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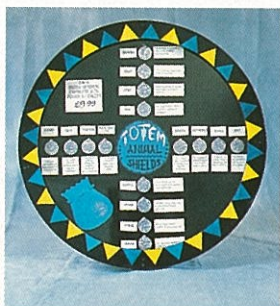


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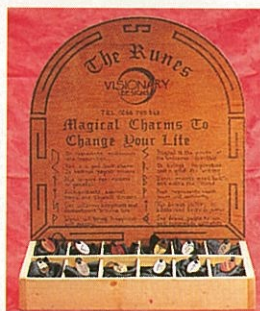
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Front Cover

Flowers and plants are beautiful in their natural state. Throughout the ages, mankind has sought to appropriate some of that beauty as a symbol to mark special persons and events.

Cover photography by Tony Petch.

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

by Tony Leliev, 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.

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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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Garlands of The GODS

The wearing of flowers had serious religious implications in past centuries.

The placing of wreaths and garlands of flowers as a form of reverence is as old as Solar worship itself. To many ancient peoples the crowning of a prince or the halo adorning the head of a god was symbolic of the Sun and linked to the ideal of infinity which the endless circle formed.

The Romans knew of the circle's powers. Romulus built Rome as a circle of ramparts to which Plutarch gave the name *mundes* (meaning world) with an altar as the sacred focal point at its innermost centre.

They knew, too, the secrets of the veneration of flowers and the significance of linking the two. This knowledge had followed the paths of conquering armies from Egypt by way of Athens.

The Egyptians, who believed gods to dwell in the scent as well as the petals of flowers, sometimes laid floral tributes on the altars of their gods by the basketful, though more usually the flowers were fashioned into wreaths and garlands.

The great Sun god, Ra, is frequently depicted in old papyri as being surrounded by votive flowers. Statues of him were often crowned with circlets woven from the most beautiful of the blooms, as were those of other gods of the period.

Used in this way, and in such profusion, blossoms were of-

ten intended to honour the gods by sheer quantity alone. Some flowers, though, had a single deity with which they were especially associated because of their particular appearance or certain properties they displayed.

In ancient Peru virgins consecrated to temples of the Sun god wore crowns of sunflowers of the purest gold. While in ancient Egypt the same purpose was served by *helichrysum* (also known as *everlastings*) which had the added quality of being slow to fade.

Flowers were used to decorate altars and statues of gods being carried in procession at the annual Egyptian Festival of Shrines and at the similar *Pei-shán* held in China. *Somnus*, god of sleep, was always represented crowned with poppies or lying surrounded by them.

The garlands which bedecked Ceres, goddess of grain, were made of poppies interwoven with barley or bearded wheat. Poppy seeds were frequently offered to her during sacred rites intended to secure the prosperity of petitioners' crops.

The poppy, then, was the flower of Ceres just as the anemone was always associated with Venus, the lily with Hera and myrtle with Artemis. Worshipers brought the appropriate flowers woven into garlands or, in some cases, still on the

bough, either as offerings or to decorate their temples.

Such floral tributes were left to dry and fade, becoming highly inflammable as a consequence. A Greek historian related an account of how the Temple of Juno at Argos was reduced to ashes by a priestess who fell asleep after placing a lighted torch close to such votive garlands. He did not, however, record what became of the careless custodian.

Sacrificial offerings

Perhaps she became a garlanded offering to Juno in her own right because the bedecking of sacrifices to the gods was a natural progression from the sacred use of garlands and wreaths in their honour. Certainly human sacrifice was an early act of worship for which animals were a much later substitution.

The Hindu ceremony of *Agvamedha*, or *Sacrifice of the Horse*, is believed to have begun in just such a fashion. During it the altar on which the offering was to be made was covered with branches of palm or mango, bells, cows tails and garlands of flowers. Garlands also adorned the 21 posts set in the ground, to one of which the sacrificial animal was tied while the officiating priest recited from the sacred Vedas; later, the dead beast's flesh would be burnt to honour the gods.

In complete contrast, a total reversal of the normal progression of worship comes to us from Mexico. There the horror of the bloodletting, as described in eye-witness accounts from Spanish Conquistadors, seems to have originated as the sacrifice of plants on the high altar. Known to have included laurel, the smouldering fumes of which were used to induce the prophetic visions of the Delphic priestesses, the offerings were burnt to create a similar holy — and undoubtedly narcotic — smoke.

The Jewish employment of garlands also went beyond the mere adornment of sacrificial offerings from which their use in crowning the first fruits was said to have derived. In the third chapter of the Book of Judith we are told how Holofernes, chief captain of the Assyrian army, came to treat for peace and was received by Judith crowned with lilies to counteract any possible attempt at enchantment or witchcraft by her enemy.

This ploy was successful, apparently, since Holofernes was

later put to death while Judith was crowned with a wreath of olive branches. This was a unique occasion in Jewish history because such an honour was rarely bestowed upon a woman.

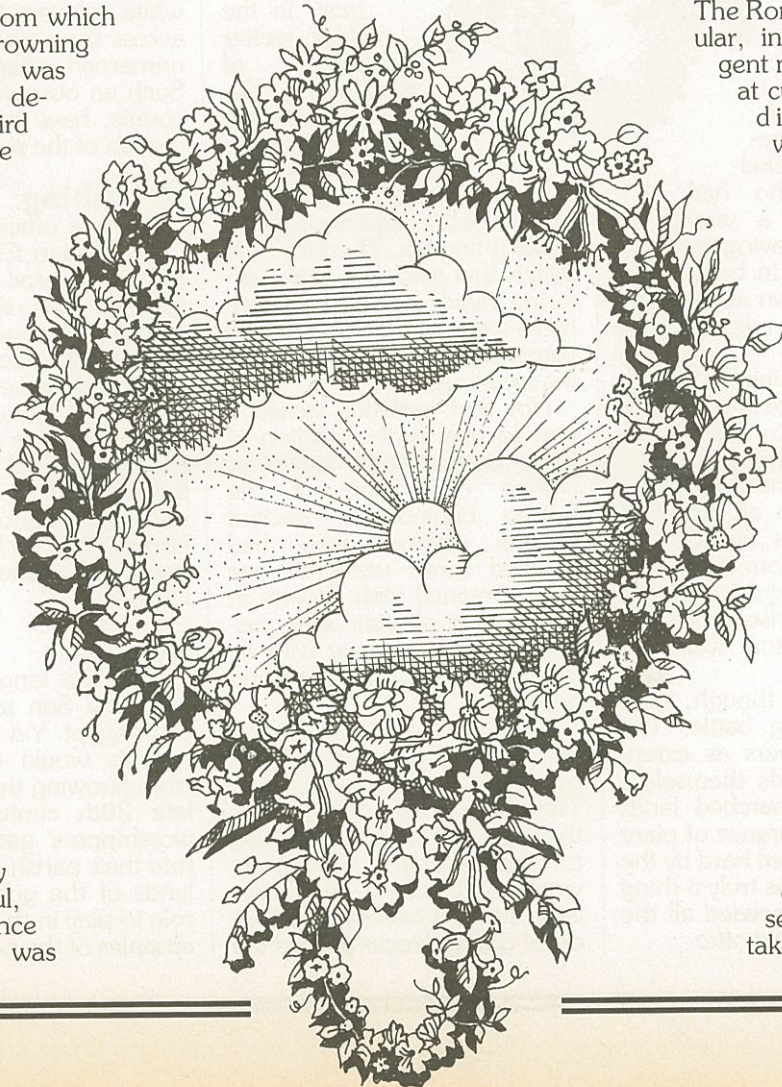
Association between flowers and witchcraft in a slightly different context used to occur in New Caledonia around the turn of the 19th century. There a man found guilty of practising the Craft would appear among his accusers, decked out in garlands of red flowers

and shells and with his body painted black, before throwing himself off the cliffs into the sea in an extreme form of execution.

Personal adornment

This was but one of numerous diverse uses of floral wreaths and garlands encountered ever more frequently once such tributes ceased to be the exclusive province of the gods or the aristocracy. Gradually ordinary people, losing their fear of the unknown in the process, began to wear them as personal adornment: a practice those in power began to see as an increasing threat to their authority.

The Romans, in particular, introduced stringent new laws aimed at curtailing the indiscriminate wearing of garlands. Records of punishments for breaches of such laws include particulars of one man who was sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment for illegally wearing a chaplet of roses; another was condemned to be put in chains for having crowned himself with flowers taken from





Garlands of The GODS

a statue of Mersyas.

Those whom the Roman authorities did allow to wear garlands or wreaths in public included anyone who had been awarded a wreath of Green Oak for saving the life of a fellow citizen in battle. This award was known as the Civic Crown and was regarded as a great honour.

A person earning the right to display the foliage of the sacred tree of Jupiter in this fashion could wear it whenever he or she chose and was also allowed exemption from all civil burdens and imposts. Further, any occupant of a room entered by someone wearing this accolade was required to rise in his honour; even Senators were not exempt.

The Romans, though, were fighting a losing battle. The worship of flowers as extensions of the gods themselves had begun in parched lands where the appearance of plant life from soil baked hard by the relentless Sun was truly a thing of wonder that needed all the help the gods could offer.

By contrast, in the colder, wetter climates of Northern Europe to which the Roman empire spread plant growth was already strong and

lush so didn't require magic to make it flourish. Therefore the beliefs that grew out of the differing needs of that environment were as dissimilar as the plants which grew in the varying locations.

Not that garlands lacked a part to play in the religion of these cooler lands, however. During celebration of the Spring Equinox in ancient Athens children who had reached three years of age were crowned with flowers in recognition of their safe passage through infancy with its inherent dangers of illness and death.

This was a practice echoed by the belief held among country people in Westphalia and Thuringia that a child of less than one year who was allowed to wear wreaths of flowers would die. Similarly, in Switzerland, mothers would twine flowers of Spring crocus around the

necks of their younger children in the belief that this would keep them safe from harm.

Of Britain, John Aubrey wrote in 1686 that it was usual at the funeral of a young virgin to see a garland of white paper flowers hung in the churchyard over her grave. In Yorkshire this practice was taken a stage further by the garland being carried in procession ahead of the coffin by someone as like in size, age and looks as possible to the deceased.

Even a century later it was common practice in the Peak District villages for a garland of white roses fashioned from writing paper and a pair of white gloves to be draped across the pew of any young, unmarried villager who died. Such an observance would, of course, have been at the discretion of the parish priest.

Wreathing

A more official adoption by the Christian Church of what had originated as a pagan practice was the custom of making garlands of choice flowers to decorate candles burnt in churches on important occasions. Notices of wreathing candles are plentiful in old churchwardens' accounts and those of St Margaret's, Westminster, mention many such happenings including one to mark the festival of Corpus Christi.

Role

This is a long way, indeed, from the Sun temples of ancient Egypt. Yet Ra and his adherents would draw comfort from knowing that here, in the late 20th century, wherever worshippers gather to decorate their parish churches, garlands of the gods still have a role to play in the religious ceremonies of the people.

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Photocopies of these actual testimonials available on request. Many more available!

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In his foreword to Mr Pike's book writer Jim Barry explains how using salt in this way has kept unwanted persons out of sight. 'They have never troubled me again,' he writes.

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Jason Pike, the author of this new book, has presented these Salt Magick Rites in such a way that even a child can perform!

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Mr Pike's own marriage was saved from divorce, thanks to Salt Magick! He writes, 'The end was at hand – we just couldn't live together any longer. I tried the salt rite in desperation . . . IT WORKED IMMEDIATELY! The peace that entered our home was unbelievable!

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● **New Salt Magick For Regaining Youth.** This is an age-old formula. Those who have used it swear it works! But it takes 14 days to see results. Chapter 8 explains.

● **New Salt Magick For Protection.** Protect yourself and loved ones from physical injury! See Chapter 7!

● **Salt Rite To Get A Job.** Carry a pinch of salt when you go for an interview. See in Chapter 6 exactly what to do! Incredibly simple, but those who have tried it swear that this ancient formula works!

● **New Salt Magick For Bringing A Lover!** The person you want in your life can be yours. Also try this on someone you have parted with. See Chapter 2.

● **Diseases And Ailments Healed.** Salt Magick should not be used as a substitute for your doctor; but those who have tried it are convinced it helped them! Even total cures of serious health problems have been reported! See Chapter 11.

● **See Behind Walls; Read Other People's Minds; See The Future.** Chapter 3 reveals what to do!

You can bring love back into your life with this power! The one who doesn't want to know you now can have a change of heart once you use this potent magick! And you *don't need a photo or any article that belongs to this person for the magick to work!*

Also in this remarkable new book are the actual Salt Magick Rites that can help you: **TRAVEL OUTSIDE YOUR BODY.** An incredibly simple astral projection technique which the author swears by! . . . **SUMMON YOUR PERSONAL GUARDIAN ANGEL TO MATERIALIZE BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES.** It can happen! See Chapter 5 for creating the salt circle in which to see this phenomenon. *When he appears ask for what you want in life so that he may bring it to you!* **PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM FIRE AND THEFT.** Simple New Salt Magick gives you not only protection but peace of mind. . . **PSYCHIC DEFENCE.** Has someone placed a curse on you? Are you a victim of evil black magick? *Salt magickally dissolves such evil vibrations and sets you free.* See Chapter 14.

Would you believe you can actually *control the weather through Salt Magick?* Author Jason Pike has kept records of using magick to control the elements and is convinced it works. This is the only Salt Magick Rite in the book which needs to be performed outdoors.

The uses of Salt Magick are practically without limit. All the ancient peoples – Egyptians, Hebrews, Greeks, Romans, to name a few – believe in its power; millions still do. Use the amazingly simple New Salt Magick Rites and find out why.

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If you are in a real hurry send £5.90 and write 'PRIORITY' on front of envelope. Overseas send £6.95 to cover airmail. Catalogue 50p. Callers can collect from our warehouse at 113 Dover Road, Folkestone (Mon-Fri 8.30-5.30). We have advertised in Prediction since 1972 – order with confidence.

GRAPHOLOGY

by PETER MARSHALL

Unsettled Outlook

Handwriting can reveal a great deal about one's general demeanour and just how one is likely to interact with others.

Handwriting can frequently be compared with the sea. There are those scripts that appear calm, smooth and unruffled while others look rough, wild and stormy. Our two examples here will, I am sure, illustrate the meaning.

The first implies a calm control, even temper and a basically non-aggressive person. The second points to excitability, moodiness and emotional variability. However, it may be a better principle to look further and discover what these two interesting individuals really possess in opposing character make-ups.

The writer of the first specimen has a controlled mind and does not allow it to be influ-

enced too much by feeling responses. The slant inclines to the right at an angle of 65° and this is broadly kept regular throughout the remainder of script. Therefore one knows that the owner possesses a quiet and even type of willpower.

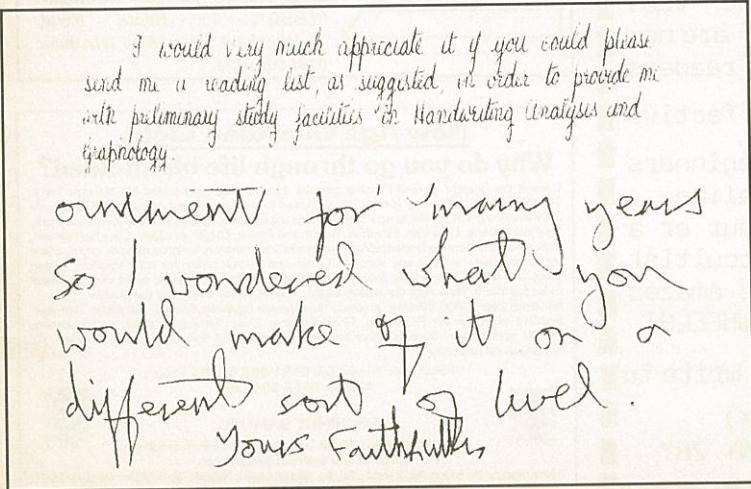
It has to be admitted that there are one or two slightly variable strokes but this will indicate a person who, although having a little determination, is not the forceful and dominating kind. In point of fact this writer is by nature a non-aggressive individual possessing a number of softer-type qualities. Word spacing is even, showing that the approach to the community and environment is also nicely controlled and regular.

Looking at the upper and

lower loops, it will be seen that they are mainly equal. Once more we have balance and this time it's between the spheres of mind, intellectual interests and the abstract world and the more mundane, instinctual and material one. Consequently the biological urges are kept under control by the reason.

Due to the neatness, properly completed word endings and t-bar exactness, one can see that this sample was written slowly. From this, one can assess caution, passivity and cool-headedness. Many of the letters are rather narrow in their appearance, again implying caution. They are, however, all connected, showing a systematic thought process, also a sympathetic and co-operative understanding. The baseline is unusually even pointing to that control once more. Emotional pressures are certainly kept in good order most of the time.

Need one have any doubts about the second example? In contrast we have some very strong emotional pressures: a really rough sea. Certainly we have a rather unsettled outlook. There are many different angles of slant showing variable moods and changeable emotions. Also present are numerous angular forms. There-



I would very much appreciate it if you could please send me a reading list, as suggested, in order to provide me with preliminary study facilities in Handwriting Analysis and Graphology.

ment for many years
So I wondered what you
would make of it on a
different sort of level.
Yours Faithfully

(continued on page 52)

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NEWS & VIEWS

From the Inferno to Zos is the title of a series of Austin Osman Spare works edited by A.R.Naylor and available in three, hardback, hand-bound editions: trade (£75 per volume); a limited, de luxe version (£125 per vol) and private, extremely limited, signed copies (fully subscribed) all published by First Impressions.

