adverse combination of Mars and Saturn during the second week warns you of in-

creased susceptibility to seasonal ailments. Psychologically, however, you should achieve a deeper feeling of well-being this month.

Although you may not feel gregarious in the first half of January, you may find that other people insist on inviting you to social gatherings. If you don't feel up to it and want some time to yourself, don't be emotionally blackmailed and end up feeling resentful.

A more congenial state of affairs opens up from mid month. Your ruling planet Mercury begins to gather momentum, signalling a pleasantly lively trend not only in social life but also in any activity that enables you to feel that you are expressing and being yourself. This Mercury factor also benefits educational activity, creative pursuits, fine skills and the artistically inclined.

Amorous interests come under the encouraging influence of Venus from the 10th. New encounters may begin rather uncertainly but, by the end of the month, the path of love takes a smoother course.

It could be that you meet someone who does not make much im-

pression at first but later you feel a genuine affinity. The most propitious dates for successful romance are the 12th, 16th, 18th and 27th.

In financial matters you may be faced with awkward issues during the second week. A fairly long-standing problem that perhaps you have pushed into the background will reassert itself and call for immediate attention.

If a business interest or investment is not going as well as anticipated, now is the time to take stock and see if an improvement or a salvage job can be carried out. Whatever the case, be prepared to reassess or reorganise finances now.

Your best policy is to take things slowly and don't set your sights too high. Stick to the tried and tested rather than being adventurous. As Saturn is a significant feature, you can expect property interests to move rather sluggishly. Best advice is to make haste slowly.

Two dates of special significance for Virgoans are the 26th and 27th. A powerful and beneficial Lunar trend in your sign ensures popularity and luck for those who are aiming to impress the public.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

The New Year gets off to a pleasant start with a cheerful atmosphere around you.

After the 3rd, however, you will notice that the pace begins to gather momentum. Be prepared for extra demands, especially around the 9th and 14th when adverse aspects to Mars in your sign suggest that extra effort may be needed.

Mars in your sign is definitely the most significant factor in January's pattern. At best, this planet galvanises your energies and gives

you the necessary impetus to push ahead with greater determination. It is particularly helpful for high-powered negotiations and where a strategic approach is needed.

What's more it ensures that your energy level remains high to cope with what could be a rather heavy work schedule. Provided you don't attempt to overstep certain limits when adverse aspects prevail on the 9th and 14th, then you can expect to make progress now.

Of similar importance are no less than four planets occupying the lower sector of your Solar chart most of the month. Domestic and family interests are brought very much to the fore and it looks as if things will be running smoothly.

Venus in this area from the 10th onwards ensures peace and harmony. If there are any underlying tensions within the family circle, now is the time to bring about a reconciliation. Ructions between parents and the younger generation can be easily sorted out with a little help from your Libran diplomacy.

From a more practical point of view, financial and property interests should show a very encourag-

ing trend this month. Changes begun about six months ago should finally be coming to fruition and, at last, you'll be able to take it easier.

A most significant date for those seeking a suitable place to live is the 9th. Jupiter conjoins Neptune, signalling better fortunes and the breaking down of restrictions that have made you feel rather cramped in the past. These two planets very often denote long journeys or travel over water. If you are considering moving abroad, events soon after this date will make you feel that you are on the right track.

An unusual cluster of favourable planetary aspects on the 18th also puts an extremely favourable light on all to do with money and property, especially joint interests. This is perhaps the best date for taking initiatives or finalising plans.

Later in the month powerful Solar trends help to stir up your creative energies. If you seek the lime-light, a lucky break may materialise unexpectedly so keep your wits about you. However, do your best to avoid getting distracted from what is most important in your life at the end of the month.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 TO NOVEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Travel, correspondence and routines are likely to be thrown out of key in the first two weeks of January.

You can do much to offset this adverse trend by keeping everything highly organised. Carelessness or forgetfulness will be the chief cause of problems — so be warned.

Apart from such discrepancies, the overall picture contains much that is helpful and supportive. Powerful and beneficial Lunar aspects in your sign on the 4th and

5th suggest a socially agreeable weekend with much to stimulate you mentally. A last-minute change of plan may be highly enjoyable, perhaps because you meet someone whom you have been out of touch with for a long while.

Developments in financial matters look promising around the 6th and 7th and could prove lucky. Although you may not see any great change in your financial situation this month, you can expect to be steering a fairly steady course with no problems. Venus activating the money area of your Solar chart until the 10th could be good for bargains in the sales.

An adverse aspect between Mars and Saturn on the 9th holds something of a health hazard. Saturn is associated with colds and rheumatic complaints so be sure to take extra care. Heavy work pressure is liable to take its toll. If possible, try to pace yourself and arrange things so that you have a good margin of relaxation.

Between the 16th and 20th a series of favourable trends indicates that various contacts will enrich your life. If you feel that you have

been in the doldrums lately, events now should make you feel more positive. You are quite likely to make new friends or get involved in new activities which extend your social circle. This is the best time in the month for journeys and visits.

Towards the end of January certain events could mark the beginning of important or far-reaching changes (especially if you were born in October). Uranus becomes increasingly active in the lower sector of your Solar chart, inclining you to feel restless or dissatisfied. Jupiter joins forces with this planet now so the desire to break free will become very insistent.

There is no need to be unduly alarmed at this for Jupiter represents a very benign and helpful trend, bringing opportunities to change your lifestyle for the better. This is especially so in domestic affairs. If you decide to move house during 1997, the Fates are definitely working with you.

Although disruptive elements cannot be ruled out, it does seem that the final result will be highly satisfactory. Best advice now is not to be afraid of change.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You should have the determination to carry through your New Year resolutions.

This is especially so in the financial and material side of life. You are inclined to trust to luck and mostly this does pay dividends.

However, now that Saturn occupies a significant area of your Solar chart, luck will depend on how organised you are. Indeed, this planet will incline you to take a more serious and business-like attitude to life.

You have Mars throwing a progressive light on all to do with aims, objectives and co-operative endeavour during January. You'll do best through working with others rather than attempting to go it alone. Any activity that links you to groups, organisations or community interests will not only bring success but plenty of scope for expressing your ideas and ideals.

The only awkward dates in this otherwise forward-looking month are the 9th and 14th. A clash of personalities is the most likely danger. Mars is in Libra so diplomacy and tact are called for if conflicts arise.

Give time and attention to the ideas or advice of other people, especially friends or colleagues. At first sight you may be inclined to dismiss what they say but give it a second thought.

Any financial difficulties from last month are likely to continue until around the 12th. Don't take short cuts, particularly in legal or official matters. Concentrate on details and try to clear the decks by mid month. After this, financial affairs gather a more positive momentum and commercial activities

are more buoyant. The most propitious dates for financial and business dealings are the 12th, 13th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 27th.

Although the 9th does contain potential for conflict on the level of practical relationships, there is a conjunction of your ruling planet with Neptune on this date. This points to a broadening of horizons and a change of attitude towards whatever you consider important.

For quite some time now you have perhaps been feeling increasingly sceptical about the benefits of material possessions. It doesn't mean that you are suddenly going to renounce all worldly interests but you could begin to develop a philosophy of life that focuses away from the belief that the more you have the happier you'll be. You're reassessing your values and getting in better perspective what you really need to make your life truly rich.

Later in the month you'll hear from someone, perhaps quite unexpectedly, who gives you a message of great encouragement. A lengthy journey is in prospect with luck in attendance!

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 19



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Mercury retrograde in your sign until the 12th may make things slow to get going.

Prepare for a few quirks and crossed wires in communications and don't be surprised if others misinterpret what you tell them.

However, it certainly is not going to be a disappointing month. From a broader point of view there is definitely an undercurrent of good fortune. Jupiter and Neptune conjoin in your sign on the 9th, signalling the dissolution of obstacles and in-

creasing your horizons. Provided you heed certain limits, these planets are extremely helpful for expanding important areas of your life. Whether these have to do with business or with something more subtle, you are likely to make very satisfactory progress from now on.

Once Mercury begins moving forward on the 12th you can expect speedy results in important communications and long-standing problems. Also, Venus is conjunct Mercury on this date, giving a hint of pleasant news or perhaps a love letter to the romantically inclined.

Staying on the subject of romance, the prospect appears decidedly rosy from the 10th onwards. After what may have been a rather disappointing phase, events will somehow favour you, as if providence is smiling on you.

This may have something to do with social life gathering momentum from about mid January. Not only will this open up better prospects of romantic encounters but you'll probably find that your circle of friendships has expanded before the month is out. Dates most favourable to these matters

are the 12th, 16th, 18th and 27th.

Another effect of Venus will be to make you more aware of the image that you are presenting to the world. Any attempt to burnish up your personal appearance will definitely have favourable knock-on effects when it comes to social life and romantic possibilities.

On the domestic front and in married life there may be some problems when adverse trends come into force around the 11th and 12th. This is likely to be due to external demands causing you to neglect interests closer to home.

If emotional tensions have been building up, this is when things will come to a head. Take the opportunity to sort things out before the situation gets out of hand.

Don't worry if financial matters are somewhat lethargic during the first three weeks of January. Once Jupiter changes signs on the 21st you'll soon be riding the crest of a wave all the way to success. You may not get much evidence of this immediately but there are unexpected opportunities and luck up ahead — even more so if you are not too afraid of change.

ASPECTARIAN

JANUARY

1 W. ♃ in ♏ & ♁. ♃♂♂♀△♏♂♂♂.
Early am travel poor. Many new year intentions fall by the wayside.

2 Th. ♃ in ♁. ♃□□♀♂♀. ○♂♀.
Boost your self-confidence. Power-dress, get hair done or change image a little.

3 F. ♃ in ♁ & ♏. ♃□□□♏□♂.
Workplace folk unco-operative but pm hours good for social life.

4 S. ♃ in ♏. ♃*○*♀.
Phone, write or visit people as you promised.

5 Su. ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃*♂*♀△♏♂♂♂.
A lot can and will get done today — one way or the other.

6 M. ♃ in ♏. ♃*♏♂♂.
Courses, lectures, seminars favoured. Original thoughts and ideas welcomed.

7 T. ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃♂♀.
New relationship started today can lead to a much closer liaison.

8 W. ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Workaholics and serious-minded folk survive while lazy people suffer the consequences.

9 Th. ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃♂♂♀♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂. ♂♂♂♂.
Suggestions or new ways to do things rejected. Stressful.

10 F. ♃ in ♏. ♃△♂*♏♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Negotiations of any kind suffer setbacks. Plans can change quite abruptly.

11 S. ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♀♂♂♂. ♀♂♂♂♂.
Heart will try to rule head. Take care, it could make you accident prone.

12 Su. ♃ in ♏. ♃*♂*♀□♂♂. ♂♂♀. ♀♂♂♂♂.
Not good for finance or romance. Read the small print if making large purchases.

13 M. ♃ in ♏. ♃*○*♀♂♂♂♂♂.
Mind runs in overdrive, details missed will cost dearly.

14 T. ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Machines and things seem to have minds of their own.

15 W. ♃ in ♏. ♃□□♂♂♂.
While those about you rush around like headless chickens you can sail serenely through it all.

16 Th. ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃△♂♂♀□♂♂♂♂♂.
Collectors could find a bargain or two rummaging around in secondhand shops or markets.

17 F. ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ○♂♂♂.
Creative types become more inspired than ever.

18 S. ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃△♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Hectic day with all sorts of things vying for your attention.

19 Su. ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Some of today's events will be quite memorable one way or the other.

20 M. ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃-. ♂♂♂♂.
Any new liaison forced on you may be worrying but it will work — eventually.

21 T. ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
A glib tongue and lots of bluff see you through the day.

22 W. ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♀. ○*♂♂.
Some ambitions realised. One favoured friendship becomes much closer.

23 Th. ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
It is going to be one of THOSE days.

24 F. ♃ in ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Get your facts straight especially if in court, giving a presentation or instructing.

25 S. ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Some old ideas rehashed prove to be profitable.

26 Su. ♃ in ♏. ♃△♂♂♂.
To keep the peace you could end up having to play 'piggy in the middle.'

27 M. ♃ in ♏. ♃△♀.
Have a day off, go shopping, be creative.

28 T. ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Much tension in the air. People either cannot or will not agree at any level.

29 W. ♃ in ♏. ♃△♂♂♂.
Memory lapses prove embarrassing but partners helpful.

30 Th. ♃ in ♏ & ♏. ♃□♀♂♂♂.
Some folk are out to win at any price, you need to keep alert or be the loser.

31 F. ♃ in ♏. ♃□□♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
Good for behind the scenes or power behind the throne activities.

Cor, Lumley!



It's JOANNA!

by JOAN REVILL

Our Profile of the Month is Joanna Lumley, which is tough on the Joneses.

The Lumleys were established in Co Durham from at least 1080. When James I visited Lumley Castle in 1603 he was treated to a long account of the family pedigree which he interrupted with the ill-natured remark, 'I didna ken Adam's name was Lumley!' They were nicknamed the Lofty Lumleys.