Volume I comprises *The Writings and Images of Austin Osman Spare*; Volume II is an analysis of five of A.O.S.'s books published 1905-1927 by Dr W. Wallace; Volume III, *Michelangelo in a Teacup* by F.W. Letchford. All of which contribute to rounding out a more complete portrait of this sadly neglected yet very significant artist/occultist and his life. More details from Mandrake Press Ltd, Essex House, Thame, Oxon OX9 3LS ☎ 01844 260990.

Holiday work

Fancy combining a holiday with working in the Sun? If so, you may be interested in the psychic fairs held throughout the year on the sunny Costa del Sol, Spain, organised by Denise Hurst. Apparently there is a particular lack of local stallholders selling esoteric items, oils, unusual spiritual items such as dreamcatchers, etc plus a need for more palmists, dowsers and such like. Serious enquiries only to Denise Hurst, 'Laine,' Torre de Control, Puerto de Estepona, 29680, Estepona, Spain or phone her on ☎ 003408 755589.

And, for potential exhibitors and visitors alike, the next scheduled fair is booked for the weekend of March 30th/31st at the Hotel Triton, Benalmadena Costa (between Torremolinos and Malga and

Fuengirola). Other scheduled dates at the same venue in 1996 are June 29th/30th, September 28th/29th and November 30th/December 1st.

It could be YOU!

According to an item in *Psychic News*, there's a chance for anyone who can prove he or she has supernatural powers to earn £1,000.

This is the amount offered by investigator Steven Daedalus and anyone interested in taking part in his test should write to Daedalus Research, c/o Gwallon Road, St Austell, Cornwall.

Rolling stones

Perhaps the mystery of how the massive stones used to build Stonehenge reached the Salisbury Plain will shortly be resolved according to an item in the *Sunday Express*. Apparently an oil company underwater survey team discovered three monoliths lying on the sea-bed off the Pembrokeshire coast recently.

This seems to lend credence to the theory that the stones were quarried from the Preselli mountains, moved on giant rollers to the coast then shipped by barge from Milford Haven to the Bristol Channel before resuming their overland journey to their final site. A veteran diver, Bill Burdett, believes one of the barges capsized shortly after setting out, spilling part of its cargo onto the sea-bed, and plans to bring the three, 6-ton stones to the surface using airbags.

If this scheme is successful, I wonder where the stones will end up; will they be transported (presumably by more modern modes of road haulage) to Salisbury Plain to rejoin the oth-

er giants, perhaps, or maybe they could be used at Avebury to replace some of the missing stones there.

Regression

Anyone interested in exploring Past Life Regression may like to know that there are regular Monday evening meetings on this subject at the Rochdale Hypnotherapy Centre. The meetings, which start at 7.30pm, cost £3 per session and from time to time invited guest speakers give guidance on various techniques and experiences.

Also scheduled are seminars on Past Life Work throughout the year, the next being on April 21st at Wigan Pier. This one-day event costs £15 including lunch. For more information on this or the meetings, call Paul Brady on ☎ 01706 525521.

Blind faith

The Spiritualist Association of Great Britain held a free demonstration last December to raise funds for the blind at the Oliver Lodge Hall. The 100-strong audience and six mediums raised £500 for the Linden Lodge School for the Blind by selling raffle tickets, so the demonstration and carol singing obviously proved to be an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment for all concerned.

Carry on regardless

Chesterfield Psychic Study Group will continue its programme of lectures and demonstrations on the second Tuesday of the month throughout 1996. The meetings start at 7pm and take place at the Chesterfield Community Centre. For further details contact William Eyre on ☎ 01246 417147.

WINNING WITH WITCHCRAFT

Although my book is called "Winning With Witchcraft" it is *not a book for witches*. Fully fledged witches will not find anything really new in its pages and indeed they may disapprove of many of the things written in it. They will not like the fact that I have removed the "mystery" of witchcraft, dispensing with all the complicated paraphernalia usually associated with the Craft, in order to demonstrate to the ordinary person that to practise it is really very simple indeed. My book is definitely only for the everyday lay woman or man; the person who is fascinated by witchcraft and its possibilities, but is either too busy or apprehensive to actually get involved in it.

HOW TO WIN IN LIFE

I do not in my book bog the reader down with the *theory or history* of witchcraft. That can be found in other books. No, my work is an "action" book, one of practice rather than speculation. In it I show you how to *win in life with witchcraft*. There are two sides, or dimensions, to witchcraft: the religious, spiritual dimension, and the dynamic "active" dimension, i.e. that of deliberately manipulating events and circumstances for one's ends. My book is about this second, exciting dimension. But before I continue let me tell you something about myself. My name is Jean Williams, and for the last twenty years I have been actively practising witchcraft in the pursuit of securing personal objectives. I am a perfectly ordinary woman, not possessing special psychic powers of any kind. Neither am I particularly bright or good looking.

I mention these points because I want to show you that the wonderful, fast acting powers of witchcraft can be at *anyone's* command, regardless of ability, *once the secret of witchcraft is understood*. I have never belonged to a coven or occult group of any kind. *There is nothing special that you have "to be", or no one special you have to know, in order for you to begin working wonders with witchcraft from the very moment you know what to do.*

AMAZING RESULTS

Immediately you have finished reading my book you can begin casting magic witchcraft spells to obtain your desire. And you don't have to worry about trying to obtain difficult to get herbs or special equipment; almost all of the rituals I give involve very little or no paraphernalia, and what things you may have to get can be purchased easily and inexpensively. For twenty years I have been "winning the game of life" through witchcraft. With my book you can start doing the very same the minute you have read it.

With simple witchcraft spells and rituals I show how you can make any person desire you *immediately* . . . compel a reluctant lover to marry you . . . stop the romantic interest of someone you would rather be without. With witchcraft you can forget about being a *loser* in love, in money, or anything else.

By using witchcraft I show how you can actually *take control* of the "forces of chance" and make *everything you touch seemingly turn to gold*. You will be able to play a bingo game, place a bet, enter any contest, and *know* that you will win.

You can have any man or woman you want, or any luxury you choose. With witchcraft these things *become automatic* when you use the appropriate spells or rituals to obtain them. I can say all this with absolute confidence for this has been my experience from practising witchcraft. I have benefited handsomely and I seek only the pleasure of sharing my knowledge with you. Witchcraft, I believe, should not be the jealously guarded secret of a selfish few, but should be made available to all who seek a better and more fulfilling life.

WHAT WITCHCRAFT CAN BRING YOU

In my book you read about:

- Winning the admiration and respect of people. *Stop* them exploiting and using you
- Using witchcraft to promote your self interests at all times, without harming the interests of others
- *Commanding* things to happen through powerful spells and invocations

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- How to *leave your physical body and travel invisibly anywhere*. You can invisibly "spy" on your lover, rival, enemy, *completely without his/her knowledge!* This way you *always win* in the game of life because you can anticipate in advance the actions of others! "Invisible travel" is easy; it only needs practice. I succeeded on my third try. It is not only easy, but fun, too. And it is perfectly safe
- A simple step you can take for stopping any witch from invisibly spying on you!
- A powerful self-rejuvenation ritual for renewing your personality and character; extremely potent!
- How to use The Witchcraft Circle to break disease and ill health and regain perfect well being.

THE SECRET SCIENCE OF NATURE

It is unfortunate that many people associate witchcraft with devil-worship. Most witches don't even *believe* in the Devil! I certainly don't. Witchcraft is not Black Magic. But, fortunately, witchcraft can be used to *protect oneself from Black Magic*. My book shows how you can quickly and easily *break any evil curse*, and shows also how you can *forever make yourself safe from harm and evil of every kind*.

Some people also harbour the idea that witchcraft is just "superstitious nonsense"; in fact quite the opposite is true. Witchcraft is the *secret science of nature*. It could not possibly work if it was merely based on old wives' tales. Nor is witchcraft just "positive thinking". I know lots of people who use positive thinking and yet they are losers in life. Witchcraft is more dynamic. With witchcraft you don't, and *cannot*, fail; *you only succeed and win*.

THE ULTIMATE WITCHCRAFT RITUAL

The very end of my book I have saved for what I consider to be the *ultimate* ritual, at least in material terms; a ritual that *unleashes a tremendous torrent of opportunity, riches and good fortune*. I consider this ritual to be little short of sensational, but I will be frank with you. I have only ever used it once. It worked so well that I just couldn't handle all the good things that came from it. I am not one of these people who can handle immediate, or even gradual, wealth. But if you are one of those people who believe they can then you should try this ritual. It could change your life!

I do not claim my book to be the best or finest written on the subject. But I do claim it to be the most *practical*. If you are one of those people who has always wanted to try their hand at witchcraft, but were too busy or apprehensive to do so then my book is for you. It is written for you, and I promise you that what you pay for it will be the best spent money of your life. Witchcraft works. Those who practise it know. They are life's winners.

NEWS & VIEWS

Elemental research

An established author, Mary Harrison, has written asking for readers' help in researching her next scheduled book on elementals. So, if anyone has any personal experiences they are willing to recount to her of encounters with elves, fairies, gnomes, goblins, etc please write to Mary at 15 Melville Street, Torquay, Devon TQ2 5SZ. Please note, however, that only true experiences are wanted, not dreams, visions etc.

Easter fayre

Sirus Fairs are again organising an increasing popular event, the three-day *Glastonbury Body, Mind, Spirit Fair* over the Easter weekend, April 6-8th. As usual, the venue is the Assembly Rooms in the town's High Street, doors are open between 10.30-6pm each day and there will be a wide range of stalls, workshops and speakers, a vegan cafe, live band and other entertainment.

Admission is £1.50 adults, £1 senior citizens and 50p children; all visitors will receive a free book on alternative subjects. For further details write to the organisers at Golsoncott Cottage, Golsoncott, Rodhuish, Minehead, Somerset TA24 6QZ (please include SAE) or phone ☎ 01984 640005.

UAC video

Anyone who would have liked to attend the UAC Conference, an event that only happens every three years, can at least have a tantalising glimpse of 'what might have been' thanks to a video made by Gerda Visconti.

It is available in the UK exclusively from Equinox, The Astrology Shop in Covent Garden, for just under £30. As this is

perhaps a little pricey for such a specialist subject, Robert Currey has come up with the brilliant idea of making it available for rental (enquiries/details ☎ 0171-497 1001).

Admittedly the video quality is not perfect — on the whole badly filmed and edited, rather amateurish in fact — yet it certainly captures the conference atmosphere and allows us to view some of the leading lights in the astrology world perhaps for the first time.

For instance, Carol Rushman speaks on *Dharma, Karma or Passing Fancies* and actually taught me a thing or two about my own relationships in her 18-minute slot; Robert Schmidt and Robert Hand both tell of their *Project Hindsight*, based on translations from ancient Greek texts, that made me yearn to learn more.

Noel Tyl (unfortunately a victim of poor sound quality) intrigued with an *Exodus/modern day Israel* chart comparison; by contrast, Ray Merriman's talk on *Stock Markets* was well filmed. Charles Harvey was excellent on the *Sun/Moon midpoint* and produced some interesting examples: Hitler, Napoleon and Maggie Thatcher all of whom have Uranus here!

Previously unknown to me but, after viewing this video, a future must is Mary B. Downing who spoke on *Business, Electional and Horary Astrology* for 15.45 minutes though I wrote a page of notes! Bill Meridian was great on the *Pre-natal Eclipse* with a bias towards the mundane. But my favourite was Michael Lutin on *Pisces/12th House* who achieved more with humour than many a wordy astrologer or, come to that, stand-up comedian.

The tape ends with Alan Oken who, sadly, rehashed material that's been around many years though this may, of course, be new to some. However, all in all, this video is certainly worth 2 hours 28 minutes of any astrologer's time especially if, like me, you didn't manage to get to Monterey, California, for the unabridged, live version last April. — **B.L.**

March Diary Dates

7th. Club Night with Maggie Hyde for The Company of Astrologers, to be held at 396 Caledonian Road, London, N1, 7.15-9.15pm; cost £4. A chart discussion meeting; bring yours along too.

8th. Graphology: What your Handwriting Reveals with Monica Carly for the South Norwood branch of BAPS. Venue: 132 Woodside Green, South Norwood SE25, 8-10.30pm; £2 members, £3 non-members. For more details call ☎ 0181-689 3949.

9th. The Sun and Chiron with Dr Liz Greene for The Bath Astrology Seminars at The Stakis Hotel, Rossiter Road, Bath. 10am-5pm. Cost £30 inc refreshments. Early booking advisable, call ☎ 01373 465147 for details.

9th. Figuring It Out 2, Diploma chart calculation with Ron Gwynn for The Faculty of Astrological Studies, 10.30-5.30 pm at ASC/Urania Trust, Caledonian Road. £30 for Faculty students, others £35. For more details call ☎ 0171-700 3556.

9th-10th. Aura & Kirlian Photography, weekend workshop with Shileen Rodgers for

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NEWS & VIEWS

BAPS to be held at Northland Barn, Ketches Lane, Sheffield Park, East Sussex. Sat/Sun 9.30-5pm. Limited spaces available, early booking advised. Write to BAPS Workshops 1996, 124 Trefoil Crescent, Broadfield, Crawley, Sussex RH11 9EZ for details.

9th-10th. Festival of Health and Complementary Medicine at Hove Town Hall, East Sussex, 10-5pm. Entrance £2/£1.50 concessions. Many complementary health therapists and workshops. Call Andy Roe on ☎ 01323 842432 for details.

15th. Dreams with Val Francis for BAPS South Norwood branch. 43 Wharncliffe Gardens, South Norwood, SE25. 8-10:30pm; £2 members/£3 non-members. For more details call ☎ 0181-689 3949.

18th. Holistic Energy, Medicine and Spirituality. A talk by Dr Daniel Benor at the Charing Cross Hotel, Strand, London at 6.30pm. Admission free but donations welcome.

22nd. UFO Update with Ken Seddington for BAPS South Norwood branch to be held at Sonalux, The Old Print House, Grosvenor Road, South Norwood, SE25. 8-10.30pm; £2/£3 non-members. Details, call ☎ 0181-689 3949.

22nd-24th. Spring Equinox Celebration with R.J. Stewart and Josephine Stewart, includes music, dance, ceremonies, concert, chanting and lots of guests. To be held at Earth Spirit Centre, Compton Dundon, Somerset. Cost £55 including accomodation. ☎/Fax 01666 824099 for details.

23rd. Working With Time with Mike Harding for The Faculty of Astrological Studies. 10.30-5.30 pm at ASC/Urania Trust, Caledonian Road venue. Faculty students £30, others £35. For details ☎ 0171-700 3556.

29th. The Way of Happiness with Ben Renshaw for BAPS South Norwood branch, 132 Woodside Green, South Norwood, SE25. 8-10:30pm; £2/£3 non-members. For more details call ☎ 0181 689 3949.

30th. Dialogue with the Gods — Midpoints and Mythology with Dr Liz Greene for The Bath Astrology Seminars at The Stakis Hotel, Rossiter Road, Bath, 10-5pm, £30 inc refreshments. Early booking advised, ☎ 01373 465147 for details.

30th-31st. Easter Exam Revision Weekend. Diploma and Certificate classes with The Faculty of Astrological Studies. 10.30-5.30pm at ASC/Urania Trust venue. Faculty students £30/£35 others. For more details call ☎ 0171-700 3556.

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PALMISTRY

by PETER WEST



Thumbs Up!

The thumb is one of the main and most visible indicators of its owner's temperament.

The hand is rightly called nature's signpost. If you read the directions properly you will soon find that it is possible to assess certain parts of a person's character by observing the way the hands appear at first sight. You do not necessarily have to read them *in toto*.

For example, when you see a thumb that bends back almost at right angles it is a very good, almost infallible sign of unreliability. People with this formation rarely keep promises or stick to the letter of an agreement. Should you accuse and remind them of this, they generally tend to take a defensive or self-protective stand with what can only be described as a display of bad temper.

They attack you almost in or as a defence of their actions. They may have been sincere when they first committed themselves and will have actually intended to keep their word but, somehow, they rarely do so.

A turned-in top phalange of the thumb is always a sure sign of an obstinate and difficult character. If the top joint of the thumb appears over-developed or there is a quite clearly defined bulge the owner is likely

to display occasional streaks of cruelty. When this bulge is over developed, there may well be a foul temper with occasional displays of violence. This is the formation that the Victorian palmists called the murderer's thumb. The violence may be there but it does not make the owner a potential killer.

A stiff unyielding thumb implies a stiff unyielding nature. The more basic a hand the more the owner has a temper to back it up. If there is a long thick first phalange as well, you will need the patience of a saint to get along with the owner for any length of time.

Wrists and palms

A thick wrist joint where the hand joins the arm is another sign of obstinacy and temper. However, the subject is more likely to be difficult for the sake of it. Such folk like to see how people will act and, if they don't like the way you react they can get very cross, both with you and themselves.

People whose hands have thick palms tend to lack consideration for others. They often appear selfish and either indifferent or ignorant of more sensitive types in this world. There may also be a streak of cruelty.

When the zone of Mars, the

area in the centre of the palm just below the digital mounts, is well developed there is a tendency to have an in-built rebellious nature. Such folk show defiance at the slightest remark. There is often a cruel streak, a tendency to exaggerate or just be plain awkward and even rude.

Nails

When nails are broader than they are long the subject needs very little pretence to start an argument. The shorter the nail, the quicker the temper. The way these people criticise and carp you could be forgiven for thinking they might go on forever. Large, square nails imply a cold and selfish inner nature.

The more flesh there is between the end of a nail and the finger tip proper the more explosive the temper. It needs little to get these folk going but it takes a lot to stop them.

Bitten nails are found with either sex and at almost any age. In general, we tend to think of nail biters as anxiety-ridden with lots of inner tension or as people with bad habits. Chewed finger or nail ends tell their own story very clearly. The ferocious way in which some people nibble or pick at their nails is an obvious

indication of an anxiety state that needs urgent treatment.

In particular look for fan-shaped nails for these are found on the hands of people who have an over-sensitive, fault-finding disposition. What doesn't help this negative state at all is the subject is often very much aware of all this.

They are in something of a vicious circle: they bite their nails, then they can't stand the feeling but then they bite some more and so on it goes. There may be good reasons behind it all and, if you take the time to probe a little, you might help the subject improve him/herself and develop a less aggressive attitude as well.

Pale hands always tell of an anxiety state which in turn leads to a bad temper. Such worriers tend to flare up when they come to the end of their tether. Often, one of the first clues is the fluted nail, the mark of a natural worrier.

The nail may be slightly

ridged longitudinally and is often pale in colour. This may mean a nervous disorder, especially when the nail is also bitten. These folk are born worriers and may be unable to let go of problems long after there is a need to hold on.

Other signs of a bad temper are stubby, tipped fingers. People with thick, short nail phalanges can be very aggressive. A short thick nail phalange on the first finger is indicative of a materialist, often an egotist, certainly selfishness with little faith in human nature.

If the finger itself is short in comparison with its neighbours, the character is likely to be cold and hard. There is a dislike of personal restriction and such people can and do react quite violently to any form of criticism or opposition.

On the middle finger a short first phalange denotes a lack of stability and refinement. When the finger is short the overall character might be off-balance

and take chances. If things go wrong, these types generally blame everyone but themselves and take a defensive stance or are quick to rise to the attack.

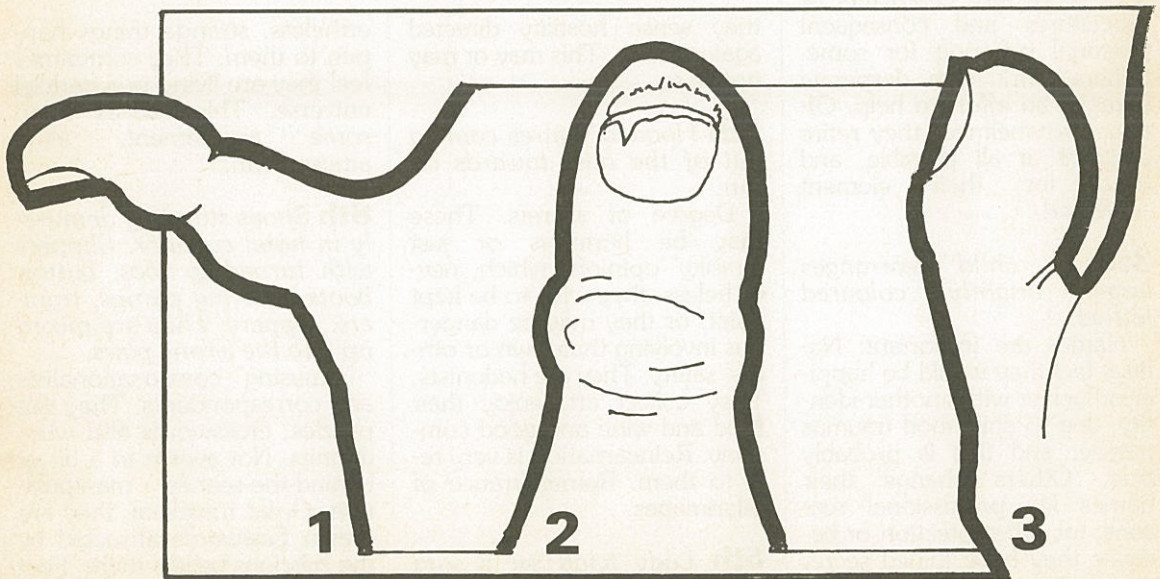
When the first phalange of the third finger is short and thick the character is a born pessimist, especially when the finger itself is also short. These people almost always seem to be on the defensive. They tend to be more practical than idealistic, they don't always see the other point of view and, when unsure of a situation, their tempers rise.

On the little finger a short and thick first phalange indicates a rather basic approach to life. Self-expression is inhibited. There is a suspicious nature and an ever-present defensive streak ready to attack — frequently without foundation. They, too, feel they are missing out when they cannot grasp what is going on and their tempers are something to avoid when they do let go.

1 *Supple, back-bending thumb. This type of thumb often implies an inability to keep to agreements (though this may not necessarily be intentional).*

2 *Badly bitten nail of a thumb also showing wide expanse of skin between the nail end and thumb tip. Note also the longitudinal ridging on the nail itself.*

3 *A heavy or bulbous thumb tip often called the murderer's thumb. It does signify a fairly foul temper with occasional bouts of cruelty. The tip turned inward suggests obstinacy.*



If you were born abroad you should adjust your birthday to GMT which may make it a day earlier or later. That way we all start off together. And you might find that the symbol for the day following your birthday may very well be more 'you.'

1st *Panorama of sea and sand with a ruined monastery on the shoreline to give perspective.*

They crave clean air and an uninterrupted view. They are swimmers, sailors and artists. Gentle, likable, peaceful folk. In a wider sense, pacifists. This is wise because to get involved in hostility, personal or national, isn't good for them or theirs. Strange things happen in the life never satisfactorily explained to the outside world. Religious conversion can be a possibility.

2nd *A marshy river bank bright with kingcups; a DANGER notice is half submerged.*

Gregarious and charming although prone to exaggerating to make a better story or fibbing to get out of a tight spot. And they can't say No. This may lead to their involvement with unsavoury characters or subcultures and consequent personal suffering for some. Others work with desperate cases in an effort to help. Often, overwhelmed, they retire early, if at all possible, and head for their element — Water!

3rd *A child rearranges large, brightly coloured letters.*

Names are important. Natives feel they would be happier or luckier with another identity, due to childhood traumas maybe, and this is probably true. Others change their names for professional reasons, for self-protection or because they have joined secret societies or religious orders. Those interested in the occult

arts find numerology useful. They love children and are concerned for their welfare. They have many friends.

4th *Papers covered with formulae lying on a desk.*

Often their work or hobbies involve the use of symbols such as are used in music, maths, science, medical prescriptions, game scores, secret coded writing or occult studies. Anything which is Greek to those outside the magic circle. Inside this circle Natives feel safe. They want to be with understanding, like-minded folk. If and when they venture out

not altogether lucky with health although this may be for the best. They get financial compensation or special attention, or time to do what they really enjoy. In any event, they escape into their own magical worlds which may encompass mysticism, fantasy, art, high religion or the lowest of low life. Mainspring of existence is the need for affection. Without that nothing matters.

7th *Fluffy cat on a swing.*

Large, gentle people. Modest, unassuming, happy. Their way of life, their families, work and hobbies satisfy them. Nev-

MARCH SUN DAY SYMBOLS

This is the fifth of our Sun Day Symbols. The first appeared in January 1994 with a brief introduction.

they sense hostility directed against them. This may or may not be so.

5th *Hooded figures coming out of the mist towards an inn.*

Degree of secrets. These may be harmless or just 'cranky' opinions which, nevertheless, they wish to be kept quiet, or they may be dangerous involving their own or others' safety. They are hedonists. They collect art, enjoy their food and wine and good company. Reincarnation is very real to them. Remembrance of pilgrimages.

6th *Lady lying on a sofa reading avidly.*

An escapist degree. Natives

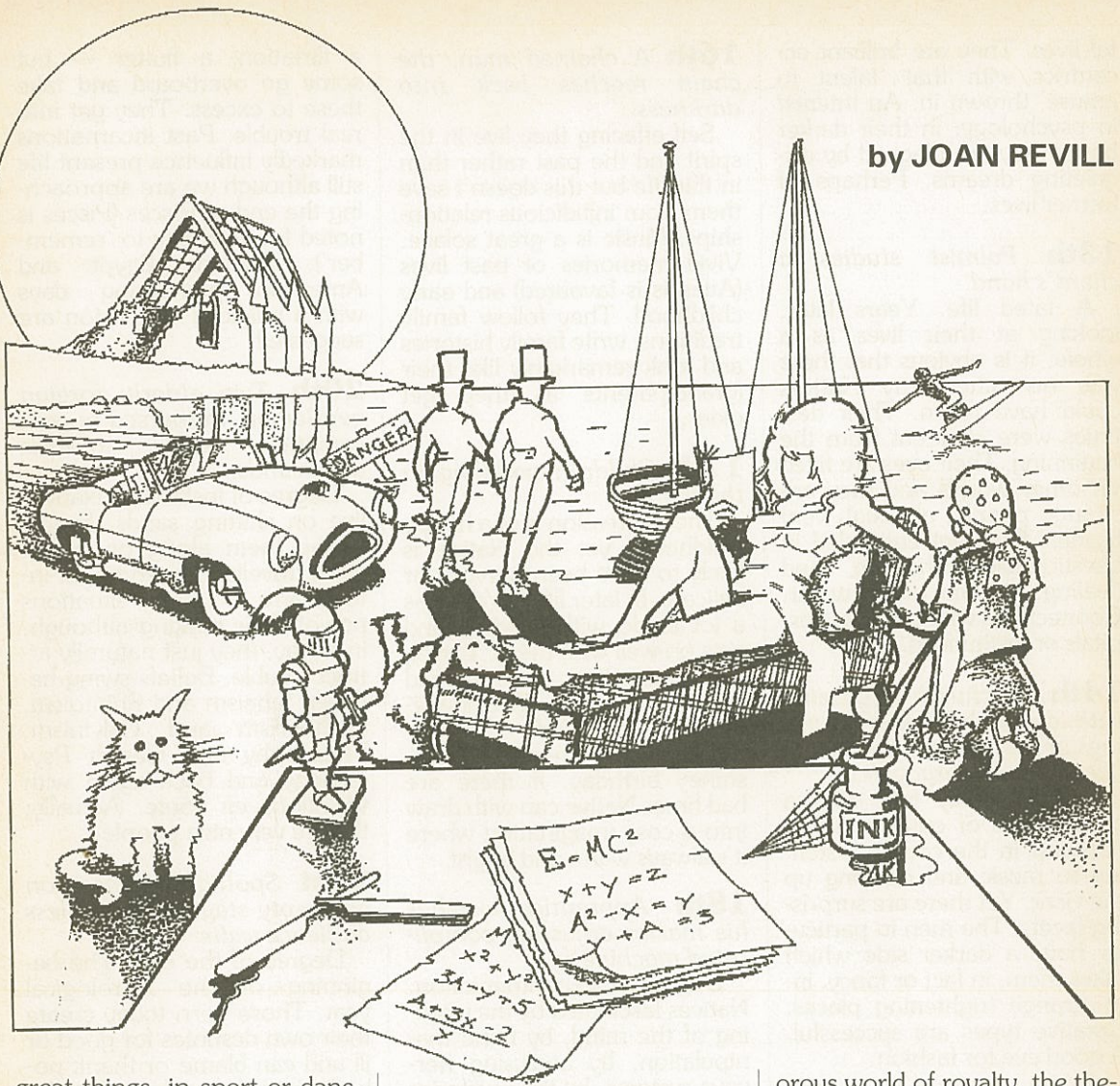
ertheless, strange things happen to them. They sometimes feel they are living in a parallel universe. This causes them some amazement. (And amusement!)

8th *Shoes standing demurely in hotel corridor. Slippers with turned-up toes, button boots, dancing pumps, trainers, flippers. They are mixed up into the wrong pairs.*

Amusing conversationalists and correspondents. They like puzzles, crosswords and whodunnits. Not averse to a bit of behind-the-scenes manipulation. Great travellers, they are drawn Eastwards attracted by the religious beliefs there. Feet are important. They are either a weak spot or a passport to

Prediction

by JOAN REVILL



great things, in sport or dancing for example.

9th A group of knights wait as a door in a high wall creaks open.

A cheery, hail-fellow-well-met type. Sympathetic contacts with the handicapped or desperate. Alert and good at games requiring mental or physical skill. Nonconformist religions are favoured but there are also — to their annoyance — vivid memories of former incarnations. These can be seen at work in their lives quite clearly. The Arthurian legends are of especial interest.

10th A large happy dog flops, panting, on to its master's feet.

March, 1996

Modest, loyal, tolerant, nice, good company. They enjoy life and love all forms of entertainment, food, drink and travel. They are hospitable and devote their lives to the well-being of others. Old-fashioned socialists and preachers. Untidy in their habits and also in their thoughts. Confused, rambling speakers and writers but there is unexpected sensitivity, healing power and great sympathy with the animal kingdom.

11th A white sapphire spider in the middle of a spun silver web.

Must be at the centre of whatever is going on in the world, preferably the glam-

orous world of royalty, the theatre, fashion and design or, alternatively, politics. They indulge in the expensive things of life, some would say over-indulge, and they put on weight in consequence. They have wide interests, are good linguists and, invariably, popular.

12th A surfer turns almost certain disaster into a creditable manoeuvre and tries to pretend he meant it all along.

Early life troubled. Sometimes a parent is too dominating or Natives are dogged by apparently undeserved personal tragedy. Usually they rebel and do all the anti-social things or withdraw totally. However, they are able to pull back from the brink and to enjoy success-

ful lives. They are brilliant ec-centrics with that 'talent to amuse' thrown in. An interest in psychology; in their darker hours they are plagued by disquieting dreams. Perhaps of former lives.

13th *Palmist studies a client's hand.*

A fated life. Years later, looking at their lives as a whole, it is obvious that there was no other way Natives could have taken. Their destinies were clear-cut from the beginning. Their eyes are fixed on other worlds and they are strange people, although very likable. They get entangled in questionable wheeling and dealing. At home on the water. Connections with prisons, hospitals or institutions.

14th *A church magazine with clever but weird drawings in the margins of society beauties and gargoyles.*

Simple kindly folk with a great sense of quiet humour, happiest in the country listening to music and chatting up the vicar. Yet there are surprising facets. The men in particular have a darker side which takes them, in fact or fancy, into strange frightening places. Creative types are successful. A good eye for fashion.

15th *Two boats wait at a landing stage.*

The sign's duality — this is Piscean country of course — comes out strongly. Natives change their religion, their allegiance, their homes. They follow two completely different careers or blend two completely different careers into one successful whole, liaison between two sides, emigrate but keep a foot in the old country. They are physically sensitive, which leads to asthma and allergies, or psychically sensitive, in which case they are mediums and lovers of haunted landscapes. Water is their element. Money trickles through their fingers like water. Others, alas, drink like fish!

16th *A chained man, the chain reaches back into darkness.*

Self-effacing they live in the spirit and the past rather than in this life but this doesn't save them from injudicious relationships. Music is a great solace. Vivid memories of past lives (Atlantis is favoured) and early childhood. They follow family traditions, write family histories and look remarkably like their (grand)parents as they get older.

17th *Children paddling in the sea.*

The impression is of a happy childhood, yet the Native is likely to have been nervous or delicate. In later life he/she has a lot to do with children and gets on well with them. Travel, even emigration, and a marked affinity with the Water element. Love of dancing, rhythm, movement. A sunshiny birthday. If there are bad times Native can withdraw into a cosy imagination where it's always warm and bright.

18th *Apprentice watches his master adjusting complicated machinery.*

Degree of experimentation. Natives fascinated by the working of the mind, by mind manipulation, by analysing nervous systems, by the mysteries of memory, imagination and dreams. The clever ones are able to study these things and become doctors and psychologists. The more down-to-Earth become inventors, scientists, technicians and engineers. The others don't make it thanks to handicap or family indifference. There is still inborn intelligence and curiosity but also nervous stress because of lack of an outlet. Still, they read and observe so — who knows?

19th *Fortune-teller's booth at end of pier.*

It's good for today's Natives to go to sea or live near water, especially those with occult gifts. A very 'human' degree, Natives enjoy a drink, a smoke,

a flirtation, a flutter — but some go overboard and take these to excess. They get into real trouble. Past incarnations markedly influence present life still although we are approaching the end of Pisces (Pisces is noted for its ability to 'remember'). Ancient Egypt and American pioneering days with a religious dimension are suggested.

20th *Two elderly foreign gentlemen, immersed in conversation, stroll towards quicksands.*

Degree of instability. Natives live on shifting sands. Events sweep them along or under. Born travellers, fated to get into bizarre or hostile situations not of their making although, in a way, they just naturally attract trouble. Beliefs swing between atheism and Shintoism, Catholicism and Calvinism, Theosophy and Gestalt Psychology and back again with variations en route. Actually, they're very nice people.

21st *Spotlight focuses on an empty stage; a breathless audience waits.*

Degree of the ego. The beginning of the astrological year. Those born today create their own destinies for good or ill and can blame or thank nobody but themselves for the outcome. They are ambitious and can drive themselves into physical or nervous breakdowns. They are born for the stage, from grand opera to the chorus line, but wherever they go, whatever they do, they strive to be first. Full of energy, they rush in without considering the consequences.

22nd *Wild horses gallop towards a blood red, rising Sun.*

Degree of danger. Energetic enjoyment of life. Pioneers and initiators tumble in today regardless of life and limb. Can be disliked and attacked physically and verbally. Liable to be exiled or got rid of; otherwise dogged by accidents, falls, cuts and broken bones. Audacious,

even their undoubted sense of humour tends to be cruel. They enjoy competitive games, keep guard dogs, drive and ride fast and fearlessly. Surgeons, scientists, mathematicians and organisers flourish.

23rd *Crowd watches fire-work display as a comet disappears from sight among the stars.*

Life and love whizz past. Native is in the fast lane and a noisy fast lane it is. Engineers, sporty types, business entrepreneurs and others all fight tooth and nail for what they want. They are pioneers in their own fields but will try anything. Some spend a period of their lives 'in the wilderness' but it doesn't stop them working and planning for their inevitable comeback. Marital disputes common.