Joanna's branch of the family had a tradition of service in India and her father was a major in the Gurkha Rifles. She was born in Kashmir, a chunk of Paradise ringed by the Himalayas. She was 'an army brat' — see her Sun, square Mars in Leo for the military connection. She had an idyllic childhood.

She's lovely, elegant, witty, a famous actress, an acclaimed writer, a TV personality and a former model. She has been courted by mouth-watering men. She's a happy family woman. *Harpers & Queen* included her recently in their 'Fifty Most Irresistible Women of All Time,' saying that she became more beautiful with maturity. *And* she has a stylish horoscope.

She was born on May 1st, even the date is Up Market, on the day of a New Moon. Madeline Montalban told us that to be born within 24 hours of an exact New Moon is, in effect, to 'Live long and prosper.' Sun and Moon were on the same degree in Taurus. The Moon is exalted in Taurus. The Sun had just slipped below the Western horizon which marks the cusp of the 7th House. Venus was putting in a stint as Evening Star from the 7th House before following. Venus rules Taurus and the 7th.

Additionally, benevolent Jupiter was in Libra, the 7th sign, which is also ruled by Venus. So was Neptune, beautifully aspected to Venus as well. The 7th House and sign concern partnerships, both professional and personal. The emphasis accorded them here

can be clearly seen.

Taurus, sign of Fixed Earth, provides a sensible, solid 'bottom' to the character. It's also humorous, calm, soothing, loyal and practical. Remember that TV programme where Joanna was cast ashore alone (nearly) on a desert island to fend for herself? The shot of her making slippers from her bra still lingers. She says of herself, 'I'm never happier than when I'm making something.'

But Tauran ladies have fairytale looks and captivating voices (Taurus rules the throat) and an appreciation of art, music and beauty in all its guises. She is an artist. At 13, her O-level in art got her the highest marks in the South of England.

Venus, planet of love, is naturally affectionate, charming, good looking and romantic. When important in a chart all these qualities are marked. Here, by virtue of all her rulerships, she certainly is and she is wonderfully linked to virile Mars and that Libran Neptune. Sexy, yet with a spiritual, idealistic, mysterious air about her.

There are secrets too in the best traditions of Neptune. She refused to divulge the name of her son Jamie's father which put her at the forefront of the single-parent family movement in the sixties and caused the media much concern. Her son can be found in the 5th House of children and creative interests, personified as Mercury in Aries which denotes a bright, alert, active boy. Jamie was born on 16th October 1967 at 10.15 pm with his Libran Sun a mere 2° away from his mother's Jupiter. A happy bond.

To inject a bit of variety into the chart, Venus had left Taurus a couple of days previously for dual Gemini which, like Libra, attracts partners. Gemini is an Air sign and Venus here promises several liaisons, usually light-hearted and sophisticated. Noel Coward-ish.

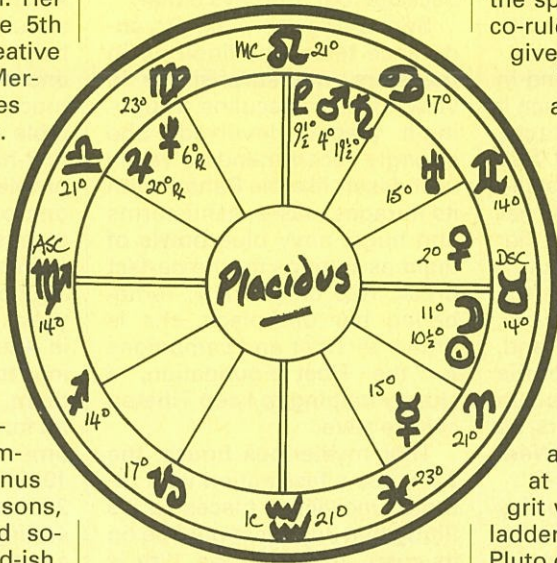
Any partner of Joanna Lumley's would have to be able to communicate intelligently. Uranus, also in Gemini, was the harbinger of several break-ups as well — but all very civilised.

Mercury is interesting in its own right. Its opposition to Jupiter forms the rim of this bowl-shaped horoscope. A bowl chart is said to denote a self-contained person with good inner resources. A giver. And the opposition itself must be studied carefully. Any contact with Jupiter is traditionally fortunate but it should be remembered that Jupiter also exaggerates whatever it touches.

Mercury in Aries is frank and outspoken. 'Blown up' by Jupiter it can be dangerously aggressive. However, Saturn throws a square aspect to both parties, rather like a lifeline, which must have a restraining effect. Where Saturn is involved you learn by experience. So this leaves Arien Mercury in the 5th House nicely balanced and able to be helpful in competitive sports or TV quizzes and games such as *Call My Bluff*.

Mercury in the 5th channels

Joanna Lumley
2pm GMT, May 1st 1946,
Srinagar, Kashmir



the creative talent into writing. She has had her own column in *The Times* and contributed to the *Listener* and *Punch*. She's a self-confessed chronic book-worm and has been a judge for the Booker Prize. Her memoirs, *Stare Back and Smile*, are enthralling.

As Taurus was setting, the opposite sign Scorpio was ascending. All signs have their best and worst profiles and dramatic Scorpio seems able to rise to higher heights and fall to deeper depths than most. It's fascinating that Purdey in *The New Avengers* presents the best face of Scorpio, totally committed, brave and tough, while bitchy, debauched Patsy in *Absolutely Fabulous* is very nearly the worst! Personal magnetism is their common stock-in-trade, as it is Scorpio's. And Joanna Lumley's.

Mars used to be taken as Scorpio's ruling planet but, since its discovery in 1930, Pluto has gradually usurped it which causes confusion. There's no possibility of dispute here. Mars and Pluto conjoin just past their culmination in Leo. There they are, elevated above all else. A Lofty Lumley indeed! She was born to be noticed and has never wanted to be anything but an actress. Leo at the Midheaven years for the spotlight and to have both co-rulers of the chart there gives overwhelming backing.

Taurus Leo and Scorpio are all in the Fixed quadruplicity and there are striking aspects between the Scorpio Ascendant, ruling Mars/Pluto and Midheaven in Leo, and the Sun and Moon in Taurus. They produce an extremely strong character, an iron will, firm principles - and not always an easy life. The aspects are hard, not easy at all, and every ounce of grit was needed to climb the ladder of success. Mars and Pluto combine to produce their

own force field. They clear the decks for action, roll up their sleeves and make superhuman efforts fuelled with immense courage and determination. They show one who works until she collapses.

She wrote 53 letters to every repertory company and provincial theatre in the country offering to do anything. Anything. Only two replied and they said 'No.' Turned down by RADA she lowered her sights to the catwalk and took a Lucie Clayton modelling course, despite being told she was too fat and had a hollow back. She passed and was accepted on to the books of the agency.

Her first job was as house model with Debenham & Freebody where she was discovered by Jean Muir, the famous dress designer. She professes to be surprised by this as she had spots and puppy fat but we are beginning to realise that Miss Lumley is inclined to self-depreciation where her looks are concerned. She and Princess Alexandra were the only women for whom Jean Muir personally made clothes.

The modelling led to TV commercials which needed all that Mars and Pluto could drum up. Laughing madly she dived, bikini-clad, into the River Cam on a cold October day to advertise Nimble bread, was dragged out, revived with brandy and sent back in again.

Making a one-night stand in the theatre as Rosalind, when it was too late to find a substitute, she went on, nearly dead with viral meningitis, after praying to Shakespeare not to let her ruin his play. He didn't let her and she got through but it sapped her enthusiasm for the theatre. Shakespeare, of course, was a fellow-Taurean and, quite possibly, allowing for the Old Style Calendar, had his Sun on the same degree as hers, so he would have listened. ('Were we not born under Taurus?')

Then the plum part of Purdey came up. She applied for it, together with every other hopeful

Cor, Lumley! — It's Joanna!

in the land, but without success. She wangled another interview and was rejected again. This time she fought back. Flinging herself across the door she refused to go and demanded to be given a test.

Demanded! She landed the part against all the odds and then the hard work really started. She had to be trained in the martial arts and ballet since Purdey was supposed to be a dancer. She took an Olympic crash course and was thrown around by the European heavy-weight Judo champion. Rushes of adrenalin got her climbing wire fences, sprinting over rocks in high heels, dangling from helicopters, leaping on to car roofs and throwing right hooks. She enjoyed the stunt-work but never mastered the motorbike.

Although influencing the Midheaven and the career, Mars and Pluto are actually in the 9th House and Saturn is on its cusp. The 9th relates to foreign parts and it would have been anticipated at birth that 'abroad' and travel would figure largely in her life. She has journeyed extensively and has written travel articles. She loves it. And not comfortable package tour journeys either.

Something more akin to endurance tests was lined up in the stars, not surprisingly in view of the masculine, roughing-it planets involved. She strongly recommends a really vast desert like the Sahara with its mirages, oases, sandstorms and huge, navy blue bowls of night as settings for the perfect break. Not unnaturally, remembering her birthplace, she is drawn to Tibet and campaigns for the Tibet Foundation, a charity helping to keep Tibetan culture alive.

That mysterious house, the 12th, has a fascination with remote, uncivilised places so it's fitting that Jupiter should be on its cusp. Jupiter in the 12th is

also basically optimistic, charitable, generous, unselfish and inwardly content, with a particular affinity for wild creatures.

Joanna Lumley's views on the way we exploit animals are all that Mercury in Aries could desire. Experimentation, battery hens, bludgeoning seals and dolphins to death because they eat 'our' fish — she's a vigorous campaigner against them. Quote: 'Nothing can compare with the destruction humans have caused to the world on a scale that beggars description.' At least, with the advent of BSE and other diseases, Nature is beginning to get her own back which gives a sort of morbid satisfaction.

Joanna is involved with a number of charities. Jupiter in the 12th, combined with Taurus' down-to-Earth approach, was exemplified when a fire broke out at her local Erin Pizzey refuge for battered wives. An appeal for help went out and she was there, her car full of blankets and clothes. She was appalled by the filth and apathy and organised a working party. Hard to imagine the elegant Joanna Lumley scrubbing out a lavatory and enjoying it, but she did.

Her enthusiasm was infectious and, later, even some of the wives were moved to help. As she rightly points out, there should be far more practical help and less sponsored runs and walks. Another quote: 'It's much easier to support a charitable cause if you have some first-hand experience of the problem.' Joanna Lumley is one of those rare people who practise what they preach.

Finally, let's follow good old Jupiter on his rounds for a few years. It reaches natal Mercury in Aries in April 1999, reactivating the strong link between them. This should be very helpful for literary work around that time. From July to October 1999 and February to June 2000 it transits Taurus. A happy ending to one millennium and a fortunate start for the next!

ASTROLOGY TODAY

We are all born with gifts and a potential for using them but it takes time to develop sufficient self-awareness to be comfortable with who we are. Life comes in three chapters and by the time you reach the third it is possible to look back and see the obvious pattern of your own development which is not always clear before the age of 60 as you are still a work in progress.

While we are young, a need to abide by other people's rules often contradicts the unconscious urges to be unique. But at certain ages, one or other of these impulses demands attention in ways that can make us seem either rigid or rebellious. Or even both.

Astrology, like numerology and the Tarot, divides life into three separate chapters — or three experiences of soul growth. Each one has its own goal and each goal leads to a higher level of maturity spiralling towards your true potential as an individual.

Basically, the first chapter of our growth is physical; the second is intellectual and the third spiritual. While your body is busy growing, in the first chapter, you are also dealing with whatever circumstances you chose to be born into, perhaps to settle unfinished business from a former life or to learn about yourself through your reactions to being controlled by others. It is the period in which you seem to have the least free will since power is not in your hands.

In astrology this is defined by the first cycle of the planet Saturn which takes from 28 to 30 years to complete. In numerology you are under the first number of the birth path — the month — which represents

LIFE'S THREE CHAPTERS

by
SHELAGH KENDAL

karma. And for the Major Arcana of the Tarot deck, the first seven cards describe the 'realm of the gods,' meaning that you are not in your own world and not yet in control.

The symbolism for each of these tools suggests that some restrictive authority sets limits for about the first 30 years. Until you have learned to take responsibility for whatever unique purpose you have been born, Saturn can seem like a hard task-master but it is the hand that guides, and limits, until the timing is right. At that time, if you are going in the wrong direction for any number of reasons, it is advisable to make some changes, radical ones if necessary. Otherwise, a few years hence, the tensions will show and may be harder to break.

At the end of the first chapter comes a second birth. Saturn and the progressed Moon are returning to their original positions and Uranus is making its waning trine to itself encouraging new understanding of life's possibilities. At Uranus' trine a flow of energy helps you see yourself as an individual, apart from family or cultural influences. It is a time to get in touch with your higher self, the intuitive urge which may have been telling you to be yourself for years. Now you can believe it.

This important turning point

brings opportunities to change habits with Uranus ready to break through old structures and Saturn able to rebuild with new specifications — your own.

In numerology you are about to work with the middle number of the birth path — the day — for personal development; and the next seven cards of the Tarot describe the hero moving out into the world to meet his or her own dragons. It is time to fasten the seatbelts and set off on your own journey with revitalised ambition, authority, emotional energy and vision.

From now until 56 there will be many roller-coaster experiences and mid-life crises as you follow your own dreams with all the impact you can manage. Doubts along the way are inevitable but the second chapter is a chance to build the world the way you want it. Of course, most of us don't — more's the pity. Perhaps because we are not fully aware of the freedom, together with guidance from our best inner sources.

Around 56 when Uranus is again trining itself, it is time for a third birth. By putting into practice all that you have learned you can make your most important contribution to the world. Here is the peak opportunity to present your own ideas born out of your uniqueness and experience.

A few years later, by the second Saturn return, you will be entering the final chapter which, for astrology, numerology and Tarot is considered the spiritual part of the trip. It begins a withdrawing process to complete your story and see clearly the role you have played as part of a collective consciousness. Discovering that is the plus side of aging.

CAPRICORN



Someone very unkind once said that being a Capricorn was a life-long practice for rigor mortis. What she was synthesising was a combination of all the things for which Capricorn is famous in the popular imagination, all of which are exaggerations.

It's to do with the fact that the list of Capricorn's more noticeable qualities tends to make fairly dull reading to almost everyone else. Our Goat is not exactly the life and soul of the party — so they take him/her at face value and get it all wrong. For thorough they read slow. For cautious they read uninspiring. For precise they read boring and for a sense of form and structure they read rigidity. It's all very unfair.

Sure, in their most negative

expressions, these qualities can be like that but it's not the whole story. And it's a long way from the actual truth for he/she can also be a tower of strength, have the determination and flair to make things happen, display a wickedly deadpan humour and be a paragon of tenderness and caring. But you have to know him well and penetrate the often stern facade to see all that.

In looking at the signs through the Houses of the horoscope with which they are associated, and through the meanings of those Houses in the context of the life progress of the individual, we have arrived at the point where one makes one's mark in the world. Learning about oneself in the first quadrant, about one's abil-



by JOHN YATES

ities in the second and how to relate these to others in the third have all been done. Capricorn begins the fourth quadrant with genuine achievement and the status and position that accrue to it.

Capricorn's year ahead

It has been said that Capricorn's pragmatism makes him just as happy with the position of being the power behind the throne as actually sitting on it. That way, someone else sticks his/her head above the parapet and takes the flak, leaving you in peace to get on with what needs to be done. But this year — no way, José!

It is also said that those with the majority of planets in the Eastern hemisphere of the chart go out and happen to the world. And the chart for your coming year has eight out of ten in that position. If you're hoping for or expecting the quiet life, forget it!

However, being a Goat, you probably aren't and will thrive on the activity and resulting achievement. Saturn, your ruling planet, is in Aries, sign of the pioneer, and opposing that sign's ruler, Mars. Both are square to the Sun in your sign.

For anyone else, such a combination of the planets often considered malefics would not be a good omen at all. In your case you will no doubt relish the challenge and effort required and see this line-up as a chance to prove yourself. The Houses highlighted are those to do with possessions and joint resources so the obvious conclusion is that there will be financial deals to be pulled off and profits to be made.

It also suggests that he/she who dares wins —

and we are not talking peanuts. The greater the risks, the greater the potential gains. Since no self-respecting Capricorn takes other than a calculated risk, this bodes well for your cash-flow.

Tying into this pattern is a stellium, a triple conjunction of Mercury, Jupiter and Neptune. It could well be that the ideas that come to you, the deals that you set up or the lucrative work in which you become involved will have an overseas connection. Equally, with the worldwide coverage of the Internet, it could be something via this route which takes up your time and energy in an ultimately fulfilling way.

You are almost certain to be full of ideas about one thing or another. Behind your normally calm exterior it's unlikely that your mind will be still for long. Some of these ideas will have far reaching consequences and not just in terms of practical ambitions, either.

Sudden intuitions could kick-start processes which eventually bring about major changes in your life. However, a certain amount of discrimination should be brought to bear on any such revelations to ensure that you do not become obsessed with anything which is hopelessly impractical or, worse still, become fearful from ill-defined worries that could lead you off-track.

The Moon in Taurus suggests that many Capricorns will be putting down roots this year

And with all that comes responsibility. He is only too aware of the struggle to get there and just how precarious that peak really is. One false move and he could be rolling back down the mountain-side to hit the bottom with a bump. Such matters should not be taken lightly, one has to pay one's dues for what has been received — *noblesse oblige* and all that, even if it does sound snobbish these days.

So Capricorn adopts the stance of the pillar of society. He's earned his place by his own efforts and will hold on to and reinforce the sturture which has supported him reliably so far, for his own benefit and for those who follow, as he did once.

Much of this can be laid at the door of his ruler Saturn who, like the rulers of all the other signs, is the one who writes the rules for the House in question — the landlord if you will.

POSITION IN THE ZODIAC	TENTH SIGN
CORRESPONDING TO	DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 19
PRINCIPLE	THE SEARCH FOR THE SUMMIT
ELEMENT	EARTH
QUALITY	CARDINAL
PLANETARY RULER	SATURN
SYMBOL	THE GOAT

He can be, and usually is a hard taskmaster but for the very good reason that having to redo the job is a waste of precious time and energy — Saturn is Chronos, Lord of Time, after all. He also rules organisation, order, method and structure.

Within the body his domain is the bones and the skin, the things which support and contain the human being and give it form. It may not sound very inspiring but it is very necessary — amorphous blobs will never be high-flyers!

This is the sign of Cardinal Earth so blobbiness is about

as far away as you can get. Cardinal signs are concerned with achieving objectives and in the Earth element this means translating ideas into matter; hard substance — or hard cash.

Capricorn is the zodiac's businessman. All work and no play could make Jack dull but, if he's of the Goat breed, his work is, as like as not, play to him!

Just be thankful. Without the guys and gals who actually enjoy running vineyards, managing bottling plants, transport firms, warehouses and off-licences, there would be no wine for the party, would there?

and quite possibly in a far more expansive way than you might ever have considered possible only a relatively short while ago. This could come about because your financial situation is much improved, because your horizons have expanded to include possibilities previously undreamt of or because romantic developments cause you to contemplate becoming more settled. Whatever the case, your lifestyle should be more fulfilling on a more permanent basis before the year is out.

If all of this sounds rather more energetic than you are used to, to say the least, it still should be an exciting challenge rather than any cause for concern. Your energy level should be high, your relationships supportive and your mind buzzing with new-found opportunities.

Careerwise, the picture is one of increased power to achieve your ends — and more publicly, too. Status and authority are important to the Capricorn character as a benchmark of your success in what you set out to do. This year it looks as though your expectations will turn out to have been surpassed though not without effort. Indeed, it may be that you will gain kudos for precisely the efforts you will be called upon to make.

Travel, in one way or another, is likely to play a large part in this. Whether you contact that which is at a distance by going there or by mak-

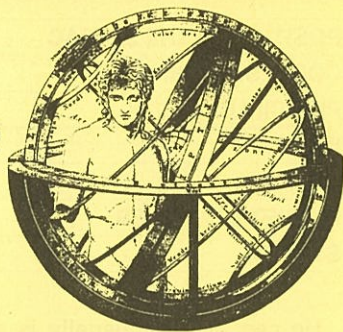
ing use of modern communications from the comfort of your own surroundings, your worldview will become progressively wider.

Equally, this could indicate contacting the higher aspects of your mind, be it through esoteric, philosophic or more mundane educational channels. If you have ever had a yen to learn something outside of your usual range of experience, now is the time to act on that desire.

There is, too, a strong sense of the 'significant other' connected with anything distant. It might be that new romance appears through this aspect of life or, if you are already in a partnership situation, that your partner turns out to be the prime mover in expanding your horizons and prompting a major change.

Don't be surprised, either, if you begin to attract attention for who you are or have become. As your profile gets higher, so too will the number of people who are drawn to you for one reason or another.

The chart is so startlingly active and forward-looking that it is difficult to see any major setbacks provided that you can harness the influx of energy. One word of warning, though; don't go overboard! You are not known for taking risks but there could be a temptation to overdo things in order to capitalise on such favourable patterns. Your stamina is usually good but don't take it for granted and ruin your health.



JANUARY BIRTHDAY FORECAST

★ INDICATES AN EXCEPTIONALLY LUCKY 12 MONTHS AHEAD

- 1 Productive and largely profitable but not for moving, buying or selling houses.
- 2 Don't rush into anything new, partners aren't telling you everything.
- 3 Quiet mostly with best time between May and November.
- 4 Avoid partnerships; start or expand ★ business and make good profits.
- 5 Explore new horizons, seek fresh experiences. Don't just settle for what is there.
- 6 Think big and by May you should be riding high.
- 7 Much improved socially. Someone new might be just off-stage.
- 8 May have to change domestic/family arrangements early in the year.
- 9 Many new projects get under way but emotional life might get the better of you around July.
- 10 Take your blinkers off. Get into something entirely new. Is someone holding you back?
- 11 Coldness in work relationships leads to changes you could do without.
- 12 Poor budgeting liable to cause rifts in partnerships.
- 13 Good, flowing period. Interesting ★ opportunities in October/November.
- 14 Best not to force situations nobody wants unless personal happiness threatened.
- 15 Interfamily tensions build up and you could fall prey to your emotional needs.
- 16 Be very careful. Details matter. It can be very costly otherwise.
- 17 Working environment a touchy area around July/August.
- 18 So much going on. It will be hard to know when to stop — if you want to!
- 19 Change, innovation and restlessness. And not a little procrastination.
- 20 Full of adventure and change ★ mostly for the better.
- 21 Bluff and counter-bluff work well but don't overplay your hand.
- 22 Money or the lack of it will be at the root of most problems this year.
- 23 Home and the people in it unhelpful. Changes here are liable to be very long-term indeed.
- 24 Will gradually exhibit a much more ★ assertive and positive attitude all round.
- 25 More ups than downs but that will depend on how you decide your priorities.
- 26 Relationships break up, others will form in their place or cause the break in the first instance.
- 27 Lots to gain from your emotional ties. Generally, a quiet and peaceful period.
- 28 Events may not always go the way you want. Be flexible.
- 29 High spot in an otherwise quiet time around March/April.
- 30 Things slide. Energy and enthusiasm wane a little.
- 31 Difficult/awkward times October to New Year but brighter times follow.



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ASTROLOGICAL BIOCHEMICAL SALTS

Many readers have asked for details of the tissue salts most beneficial to their astrological signs. Pisces needs *Ferrum Phos* to re-oxygenate the blood, for instance, while Libra must maintain a balance in the body fluids, which *Natrum Phos* will provide, and so on.

For those interested, I recommend trying to track down a useful small volume *Astrology & Biochemistry* by Vanda Sawtell, now sadly out of print. Alternatively, the earliest American volume, *The Zodiac & the Salts of Salvation* by George Washington Carey and Inez Eudora Perry has been re-published recently and any good bookshop should be able to order this for you.

This work dates from 1932 but has all the essential infor-

mation woven into the rather esoteric text.

KALI YUGA

A Hindu friend tells me we are passing through the last stages of a Kali Yuga period which, in turn, is part of a complete cycle. I have tried to understand this but have become more confused than enlightened. Can you explain in simple terms more about this, please? — N.K., Hayes.

According to Hindu philosophy and beliefs, there are four Ages or Yugas of the world — Krita, Treta, Dvapara and Kali. These are of unequal length and correspond roughly to the classical Gold, Silver, Brass and Iron Ages.

The complete cycle covers a period of 12,000 years and the Kali Yuga is the last in the current series which will be fol-

lowed by an entirely new cycle of four Yugas; just as we in the West talk of being at the end of the Piscean Age and about to enter the Aquarian.

A Kali Yuga lasts 1,200 years and is described as an Age when disruption, decline in intellectual and moral standards can be expected. Happily, this is followed by a Golden Age, known as Krita Yuga, of 4,800 years duration when happiness, wealth, law and justice reign

The next in sequence is the 3,600-year Treta Yuga where work, suffering and death prevail. The third Age is the Dvapara Yuga of 2,400 years during which the human life-span is shortened and vice and misfortune dominate.

We are now in the fourth and final Age of the complete 12,000-year cycle and a new one will dawn in around 300 years time, roughly coinciding with the Age of Aquarius. This of course will be the new Golden Age, the Krita Yuga, when peace and contentment will prevail.

MOTHS

I have a bad phobia about moths; they always feature in my dreams. Could there be a

graphology

(continued from page 11)

They are comparatively straight which is evidence of a reasonable mood-level.

The fourth example has a garland-like appearance showing a writer who approaches the world with an open and friendly disposition most of the time. There is a balanced control with tolerable discretion in mixing with those with whom contact is made. The angle of

slant is very slightly to the left displaying a touch of introversion behind the outer facade.