24th *Brilliantly plumaged bantam cocks fighting.*

They don't fit into the conventional mould. They have unusual looks, are outspoken and aggressive and lead violent lives. Degree of masculinity. Brave and acerbic. Anarchic students at heart. Bungful of energy — athletic dancing, skating, running. Innately kind yet prickly and not to be provoked. Proud of working class origins and skills. Women are militant feminists. All have the ability to upset both sides!

25th *Bouquet of red roses with vicious thorns.*

Degree of cruelty. Dynamos of energy. Temperamental — 50% temper, 50% mental, unkind critics say of them. Passionate, emotion-torn, ferocious workers, arrogant, exciting, agin' any authority, tending to the Left but fierce patriots, dramatic, difficult. Often frail with some handicap which only serves to spur them on. Enjoy challenges and hardships, fights off rivals. Can't be luke-warm or wishy-washy, hate neutral colours. They revitalise and are always one step ahead.

26th *An old-fashioned pen and a bottle of the blackest ink.*

A scholarly degree. The mind is forceful and witty, the style fresh, brief, clear and simple. Whether writing or speaking they are pithily concise, quick, often bitterly sarcastic and quarrelsome. They divorce and split up any group they are in. Men are very attractive to women. Women are crusaders and agitators and usually beautiful. The political arena attracts. Music is their relaxation.

27th *A bloodstained razor!*

Degree of sharp edges and cutting tools. Lucky colour red. Some connection with military matters. Sporty types — ridin', shootin' and drivin'. Fast. Perhaps cavalryman or something similar in previous life. They throw themselves wholeheartedly into whatever they undertake, order others about and don't even notice tender trodden-on toes. Drawn to work in laboratories. Great survivors. Strong principles. Family rows.

28th *At a long dressing-table girls make up their faces under a battery of lights.*

If asked, they say they want peace and tranquillity, snow-covered mountains and music; but they don't really. They love the hustle and bustle of public life, of being on show. The world of entertainment beckons but they'll try anything and, if it folds, bounce back perkier than ever. The girls are — and the men like — spirited, dynamic little things. Earthy humour.

29th *Man in the middle of a fighting mob.*

The fixed star Algenib is here making this a degree of courage. Natives have strong connections with war, infighting, aggression and violence, even if only at second-hand, by writing about it for example. They wield, or come under, the knife. They have a

wild and wacky sense of humour. Young Natives are hell-raisers, sexpots, prone to injury and deafened early in life by loud music with a dominant beat. The mature are novelists, journalists, diarists and prolific letter writers — very sharp ones to *The Times*!

30th *Scrapyard full of smashed machines. Gangs of youngsters are swarming all over them, scavenging, fighting, making love. Pop music blares from old gramophone.*

They are powerhouses of noise, busyness and good intentions (but too outspoken to be generally popular). The young person's degree. Older folk are surrounded by the young and would-be young. Full-blown crime, illegal practices, anti-social behaviour and revolutionary ideas (which are, however, accepted and applauded years later, such as environmental issues) are all to be found here. Natives take some bad knocks. They may appear frightening at first sight but are warm-hearted once they accept you.

31st *A red sports car jumps the lights, horn and radio blaring.*

They love music and often come from musical families but this doesn't mean they quietly play the spinet on Sunday afternoons. They are vibrant with life, deliberately provocative and go out of their way to make trouble for themselves. Wild and possibly violent, not only to others but to themselves, yet they love as passionately as they do everything else. Drink is often a problem. Fast cars and searing political views don't lead to quiet lives either. If not affected themselves they are closely associated with those who are. The clever ones are very, very clever specialising in science and technology.

(Don't forget, you may find yourself better suited under foolish April 1st!)

TAROT

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- You warned me to seek medical advice in May. The early operation was a complete success. Thank you so much.* Joan, Surrey.
- I cannot thank you enough. I followed your advice and did get what I wanted.* D.G., Colorado, USA.
- Maybe it is mystic power, or maybe she is just exceptionally perceptive. But one thing is for sure, she got a lot right.* The Guardian (S.L.).
- Everything you said has since happened, including tiny details which seemed irrelevant at the time.* Pauline, London.



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7 STEPS TO ZEN

by DAVID AMERLAND

Zen doesn't have to be a mysterious practice just because it originates in a foreign culture.

Zen, a sense of nothingness, the achievement of Satori, enlightenment, has in the West acquired a quasi-mystical nature which has served to cloak rather than reveal exactly what it means.

This is hardly surprising of course. Zen (or the Buddhist equivalent of Nirvana) has long been associated strictly with Eastern religions and ascetic ways of life. And we've been conditioned to believe that unless we're prepared to meditate endlessly, ponder over the hidden meaning of koans and spend long hours on esoteric journeys of self-appraisal, Zen will elude us.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

If I were to substitute the word illumination for Zen, then most people would be prepared to concede that the latter can creep up on us at any odd moment. People have achieved a state of self-illumination while in church, at moments of extremis, playing golf on the links, running marathons, driving cars at high speed, sky-diving and solving the *Times* crossword.

In all sort of situations, in short, where the mind has been unfettered from inhibitions and allowed free rein to focus on one aspect of reality. This is a task that the mind can seemingly perform so well that it is able suddenly to penetrate the superficial skin of that reality and allow us to perceive a chaotic yet meaningful pattern of things writhing below.

To say that there is only one approved path to Zen is therefore to miss the point entirely because Zen is literally no path at all. It is in fact a condition of no mind. A state in which we

exist without thinking, achieve without effort and understand without analysis.

Wondrous as this may seem it is, by essence as well as definition, achievable by all. A dedicated martial artist focussing on driving his bare fist through two-inch-thick boards is as close to achieving Zen as the casual stroller who allows his mind momentarily to disengage from reality and experience the immediate environment around him with the full brunt of his senses.

Hence this handy guide to achieving a state of Zen yourself. If, of course, you already have a way of meditating that works for you there is no reason to change it. But, if you are one of those still experimenting with ways to achieve that elusive inner peace, then this guide could certainly help you.

The first few steps, out of necessity, deal with the purely mechanical. You're told how to sit. What to focus on. How to breathe. Later, as you become more adept and your proficiency in Zen meditation increases, you're told about the inner states; how they're perceived and how to deal with them.

Step 1 Not thinking

To achieve the correct state of meditation sit facing a wall, in the lotus or half lotus position. Pay great attention to the posture of the spine, keep yourself erect, do not slump.

Breathe deeply and evenly without any pauses or breaks. You should inhale through the nose and exhale through the mouth, that way the act of breathing becomes a constant generating mechanism that

helps both to invigorate you, as the oxygen-enriched bloodstream flows freely, and maintain your alertness. In this state you should strive to think of nothing. To avoid distracting mental imagery, keep your eyes half-open and focussed on a spot on the floor halfway between you and the wall. Count your exhalations if necessary. The founder of the Soto School of Zen Meditation, in Japan (1200-53 AD), expressed this stage with the instruction, 'think of not thinking.'

Step 2 Just sitting

This stage has to do with concentrated awareness. Usually, it is at this stage that you are given one of the famous imponderable koans of Zen to ponder. The aim of these koans is to befuddle the analytical functions of the intellect which, unable to cope with prolonged bouts of fruitless interpretation, finally give up in frustration and permit the mind to experience the true face of reality.

You can use a koan if you wish. But you don't have to do so. What you do have to do is concentrate on something. Focus your awareness, much like a beacon or a searchlight, on an object and look at it in a non-analytical manner. Don't think about it. Don't attempt to analyse it or list its various functions. The object of your focus may be a chair, a table lamp, a bed. Anything, in short, at which you can comfortably gaze. With practice you'll find yourself becoming absorbed into the nature of the object you're contemplating. Objects around you will recede into a half realised realm of awareness. And you will find new gateways opening inside you, ready for you to explore.

Step 3 Little enlightenment

As the state of Zen meditation deepens with practice you'll find yourself reaching a stage where you experience visions! As they're seen with

half-open eyes these visions, which may be pleasant or terrifying (it matters not which), will seem quite real. This is a point that every Zen student reaches sooner or later and beyond which many never progress.

To become preoccupied with the content and form of these visions is to lose your way. Convention accepts that these visions arise out of our own inner natures. They are, if you like, visual representations of hitherto ignored parts of the unconscious mind. The shape and form these visions take has no real significance. They may give a visual reality to something we find terrifying or, equally well, something we consider to be sublime. What is important is that these visions be ignored! To ponder them at any length is to become side-tracked, distracted and, eventually, lost to Satori.

Step 4 Absorption

This is perhaps the most crucial stage of Zen meditation as it is halfway to Satori. In absorption our consciousness is aware of emerging images, notions and other phenomena and yet capable of ignoring them while acknowledging them. It is because of absorption that intuition arises and we all know that intuition is the intimate knowledge of a complex thing without step-by-step analysis. During absorption, we will find ourselves able to draw closer to our inner/outer self. As intuitive knowledge increases so does analytical thought decrease.

Step 5 Reflection

This step requires that at some point in our day-to-day lives we pause and reflect briefly. This needn't be for very long; a five-minute period during a lunch break will do. As far as the brain is concerned there is no clear-cut difference between reflection and meditation, so taking little periods to reflect during the day increases the capacity of the mind to tap into the unconscious.

Step 6 Enlightenment

If you've faithfully applied the stages up to now, then you should have begun already to experience a form of enlightenment. A state, reached during meditation, whereby you don't have to think actively of anything yet the things that present themselves to your intellect make perfect sense and are effortlessly understood.

The important thing at this stage is to make some effort to record the experience later. You can try writing it down or taping it but, generally, such attempts are both frustrating and unsuccessful.

It is extremely difficult to recreate the experience of enlightenment in another medium. However, the effort of recording it often yields tremendous insights and may open up further inner avenues for you to explore.

Step 7 Satori

This is a step which only you may describe accurately and then only once you've experienced it.

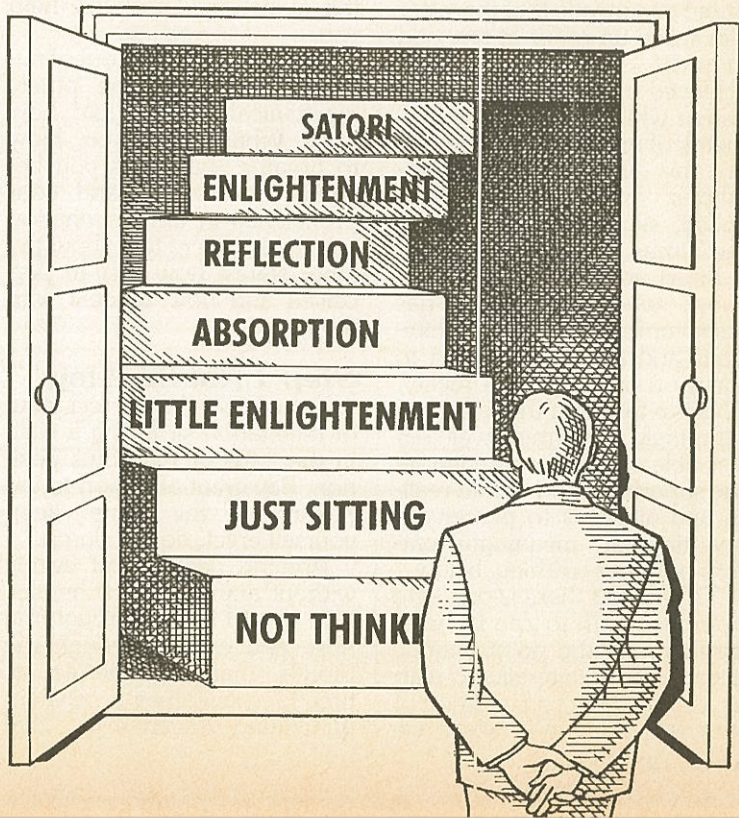
Generally speaking, Zen stu-

dents and masters who have attained such a state agree that Satori or true enlightenment is accompanied by a profound sense of inner stillness and tremendous inner energy. It is the ability to shed physical sensations of fatigue, pain and tension and concentrate on things which are both positive and life-affirming.

It is this latter ability that enables Zen practitioners to lead lives that are both natural and spontaneous. Such a life possibly reflects the naturalness of our original nature — nature which, by all accounts, we have sacrificed on the road to technological supremacy and progress.

It is this very simplicity of action that is so hard to achieve under the pressures of modern living. Or, as the Zen master Po-chang put it when giving his definition of Zen, 'When hungry eat, when tired sleep.'

Had he been alive today and able to witness the spiritual confusion of our bustling, modern world he would have probably added, 'When lost seek, when hurried sit.'



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THE TAROT

by JOHN CHRISTOPHER TRAVERS

SEVEN OF CUPS

There are prizes to be won with this month's card but all is not quite as it seems.

If the card illustration this month looks like the prize section of a particularly glittery TV quiz show, do not be alarmed. There is an element of truth even in that somewhat odd interpretation. However, it is best to look beyond the surface to the inevitable symbolism that is shown, then the greater perspective will allow flippancy and more modern interpretations to be assessed.

Each of the seven cups shown here contains an unusual object. The first has the head of an angel which represents heavenly protection and gifts from heaven. The second has a shrouded figure with an aura, often mistaken for a covered grail which it definitely is not. It does, though, represent wisdom and power that are so strong that the features need to be hidden to protect the figure.

The third cup has a serpent which indicates sexual activity as well as possible treachery but with wisdom attached to it. The fourth has a castle representing worldly possessions, notably property. The fifth cup is filled with jewels, the riches of the world, especially money.

The sixth cup has a wreath and a skull on its side signifying death, fame through victory, a short life but a successful one being offered. The seventh cup is a problem. The contents have been described as a monster but more likely it is a dragon, a mythical figure which nevertheless brings extreme good luck.

So the impression of a con-

juror or magician creating an illusion of riches is not too far from the truth of the Cups Seven. For this is a success card, offering immense favours and opportunity, although the glitter is best ignored and not accepted. Look behind the surface of any opportunity to ensure that it is not merely an illusion but has substance and security. It is far too easy simply to go along with what is offered hoping that it will last; not so easy to question or to look the gift horse in the mouth.

A further warning is given with this card: there is an almost inevitable business success, leading to financial rewards and attachments, not to

mention major achievements. But the hidden concern is that it could all come to an end too quickly or the person accepting it all could so easily be taken for a ride and be robbed of the prestige as well as profit.

Beware of get-rich-quick schemes; above all look out for anyone who could take the money and run, leaving debts and losses behind. The promise of financial gains is there, no question of that, but ensure that any money deals are protected and not likely to fall foul of double-dealing. Once care is taken, all should be fine.

With the Seven of Cups there are many facades to consider. It is as if each facet of this card's influence has two faces: what is seen on the surface and what is behind that face. Nothing is quite what it seems, illusion — personified in the figure of the magician controlling the glittering prizes — creates all kinds of impressions which are not quite correct. They may appear to be, at first, but one has to probe for the reality behind them. Once the reality has been found, the surface illusions vanish, as if by magic.

It is all a considerable annoyance, a game which the Tarot sometimes plays, making one aware of the true facts only after the illusion has worked its trickery. Why this should be so is never fully clear and has never been properly explained.

Perhaps the Tarot sometimes makes us look beneath



the surface in this slightly cruel way to give valuable lessons which need to be learned the hard way. It doesn't really matter, in the end, just as long as warnings are heeded and the realities discovered. It is perhaps a warning not to rely on success or riches, to have a safety net — something to fall back on when needed.

In point of fact, few people seem to be unaware or at least suspicious when these influences arise. It is as if we all have an inbuilt alarm system which makes us look at the circumstances rather closer. It is then that the illusions can be swept away.

But all of this tends to be a little complicated and more in the realms of philosophising than looking at the meanings of the Cups Seven in such a way that the hidden messages

do and can become clearer. It is best to consider the plainer meanings of this card.

One Tarot source once named the Cups Seven as the 'castles in Spain' card. Imagination and hopeful dreams are certainly there but so are choices to be made. One can accept the surface illusions and possibly be quite satisfied with them, allowing one to believe all one sees without wanting to know more, especially if it tends to destroy one's own dreams. But once the warnings have been heeded and one looks behind the illusions, then the true pattern and influences of the Cups Seven allows itself to be revealed.

The search is essential, first, then the Cups Seven does show its purpose. And what is that purpose exactly? This is where trust, faith, personal

hopes and ambitions come in.

Nothing specific is actually shown with this card but the promise of fulfilment is very much there. It all depends on what the person concerned is aiming at. This could be something quite unimportant, an idea, a promise he/she wants to keep, some minor aspiration. Or it could be a major ambition, opportunities that need financial support with a hope that the necessary backing will materialise.

Whatever the need, once the surface problems and offers that will just not work have been swept away, then the Seven of Cups comes into its own. The difficulties are left behind, the realities are accepted, the illusions are wryly acknowledged. Nothing from then on can prevent success from being made possible.

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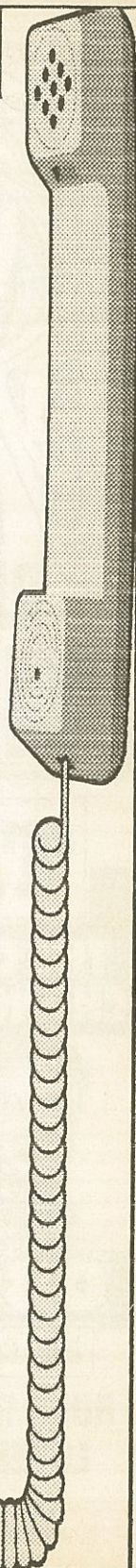
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ARIES

MARCH 21 TO APRIL 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Until Mercury and Mars enter your sign on March 24th you may feel that everything is in suspense.

Patience is not your most noticeable quality but it would be best to take life as it comes and not force any major issues until later. Instead of always making things happen, it is sometimes better to cultivate the art of letting things happen. This will be very much the case during most of the month ahead when you may be inviting frustration through

wishing to push ahead too quickly.