This person prefers to be at ease with the world rather than face it with aggressiveness. These garlands are a little shallow, informing us of some gossiping trends. The small degree of looping in their formation manifests a need for security and to boost the ego. Thus there is a tendency to seek the way of least resistance. Garland writers are by nature adaptable, kind, tolerant and open to social relationships.

The thought-process is usually streamlined with an appre-

ciation of the essentials. T-bars are rather thin but moderately long, registering an acceptable ambition and enthusiasm.

Lower extensions here are simple and plain. They imply one who tries to stand on her own with an interest but balanced appraisal in material matters. However they imply some inhibition in the sexual area. They are only slightly emphasised in their pressure but they are not long so we can tell that the material sphere is not the complete master of the personality.

It is a good thing that all the ovals haven't been made with

reason for this, do you think? — J.M., Loughton.

Phobias often respond well to homoeopathic remedies and a good practitioner should be able to prescribe the right treatment.

As far as dreams go, moths usually refer to small worries that need to be tackled personally. These may refer to work problems or signing contracts of any kind where you must not allow yourself to be rushed into making hasty decisions. Sometimes moths in dreams indicate domestic squabbles but, again, these are not likely to be serious and can be dealt with easily.

But, as you have a phobia about these creatures as well as dreaming of them, this means that you need to face up to the phobia itself, in your own time, perhaps with the aid of homoeopathic medicine. Once you have mastered your fear, your dream pattern and personal life should change completely and for the better.

LION POWER

I keep having a kind of vision of a lion jumping on my bed which seems very real at the time. The lion also appeared when I was in hospital

and once I saw him sitting on my car roof. Why has he come? Who sent him? — F.M., Bristol.

The way in which the lion was portrayed to you signifies protection and an opportunity to make progress in any kind of new venture. The lion symbolises power and force, so to see one, as you did, can boost confidence.

The very strong, protective influence that surrounds you will look after your interests when you take advantage of the new opportunities that arise. So think of an image of the lion when the need arises as this will act as a sign that it is safe to go ahead with new ideas and plans. This, in fact, is the reason why he appeared to you.

TOO MANY RITES

Is it possible to determine if the outcome of a ritual for love will be positive or negative? What should I use and say? — P.S., Derby.

There is an occult saying that states, 'Too many rites will only make it wrong.'

It would be best to lay out a small Tarot spread or an I Ching reading to find out the probable outcome of any ritual

you wish to perform. Do this first then move on to the actual question you wish answered.

I would suggest that a candle or salt ritual might suit your needs. Both are simple to perform and the details can be found in numerous paperbacks on these particular subject.

GOLDEN FEATHER

Some years ago, when I was about 16, I saw a gold rippling feather, about 18 inches long, probably clairvoyantly. I still vividly remember seeing this feather but have never come across any mention of such an event. — J.L., Dudley.

The vision of a golden feather is one that is worth treasuring in your mind. Its significance is that you will now be able to experience pleasing events in your life which have been intended for many years but which can only manifest now. As the feather was golden, you can expect some special benefit to come your way, probably financial.

This was a delightful and encouraging omen but one which, because of its rarity, should give a boost to your life. I am sure this will be very welcome!

curled strokes inside as otherwise this would be a definite negative element. But always confirm with implications elsewhere in the script before making definitive assessments of single letters.

Some words have beginning or adjustment strokes, others don't. Sometimes the writer looks at the world conventionally and at other times with a more expansive mental outlook.

The slight leftward slant must not be overlooked as it implies an inner self-guardedness. The base-lines are acceptably straight pointing to a

passably good reliability and regularity in thought and deed.

The fifth and last example has thready formations. They are mainly at the ends of words, indicating diplomacy and tact when required. The word-spacing is just a little wide — wanting to keep some mental distance from others to combat any unwanted intrusion. Middle zones are inclined to be small showing a self-esteem that is not very forceful.

The lower extensions are far from being emphasised registering no unusual interest in the material and instinctual fields. Extensions towards the

sphere of spiritual and abstract subjects is not very marked, yet not absent, so that is a plus sign. The t-bars incline upwards hinting at a degree of optimism.

These five people reveal how they view life and their attitude to it. None of them has any unusual and abnormal interest in any matters of a sexual nature nor is fully absorbed in the concrete and material world.

Handwriting is a mirror of our character and personality. It reveals all manner of emotions as well as how we view, come to terms with and approach the world.

The MASTER GRIMOIRE of MAGICKAL RITES & CEREMONIES

The Master Grimoire of Magickal Rites and Ceremonies will probably be the most controversial document we have ever offered to the public. Not least because it contains some of the **most powerful magickal formulae of all time.** "But haven't other books made similar claims?" you may ask. True, but they were **ordinary books.** This is a **grimoire**, in fact a "MASTER GRIMOIRE". And there is a **big** difference between an ordinary "book" and a "grimoire". A grimoire, simply defined, is a "working manual of the practice of The Secret Arts". It is **not** an ordinary self-help or "positive thinking" book. It is an **exceedingly precious magickal document**, and magickally so important that we have confidentially sealed every copy of this Master Grimoire with a strict notice expressly forbidding anyone to open it other than the person who has ordered it.

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!**

Belony 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 caballistic 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 Caballistic 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 Caballistic 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 Caballistic 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: Caballistic 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 Caballistic 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 Caballistic 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 Caballistic 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** Caballistic 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 at 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 "Caballistic 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 rite 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 30's 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 receded, 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!
- **Master Grimoire techniques that triple the power, speed, and effect of all your magickal workings.**

The Master Grimoire of Magickal Rites & Ceremonies is a 240-page book made of the finest materials for the use of a lifetime. So precious and sought after are its contents that we believe future generations would be ready to pay thousands! For as long as it remains in print by Finbarr the price remains **£19.95** post paid. Overseas send £24.95 for air mail. Send to: **Finbarr International (P), Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QQ.** Delivery within ten days; if in hurry write "PRIORITY" on face of envelope and add 50p. Callers call collect at 113 Dover Rd, Folkestone (Mon.-Fri. 8.30-5.30).

Our ancestors were always trying to catch Lady Luck's eye in the days long before lotteries. At no time did they try harder than Christmas and New Year when the big search for the luck-bringer was on. This could take many forms.

Do you, for instance, want to live to a ripe old age? If so, surround yourself with chrysanthemums at Christmas. Legend says that a Chinese girl was once told that her husband would live as many years as the petals on the chrysanthemums she held in her hand. To prolong his life, she cut each petal to double their number and he lived to be over 100. Now the flower represents longevity.

Tradition also holds that a flower display of both red and yellow blooms together is good for harmony and cheerfulness — ideal for any festive gathering. Include a sprig of rosemary in the bunch to help retain memories of good times and that youthful feeling and put another under your pillow for sweet Christmas dreams.

If it is money luck you crave, then sprays of the lovely silver seed-pods of honesty should be placed in a handsome vase to brighten up a dark corner. These look especially striking together with plumes of pampas grass sprayed with gold glitter. The symbolism is obvious.

Maybe your life lacks cheer? Try the Joy Bells approach by simply including a loop of gilt bells over the Christmas tree or keep the children amused making these. Cover small plastic plant-pots with gold or silver paper and string them together in a cluster. These Christmas bells look especially welcoming hanging over a large mirror and are very much in the old luck-bringing style.

For those looking for a new love, the country superstition was to include some green tansy leaves in Christmas decorations or flower arrangements. This is said to attract a new sweetheart, especially over the festive season when people of-

ten gather together.

Students and those seeking any form of promotion are advised to bring sprays of laurel into the house at this time for this was the Roman symbol of victory or success. Laurel was also used by the earliest Christians for decorating the home at this time of year.

Incidentally don't refuse any kiss under the mistletoe, says tradition, if you want to avoid bad luck. But remember that a berry must be removed from the bunch for each kiss and when all the berries are gone, it's time for the kissing to stop!



by
BEL BAILEY

December 25th is said to be the luckiest day for a baby to be born and such an infant is a great luck-bringer. Next to this comes January 6th or Epiphany, the day Sherlock Holmes' students claim was the birthday of the greatest detective who never lived! New Year's Day babies should also be great shakers and movers, full of new and bright ideas.

Whoever first opens the front door on Christmas Day should say, 'Welcome Old Father Christmas' and sweep the threshold to clear away any problems over the festive season. The sweeper was also promised a happy year ahead according to ancient custom.

In past centuries many young people would race for local springs, cup or goblet in hand. Tradition held that the first to drink as the New Year dawned captured 'the cream of the year' so could look forward to a good 12 months ahead.

Few people, brought up in today's consumer-orientated society, realise that New Year gifts were once more frequent than Christmas ones. Apples or oranges stuck with cloves were given to friends as luck-bringers, while honey or small cakes were thought to bring sweetness into their lives.

Pins were favoured presents too. Poorer girls often cherished pins from bridal dresses as lucky omens to start the year well. In time money was given instead of these gifts, hence the term 'pin money.'

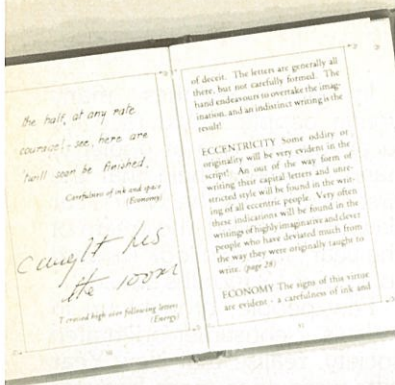
Although the first month of the New Year has the fewest flowers, there is no shortage of old beliefs surrounding them. Take the cyclamen, still blooming as a pot-plant in many homes. This was regarded as

FESTIVE FORTUNES

very lucky for those in love.

Our ancestors even used to chop it up as an ingredient to put in little love-cakes which, once eaten, made the cook herself seem irresistible! The present of a cyclamen for the home was also said to prevent drunkenness, so was naturally a popular little plant.

The traditional 'First Footer' is, of course, ideally a tall, dark-haired man. And if he brings mud in on his shoe on January 1st that is supposed to be luckier still. The old country folk called this mud 'January butter' and said it encouraged prosperity into the home, so don't be too quick to reprimand your first visitor of the year!



BACK TO BASICS

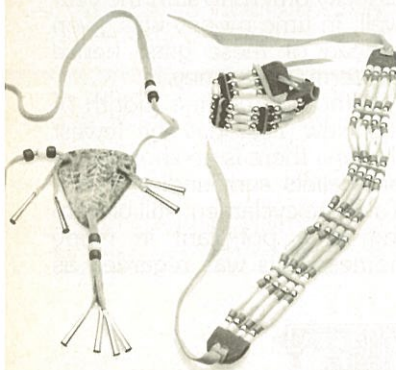
An aptly named series of introductory guides to various aspects of divination from Dorling Kindersley is entitled *The Predictions Library*. The six subjects covered are *Graphology*, *Tarot*, *Runes*, *Palmistry*, *Dreams* and *Numerology*, all by David V. Barrett and retailing at £4.99 each.

Described as pocket guides, these colourful and informative little hard-

backs are 6¹/₄ x 4⁵/_{sin}/160 x 117mm, contain a wealth of detail on the relevant subject and are nicely illustrated too. Each volume provides insights into personality and instructions on how these subjects can be used in a divinatory sense.

An excellent and well presented introductory series that would make ideal presents at any time of the year. Buy one for a friend or, better still, save money with our special offer on page 71 when you buy more than one title; go on, treat yourself!

PICK & CHOOSE



GOING NATIVE

Three items of interest to admirers of traditional Native American decorative jewellery are this inscribed, soapstone *Tree of Great Peace* pendant on a leather thong and with threaded coloured beads and metal 'chimes' at £8.95; the Iroquois 4-row *bone/horn* choker, again with coloured beads and leather trimmings, at £14.95; and a similar 3-row *bone/horn* wristband at £7.95.

All come gift-boxed direct from Tantra Designs, 48 Kensington Park Road, Bristol BS4 3HU (☎ 0117 9724708); please add £1 per item p&p.



DEPENDABLE

Shown are three samples from a range of sterling silver pendants with a Native American theme from Fifth Dimension (4 Church Walk, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1HH, ☎ 01293 441114).

The Indian chief head costs £5.80 and is roughly 3/4in/20mm wide; the elegant howling wolf design costs £13.25 (1¹/_{sin}/30mm wide approx); and the very impressive eagle costs £23.60 (1¹/_{2in}/35mm wing-span). The latter has an unusual finish with wingtip and tail feathers highlighted.

DESK BOUND

The Tybol Astrological Almanac 1997 is a spiral-bound A4 diary and astrological calendar, just right for keeping at the office. Daily data includes Moon/Sun rises and settings; Lunar phases, ingresses and aspects; and festivals. There is also a monthly aspectarian and further astrological information including Sun sign profiles, planets in signs and houses, etc.

There are pages for notes and addresses at the back and a whole section devoted to magic including an alphabetical glossary of terms. The almanac costs £5.95 through selected outlets or can be ordered direct from Tybol, 27 Heversham Avenue, Fulwood, Preston PR2 9TO for an additional 50p to cover p&p (☎ 01772 715642).

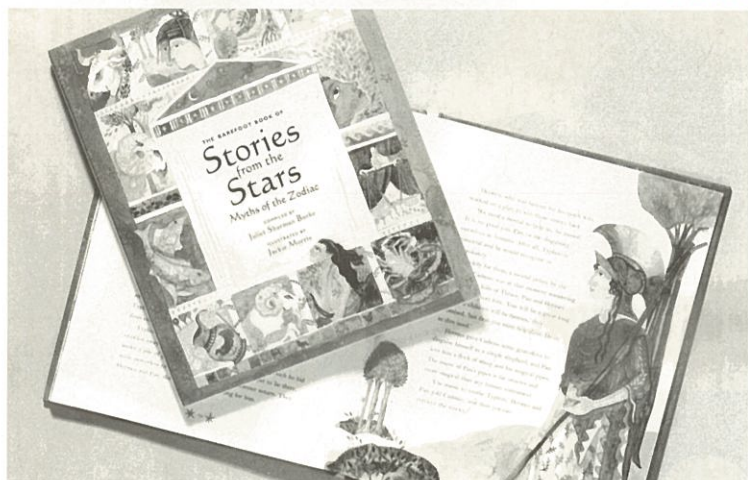


WOODEN CAST

A real bargain at £5 (inc p&p) is this set of *Nordic Casting Runes* available mail order only from The Grail and the Green Man, 39 Penistone Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS3 0DJ. The set consists of 16 wooden staves with 32 runic characters, an instruction sheet and drawing string carrying pouch.

Echoing the method used by the Viking rune-masters, the characters are burnt into the wood, so there is no danger of these fading with use. Here, then, is everything needed to cast the runes for yourself.





CLASSIC TALES

Although aimed at the younger reader (8-12) *Stories from the Stars* by Juliet Sharman Burke will, I suspect, appeal to older teenagers too. So, if looking for a suitable present for a 'twenny' here's one possibility.

Beautifully and colourfully illustrated by Jackie Morris, this hardback book published by Barefoot Books at £12.99 recounts the stories associated with the 12 zodiacal signs and explains how those particular groups of stars or constellations found their way into the heavens.

Readers will also learn about the planets, the elements and characteristics associated with each sign plus, of course, having the pleasure of reading classical Greek myths presented in a new and exciting way.

MYTHICAL

An ever popular image is the theme of these exceptionally delicately wrought unicorn earrings and pendant in sterling silver. The enclosing circle which includes a pretty flower motif measures 7/8in/22mm diameter and the finish is an unusual combination of slightly matt surface with brightly polished highlights on the unicorn's mane, tail and hooves.

The earrings cost £14.70 and the matching pendant is £6.35 from Fifth Dimension, 4 Church Walk, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1HH or, if ordering by phone, ☎ 01293 441114.



HEALING LIGHT

The *chakra candles* shown here are from a huge selection from Colony, the largest producer of scented candles in Europe. The prettily labelled, fragrant candles in this new range are colour-coded: Earth, a blend of sandalwood & patchouli, is soft red; Air, bergamot & angelica scent, green; Water, scented with jasmine & rose, blue; Fire, a geranium & lavender blend, honey-coloured.

Tapered pairs cost £2.35, the small samplers are 99p each and fit the colourful glass holders shown — just two from Colony's enormous selection — the floaters cost 70p each and not shown are big, chunky pillars at £5.29 and scented candle tins at £2.35 each. Widely available, for nearest stockist call ☎ 01229 461111.



NIGHT & DAY

Rulers of both are covered by these two companion titles from the States. Llewellyn's *Moon Sign Book* and *Sun Sign Book* are on sale here at £5.99 (\$6.95) each and offer over 400 pages of useful information for planning the year ahead.

The *Sun Sign Book* provides character analyses and monthly forecasts for each sign plus an overview of the year for each of the decanates. There is also lots of astrological information including an Ascendant table, dictionary of terminology and the planetary meanings as well as interesting features and worldwide trends for 1997.

The *Moon Sign Book* also gives monthly forecasts plus, naturally, tables to find your Moon sign; useful astrological data; favourable and unfavourable days and much more. All the information needed to plan ahead in the garden, in the home, when buying and selling, — any activity, in fact, where timing is the key to success.

Crammed with interesting features, these volumes offer sensible guidance to the year ahead whenever you were born and whatever lifestyle you follow.

PURELY PEWTER

Shown is a selection from a wide range of pewter bangles in different finishes: barreled and polished or matt flatware. The designs vary, too, and include traditional Celtic knotwork, eagles and dogs, etc.

Prices start at £7.50 for the smaller bangles and £9.50 for the larger, heftier ones (ideal for the man in your life), all come gift-boxed and are available from Tantra Designs, 48 Kensington Park Road, Bristol BS4 3HU (☎ 0117 9724708); please add £1 p&p each.



STONEY LOOK

The latest additions to the popular Kells Collection from Tantra are these six Stone cards depicting traditional Celtic designs. Early craftsmen used different materials including stone for producing their spirals, knotwork and zoomorphics.

Subtly coloured, 5in/125mm square, retailing at 95p each, PREDICTION readers can obtain pack of six different designs for £4.95 post free from Tantra Designs, 48 Kensington Park Road, Bristol BS4 3HU (☎ 0117 9724708).



PICK & CHOOSE

GOOD MEDICINE

Still a firm favourite with this reviewer are Bear & Co's *Medicine Cards* which have retained their popularity ever since their initial publication in 1988. This complete divination system, devised by Jamie Sams and David Carson, consists of 54 full-colour cards exquisitely illustrated by Angela C. Werneke and a 224-page hardback book.

As the name implies, *Medicine Cards* have a North American Indian theme as reflected in the totem animal images used to illustrate these delightful cards. Whether seeking guidance, inspiration or solutions to everyday problems, this divinatory system can be said to be truly enlightening and the cards themselves are simply beautiful. On sale through specialist outlets at \$29.95/£25.



PERFECT PLACEMENT

A boon to anyone interested in the subject is *The Feng Shui Kit* by Kwok Man Ho and Joanne O'Brien, published by Piatkus at £17.99 (freephone mail order ☎ 0800 454 816).

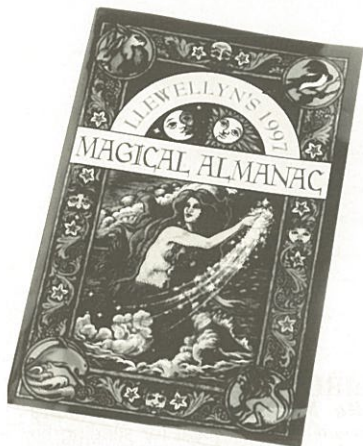
The kit consists of an excellent, comprehensive, well illustrated, 112-page book covering everything you need to know from basic principles to examples of how to attain health, wealth and happiness by improving your surroundings; a Feng Shui compass for ascertaining the best position for everything; and pa kua mirror for deflecting any malign forces.

EVERYDAY MAGIC

That is literally what is provided by *Llewellyn's Magical Almanac*. Here you will find a complete daily guide to magical living with spells, herbal remedies, household and beauty hints, enchanting menus and much, much more. The almanac section lists the date, Lunar phase, Moon sign, colour and incense for every day of the year plus

festivals from around the world.

The bulk of this publication's 400 plus pages comprises over 100 articles on a wide range of magical subjects by well-known authors: a real treat for anyone into myths, magic and folklore from numerous countries and differing cultures. An enjoyable book to dip into and to keep for practical hints for everyday living at £5.99/\$6.95.



TAKE NOTE

For the first time, fans of the *Elfin Diary* can now get a matching blank-paged *Elfin Notebook*, complete with bookmark, with a leather-look cover in a choice of three colours: green, light brown and dark brown. These are the same size as the diary, spiral bound and cost £4.00 each; available from selected outlets or mail order: Elfin Productions, PO Box 684, Longridge, Preston PR3 2LX (please add 64p p&p each).

MODERN CLASSIC

The Robin Wood Tarot, which takes its name from its creator, is a conventional 78-card deck based on the *Rider-Waite* pack so the individual cards are therefore instantly identifiable to anyone familiar with the latter.

Although using classic images, the figures and faces are much more modern, beautifully drawn and the colours used, though vibrant, are far from garish. In fact, I like the illustrations a lot and would suggest that this Tarot is suitable for anyone looking for an up-to-date version of traditional imagery.

The boxed deck comes complete with 56-page booklet that provides upright and reversed meanings for all the cards plus three layouts. Published in the States by Llewellyn at \$19.95, *The Robin Wood Tarot* retails in the UK for around £15.99.



DREAMY

Part of the *Native American* collection are these pretty, silver *dream-catcher* earrings complete with piece of turquoise for luck and matching pendant. According to legend, the carefully woven web will catch your dreams; the bad spirit dreams will be captured and disappear with the morning Sun while the good ones will find their way to the central spirit hole and float down the sacred feather.

Approximately 1in/25mm diameter, both come gift boxed and are amazingly good value at £8.95 for the earrings and £7.50 for the pendant which comes complete with 23in/58cm silver chain (please add £1 p&p per item). Go on, treat yourself or that someone special and order from Tantra Designs, 48 Kensington Park Road, Bristol BS4 3HU (☎ 0117 9724708).

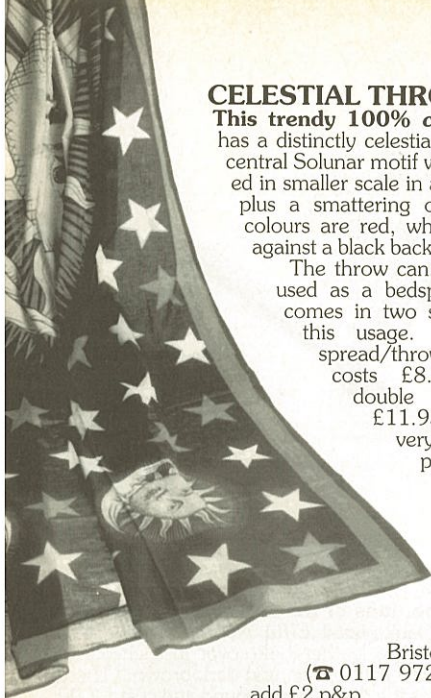
CELESTIAL THROW

This trendy 100% cotton throw has a distinctly celestial theme with a central Solunar motif which is repeated in smaller scale in all four corners plus a smattering of stars. The colours are red, white and yellow against a black background.

The throw can, of course, be used as a bedspread too and comes in two sizes to reflect this usage. The single spread/throw (72x108in) costs £8.95 and the double (90x108in) £11.95, so they are very reasonably priced too.

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ANGELIC

Given the current vogue for all things angelic, it is not altogether surprising to see the publication of *The Angels Tarot* (Harper/Collins, \$30/£25).

The 78-card deck comprises a fully illustrated Major Arcana populated by celestial beings and, except for the court cards, simple 'pip' cards for the remainder of the Minor Arcana (oddly designated Clubs, Diamonds, Hearts and Spades here). The illustrations (by Robert Michael Place) are bold and colourful — no insipid, ethereal images here.

The text of the comprehensive, 115-page companion book (by Rosemary Ellen Guiley) provides an in-depth study of the cards and their relationships with the angelic hierarchy and higher realms. This happy collaboration has resulted in an attractive deck and complete system for powerful personal insight, foresight and divination.



CLASSY CARDS

These superb *Mystical cards* are based on best-sellers in the Tantra range, now redesigned to produce a set of 15 cards (blank inside) suitable for any occasion. Measuring 5in/125mm square, printed in stunning colours, the cards retail at 95p each.

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This *Rune Candle Magic Kit* comes handily packaged in a cardboard cylinder, ideal for sending by post. Inside is a purified white candle, a small packet of traditional herbs and sponge applicator impregnated with magical oils, instruction leaflet and useful booklet detailing ten rune candle rituals.

Priced at £6.95, the kit is available mail order (trade enquiries welcome) from Rune Master, 998 Wimborne Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH9 2DE (☎ 01202 518078/FAX 01202 546639).

STRUNG UP

This unusual necklace of cedar berry ghost beads is handmade by Navajo Indians and, according to legend, will protect the wearer from evil spirits. The nut-coloured seeds are interspersed with tiny, single-coloured beads so the overall effect is quite cheerful.



Gift boxed, the 28in/70cm necklace costs £7.95 (plus £1 p&p) from Tantra Designs, 48 Kensington Park Road, Bristol BS4 3HU (☎ 0117 9724708).

Gift boxed, the 28in/70cm necklace costs £7.95 (plus £1 p&p) from Tantra Designs, 48 Kensington Park Road, Bristol BS4 3HU (☎ 0117 9724708).

Prediction

DOTTY!

The Domino Divination Deck by Raymond Buckland is a fun way of telling fortunes. Based on a traditional Gypsy system of domino interpretation, the 28-card deck is accompanied by a useful explanatory booklet that will enable you to read the oracle in just a few minutes.