Financially you may not experience any spectacular developments but with Venus in a helpful area from early month onwards you can expect a steady trend in all to do with business and material stability. The most favourable dates for dealing with these matters are the 10th, 13th, 18th, 19th, 23rd, 28th and 30th. These are excellent dates for consolidation or longer term interests, rather than anything too enterprising. Avoid gambling when Venus is adversely placed on the 16th.

If you are seeking better pay it's definitely a good month for laying the foundations and preparing yourself for opportunities that lie ahead. An unexpected turn of events during the second week of March will bring a more expansive view. A long-standing financial worry may also come to an end, either around the 8th or 19th.

Something that may oblige you to back off the action during March could be a bout of poor health or low vitality. Mars, Saturn and the Sun in your 12th Solar House most of the month indicate that you

could easily undermine your health by attempting to drive yourself too hard.

Again the message seems to be about reducing the pace, taking life easier and cultivating patience. However, you will notice a marked difference during the final week when your ruling planet, plus Mercury and Sun, move into your sign. Those who have been up against poor health recently should quickly regain their energy and vitality.

From one angle, the prevailing cosmic pattern has a decidedly mystical flavour. The second and third weeks particularly favour those who take a serious interest in deeper knowledge and experience. Subjects such as psychology, occult and New Age thinking should provide you with much fresh inspiration. Also, take notice of any unusual dreams or hunches. These are more likely now to warrant serious reflection.

Towards the end of March the pace of life will very quickly shift up a gear or two. Although you will have to cope with increased demands, you'll begin to feel that definite progress is being made.

TAURUS

APRIL 21 TO MAY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Much will depend upon how you are able to function within a group during March.

The most important actions and decisions are likely to focus on team effort or joint interests. This is especially so in financial matters where careful discussion and planning will be called for.

Generally speaking, it's going to be a month when you will be able to make best progress with others rather than attempting to go it alone. All aims and objectives that

involve you in groups, clubs or community affairs will be rewarding. You'll also find that these activities enable you to establish new friendships or contacts.

Having Venus (your ruler) in your sign from the 6th onwards greatly enhances the friendly atmosphere around you. Relationships on all levels will run smoothly and you'll be able to get on well with everyone. As this is the planet of peace and harmony you should have little difficulty dealing with potentially contentious issues now or from the past.

Venus should do much towards increased contentment materially and emotionally, popularity socially and a better chance of success in love for the romantically inclined. Indeed, the coming weeks are likely to be unusually eventful in affairs of the heart. After maybe a rather disappointing phase in previous months you can expect better times ahead.

Unexpected events around the 8th may put you in touch with someone special. You might have initial doubts but over the weeks that follow you'll come to see that

you are on the right track. If cautious about emotional commitment due to a traumatic experience in the recent past, you'll begin to regain confidence now.

Other dates favourable to new romance and all close ties of love and affection are the 10th, 13th, 19th and 22nd. These are also good dates for buying items for personal adornment or a touch of domestic luxury.

For some time now many Taurans have been focusing attention on the possibilities of career change. Now that Uranus is poised in the top sector of your Solar chart your main aims and ambitions should undergo a shift of emphasis. Change may be forced upon you, obliging you to think very seriously about what you really want. This may sound rather formidable but the astrological pattern is very helpful and supportive for some time ahead.

You should not be afraid of major change now. By stubbornly clinging to old ways you'll only sabotage your best interests. Seemingly insignificant events will be a key to destiny.

GEMINI

MAY 21 TO JUNE 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You could become overloaded with work during March but the picture is very progressive.

If you are ambitious you'll have ample scope and incentive to further your aims in the weeks ahead. The going may get rather tough at times but extra efforts will do much to strengthen your position and give you the confidence to grasp opportunities in the future.

Having all the planets above the horizon of your Solar chart indicates a time to exert yourself and

make your presence felt. The main spotlight is definitely on practical matters.

There is a more urgent need to define your aims and to develop a clear sense of direction. This is sometimes difficult, simply because you like to spread your energies over a wide field of activity. However, the force of circumstances will help you to concentrate your mind and rally your inner resources throughout March, especially in the areas of occupation and career.

As Saturn begins to pull away from the topmost sector of your chart you are likely to experience a kind of summing up process. Consolidate what you have learned over the past two or three years for this will provide the foundation for future achievement.

If you have handled this Saturn cycle in a constructive way you will now have a very realistic view of your own strengths and limitations. Your sense of identity and self-respect will be much more definite as recent experience will have had a maturing influence on you.

Your ruler, Mercury, takes a swift

flight through the top sector of your Solar chart between the 7th and 24th, giving you the mental acuity to make swift decisions. All communications to do with practical matters should bring good results. This is a good omen for younger Geminians seeking suitable employment or looking for advice and guidance in career or education.

The most positive dates for dealing with important communications are the 9th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 22nd and 23rd. Persons in authority will be favourably disposed towards you. Success is also likely in interviews, business negotiations or special examinations. Don't be afraid to speak your mind in debates and discussions then.

Any obstacle to progress in March is likely to come through poor health between the 17th and 22nd. Mars and the Sun form a conjunction with Saturn — overwork could deplete your resistance. Avoid heroics and don't be emotionally blackmailed into extra chores.

The month draws to a close very positively with travel, friendships, finances and improved social life very much to the fore.

CANCER

JUNE 21 TO JULY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You may feel that too many events are making it hard to see your way ahead.

Routines are likely to be disrupted and you'll probably be surprised at the amount of travelling you do. There will certainly be no excuse for feeling bored. The astrological pattern indicates movement and progress.

If you are hoping to make changes and pull yourself out of a rut, now is the time to act. The main thing to avoid is letting

things drift or become nebulous. You have the fiery planet Mars fighting on your side throughout the month, endowing you with energy and determination to achieve.

Travel of one kind or another is almost certain to figure prominently. A favourable combination of Mars and Jupiter on March 1st augurs well for business trips and far-flung journeys for practical reasons. There might be an element of duty in a journey in the first week but you'll end up enjoying yourself and perhaps meeting a new friend. If you have not yet planned a holiday for later in the year, now's the time to get busy.

From a different angle, this same powerful planetary pattern throws light upon mental activity and the need to widen your horizons. If you are pursuing special studies, the way ahead is likely to bring you a great deal of stimulation and success. Those intent on deepening their knowledge on a more mystical or spiritual level will find much fresh inspiration.

Books or articles that you chance to read will prove unusually enlightening. The latter part of the

month is more favourable for linking up with like minded persons or joining societies that can help you in your quest for knowledge.

By far the most significant dates for travel and inner development are the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 9th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 21st and 22nd.

You'll probably also experience a shift in the pattern of certain relationships on some of these dates. Improvements are forecast in romantic and closer ties of affection. In fact many Cancerians could very easily realise cherished hopes and wishes through a new amorous link later in March.

Certain friendships are about to undergo a change. Perhaps you'll decide to drop some contacts and become more choosy about your associates. This is all to the good because recently certain people may have become rather irritating and have wasted your time. If someone has become over-dependent it is important to sort this situation out now, otherwise there be many hurt feelings in the future.

Basically, this is going to be a month for clearing away what is no longer needed.

LEO

JULY 21 TO AUGUST 21



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You may be obliged to deal with certain unfinished business early in March.

This may be quite irksome but the field is pretty clear from about the 10th onwards. After that you can expect good progress in finances and commercial interests provided you are sure of your ground and know what you can reasonably expect from yourself and others.

Property matters and jointly held resources are likely to be an important issue for many Leos during

the first half of the month. Here, too, you should have no problem provided you keep within limits.

This theme of being aware of certain limitations is indicated by a combination of Mars and Saturn. At best this contains great constructive potential and is particularly favourable for partnership ventures or longer term investment. However, if you have been careless or unrealistic about finance, the past could catch up with you. In which case, be prepared for problems around the 22nd!

There is a pronounced accent on practical matters during most of March. Apart from possible financial quirks you can expect increased luck and expansion in occupational and vocational matters. Not only does Venus smooth your path from the 6th but you also have benign Jupiter casting a fortunate light on the work situation — it could mean promotion! Be prepared to grasp opportunities.

Any effort you make towards improving your employment situation and your prospects is more likely to bring satisfaction now. Most propitious dates are the 2nd,

14th, 15th, 19th, 28th and 30th.

At a more emotional and personal level, problems may arise from career or other interests occupying much of your attention. Married Leos may find themselves walking an emotional tightrope, especially when Venus is adversely placed on the 8th, 16th and 31st. However, forewarned is forearmed.

Events over the weekend of the 9th and 10th will focus your mind very firmly on family and domestic matters. The pattern being favourable, you can expect a pleasant atmosphere. Practical matters are much to the fore so, if you want help with heavy jobs around house or garden, don't be afraid to ask.

Towards the month end there seems to be an uncanny link between travel and the past. Don't be surprised if an old friend renews contact and perhaps invites you to visit. Don't be surprised, either, if this entails an overseas journey.

Greater mental activity is also likely late month. If you are invited to give a speech, are taking an exam or embarking on a quest for knowledge, success and speedy progress will attend your efforts.

VIRGO

AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You may get a distinct feeling of déjà vu around the Full Moon on March 5th.

Maybe an issue that you managed to evade several months back will need to be confronted afresh. The good news is that certain obstacles will not appear so formidable or important now. Be prepared to accommodate changes in others' attitudes and needs and accept the fact that nothing stays the same.

Relationships are going to be a major focus of attention, at least

until Mars takes leave of your opposite sign on the 22nd. The situation may not be easy, especially as this fiery planet joins forces with Saturn on the 22nd. Female Virgoans are likely to find males difficult to handle emotionally during this phase. Dates when you may be hard pressed to avoid open confrontation are the 5th, 12th, 19th and, most of all, the 22nd.

The best that can be said of this potentially stressful trend is that it brings an opportunity to clear the air and get back to basics. These planets bring you face to face with tendencies in your own nature that are bound up with wishful thinking and evasiveness. It is important, therefore, that you be as realistic and honest as possible.

This doesn't imply that the whole month is going to be heavy weather. The two beneficial planets, Venus and Jupiter, are in favourable angle to your sign most of the month. Even if you do experience emotional tensions and conflict, it is more than likely that a better harmony will be established very quickly.

More practically, these planets

help to put you in harmony with the world at large and tap your creative energies more fruitfully. You are inclined to disguise your fears under a cloak of modesty but now your faith in your capabilities will be greatly enhanced, helped by the supportive atmosphere generated by colleagues or an instinct telling you that you are on the right track.

There's an aura of good fortune surrounding travel from the 6th onwards. If a journey has to do with business, education or creative work, you can expect a highly successful outcome. This is especially so when Jupiter and Venus are strongly activated on the 10th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th and 23rd — also lucky dates for a flutter.

Pressures begin to ease during the final week and you'll have more time to relax and unwind. You'll also be pleased to see that a fairly long-standing financial matter will be resolved around this time leaving you better able to plan ahead.

Generally speaking, it's a month when you have the chance to clear away a lot of clutter, both material and emotionally.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Work demands are likely to be quite heavy, perhaps reaching a peak around the 22nd.

Your will to push ahead with important tasks will be strong and you'll feel that definite progress is being made at last.

The only possible drawback is that the pace of life could take a toll on your health. You can do much to avoid this if you can ease off when Saturn is adversely placed around the Full Moon on the 5th and again between the 17th and

22nd. Refuse firmly if someone asks you to shoulder extra work. Don't be made to feel guilty or you'll end up feeling resentful.

On a more personal level, relationships are likely to be important. Venus, your ruler, is still active in your House of Partners until the 6th, signalling promising developments for the romantically inclined. The cosmic pattern around the 3rd indicates magic moments. This is also a day on which you'll be much in demand socially. Make the most of this because from the second week onwards it looks as if leisure time will be scarce.

Towards the end of the month a very positive combination of Mars, Mercury and Sun indicates a renewal of vitality in closer and more intimate relationships. If you have found that married life has become a bit jaded lately, now is the time to take stock and see how you can improve the situation. It could be that the best tonic will be a break with routine, perhaps a short holiday.

Business relationships are especially highlighted at this time with much to suggest that powerful alliances are being established. It's

an excellent time for high-powered negotiations and developing new ideas. Teamwork is likely to be a major key to progress. Be prepared to take seriously any enterprising ideas and schemes and don't underestimate your own capabilities.

Financial interests are under the beneficial light of Venus most of the month and luck is very much on your side if you are focusing on longer term investments. Property is also under this benign spotlight so if you are aiming for domestic changes, now is the time when your efforts will be rewarded.

Jupiter in the home area of your Solar chart may make you feel restless and discontented so maybe this is your cue to act. It may even be in your interests to consider moving abroad or at least quite a long distance away. The message is that the further you go, the wider you look, the greater will be your good fortune. Best dates for action are the 1st, 2nd, 14th, 15th, 19th and 30th.

Whatever new beginnings you make in March, either large or small, fortune favours your efforts.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 TO NOVEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

You can create stronger understanding between yourself and significant others during March.

Venus, the planet of love and harmony, makes a transit of your House of Partners from the 6th onwards, signalling congenial interaction with other people.

The beneficial influence of this planet will be felt on all levels but most particularly in intimate ties of affection. It brings more than just a hint of pleasing romantic encoun-

ters and a swift development of new love for the fancy-free. The most eventful dates for affairs of the heart are the 8th, 10th, 13th, 18th, 19th and 23rd. These dates also favour those about to marry.

Venus can be a great peacemaker so, if you are hoping to settle any long-standing disputes or win people around to your own way of thinking, now is the time to approach matters diplomatically. In many cases you won't have to do anything for it looks as if someone will offer you the olive branch before the month is out.

What is very pleasing about the astrological picture is that most of the major planets occupy helpful locations in your Solar chart. The energising planet Mars is stirring up a lot of creative activity, inclining you to be more extravert and confident.

Scorpios aiming to broaden their creative and artistic scope should have all the right opportunities now. You can afford to be a bit more pushy but be careful around the 22nd when someone may (quite justifiably) accuse you of being ruthless or insensitive.

Mercury and Jupiter also play a part in this favourable cosmic pattern. These planets signify events that stir and stimulate your mental energies, help you to broaden your outlook and, most of all, make you realise that maybe you can travel lighter. You'll become more intent upon updating your ideas, getting rid of outmoded ways of thinking and perhaps taking a fresh look at future possibilities.

This is indicated by your ruler, Pluto, in an area of your chart that focuses on material possessions and your attitude towards them. If you have fallen into the trap of holding onto things because they may come in useful, you will realise that all the clutter has come to dominate your life. The quicker you face up to the inner insecurities at the root of the matter and get rid of all that's unnecessary and useless, the happier you'll be.

It's a splendid time for feeding the mind and developing your imagination. Educational interests are specially favoured —particularly those that cultivate creative ability and a deeper sense of purpose. Don't be afraid to explore.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Matters close to home continue to occupy your time and attention throughout March.

For those moving home the cosmic pattern could not be more apt. After several months of careful planning and perhaps worry and frustration, you'll feel that you can get on with your life at last.

Mars and Saturn in the home area of your Solar chart give a very practical emphasis. These planets encourage you to go ahead with major renovation work and alter-

ations. If you are employing builders or decorators, you are more likely to get good results now. However, the best time in the month for dealing with such matters is between the 7th and 24th when Mercury is well positioned.

Mercury also indicates increased social activity at home, more visitors than usual and perhaps a family reunion for those who have been separated for some time. Sagittarian parents will have more time for youngsters — though you may find them a bit too lively!

The continuing presence of your ruler, Jupiter, in Capricorn guarantees a positive trend in finances. Over the past months you probably have moved into a much stronger position, thanks to changes in your work or successful business. On this basis you will now feel much more secure about longer term plans and projects. It would certainly be in your interests to explore the potential for sound investments. The month ahead is favourable for financial advice.

The most propitious dates for dealing with money and property interests are the 1st, 2nd, 9th, 15th

and 19th. But exercise patience around the 22nd when there are signs of a minor setback. Don't rush into any decisions.

Although you may find that the ordinary demands of everyday life tend to fill every available moment, this pattern will change from the 24th onwards. By then, urgent domestic or family matters will give way to a more leisurely state of affairs. After a lull, you'll suddenly find that you are more in demand socially and have more scope for doing your own thing. Spare-time interests are likely to engage your creative energies and open up new possibilities for you.

Someone you encounter late month may have some interesting suggestions to put to you. If you are seeking a more diverse field of self-expression, this is going to be a time of helpful developments. But it is very much up to you to take the initiative.

For many Sagittarians, March will in some way provide you with a key to the future. It is going to be one of those potentially fateful times when a small decision will be far-reaching and beneficial.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 19



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Apart from a fairly hectic pace at certain times, most things should run on oiled wheels.

The cosmic pattern signals a phase of increased luck and a generally expansive trend in financial, business and domestic affairs.

A widening of your social circle will bring you in contact with kindred spirits who may inspire you to make more creative use of a spare-time occupation. Indeed, this is an excellent month for exploring ways and means of en-

hancing your self-expression. Those pursuing original or artistic work should find all the right opportunities and openings now.

Mercury's dash through your 3rd Solar House between the 7th and 24th will not only enhance your mental and communicative powers but will draw the right people into your orbit and give you better scope for diversifying your interests. This is definitely a helpful trend if you are intent on pulling yourself out of a rut.

The only possible drawback with this is that you may be inclined to spread your energies too widely or become distracted from the main tasks in hand. Also, others will insist on calling on you or phoning at inconvenient moments. This might irritate you, as you'll feel that you're wasting time. The most likely dates for this scenario are the 9th, 11th, 19th and 22nd. Also, take care if travelling on these dates.