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Published in the States by Llewellyn at \$12.95, this quick and easy means of consulting the oracle is available in the UK for around £10.99.

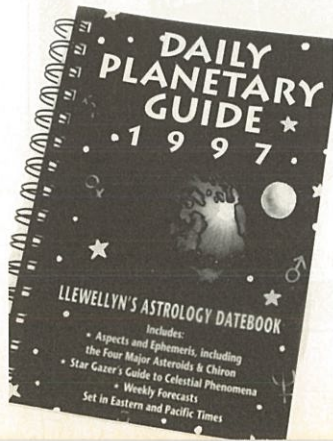


PICK & CHOOSE

DAILY GUIDE

The Daily Planetary Guide 1997 is a spiral-bound, A5 astrological datebook cum desk diary published by Llewellyn in the States but also available here at £7.99 (\$9.95). Each day lists major aspects and, where appropriate, ingresses and Lunar phases in (non-Stateside residents please note) EST and PST.

The diary section shows a week-to-view, so there's plenty of room for notes, engagements, anniversaries and the like. Other pages provide Sun sign forecasts plus a veritable cornucopia of astrological data and significant celestial phenomena for 1997 plus, of course, several pages for listing friends' names, addresses and phone numbers; there's even a blank horoscope wheel for entering your birth chart details.



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These gorgeous chiffon/hair ties come in lovely, deep jewel-like colour combinations and each is printed with a different Celtic design. About 3ft/1 metre long by 6in/150mm wide, these super fashion accessories normally retail at £1.10 each but **PREDICTION** readers can obtain a bumper selection pack of six different designs for £4.50, post free, from Tantra Designs, 48 Kensington Park Road, Bristol BS4 3HU (☎ 0117 9724708).



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Right from earliest times, when mankind believed bad weather to be the product of evil spirits and good weather that of beneficent gods, there have been superstitions about the elements.

Many are traditional folktales, such as those surrounding cats. For example, when a cat sneezes or washes right over its ears, rain is said to be on its way; if it dashes about wildly, clawing at carpets and curtains, a wind is brewing. Sitting with its back to the fire supposedly indicates a frost.

If you should hear a peacock crying persistently, be warned: for wet weather is on its way according to superstition. Killing a toad, too, promises rain or a storm; and folk legend declares that swans' eggs are hatched only during storms and that it is the thunder and lightning that causes their shells to break.

Rain

Rain has always featured prominently in man's life, being essential for the survival of humankind and animals, also ensuring a good crop and profitable harvest. Long before the days of television weather forecasts, it was the signs of nature that were observed for clues to impending wind or rain.

One of the most enduring legendary superstitions is that of St Swithin's Day, July 15th. It is said that in AD 862 when St Swithin died, he requested that he be laid in a common graveyard where the rain could fall on him. When the monks of Winchester later decided that he deserved a better tomb and attempted to move his remains on July 15th, they found their work prevented by fierce rain which continued for 40 days and nights.

Now the skies are still anxiously watched on July 15th as a guide to the weather trends for the next 40 days. Applegrowers still hope for rain on St Swithin's Day when, they believe, the saint waters the orchard. But, should rain fail to materialise on July 15th, the

crop is expected to be poor.

Another tradition around the same time relates to July 22nd, or near it. It is said that a downpour then indicates that Mary Magdalene is washing her kerchief in preparation for the festival of her cousin, St James the Great, on the 25th.

Two Moons in a single month is said to mean a month's bad weather while two in May denotes 'rain for a year and a day.' Rain that falls on the day of a funeral is believed to bode well for the soul of the deceased. This is reflected in the couplet, 'Happy is the bride that the Sun shines on, Happy

and nature spirits.

One strongly held conviction in the 17th century was that to cut or burn fern brought rain. So, when Charles I was to visit Staffordshire in 1636, an order went out before his arrival that no fern should be burnt during the King's stay in order that fine weather would prevail.

The oak was venerated by the Celts and Druids who believed it to have magical qualities with bad luck befalling anyone who cut one down. One old country superstition holds that if the leaves of the oak do not appear until after those of the ash tree, then the Summer

WEATHER SKIES



by LINN BRANSON

is the corpse that the rain rains on.' An even odder folktale is the belief that a rain shower while the Sun is shining means that a fox is being married!

Stormy weather

In ancient mythology storms have always held great portent as a sign of the gods showing their anger. Fierce storms, too, have been said to occur when a great man dies. This probably derives from the fact that a ferocious storm raged at the time of the death of Oliver Cromwell.

In Rome it was ruled unlawful to repair or rebuild any property that had been damaged during a thunderstorm. In Britain, a storm was often ascribed to the Devil or witches who were also believed to have the power to raise winds, hail and snow.

Many superstitions concerning weather conditions, in particular thunder and lightning, are associated with various trees and plants. Such beliefs can be traced back to Greek and Roman times when certain genera were thought to be the dwelling places of gods

ahead will be a wet one. Or, as one old verse puts it, 'If the ash is out before the oak, Then we're going to get a soak. But if the oak's before the ash, Then we'll only get a splash.'

The oak tree was also thought to protect those who stood beneath it from being struck by lightning during a storm, whereas the ash was thought to attract lightning. According to long-held tradition, it was claimed that the bay tree (once sacred to Apollo) was never struck by lightning. While in Suffolk it is the elder tree that is endowed with such protective qualities. Rosemary, however, is said to guard against both lightning and thunder.

Those who want to protect their homes from being struck by lightning are advised to keep some coral indoors; this will also act as a safeguard against storms and whirlwinds, apparently. Or perhaps you may prefer to gather some hazel branches on Palm Sunday and keep these alive in water as a protective measure.

Was the great explosion in the Tunguska in 1908 a huge meteorite — or something much stranger?

by ALLISON WHITEHEAD

On June 30th, 1908, there was an explosion in central Siberia. That fact alone may not seem particularly remarkable yet, when other aspects of the explosion are taken into consideration, you may wonder how an event so big on a global scale could remain a total mystery, even to this day.

Even the bombing of Hiroshima was small by comparison. In fact, whatever caused the Siberian explosion was 1,500 times more powerful. Small wonder, then, that the shockwave it created went twice around the Earth before finally subsiding.

For about two months after the blast, the Northern hemisphere experienced incredible changes to the night-time skies. For instance, it was then quite possible to take clear photographs at night, without the aid of a flash; people could read before going to bed, without needing to switch on a light to do so; and the skies at midnight were composed of colours so amazing that they put the *aurora borealis* to shame.

Luck

Despite the enormity of the event and its after-effects, mankind had luck on its side that day. Even though thousands of villagers in the region were believed to have lost their lives in the disaster and thousands of square miles of Tunguskan forest were similarly destroyed in a matter of seconds, if the explosion had occurred elsewhere in the world the death-toll could easily have stretched into the millions.

It seems hard to believe that an explosion violent enough to be heard up to 5,000 miles away, and felt even further away than that, should remain

unexplained even now, almost 90 years later. However, due to the remote location of the event, the world knew little of it for some years.

Local reports and eye-witness accounts appeared in newspapers at the time but only reached a worldwide audience in 1921. At that time a Russian scientist called Leonid A. Kulik came across the reports and began to investigate what had happened 13 years earlier.

So at last the cause of the Northern hemisphere's strange and wonderful night-time displays had been discovered. But an expedition to the devastated area merely yielded more questions when the Russian Academy of Sciences finally gave Kulik permission to visit the site of the blast in 1927.

Evidence

The obvious initial idea was that a huge meteorite had caused the devastation. However, when Kulik arrived in the Tunguskan region he soon realised this theory did not fit all the evidence he saw there.

There was one essential difference between theory and reality. Meteorites habitually leave a crater to mark the point of impact yet there was no such crater to be seen. In fact, the piece of land which Kulik pinpointed as being the centre of the explosion was far from crater-like in appearance.

The vast majority of land affected by the blast had been flattened; strong and sturdy trees had been felled like twigs. Yet, at the centre of the blast area the trees were still standing — charred, blackened and dead but still upright.

This led Kulik to suppose that whatever had caused the devastation had exploded be-

fore making contact with the ground. This hypothesis tied in with eye-witness reports and provided confirmation that a meteor could not have been the culprit.

Puzzle

Further aspects of the event continued to puzzle Kulik. Firstly, the eye-witness reports which had helped to rule out the meteor theory also seemed to contradict any other natural cause such as a comet, black hole or asteroid.

Also, people living in the Siberian village of Nizhne-Karelinsk had seen the mystery object change direction before finally exploding. Such behaviour can be explained only in one way — there must have been an intelligent source responsible for manoeuvring the object.

Secondly, the after-effects produced by the blast were unlike any that humankind had seen before. Scientists were at a loss to explain how several new species of plant and animal life came to be found in the area several years after the blast. Similarly, they were unable to discover why the previously healthy people of the region began dying at unusually early ages from undiagnosed diseases and why animals began to develop strange burns on their bodies.

Today, nearly 90 years of human advancement has finally provided us with at least some of the answers to questions that puzzled Kulik and his fellow scientists. After atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, certain parallels could be drawn when comparing nuclear tragedies to what had happened years earlier in Siberia.

One identifying trait of the atomic bomb was that it ex-

ploded in mid-air rather than on impact. As with the trees in the Tunguskan region, the buildings situated at the centre of the nuclear explosions remained intact, though badly scarred, while everything in the surrounding area was flattened.

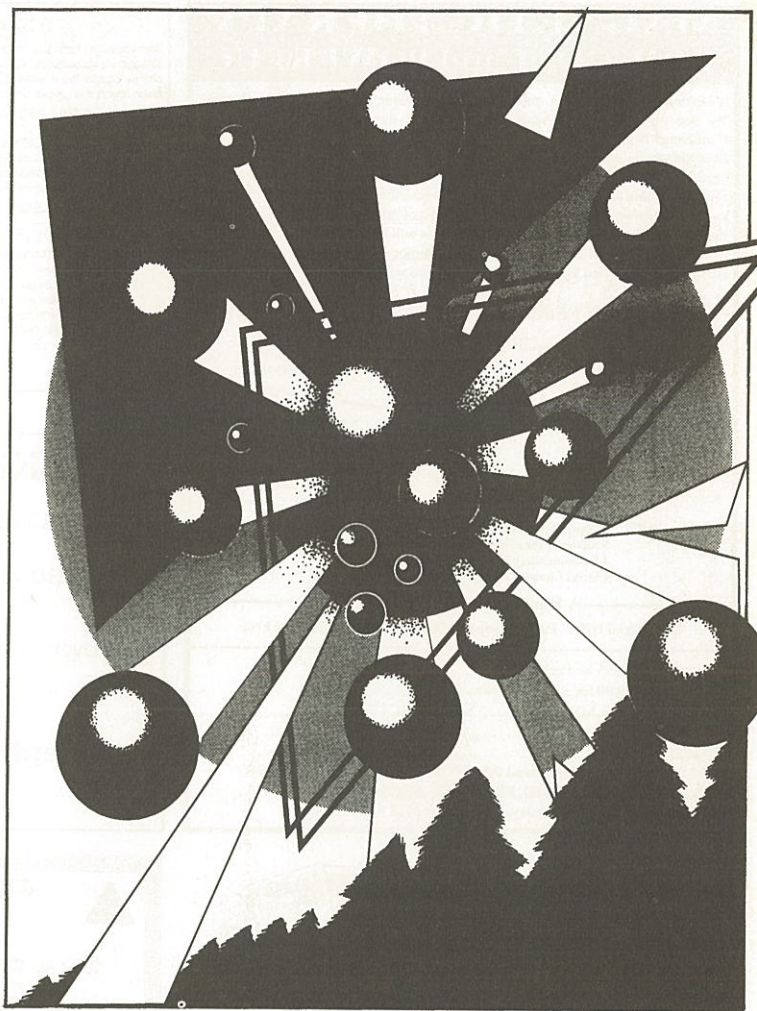
Furthermore, the radiation fallout created by an atomic bomb leads to radiation sickness, greatly reducing life expectancy in those who survive the initial blast, as well as causing severe burns on the body. The huge amounts of radiation were also responsible for the new species of plants and animals that appeared in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki some time after the bombs were dropped.

Obvious?

At this point it seems obvious to assume the Siberian explosion was caused by an atomic bomb. After all, many of the characteristics — including the tell-tale mushroom cloud — were present. Yet the Siberian explosion occurred decades before the world entered the nuclear age.

But if the source of the Siberian disaster was of a nuclear nature, surely there is only one other place it could have come from — outer space. So did a spaceship from another, more advanced planet make a fatal error and explode over planet Earth all those years ago?

This suggestion may seem far-fetched yet there is some curious evidence that may offer support to the supposition. Soviet scientists discovered two things that cast a shadow over any natural disaster theory. Firstly, their studies of the Tunguskan site led them to estimate the object weighed more than 50,000 tons and, second-



Siberian Mystery

ly, the area affected by the blast was triangular in shape.

There have been sightings of UFOs which are similar in shape, if not size. If it was an alien ship which crashed that day, the planet it came from would have learned from the tragedy, just as we learn from plane crashes, and developed smaller, more manageable, safer craft to pilot.

However, despite all the theories, it seems that we will never know for certain exactly what happened on June 30th, 1908. If a similar event happened in the late 1990s, would

we be any better equipped to explain it now than we were then?


Perhaps not because, although some strange metal fragments were found at the site and modern testing has revealed that soil samples contained particles which do not exist on Earth, no sizeable debris was discovered. Whatever the object was (and anything or anyone inside it), it was swallowed up in the huge fireball created by the explosion.

And so, it seems, was the solution to one of mankind's greatest mysteries.

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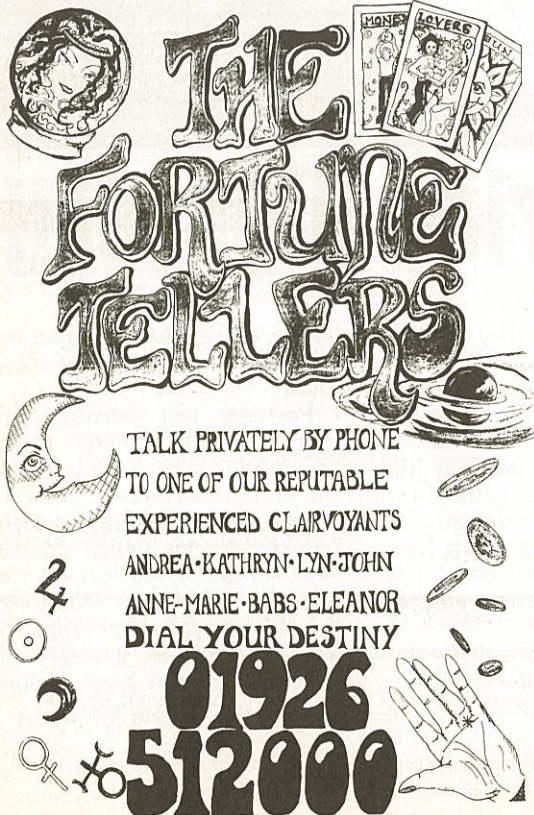
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Letters for publication are welcomed. Address: The Editor, Prediction, Link House, Dingwall Avenue, Croydon CR9 2TA. Correspondents must give their names and full addresses. All correspondence must be accompanied by an sae.

LETTER S

ODDS AGAINST

I KEEP READING that it is a waste of time to apply numerology to horse racing yet, yesterday at Fontwell Park, the number 4 predominated. If the number the winning horse was allocated in each race was added to the horse's weight and age, this is what happened:

2.30 Winner

Scamallach at 11/2

Horse No 1; Age/weight 6 11 4

Numerology total:

$1+6+11+4 = 22 = 4$

3.00 No qualifiers /no horses adding up to 4

3.30 Winner

Uiris's Glen at 10/1

Horse No 5; Age/weight 7 10 0

Numerology total

$5+7+10+0=22=4$

4.00 Winner

Victor Bravo at 16/1

Horse No 4; Age/weight 9 11 7

Numerology total

$4+9+11+7=31=4$

And so on (relevant Horse Racing card photocopy available). In other words, if one backed all the horses that added up to 4 in each race you would have gone through the card, thus making an achievement of almost Frankie Dettori proportions.

The mystery is why number 4? I would appreciate hearing the views of a numerologist, preferably one interested in horse racing. I am a journalist working with *The Evening Echo*, Cork.

M.K.

Ireland

SINCERE THANKS

IN THE CONTACTS column (September 96) I asked people for advice and would like to thank all those who wrote to me.

After many years of bad luck I have discovered that there are a lot of wonderfully kind people out there who gave me words of kindness and comfort and asked for nothing in return.

Just reading through the letters made me feel better as they gave me hope. I would like to thank all those who wrote to Box E616. I am very grateful for your kind words, genuine interest, comfort and encouragement.

Thank you all.

P.W.,

Norfolk

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.

ASTRO-TWINS

CAPRICORN female, 31.12.39, seeks astro-twin. Interests include seeking twins, soul mates, all kinds of healing, good food, wine and laughter. Box E697.

CONTACTS

AQUARIAN male, 21, seeks sincere individuals or group willing to teach and train the Wiccan path, Plymouth area. Box E683.

MALE, 42, living in Lewisham/SE London area interested in Hinduism, Buddhism and Western astrology seeks to communicate with like-minded people. Box E684.

MALE solo Wiccan, 28, seeks like-minded people in the South East of England for group work or correspondence. Box E687.

MALE witch, 41, divorced and Scorpio, seeks help from individual or coven; also seeking

PERSONAL CLASSIFIED

working partner. I have a great need to open my psychic centres and feelings. London area, Box E689.

PENFRIENDS

GEMINI male would like to correspond with anyone. My interests include astrology, palmistry, the subconscious mind and past-lives. Box E656.

LEO female, slightly quantum, vaguely Gothic, keen to correspond with anyone, anywhere about life, the universe and everything. Theories about the big picture very welcome. Box E658.

MALE psychology postgraduate, 36, Leo/Scorpio Ascendant, seeks penpals. Interests include Wicca, Tarot, fantasy literature, crystals, cats, good conversation. Kent/anywhere, preferably UK. Box E663.

FEMALE Capricorn, 61, astrology student and interested in all other occult subjects seeks penpals. Write Box E670.

MISCELLANEOUS

HEDGE-WITCH lyricist wants to form pagan punk/Indie band in Colwyn/ Aberconwy area. Enthusiasm and commitment more important than mere ability (that will come with practice). Contact Ade, Box E698.

MALE pagan, unemployed youthful Sagittarian/Cancer rising, 11.12.56, seeks work, preferably rural. Interests include Wicca, spiritual growth and healing. I'm also interested in

house sharing or a co-operative with like-minded souls. Write Stephen Box E700.

WANTED

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MANY years ago I lost a hand-held electronic biorhythm calculator. Can anyone help find a replacement? Box E691.

TAROT by Jane Lyle. Please contact Sandra on ☎ 01282 871670.

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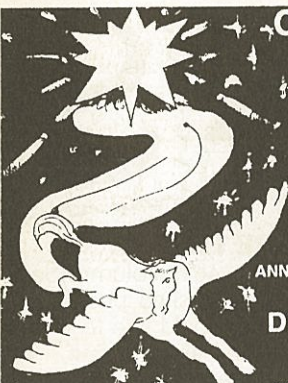
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Runes explains the history of the runes then gives detailed meanings for each of the 24 in the Elder Futhark, the most commonly used 'set' of runes. There are also six different layouts, with example readings for each, and further information on runic scripts and bindrunes, ending with traditional runic associations with gemstones, flowers and trees.

Palmistry outlines the basic hand shapes, mounts, palmar areas, major lines and minor markings plus the significance of fingers, thumbs, nails, skin tone and left or right handedness. There are hints on health, relationships, career and success plus guidelines for reading the palms with six example analyses for guidance.

Dreams introduces the subject with a brief history from biblical times to Freud and Jung followed by the main dream categories: creative, lucid and precognitive. The next section covers dream images such as archetypes, animals, birds, colours, numbers and rooms in a house. Lastly comes an alphabetical listing of some common dream symbols.

Numerology explores the fascinating world of numbers and what these can mean to you. Here you will learn how to calculate the numbers that can reveal personality from your name and date of birth, how to use the power of numbers to your best advantage and even predict what might be in store for you in a specific year.

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BOOK REVIEWS

TERI KING'S ASTROLOGICAL HOROSCOPE FOR 1997 (Element, £2.99 each)

IT'S THAT TIME of year when we begin to wonder what's in store for the months ahead and many of us look for tomes containing Sun sign forecasts. Basically, you pay your money and takes your choice. Most people opt for a favourite author who has proved accurate and reliable in the past but the 'don't knows' among us could do a lot worse than settle for this author who not only presents detailed monthly predictions for the year in general but also provides a decent paragraph for each day throughout the year.

Sign characteristics are not forgotten, nor are 'horrorscopes' detailing weak points. There is also a brief section on numerology.

The only snag is that one must buy a separate book for each Sun sign. However, at such a low cover price one can probably afford to treat friends and family members as well as indulge oneself. — B.L.

KING ARTHUR & THE GRAIL QUEST

by John Matthews (Blandford, £9.99)

THIS IS A paperback reprint of a work first published in 1994. Basically, it traces the myth of the Grail as it is presented in Arthurian history and legend using a combination of documentary text and story-telling.

The theme it picks up includes the early Arthur; the Grail and the Celtic tradition; the medieval vision of the Grail; the quest of Sir Galahad; and the guardians of the Grail in esoteric tradition. The book is illustrated with numerous drawings and colour-plates by Steven Brown.

This is a comprehensive study of the Grail mythos from its pagan origins to its Christian interpretation; a work that can be recommended to all those seeking their own personal Grail in this life. They may not find it in the pages of this book, perhaps, yet it will show them the path to achievement. — M.H.

OLD MOORE'S 1997 HOROSCOPE & ASTRAL DIARIES

(Foulsham, £2.99 each)

FOR THOSE WHO require a different sort of predictive manual for the year ahead, *Old Moore's* has produced a diary in paperback format. Though to use it one would either have to lead a

very limited life or keep it for appointments only because the space allocated allows for just one line of writing each am and pm.

The bonus is that there is a forecast, à la Sun sign, and plenty of graphs to show 'Lucky Breaks and the Unpromising times, Month-by-Month on the Life Barometer' as well as 'Ups and Downs of Luck, Love, Money and Vitality on your Weekly Moving Picture Screen' not to mention 'When to go for it and when to rest each month on your Energy Rhythm Chart.'

Each book covers one sign and incorporates Moon sign and Ascendant in the character readings; helpfully, there are rough tables to check their positions on your day of birth. And, at the back of each book is the offer of a gilt pendant for the cost of postage only in celebration of *Old Moore's* 300th anniversary. — B.L.

YOUR DREAMS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

by Nerys Dee

(Thorsons, £4.99/\$8.00)

THERE ARE NOW so many books on dream interpretation that it is only too easy to become confused and more befogged than before. However, this slim paperback provides a neat and welcome solution.

The author starts by writing about dreams in a general way, illustrating her points with famous people whose lives have been considerably influenced by their dreams. Next, she approaches the more serious subject of why and how we all dream, their psychological significance and how they can be interpreted. The second section lists dream meanings in alphabetical order but also indicates if they should be analysed as literal or symbolic, metaphorical or even as some kind of pun.

This is a helpful guide, somewhat concise perhaps, but with modern meanings rather than traditional ones. For a more comprehensive guide, you may have to look elsewhere but, for an immediate answer to the often fleetingly vague memory of something dreamt about, this serves very well indeed. — J.C.T.

MAZES AND LABYRINTHS

by Nigel Pennick

(Hale, £7.99)

MANY YEARS AGO the author published a pamphlet on the subject of labyrinths so it was surely only a matter of time before a larger, more detailed volume emerged. And a handsome one it is

too, with two dozen photos, a wealth of line-drawings and a fascinating exploration of the subject covering both historical and geographical perspectives.

The book is divided into sections: Ancient Rock and Stone Labyrinths; Ancient Turf Mazes; Pavement and Church Labyrinths; Puzzle Hedge Mazes; and finally Modern Labyrinths. These patterns, both simple and complex, are to be found all over the world, carved on rock-face or ground, or built in all kinds of three-dimensional ways.

Legends such as that of the Minotaur are well-known but Pennick relates many more myths, tales and fables concerning the maze. Some say the labyrinth symbolises the intricacies of the psyche, others think it the journey through life; but, whatever its symbolism, once the maze is entered, it takes skill, cunning or luck to re-emerge.

This is an inspired work, not just to read but also to use for it is practical too; there is a gazetteer of sites, complete with map references, so you can visit labyrinths the length and breadth of the land. Go on, enjoy yourself — get lost! — J.T.M.

THE MONKS OF WAR

by Desmond Seward

(Penguin/Arkana, £8.99/\$12.95)

IT MAY SEEM a contradiction for monks to be linked to war yet this refers to the military religious orders in existence between 1200 and 1789, with a note on the survival of some of the main orders right up to the present day.

The Knights of St John will be the most familiar, while the period of the Crusades will be immediately recognisable from history classes. Templars, Hospitallers, Teutonic Knights, Knights of Malta, etc are interlocking names that come to life in this book, as do the more notorious figures such as Isabella the 'she-wolf,' Philip le Bel and certain kings of England and France, emperors and clerics, Popes and Inquisitors.

The tale told is often gory, not for the faint-hearted, yet the light that shines throughout is one of immense faith — of religious belief certainly but also of survival, humanity and, inevitably, ambition. The work reads like a thriller at times yet is historically accurate: here is a record of times past and vocational involvements that a modern mind cannot comprehend fully.

That such a gory and often heart-rending story can be both fascinating

and enjoyable is entirely due to the author's skill which makes this book truly compulsive reading. — J.C.T.