You'll probably find that travel will play a very active role in your day-to-day life this month. You'll definitely be covering a lot of ground in one way or another. Dates of importance, not only for

travel but for communications generally, are the 10th, 15th, 18th, 21st and 23rd. Welcome news is likely and events concerning relatives or friends will add extra interest.

Closer personal relationships are unlikely to be a source of trouble and strife during March. Any difficulties, either in marriage, domestic relations or romantic affairs will be easily sorted out.

Where love life has been difficult or non-eventful over previous months, the coming weeks will be much more encouraging. For a start, a much enriched social life will enhance opportunities for meeting someone special. A splendid aspect between Venus and Jupiter on the 19th indicates luck in love and suggests that new relationships founded now are destined to stand the test of time.

Later in the month, Mercury combines with your ruler, Saturn, to put you in a rather serious frame of mind. This is all to the good if you are involved in deeper studies or have important decisions to make. You'll find that by putting your thoughts into writing things will become much clearer to you.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 18



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Financial affairs will be buoyant but impatience and extravagance could undo all the good work.

At certain times in the month extra expense may be unavoidable so make it a policy to think carefully before any major outlay.

The trickiest dates financially are the 5th, 12th and 22nd. Someone may try to force your hand. Be prepared to stand firm if you have the slightest doubts about committing yourself. Also, be sure to agree

with your partner if you are considering a new purchase.

At best, the astrological picture indicates a constructive phase for earning money and business interests. Between the 7th and 24th the accent is on diversification and new ideas. A chance to make some extra cash in your spare time is likely when Mercury is strongly activated around the 10th, 14th and 18th. Any fund-raising schemes are almost certain to pay good dividends on these dates.

Uranus, your ruler, in your sign suggests that you will be very much the star of the show now or in the near future. Its effects will greatly enhance your charisma and magnetism. It might also incline you to break with convention or cause others to describe you as eccentric but really it gives you a kind of magic formula for doing exactly what you want to do.

Uranus is linked with the urge towards greater freedom and independence so, if you are aiming to develop such a lifestyle, your efforts will be helped enormously.

A significant Uranian date is March 8th when a very rare link be-

tween this planet and Pluto takes place. Venus is also part of this intriguing event which points to important new beginnings.

There is a powerful accent on domestic matters around this time with indications of changes taking shape. If you are a parent with grown-up children, chances are one of them will be making a bid for independence. Alternatively, this may be a date when many Aquarians change residence or at least make efforts in this direction.

This Uranus-Pluto combination indicates that the Aquarian qualities, such as friendship, altruism, humanitarianism and search for truth are being strongly enhanced. This means that friends you make now will be destined to play an important part in your life while those who take an interest in humanitarian concerns and social reforms will find such activities become greatly intensified and give an increasing sense of purpose.

Matters closer to home are unlikely to cause any problems. Changes should run smoothly and harmony will reign within the family circle.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

With three planets activating your sign you can expect a diverse and busy time ahead.

Mars continues to boost your energy level most of the month. This is all to the good because certain events will demand a very quick and energetic response. Should you be considering certain fresh initiatives, best results will be obtained if you make your strongest efforts when Mars is well placed on the 1st, 4th, 10th and 14th.

The only proviso is between the

19th and 22nd when you are advised to tread with greater caution and to take extra care of health. Pressures and demands could make you careless or tired. If possible, organise things so that you can take life easier. Reflection will be more appropriate than action.

The swift flight of Mercury through your sign between the 7th and 24th points to a lively and varied pace. Though you may not have planned any significant journeys, chances are you'll be putting in more mileage than expected.

As always when Mercury is a dominant feature the accent is on communication. This is a fine time to get in touch with people, to seek advice and information or make efforts to diversify your social life. Even without trying, you are likely to find that events draw you into more varied activity during this Mercurial phase. There will certainly be scope for new interests and gathering useful knowledge.

Just before Mercury and Mars leave your sign on the 24th, both planets form a conjunction with Saturn. Although certain events may try your patience and cause

you to feel rather tense, this is no reason to feel that the whole world has suddenly turned against you.

Pisceans can adopt a very resigned attitude and become martyrs to their own causes. But this is nothing but a kind of escapism. Such a reaction is certainly to be avoided now. Meeting obstacles head on, you'll easily win through with the support of benefic planets.

The cosmic pattern is very positive, giving you a much stronger sense of direction and purpose. A project started several years back will probably take a quantum leap to a more successful level. The main thing is that you'll be in a position to define your aims and objectives with great clarity now.

All the planets are in the Eastern sector of your Solar chart throughout March. Your destiny is very much in your hands. Also, people you meet are likely to influence your thinking positively. At last you will be shaking yourself free of outmoded attitudes that may have caused you to pitch your aims too low in the past.

On the whole, you can expect an action-packed month ahead.

Lunar Lore Gardening

MARCH

- 1** Changeable, cold, slowly warming up during daytime hours. Possibly unusual stormy periods mid-month.
- 2, 3**
- 4** After 04.14 hours pull weeds, turn soil around new fruit trees.
- 5** Continue all day.
- 6** After 13.41 hours break down rocky soil, rake finish.
- 7** Continue all day.
- 8** After 21.06 hours plant biennials and perennials.
- 9** Plant out bulb and pot plants.
- 10** Continue all day.
- 11** After 02.33 hours, weather permitting, plant onion-sets.
- 12** Continue all day.
- 13** Continue until 06.09 hours.
- 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20**
- 21** After 17.00 hours plant potatoes and beans.
- 22** Harden off broad beans and peas sown in pots.
- 23** Continue all day.
- 24** After 01.00 hours mow lawns to stimulate growth.
- 25** Continue all day.
- 26** After 12.07 hours take dahlia cuttings.
- 27** Take heliotrope and verbena cuttings.
- 28** Sow celery seed in the warmth of a greenhouse.
- 29** After 00.38 hours prepare celery trenches.
- 30** Dig over new plots ready for early use.
- 31** Continue until 12.16 hours.

VICTORIA MATTHEWS

Greenwich Mean Time has been used throughout

The Planets This Month

- ☉ **The Sun** begins March in 10° 41' Pisces and enters Aries on the 20th at 08.04 hours. It ends the month at 10° 33' of the Ram.
- ☾ **The Moon** is waxing to the Full on the 5th at 09.24 hours with the Last Quarter on the 12th at 17.16 hours. The New Moon is on the 19th at 10.46 hours with the First Quarter on the 27th at 01.32 hours.
As the month opens the Moon is in 21° 39' Cancer and enters Leo on the 1st at 16.48 hours. It then enters Virgo on the 4th at 04.14 hours; Libra on the 6th at 13.41 hours; Scorpio on the 8th at 21.06 hours; Sagittarius on the 11th at 02.33 hours; Capricorn on the 13th at 06.09 hours; Aquarius on the 15th at 08.16 hours; Pisces on the 17th at 09.51 hours; Aries on the 19th at 12.16 hours; Taurus on the 21st at 17.00 hours; Gemini on the 24th at 01.00 hours; Cancer on the 26th at 12.07 hours; Leo on the 29th at 00.38 hours; Virgo on the 31st at 12.16 hours where it ends the month.
- ☿ **Mercury** is in 19° 53' Aquarius on the 1st and enters Pisces on the 7th at 11.54 hours. It passes quickly through that sign and enters Aries on the 24th at 08.04 hours. By the month end it has reached 13° 23' of the Ram.
- ♀ **Venus** begins the month in 24° 17' Aries and enters Taurus on the 6th at 02.02 hours. By the last day it has reached 26° 27' of the Bull.
- ♂ **Mars** begins March in 11° 28' Pisces and enters Aries on the 24th at 15.13 hours. It ends the month at 4° 57' of the Ram.
- ♃ **Jupiter** spends the month in Capricorn and advances from 11° 44' on the first day to 15° 50' by the last day.
- ♄ **Saturn** is in Pisces all month and advances from 25° 24' on the 1st to 29° 6' on the 31st.
- ♅ **Uranus** is in Aquarius all month and advances from 2° 44' on the first day to 3° 58' on the last day.
- ♆ **Neptune** spends the month in Capricorn and advances from 26° 49' on the 1st to 27° 31' on the 31st.
- ♇ **Pluto** begins the month in 3° 6' Sagittarius and advances to 3° 7' on the 5th when it turns retrograde. It ends the month at 2° 56' of the Archer.

All positions are for 00.00 hours GMT.

Reading the Aspectarian

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

First of all memorise what the symbols stand for:

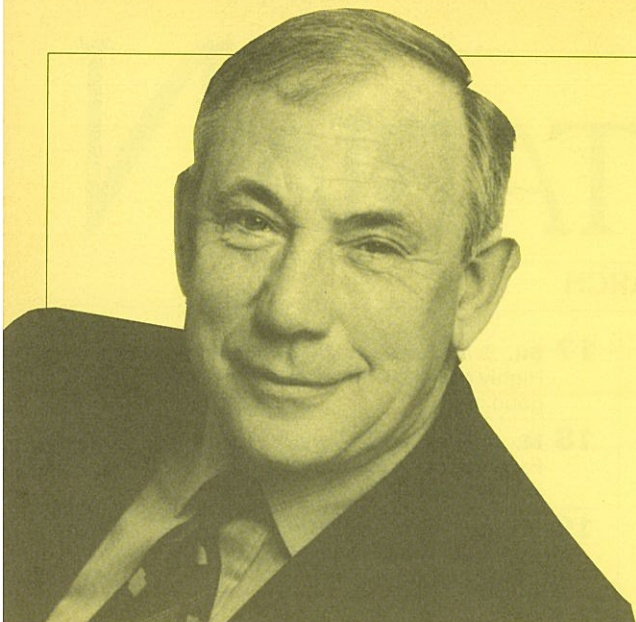
♈ Aries, ♉ Taurus, ♊ Gemini, ♋ Cancer, ♌ Leo, ♍ Virgo, ♎ Libra, ♏ Scorpio, ♐ Sagittarius, ♑ Capricorn, ♒ Aquarius, ♓ Pisces, ☉ Sun, ☾ Moon, ☿ Mercury, ♀ Venus, ♂ Mars, ♃ Jupiter, ♄ Saturn, ♅ Uranus, ♆ Neptune, ♇ Pluto.

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

* (60°) sextile: generally helpful.
□ (90°) square: mostly challenging.
△ (120°) trine: strongly helpful.
♁ (135°) sesqui-square: usually unfavourable.
⋈ (180°) opposition: conflict and tension.

The minor aspects:
∨ (30°) semi-sextile: slightly favourable.
∟ (45°) semi-square: somewhat stressful.
⊕ (72°) quintile: creativeness.
⊘ (90°) square: usually unfavourable.
⋈ (135°) sesqui-square: usually unfavourable.
⋈ (150°) inconjunct or quincunx; stressful.

Each month the Moon travels right round the zodiac making every aspect to every planet at least once. When there are several aspects in one day we group them after one Moon symbol thus:
♁△♁*♃□♀
This means Moon trine Sun, Moon sextile Jupiter, Moon square Venus.



by
**JOAN
REVILL**

mark of all. Through its traditional rulership of Scorpio and its important placing, Mars must be regarded as chart ruler.

It's a tough cookie. True, Mars has no hard aspects, only gentle ones to the soft planets Venus and Neptune — but it's still a tough cookie.

Usually the Ascendant, and all that therein lies, gives the immediate personality or facade while the Sun sign provides the basic temperament, the essential You. Patric Walker got them the wrong way round. It's the qualities of his Libran Sun sign which come up again and again in everything written about him. Charming, good looking, accomplished, good

PATRIC WALKER

everyone's astrologer

Patric Walker, Everyman's and Everywoman's astrologer, died on October 8th 1995. His passing coincided with a partial Lunar eclipse in trine to his Midheaven, royal Jupiter-in-Leo. As astrologer Dennis Elwell wrote, it gave him a spectacular send-off because the media did him proud. Obituaries were in all the papers paying tribute to the best known astrologer in the world.

He was apparently born on September 25th 1931 in Hackensack, New Jersey, USA. Apparently because there are several question marks hanging over this chart. He was always unforthcoming about his own horoscope because, he said, he didn't know his birth time. However, in an unguarded moment he told Robert Currey of Equinox that he had rectified it to 9.30 am.

It doesn't sound rectified.

Had he said 9.22 or 9.47 am it would have instilled more confidence. Still, 9.30 am was the time given and evidently he was happy to own a chart with Mars rising in Scorpio. At exactly 9.30 am in Hackensack the Ascendant was bang in the middle of Scorpio. Luckily, Scorpio takes a long time arising so the ascending degree would have been somewhere in Scorpio from 8.10 am to 10.45 am which gives quite a bit of latitude, especially as it is not known whether he had deducted Daylight Saving or not. As for house cusps, they vary in all schools of astrological thought so there's no need to be too rigid about house interpretation.

As the chart stands, the house positions of the planets seem perfectly acceptable with the exception of Mars which provides the biggest question

company, generous to a fault, courteous, friendly and kind. He loved clothes and jewellery and spent extravagantly on them; he liked being with theatrical people, was a wonderful cook, loved parties and entertained lavishly; his astrology columns were witty, erudite and polished.

It's all a paean of praise to Sun in Libra in conjunction with Venus, the ruler of the sign. There are no abrasive aspects here either, the semi-square of Jupiter to the Sun merely serving to exaggerate, magnify, blow up and aggrandise the Libran qualities. The line doesn't have to be drawn anywhere. Sun and Venus are in the lucky 11th House which gives friends of similar Libran tastes. He knew many people in the world of entertainment including John Lennon and Elton John. He had a long-term relation-

ship with a famous American actor.

The Libran dream is to go to heaven in a handbasket and he very nearly did. For one who neither wrote a book, lectured or initiated any astrological school of thought and, to be honest, was only regarded as a media lightweight by the astrological hierarchy, he did awfully well.

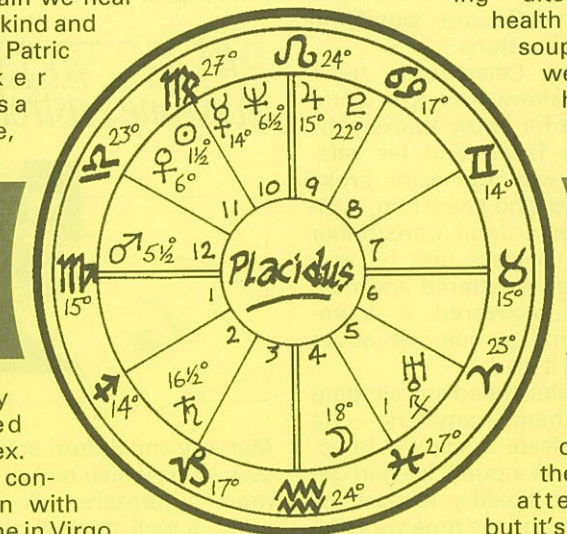
He was the world's highest paid stargazer, his syndicated column was devoured all over the world by people who ran their lives on his advice. He lived well, his last years being spent on a beautiful Greek island being cared for devotedly. Meanwhile, the hierarchy struggled onto the Tube and lived in bed-sits in unfashionable neighbourhoods but they

By the One Degree method of progressions, Neptune's opposition to the Moon became exact in Patric's seventh year. Pluto, co-ruler of the chart with Mars, is in good trine aspect to the Moon testifying to the deep affection Patric had for his mother. A child with such a strong Moon/Neptune link is extremely sensitive. He would feel guilt at thinking he had somehow failed his mother and her death would be a blow indeed.

This sensitivity extends to generally taking on the sufferings of others. Again and again we hear of how kind and caring Patric Walker was. It's a delicate,

aunt had given him her lottery winnings to set up as a property developer. Out to dine one night he sat beside the famous American astrologer Celeste. The legend is that she asked for his birth date and when, cynically he gave it she said that he was on a downward spiral to hell because Saturn returned to its natal place every 29 years which was bad news for Librans.

This doesn't ring true either. Surely no astrologer on her evening off would actually ask for birth data? It's as likely as a doctor tenderly enquiring after your health over the soup. Well, well, perhaps radiant



Patric Walker
9.30 am GMT
September 25th, 1931
Hackensack, NJ

liked him just the same. Everybody did.

Background information from many sources discloses that he was descended on his father's side from Yorkshire flour millers and on his mother's from Irish gypsies. His parents emigrated to the States in the 1920s but returned to Whitby when Patric was four. He was part of a large, close, Roman Catholic family, most appropriate for a Moon in 4th House Pisces.

When he was seven his mother died which he is extensively quoted as saying was the worst thing that ever happened to him in his life. For mothers the Moon has to be consulted, especially when she is in the 4th House of home and family. There's no mistaking her there. Pisces has been called Sorrows and is ruled by Neptune. In Patric Walker's chart the Moon in Pisces is opposed by Neptune which has all the hallmarks of tragedy.

easily bruised complex.

In conjunction with Neptune in Virgo is Mercury, Virgo's ruler. Mercury was also in opposition to the Moon — exact opposition. Mer-

cury is the media person so the hard-headed planet is sucked into the shadowy, mediumistic world of the Moon, Neptune and Pisces. Patric Walker was to find fame and fortune combining the two elements by writing astrological columns which were noted for their sympathy and understanding for newspapers and magazines. He denied having psychic powers but his chart tells a different tale.

Up to the age of 28 he had a variety of jobs and had hung around with the theatrical, artistic, amusing butterflies shown in his 11th House. An

its circuit and return to its natal place. This is no more upsetting for Librans than anyone else. And it certainly doesn't mean that 29, 58 and 87 year olds are on downward spirals. Saturnian returns are stages in maturity. However, Mr Walker put great store by Saturn's cycle and when he had his first heart attack and by-pass surgery in 1990 he exclaimed in despair, 'I never saw Saturn coming round. I'd been ill for two years and nobody knew what was wrong with me. Then I realised that 29 years had gone by and it had got me again.' It seems incredible that

Li-brans do get these little attentions but it's so curiously amateur.

Every L-plate astrologer knows that it takes Saturn 29 years to complete

he hadn't seen it coming. Anyway, there were other far more hostile forces about at the time — Pluto in Scorpio on or near the Ascendant for one.

The only explanation for the drama at the dinner table is that Celeste did some lightning calculations, worked out that Pluto was ruler or co-ruler of the chart and that a Saturnian return would reactivate the natal opposition between the two planets. Saturn was working at full strength in the horoscope as it was in its own sign of Capricorn and not only opposed to Pluto but square Uranus. The three make up a Cardinal T-Square signifying difficult situations.

Anyway, Celeste was right. Shortly afterwards the world fell apart for Patric Walker. His business failed and his relationship with the actor broke up. Those who knew him, such as our own John Christopher Travers, suspect that he was completely shattered and never really recovered. A downward spiral to hell just about summed it up.

Much chastened and clinging to something — anything — he asked Celeste if she would accept him as a pupil. He had developed a healthy respect for astrology and the time was ripe for him to learn more. What Celeste hadn't said was that, by symbolic directions, every 28 years the Moon returns to her natal place. In the Walker progressed chart the Moon was working her way through Pisces and again picking up that Neptunian link. Some sort of spiritual or occult 'road to Damascus' had to take place.

Of course, it could have been on a less exalted level. He could have become a writer of fantasy (some would say he did!) or gone to sea or taken to drink. In fact, he did take to drink. And put on weight — he got up to 17 stone. There are many ways Moon/Neptune/Pisces can manifest when their time comes.

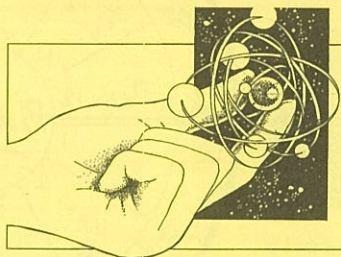
Celeste agreed to teach him all she knew. The fine sextile aspect between Moon and Sat-

urn promises well for relationships with older women and it is also reckoned to be a good indication of inheriting a family business or taking over a tradition which is what happened.

He was such a credit to Celeste that he succeeded to her name and column in *Harpers & Queen* when she retired. Jupiter up there at the Midheaven (patronage) trine Uranus (unexpected success or success in an unusual way) did its fabulous best for him.

Saturn which is in or on the cusp of the 3rd House of the mentality, has an excellent trine aspect with Mercury. Both

PATRIC WALKER *everyone's astrologer*



Mercury and Saturn are in their own signs which makes it even more impressive. A serious mind, a well-stocked mind. He was very thoughtful and well read.

From Hackensack to Whitby to London to Rhodes — that's Pluto in the 9th House which stands for Abroad. To have your ruling planet there can mean emigration, love of travel at the very least. He fell in love with Rhodes as soon as he saw it when on holiday and moved into a villa at Lindos to get away from the stresses of Cardinal T-Squares, Saturnian returns and people challenging him to guess their star signs. Jupiter at the opposition midpoint of the Moon/Saturn sextile promises domestic happiness in maturity.

He loved sailing — both rulers are in Water signs and Mars is sextile nautical Neptune with Venus at the mid-

point. It was while sailing in the Summer of 1995 that he contracted salmonella poisoning. He never really rallied and it probably contributed to his death which gets us, at last, to Mars rising in Scorpio.

Scorpio is a sign which is associated with poisoning and Mars and Pluto also have an interest. On the day of his death, Mars and Pluto were in Scorpio aspecting natal Pluto. Uranus and Neptune, which had both just turned direct after a long period of retrogradation, opposed natal Pluto (Neptune exactly). Saturn was in Pisces, menacing the Moon. Seemed as if they were all ganging up on him.

Mars rising in Scorpio is a powerful ingredient in any chart. There's a tremendous emotional intensity but it's turned back on itself, turned inward. In this chart it was concealed under Libran lightheartedness except to those who knew him very well. It's also secretive. Why all the mystery about his horoscope? Was it to put other astrologers off the scent? Is the birthday itself correct?

We only know that he was a private man who kept his own counsel. On Rhodes he was pretty much a recluse. He once said to journalist Caroline Phillips, 'I'm charming, funny, witty, humorous. A typical Libran. I can also be aggressive, not at all charming, brisk and desperately serious.' That's more like it! He suffered from stress and wished he worried less. He was expected to be infallible which contributed to his overeating and alcohol addiction which he managed to overcome.

Scorpio may fall to the depths but it's such a strong sign that it can always haul itself back. He had to reconcile his Catholicism with his homosexuality and — probably worse! — astrology. So it wasn't altogether an easy life, all Libran blue skies and dolphins. There's a great deal of dour Yorkshire grit and Mars-rising-in-Scorpio there too.

ASTROLOGY TODAY

Most modern astrologers

use ten planets (in astrology the Sun and Moon, often termed the Luminaries, are also referred to as planets) and, depending on the system employed, many traditional and modern aspects. Many also use computers for these machines can churn out accurate and exhaustive details and it only takes a few minutes for one to produce an analysis.

Using a computer does save time, effort and energy but it also means a lot can be missed. Traditional astrologers, by whom I mean experienced men and women well versed in all aspects of this art, usually prefer to piece together a chart slowly and methodically by hand and make notes as they proceed.

They also note what is not there; the empty houses.

An empty house is one of the most regularly ignored, overlooked and misunderstood parts of astrology. A good working knowledge of an empty house can contribute much to our understanding of an individual if only time is taken to assess precisely what this means.

Each planet has energies associated with it. In the Sun's case they are self-expression and in the Moon's emotions and feelings. With Mercury mentality and communication are paramount; Venus signifies creativity and love; Mars energy and drive; Jupiter governs opportunity and expansion; Saturn stability and discipline; Uranus originality and development; Neptune idealism and sensitivity; Pluto change and intensity.

As each planet passes through or transits a house or sign it brings with it its own energies. Thus the Sun in the 1st

EMPTY HOUSES

by
VICTORIA MATTHEWS

House would imply an assertive personality but one coloured by the characteristics of the sign on the cusp. Should the Sun in the 1st House make no recognisable aspects to any planet or other part of the rest of the chart it has to stand alone. There is nothing to trigger off any response when events occur. The character is not contained, conditioned or controlled. The personality therefore is likely to be brilliant, vital, powerful, egocentric and quite unforgettable.

An aspect from any other planet would colour, moderate, channel and lower the intensity of the description just given. From the Moon, for example, there might be more moods while from Mars more vitality or energy. From Uranus one would expect to find strong originality.

The same principle applies in the case of an empty house. There is nothing to colour the meaning, to activate the purpose and designated meanings so the subject would reflect a fairly balanced level of purpose in regard to the house concerned. There would be no appreciable leaning in any one direction.

Unfortunately when a planet transits an empty house the effect in some cases is often quite catastrophic and the subject may be quite unable to handle the implications. Or, no matter what the promise contained in the transit, the character simply absorbs the experi-

ence without any real harm being done; another effect of an empty house.

The manifestation of an empty house in the natal chart of an individual is to produce a sort of equanimity; an 'either—or' condition. Alternatively, and just as easily, subjects are liable to be pushed off balance when a planet transits that house, the full effect of which depends on the planet and house involved.

As an example let's look at a chart with an empty 2nd House. It produces in the subject a rather indifferent attitude to money and possessions. If Libra was on the cusp with Venus (the ruler of Libra) in the 9th House, the individual might regard spending money and time on learning as a positive necessity and the home may be full of books.

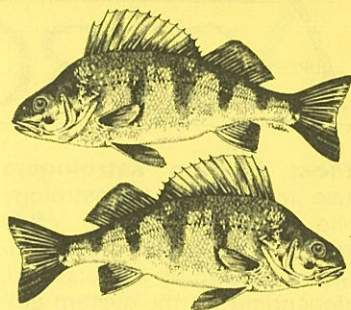
Each time Mars (energy) transits the 2nd House the individual would be up and away actively and intensely pursuing his or her learning aims, possibly to the exclusion of all else at the time.

Blend the meaning of an empty house with the implications of the house occupied by its ruler and you will see how this can make that empty house a dominant feature in the chart: a whole new world may now open up in the way you delineate and interpret.

There is always more to an empty house than first meets the eye. With this in mind experiment with your chart then move on to the charts of people well known to you. Progress from there to the famous and the infamous. You will be surprised at what little extras you can glean from such an exercise.

Empty houses are full of surprises!

PISCES



*February brings the rain,
Thaws the frozen lake again.*

And, on the 19th, February brings Pisces, the two Fishes joined by a silver string.

All the old sayings about February bringing rain and filling dykes are a vile slur on the month as, in England at any rate, it's one of the driest months in the year. However, they do fit Pisces which, as Mutable Water, couldn't be wetter.

To be both Mutable and Watery is overdoing the liquid, slopping-about element and it must be admitted that Pisceans do tend to drift and are unstable, evasive and over-emotional which makes some of them rather unsatisfactory citizens. On the other hand, this fluidity

has many compensations. They are adaptable. Their imaginations run riot in the realms of fantasy, art, music and acting. They are great mystics and occultists.

The Fish was the symbol of early Christianity and the references in the New Testament to fishes, fishermen and fishing are legion. February itself is named from Februa the ancient Roman festival of purification which took place at the end of the month and has a decidedly Piscean flavour. Pisceans have strong religious beliefs and their careers include missionary, the Church, the healing professions and the fashionable 'counselling.' Naturally, any business on, in or under water is well starred.

It's pleasant and refreshing

by **JOAN REVILL**

to meet a true Piscean: their happy, easy-going temperaments make the most arid lives sparkle. February, according to the rhyme, thaws the frozen lake and Pisces dissolves old barriers, nourishes and nurtures. Pisceans are open, relaxed, voluble. They are the jolliest of companions, prone to all the human weaknesses but good-hearted and generous.

Continuing to ramble around the introductory verse we come to lakes. The Lake Poets,

Pisces' year ahead

On your birthday you will have the fiery planet Mars in conjunction with your Sun. This promises — or warns of! — an exciting year ahead. Your batteries will be recharged with vim and vigour and life moves at a cracking pace.

This makes a welcome change for most Pisceans who have spent a rather sad couple of years playing host to Saturn. Many have suffered bereavement or loss of a partner, others have been wearied by an uphill struggle with little help or appreciation. There may have been illness or curtailment of freedom, too much responsibility, too many dull duties, success snatched away at the last moment.

Pisceans born during the last week of the sign are still not out of the wood. Instead of roaring ahead like the rest, their year will be more of an obstacle race with alternate periods of clearing one hurdle only to fall back at the next. They will have to wait a little longer but, even for them, the pace is quickening.

The effect of Mars is to make you take centre stage, to achieve better conditions, to fight for what you want. A good omen for those in the forces or for activists in any field. The accompanying dangers are, naturally enough, quarrels, accidents and hot-headedness — all somewhat out of character for Pisces — but this is an active year and you should try to work with your ener-

getic companion.

Lady Fish may find that their menfolk are more affected than they are and will experience the effects secondhand as it were. All Pisceans should take extra care from March 20th to 24th which could be a fractious time in one way or another.

From April onwards Saturn will be in your house of finances and for the rest of your Solar year you will have to concentrate on material affairs, security and consolidation. Now is the time to get finances on a firm basis. Economies may be necessary or you may feel they are necessary. Despite Mars' influence, don't take chances in money matters, particularly in April when you will find you are tempted into risky ventures or heavy gambling.

The last week in August and the first week in September is a popular holiday time. If you like a noisy, adventurous, stomach-churning scene — choose it! For the susceptible, a whirlwind romance leaves you breathless.

Your ruling planet Neptune can't be ignored any longer. He remains in your 11th House all the year which gives you grand visions and ambitions but not always the means to realise them. However Jupiter, your co-ruler, spends 1996 in this house too. Neither planet is particularly happy in sober old Capricorn but this is probably a good thing as it curbs their more exalted, im-

Wordsworth Southey and Coleridge, lived in and loved the Lake District and sought inspiration from the beauties of nature there. Poetry and landscape painting can be chalked up to Pisces. Then there's the Lady of the Lake. That was Vivien, mistress of Merlin. She stole the son of the King of Brittany and took him to her home in the middle of a lake which was how he came by his title of Lancelot du lac.

Yes, we're into Arthurian country and the legends, myths, hauntings and phenomena so beloved by Pisceans. Lancelot twice caught sight of the Holy Grail but his adulterous — and all too human — love for Queen Guinevere denied it to him. Nevertheless, he was regarded as the model of chivalry as Arthur was the embodiment of the perfect Christian knight. At best Pisces can rise to these heights. For the rest, romantic escapism in-

POSITION IN THE ZODIAC	TWELFTH SIGN
CORRESPONDING TO	FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 20
PRINCIPLE	CHARITY
ELEMENT	WATER
QUALITY	MUTABLE
PLANETARY RULER	JUPITER/NEPTUNE
SYMBOL	THE FISHES

variably ends in tragedy and tears — but that's Pisces.

Despite the *bonhomie* it has been called sorrows and is attributed to the Fish swimming in different directions. Actually the sorrows may be caused by trying to alleviate the suffering of others rather than anything personal. Pisces is unselfish and puts the interests of others first. It is politically a practical socialist and is drawn to the corresponding 12th House's institutions such as prisons, reformatories, asylums and charitable establishments.

Pisces rules trees which

grow near water, principally the weeping willow (tears again) and by the laws of sympathy is the patron sign of cricketers. It rules the feet and football and is very handy in a sporting chart. Dancers too come under Pisces.

There don't seem to be any 'feet' names but there are plenty connected with the sea. Nautical and Piscean Luck should come with Marina, Morgan, Morwenna, Murdoch, Meraud, Muriel, Meriel, and Coral.

On March 20th the Fish swim off into the sunset and the zodiac year comes to an end.

practical notions.

Happily there should be a lot of luck to be extracted from the placing. The 11th is the house of hopes, sociability and friends so this can be taken as a year when distant, almost pie-in-the-sky dreams may indeed be realised and when friends rally round. A good time to join clubs and to look out for soul mates in religious, occult or artistic circles, also those from far countries and charitable or visionary folk.

From May right through to September both planets are retrograde which slows up the benefits of the configuration but by the end of the year and up to January 21st 1997 you have everything going for you. This is the time to enjoy life and to reap success with little effort.

From late January to early February, Venus and Mercury join Neptune. The former strikes an affectionate note. You may find your ideal mate then. It should add to your attractiveness. The latter brings important messages and meetings.

Meanwhile, Pluto is spending the year in your 10th House. This is a new venture for him which will affect your career or your position in the world over the next decade or so. There is great potential here. You can gain professional success, recognition — fame! A change of career or way of life which possibly entails emigration could be on the cards.

Most favoured professions are in the medical

fields, anything with a strong-arm flavour, anything connected with underground/undercover work, anything in the nuclear world.

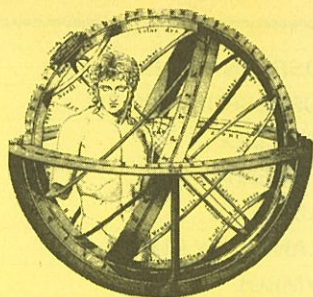
Not all will strike lucky immediately. Some will have upsetting, traumatic experiences but they will be given the strength to pick up the pieces and start again, perhaps with Kipling's 'worn out tools' but with every prospect of finding that the original disaster was a blessing in disguise. At a more homely level, relations with a parent may be affected in an extraordinary way.

In mid-November your powers of communication — lecturing, arguing, persuading, writing — are enhanced. Late November brings advancement. For some, mid-December could put strains on your relationships. However, if your job or hobby is making beautiful things, then this is an excellent time for you to push your talent.

Uranus is quietly tucked away for the whole year in your 12th House. Pisceans plagued by neuroses can conquer their fears now, secrets can be brought into the open and phobias sent packing.

In late January Jupiter joins it and from then and throughout February unexpected luck and happiness seek you out. You are rewarded with something you haven't had to work for, a bonus. If you have suffered loss you will be recompensed with interest.

A happy note on which to end the year.



MARCH BIRTHDAY FORECAST

★ INDICATES AN EXCEPTIONALLY LUCKY 12 MONTHS AHEAD

-
- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>1 After August professional life and ambitions become more accentuated.</p> <p>★</p> <p>2 Plenty of experience to be gained and used in your career.</p> <p>3 Unrealistic ideals play havoc with personal relationships or close partnerships.</p> <p>4 A whole new series of events. Old associations and habits have to make way for the new.</p> <p>★</p> <p>5 Generally good but changeable 12 months.</p> <p>6 Improvements will become necessary in family and domestic arrangements or the strain will tell.</p> <p>7 Look after your finances very carefully. Avoid any joint money ventures.</p> <p>8 Gains and losses. Money and possessions just don't quite go the way you plan.</p> <p>9 Personal leadership qualities develop.</p> <p>10 Quiet. Easy going with a chance of several relationships starting up.</p> | <p>11 Ambitions strong, the drive to achieve less so. Learn how to balance the difference.</p> <p>12 Be careful what you start and with whom. The heart will try to rule the head.</p> <p>13 Largely favourable, although March/April period may be a bit depressing.</p> <p>14 Inclined to be more impulsive than usual. Occasionally, it may pay off.</p> <p>15 Social life may just take off and the year fly by.</p> <p>★</p> <p>16 Close partnerships may draw apart or fail totally in a few cases.</p> <p>17 Do what is expected of you and don't dream too much. Duty and obligation call.</p> <p>18 Cheerful period. Nothing really concrete, nothing exactly adverse either.</p> <p>19 Challenging and exciting year ahead and a busy one too.</p> <p>★</p> <p>20 Watch diet, health and general physical shape.</p> <p>21 A greater inner sensitivity develops. You learn to view life more sympathetically.</p> | <p>22 Difficulties in self-expression inhibit relationships.</p> <p>23 A need for better direction and more personal discipline.</p> <p>24 Christmas period may be depressing. A new relationship develops early in 1997.</p> <p>25 Change for the sake of change, freedom and independence attract more.</p> <p>26 A whole new world opens up or a new person comes into your life around June/July.</p> <p>★</p> <p>27 Best to let sleeping dogs lie. This is not a time to disturb anything or anyone.</p> <p>28 More travel through work. Family changes. Not a time to change address.</p> <p>29 Much goes your way, spoiled only by restlessness or an impatient attitude.</p> <p>30 Quiet time, some personal ties liable to change.</p> <p>31 Much conflict between things old and new. Look before you leap.</p> |
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AQUARIAN BIOCHEMICAL SALT

I have just read your answer about a Virgo biochemical remedy (November 95 issue) and, as an Aquarian, would be obliged if you could let me have details of the Salt for my sign please. — P.D.S., Walsall.