CHRONICLES OF THE VIKINGS
by R.I. Page
(British Museum Press, £14.99
hbk)

WE LIVE IN an age of rapid change and the 21st century is almost upon us, so it is not surprising that we are continually checking the rear-view mirror and reassessing the past. The Vikings are the latest historical peoples to undergo a revisionist exercise.

Contrary to popular myth, it seems that they were not solely addicted to sea-voyages in search of pillage, rape and plunder but were, in fact, every bit as civilised as the peoples with whom they came into contact when they did set sail. This book is a selection of works from primary sources, being translations of runic inscriptions, poems and other literary works plus historical accounts written by the Vikings themselves and not prejudiced observers.

Mr Page, who has previously published first-class books on Runes and Norse mythology, is well qualified for his task and brings alive the Viking people and way of life. This latest effort is both a good read and a worthy academic work — an unusual achievement. — J.T.M.

**NOSTRADAMUS:
THE NEW REVELATIONS**
by John Hogue
(Element, £18.99
hbk/£9.99/\$19.95)

AS THE MILLENNIUM moves ever closer, it is certainly a wise publisher who brings out a new version of the works of the famous French astrologer and seer, Nostradamus. Of course it has all been done before (this is the third attempt by John Hogue) yet the last decade has seen the sudden decline of communism and the rise of nationalism, so there is plenty of scope for matching historic events with suitably prophetic quatrains.

The introduction to the seer's life and predictive method is good but you have to take Hogue's interpretations on trust as Nostradamus' words are supplied ready-translated. If you can accept that the word 'Mabus' becomes 'Saddam' when seen in a mirror, then you'll agree that Hussein could well be the third Anti-Christ; Napoleon and Hitler are prime candidates for the other two.

As usual, 'Hitler' is derived from 'his-ter,' the 16th century name for the Danube and Hitler was born on a river near the Danube, so that's obviously right! However, not far from Nostradamus' house in Salon de Provence is a town called 'Istres' near a small river of the same name ... and nearby is a

large salt-marsh from which a pinch might be in order.

This is a beautifully produced, large size book profusely illustrated in both colour and black and white, so is worth a browse. — J.T.M.

**AUGURIES AND OMENS: The
Magical Lore of Birds**
by Yvonne Aburrow
(Capall Bann, £10.95)

SINCE ANCIENT TIMES and in all cultures, birds have played an important role in mythology and magical lore. Above all, they have always figured prominently in the language of omens and augury. Even today there are many remarkable cases of bird omens, usually associated with deaths in the family.

That birds should be so significant as omens is understandable in view of the fact that they have always been associated with Mercury, the winged messenger of the gods. Oddly enough, literature on the topic is rather sparse but here, at last, is a book giving a detailed account of many birds and their meanings in augury.

The first five chapters explore the art of bird augury in Roman and Celtic societies, in Native American culture and in China. We are also given examples of modern augury, weather lore and the symbolism of birds in mythology, alchemy, fairy tales and shamanism.

These fascinating introductory chapters are followed by the main body of the work which comprises a very detailed index of well-known birds, their significance in folklore and symbolism. For those interested in bird-lore this is certainly a definitive text containing a wealth of fascinating data. — R.H.

SHAMANISM
compiled by Shirley Nicholson
(Quest/Theosophical Books,
\$11.95/£9.95)

SHAMANISM IS CURRENTLY enjoying a high profile; indeed, one might even say it has become fashionable. If you wish to be well-informed on the subject but lack the time or inclination to read the essential works, then this 300-page volume will substitute as a worthwhile source-book.

There is an introduction by Jean Houston, the renowned psychologist, followed by an outline of shamanic practice by Michael Harner whose 1981 book on the subject continues to be a bench-mark for many. Next comes an essay by Mircea Eliade, the acknowledged academic pioneer in the field, and works by Joan Halifax, Ralph Metzner, Brooke Medicine Eagle, Black Elk and many others.

Thus both professors and grass-roots practitioners are included. Subjects covered include cosmology, states of consciousness, dreams, the Theosophical view, plus a wealth of related matters. Good value. — J.T.M.

WHAT WE MAY BE
by Piero Ferrucci
(Thorsons, £8.99)

THE AUTHOR'S EXPLORATION of the visions and techniques of psycho-synthesis includes a series of practical exercises which are aimed at helping the individual to achieve a deeper level of personal integration.

Psychosynthesis, a method developed by Italian psychologist Roberto Assagioli, is perhaps the most mystical current in modern therapeutic techniques. It is arguably the most effective, too, emphasising the visualisation of dynamic symbols as a path to higher modes of perception.

Ferrucci points out that we are normally just bundles of 'sub-personalities' made up of inner conflicts, defence mechanisms, conditioned reflexes and habits over which we have little control. The aim is to become conscious of these inner forces through psychosynthesis so that we can bring them into harmony.

This method is not a recipe for instant enlightenment and happiness but, like all quests for inner transformation, requires patience, concentration and dedication. Although psychosynthesis is based on an optimistic evolutionary view of man, we are reminded by Ferrucci of our darker elements and that it is usually necessary to undergo a 'dark night of the soul' in order to reach higher levels of awareness and being.

What we have here is a kind of Westernised yoga technique aimed at helping people to realise a more creative relation towards existence. — R.H.

PATCHWORK OF MAGIC
by Julia Day
(Capall Bann, £9.99)

THE AUTHOR IS one half of a successful partnership that has made quite an impact as publishers of occult and pagan books in the last few years. Unlike many people involved in this type of publishing, she has actual hands-on experience of the occult scene and the pagan movement as an insider. Therefore, when she writes a critique of modern esotericism, she can bring a wealth of personal experience and acute observation to bear on the subject.

This book's deceptively light-hearted approach and style conceals a serious theme. It compares, often in a wickedly funny way, the different traditions and branches within the pagan and magical sub-culture.

In fact, some of it is too accurate to be truly funny! Mingled with the humour is a great deal of common sense and useful advice based on practical experience. This book should be compulsory reading for wannabe pagans and weekend occultists. Highly recommended. — M.H.

continued overleaf

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

CELTIC DESIGN: THE TREE OF LIFE

by Aidan Meehan
(Thames & Hudson, £5.95)

THE CONCEPT of the Tree of Life is, of course, universal but here the author concentrates on this enduring motif's symbolism within the context of this excellent, ongoing series' theme of Celtic design. He explores the underlying myths, legends and stories associated with the Tree and traces its history from its first appearance in Celtic art in the mid 8th century up to the present day.

More pertinently, perhaps, Meehan's exquisitely precise and detailed drawings show exactly how this basic design is constructed and can be recreated and adapted by today's artists and designers. There are 242 illustrations in this book, providing a valuable reference for those interested in discovering or perhaps rediscovering the golden thread that runs through the ages, cultures and religions of the world via the medium of symbolism.

An excellent addition to a fascinating series that will be enjoyed by many craftspeople as well as those who are intrigued by the richness of their Celtic heritage. — M.E.

DICTIONARY OF EARTH MYSTERIES

by Janet & Colin Bord
(Thorsons, £6.99/\$12.00)

ANOTHER USEFUL ADDITION to the ongoing *Dictionary* series of reference works covering a wide range of occult/New Age subjects. This follows the usual format of an A-Z of various ancient sacred sites and related topics.

The authors are well-known for their expertise in this particular area of study and therefore supply reliable information although, by definition, such a small survey must be somewhat limited. However, it does act as a sensible introduction to a fascinating subject and the complete series should build up into a very useful source of information for the serious student or researcher. — M.E.

LAROUSSE DICTIONARY OF WORLD FOLKLORE

edited by Alison Jones
(Larousse/Macmillan, £25.00 hbk)

THE REPUTATION of almost any Larousse publication is so well established that the volumes virtually sell themselves. This one is no exception; it brings together numerous folk tales from the ancient past right up to the recent present.

Whether you choose to dip and browse through the A-Z listings or decide to search for some specific reference, you may be assured that what you seek will be there, be it dragons or trolls, leprechauns or zombies, saints, legendary figures or everything and anyone in between. The clear-set typeface is a joy, as are the various lists of further reading material, festival events and dates, biographical notes, addresses of museums.

The editor has used her expertise with skill to create an informative style that captures the reader's interest as well as instructs. In fact, this is a truly enjoyable volume and not merely a good reference book. I only hope that, in the course of time, a paperback edition will be published at a more accessible price so that even more people can get pleasure from thumbing through the pages of this excellent work. — J.C.T.

THE BOOK OF PLUTO

by Steven Forrest
(ACS/Airlift, \$15.95/£14.99)

THIS IS THE most comprehensive book you're ever likely to find on the subject of the outermost planet, Pluto. What's more, it is one of the most readable.

Forrest begins by explaining the value of astrology as a symbolic language. All the typical Pluto themes and experiences are covered, such as catastrophe, repression, the need to face past hurts, transformation and regeneration. But what the author shows is that Pluto in the birth chart can help us get in touch with what he calls our 'inner compass.'

The latter, though often neglected by those who live a life that is really off key with their real destiny and nature, is symbolised by the horoscope as a whole. Very often the function of Pluto is to force a person to break with an unsuitable life-pattern and find a path that accords more harmoniously with the inner compass.

The section dealing with Pluto in the houses and signs I found particularly informative. Likewise the final chapter that deals with times in life when Pluto is active — in transits to natal planets and angles.

On the whole, an invaluable book that throws much light on a very ambiguous element in the horoscope. — R.H.

THE CHINESE HOROSCOPES GUIDE TO RELATIONSHIPS

by Theodora Lau
(Souvenir, £15.99 hbk)

WHEN THIS AUTHOR'S first book, *The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes*, was published in 1979 I honestly thought it was the best I had read on this fascinating subject. Well, I was right then but not any longer.

Somehow, Ms Lau has wrung even more data from somewhere and, in an easy to read, flowing and informative

style places before the reader a marvelous pot-pourri of very potent and accurate analyses of love, marriage, friendships and business relationships.

If you want to know how to get along with people, either between the sexes, for interfamily relationships, for an ordinary friendship or business compatibility, then this is the book for you. Highly recommended. — P.W.

THE UNKNOWN ARTHUR

by John Matthews
(Cassell, £17.99 hbk)

DOZENS, IF NOT hundreds of books have been written about the adventures of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. It has come to the point where the jaded Arthurian fan might ask, 'What more can be said or written about the once and future king?'

Matthews' answer to this question is to go beyond the usual sources of Geoffrey of Monmouth, Malory, Tennyson et al. Here he has produced several little-known texts, some translated for the first time into English, which offer new stories about the Arthurian legend.

The book begins with a 15th century manuscript, possibly written by a poet in what is now the West Midlands, about the hunt by Arthur and his warriors for the mythical boar Twrch Trwyth. There is also an account of the marriage of Gawain or Gwalchmai to the hideously ugly Ragnall who is, in fact, the goddess of the land; a tale of a knight who loved a faery woman; how Queen Gwenhyfer met a ghost by a lakeside; plus many more tales. — M.H.

CHAOS RITUAL

by Steve Wilson
(Neptune Press, £10.00)

ACCORDING TO THE cover blurb, this book presents for the 'first time ever' a detailed account of the entire system of chaos magic. Unlike most step-by-step guides, it results in a system that is unique to each individual who can develop his/her own rituals, chants and other magical necessities.

The aim is to stimulate your own unconscious mind to come up with the goodies. In short, it is a method of developing 'spontaneous magic.' Granted that there does indeed need to be a genuinely spontaneous and creative element in any magical practice, rather than slavish adherence to dead formulae, there is perhaps a danger here that you'll end up in a state of real confusion or, more likely, precisely nowhere.

The underlying message of the book seems to be that magic is simply a rather random process of doing just whatever you happen to feel like doing. I get the feeling that here we have someone who really has nothing to say but insists on saying it nevertheless. — A.Z.

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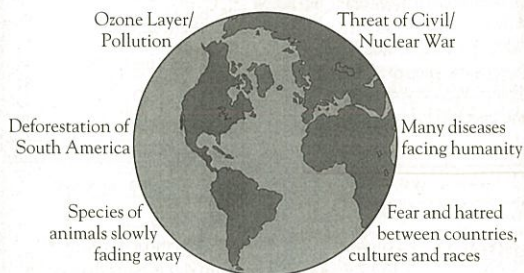
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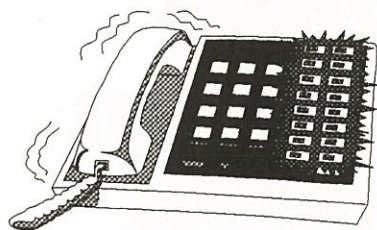
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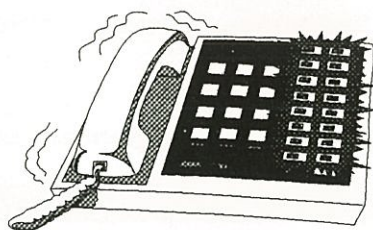
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