The tissue salt for Aquarians is Nat Mur which regulates the flow of fluids through the body. It has other attributes too which are right for the Aquarian personality. Difficulty in sleeping, drowsiness, feeling tired on waking from sleep, headaches: all are Aquarian problems and, if taken regularly, Nat Mur will give great benefit on a personal level.

SENDING CURSES

I have read many different opinions on sending curses.

One source says that on no account should one do this as it will rebound threefold; other sources say it is alright as long as one does not care what happens to the victim.

If one symbolically harmed a picture or drawing of the victim, chopped off his/her head in the drawing for example, is that what would happen to the real victim? — C.L., Bristol.

It is unwise to let loose curses on anyone under any circumstances. In times past, curses were rather commonplace and some individuals had the capability to use them quite effectively. These days, thankfully, that ability has been lost to a great extent.

The general rule used to be that a curse should be carefully 'bound' before being sent although the curse would indeed

return if the intended recipient were protected, usually by means of an aura. Whether or not the person sending the curse cared what happened to his/her potential victim apparently made no difference: once the curse was made it took on a power of its own.

Such curses could and did strike home but they also could and did go awry quite often, causing great harm to innocent people. The power of the mind was and is important too. Images certainly do have some effect but it would not be possible to conjure up a harmful mental picture or make a drawing and then have that mental image actually occur in real life to the intended victim.

Incidentally, there is an occult maxim that states that any action taken, especially against another, will rebound on the perpetrator sevenfold not threefold!

I CHING

Is there a section of the I Ching relating directly to the family? — D.S., Cumberland.

Hexagram 37, *Chia Jen*, translates as *The Family* or *The Clan*. It emphasises that the wife should be correct in all her actions which, according to I Ching philosophy, is consid-

graphology

(continued from page 00)

fore one must not overlook some aggressiveness, criticism and a little stress and tension. Word spacing is slightly irregular — an uneven type of attitude in social and interpersonal relationships. Lower zone loops are quite long in some cases and they are of different kinds throughout the main body of the writing. This being the tangible, instinctual and

physical sphere it can be seen that our writer possesses a strong but variable sex drive.

The tendency towards angular forms in this zone sadly reveals some disappointment and upset in this area of the writer's mind. In many ways angularity shows some aggressiveness in the sphere in which it occurs. Completely angular writing shows drive, forcefulness accompanied by a very critical observation and appraisal of most things.

Base-lines in this case are not even so emotional pressures impinge upon everyday directives. Letter size is also un-

even and irregular. This reveals the writer's feelings towards the environment.

In some word endings the last letter curves back upon itself greatly. The writer inclines towards covering up things about self and, making a strong leftward movement, tends to introversion. But the size demonstrates a need to express and show oneself. This is certainly someone who will not be happy to take a back seat.

There are no lead-in strokes at the beginning of words, consequently the owner likes to come straight to the point without any unnecessary details.

ered to be the most important rule of family life.

AQUARIAN AGE

When does the Aquarian Age start and will there be a new spiritual teacher for the New Age? — J.W., Shoreham.

The influences of the new Age have already begun as there is always an overlap between one Age and the next. Each covers a 2150-year span so the Aquarian Age will begin around the year 2165 although its influences will become more obvious once the new millennium commences. One of the New Age's main influences is an overall raising of spiritual consciousness but so, too, will be scientific advancement far beyond anything already experienced during the last century.

There is always a new religion and Teacher for each new Age, the avatar for the Aquarian Age incarnating during its early stages. In fact, many feel that the Teacher for the New Age has already been born. Some believe it is Christ reborn, others that it is a new Teacher altogether.

However, whoever this Teacher is, he/she will follow in the footsteps of many past World Teachers who have

founded new religions, the most recent being Buddhism in the last quarter of the Arien Age and Christianity and Islam in the early stages of the Piscean Age.

As the exploration of space progresses, there will be contacts with other worlds and peoples in Solar systems outside our own whose beliefs are likely to filter through to us.

The Aquarian Age will mark a period when major epidemics and illnesses will be controlled with subsequent longer life expectancy. Technical advances and world peace are part of Aquarian Age concepts, all linked to a World Teacher who could well be described as a Universal President as well as a spiritual leader.

GEMINIAN COMPOSERS

I am sure I read an article in PREDICTION some years ago which gave details of classical composers born under the sign of Gemini. Can you please refresh my memory with more details? — F.P.R., Cumberland.

The article appeared in the November 82 issue and mentioned some 27 composers born in the Spring months, 11 of whom were Geminians.

These were Wagner, May 22nd; Korngold, May 29th; Elgar, June 2nd; Khachaturian, June 6th; Schumann, June 8th; Nielsen, June 9th; Richard Strauss, June 11th; Grieg, June 15th; Stravinsky, June 17th; Gounod, June 18th; Offenbach, June 20th.

There may be others, too, but these were the ones mentioned.

DREAM COACH

I keep dreaming of riding in a coach, quite an ordinary one, but always wake before the meaning of the dream becomes clear. — P.R., Sunderland.

This is a warning dream. It might seem rather grand to ride in an old-fashioned coach but this means that old ideas are not going to work in the future and major business changes must be implemented before disaster can strike.

If, in your dream, you are able to get out of the coach and walk about, this implies you will be able to leave behind any such business problems which occur in real life.

However, if you insist on riding in your dream coach, the business problems could become acute and result in considerable monetary loss.

Essentials are the main objective. The personal pronoun capital *I* confirms this — one sharp firm mark will do: this is me and no beating about the bush.

It is interesting to note the slant of some words starts leftward but pulls up to the right later on. This shows a rather astute caution at first, giving way to a more responsive outcome.

There are loops in places where under average teaching there should be straight lines. Strangely our writer is a little sensitive about matters of a personal nature and quickly re-

sponds to criticism from others. These traits show in the *d* and *t* forms.

Returning to those pointed lower loops again, they are negative signs and reveal psychological discomfort with private and personal activities appertaining to the love-life. I stress again that where there are angles in place of more rounded forms, there can be a possibility of trouble. The more of them there are, the more the trouble. Rounded and curved scripts are much happier by implication. Such writers approach life in a more pliable and openly receptive manner.

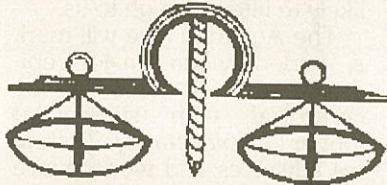
One will often come across a combination of the two. When this is seen the owner will apply systematic thinking but will also be able to mix in social relationships without any natural readiness to see the opposite side of everything. As stated earlier, the writer of angular forms is ready to criticise and get involved in sudden argument while those using more rounded forms will prefer to pull out and not get involved if at all possible.

If you find yourself arguing with a difficult and awkward person, make sure that he/she is not doing the same!

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THE WORLD TREE

One of our oldest native trees occupies a special place in folklore.
by DAVID McGRORY

Within 20 feet of where I sit an ash tree is in full leaf and full of keys, as the seeds are known. What is so special about an ash tree?

Many of our native trees have myths, legends and folklore attached to them and the ash is no exception. Indeed the ash, historically, is on par with the oak in its rich mythology. It can be identified with the Yggdrasil, the World Tree of the Norse and Anglo-Saxon world. Teutonic mythology tells us that the giant ash, the Yggdrasil, existed before the beginning of time. It grew from the centre of the Earth, holding Earth and heaven together, and its three roots grew into the underworld, the realm of the gods.

One root grew into the realm of Aesir entering the Well of Urdr, the Spring of Fate. The second went into the land of the Frost Giants ending at the wisdom-giving Spring of Mimir, meeting place of the gods and entrance to Bilfrost, the bridge which linked the gods with Earth. We all have seen Bilfrost for the bridge of the gods is in fact a rainbow. The third root went to Niflheim the Land of the Dead, of the goddess Hel, and plunged into Hvergelmir the source of all rivers.

At the base of the Yggdrasil in the Middle Earth, the land of mankind, a great serpent called Nidhogger curls around the trunk while smaller snakes gnaw at the roots. The uppermost branches which hold up the sky are home to an eagle with a hawk on its head. This great eagle is thought to represent Odin (Woden), sky god and Lord of Battles. This god was known as Odin to the Norse race and Woden to the Anglo-Saxons.

The belief in the World Tree appears to have been ancient, even in the age of Odin, throughout northern Asia and Europe. The tree and man's fate are linked through shamanistic teachings as the tree was thought to be the source of unborn souls. The

sky god Odin acquired the gift of shamanism by being pierced with a spear and hung on the Yggdrasil for nine days and nights. Only after sacrificing himself to himself and suffering the pain of spiritual rebirth could he acquire the runes of knowledge.

Interestingly, the concept of the god sacrificed on the tree and pierced by a spear brings to mind the story of the Crucifixion. There is, however, no provable connection with the sacrifice of Odin and Christ except that both events are based on ancient shamanistic rituals.

The hanging of Odin on the Yggdrasil reflects sacrifices made to him in such a manner, giving him his other name as the 'god of the hanged.' Many were of prisoners after battles, hung *en masse* on ash trees which became known as Gibbet Ashes or Covin-Trees; trees of mass hangings.

According to Norse/Saxon mythology the ash was the original source of man. We are told that Odin, Hoenir and Lodurr were walking along the seashore when they came to two trees, an elm and an ash. From the ash they fashioned the first man and called him Asker (Ash) and from the elm a woman called Embla (Elm).

This memory of creating a

new body — renewing it — may have been the origin of the belief in the curative powers of the ash. A practice, once common, is recorded in *The Gentleman's Magazine* of October 1804 as taking place in Solihull, Warwickshire: a young ash stood 'close to the cottage of Henry Rowe, whose infant son, Thomas, was drawn through the trunk or body of it in the year 1791, to cure him of a rupture, the tree then being split open for the purpose of passing the child through it.'

Preserved

It goes on to say that Thomas Chillingworth, 'son of the owner of the adjoining farm, now about 34, when an infant of a year old, was passed through a similar tree, now perfectly sound, which he preserves with so much care that he will not suffer a single branch to be touched for it is believed the life of the patient depends on the life of the tree and that the moment it is cut down, be the patient ever so distant, the rupture returns and mortification ensues and terminates with death.'

The 18th century naturalist, Gilbert White, in his *Natural History of Selborne* records that in the middle of the village stood a whole line of ash trees bearing scars from being split so that, 'ruptured children, stripped naked, were pushed through the aperture.' Even then the Rev White knew the custom's origin stating that 'it came from our Saxon ancestors who practised it before their conversion to Christianity.' Conversion obviously didn't stop this pagan practice which lasted well into the 19th century.

The curative power of the ash has even been recorded as being used upon a king. In 1688, at Salisbury, James II



suffered from a severe nose-bleed which lasted for two days. All remedies were to no avail until local surgeon, William Nash, applied a piece of ash to the king's nose and the bleeding, much to the monarch's relief, miraculously stopped.

For centuries small pieces of ash cut at certain phases of the Moon were used as cure-alls, either carried or burnt and rubbed on the affected area. Animals were cured in similar ways by rubbing ash boughs on them or, more curiously, drilling a hole in an ash and entombing a shrew or mouse whose lingering death was thought to cure the complaint.

Despite the Teutonic belief in the serpent at the base of the Yggdrasil, the ash has been believed to repel serpents or any other poisonous creature since at least the time of the ancient Greeks. Pliny, in AD 77, says of the ash, 'No serpent will ever lie in the shadow thrown by it.' In fact he goes on to say that a serpent would rather face fire than ash (no pun intended).

Its use was prevalent throughout England into recent times mainly among the rural community. Where adders were common, farmers hung ash above barn doors to protect stock and those who worked or walked the moors carried a small piece or an ash stick as protection from adder bites.

It was used to predict the future. The young used the leaves in rites to predict future husbands or wives. Older people looked to the ash keys, the seeds, for it was said that if the ash did not seed in June a great calamity would occur. Tradition states that in the year Charles I lost his head no ash England seeded.

It is not surprising that in many parts of the land it was thought unlucky to damage an ash. Its wood would cure and protect, its leaves and seeds protect and predict. It was Yggdrasil, the World Tree once sacred to Odin, and indeed an astonishing tree.

Western philosophies seem to be driven by the need for opposition and conflict; right and wrong, black and white, good and bad, light and dark. Eastern philosophies, on the other hand, see polarities as interdependent, one cannot exist without the other. The Yin-Yang symbol encapsulates within its two halves the essence of both; there is no conflict between them.

There is a tendency in any current discussions on the functions of the two halves of the brain to view one or the other as superior. In modern Western societies it often seems that the logical, reasoning left-brain is regarded as the properly dominant half. And yet creativity, intuition, playfulness, these are all products of right-brain activity and deserve more attention than they normally receive in everyday life.

Stories are told of the Chinese painters who, in a drunken state, splattered ink around and then interpreted the blots by adding a few more strokes, bringing out the pictures for all to see. How many artists working in any medium always know exactly what they are going to produce? A lot of criticism of so-called 'modern art' may well arise from our need to impose a logical and recognisable framework on anything we see.

Missing

The *Tao Te Ching* tells us that, 'The five colours blind one's eyes; the five tones deafen one's ears; the five tastes ruin one's palate.' By imposing formal rules we may be missing a great deal.

The ancient Japanese carpenters judged with the eye, used no nails or glue and yet put together wonderful pieces of joinery. This art is being rapidly lost as the demands of a business-orientated society ensure that everything must be

produced faster. There is no time for the long years of apprenticeship, no time for learning to allow a piece of work to develop naturally.

Now that so much more is known about the different functions of the two halves of the brain some people are beginning to realise that the whole slant of Western education has favoured the development of the left side of the brain. There is still the tendency to concentrate on the 'three Rs,' all of which are primarily left-brain functions. Art, music, drama, all have been seen as the frills rather than an essential part of learning.

Evidence

Interestingly, experiments in schools in America in the 1970s showed clear evidence that, where the proportion of 'arts' type subjects was increased, children actually showed enhanced performance in mathematics and science as well. We only need to look at the example of such people as Leonardo da Vinci, who was both scientist and artist, to see that intuition and analytical thinking can come together to produce the best in human achievement.

So how do late 20th century Westerners tune into their right-brains again? Taoism suggests the art of *wu wei* — no action. This is very difficult in our kind of society but perhaps there are ways.

Consider the whole question of intuition. How many of us do get flashes of knowledge that seem to come from somewhere 'outside' our normal selves? Surely, this is right-brain activity — the agonising over what is the right thing to do which suddenly reveals the appropriate answer; the person we instinctively trust or not, as the case may be; even sometimes the knowledge of what's going to happen next.

I would suggest that in all of

Go With The Flow

by JUNE GREEN

The demands and pace of life in the late 20th century are increasing.

With this it is becoming more and more important that we should find ways both to employ all the talents at our disposal and to insulate ourselves from the pressures.



these situations the right-brain is working for us because we have allowed it to. As the *Tao Te Ching* puts it, 'the way never acts yet nothing is left undone.'

Go with the flow

In an ideal world we could all slow down, relax, go with the flow. In reality, it is hard for most of us to view this as a viable option. The boss is unlikely to take kindly to excuses like 'my right-brain told me today wouldn't be very productive so I think I'll stay home' or 'my vibes told me not to trust that man you wanted to hire for the job.'

Even so, perhaps there are ways. It is possible to limit the amount of stress which arises when we do have to go against the flow. We don't have to meet aggression with aggression; it isn't ever really necessary to struggle against a situation in which we have no chance of changing things. We

may not be able to stay home but we can sometimes draw back, let the moment pass, allow the right-brain to suggest the next move.

Maybe we do have to work with someone who is less than congenial but, by allowing negative vibes to influence our attitude to him or her we may well miss out on his strengths. And only by understanding those strengths can we know how either to harness or combat them.

Tools

There are many tools today to help us to develop these right-brain functions. Not everyone wants to take up martial arts in which the whole object is to harmonise mind and body and to permit the uninterrupted flow of *chi*. However, although Tai Chi was originally developed as a martial art it is now more often used as a system of relatively gentle physical movement al-

lied to the development of mental harmony and is generally achievable by people of all ages and degrees of fitness.

Equally, the I Ching, with its ancient wisdom and universal philosophy, allows the serious questioner to contact his or her unconscious mind — to use the right-brain to explore answers to problems.

Many meditation techniques stress the need for balancing the breath and it is interesting that research on the brain activity of people engaged in Transcendental Meditation has shown, through the use of electroencephalograms, that the two halves of their brains appeared to be better synchronised.

As more and more Westerners come to appreciate the benefits of meditation perhaps we shall come to value more highly the advantages of the Taoist concept of *wu-wei* — non action — to go with the flow.

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MAGIC

DREAM MEANINGS



COLOUR CHANGE

THE DREAM

I AM KNEELING on a rug in a grey room playing with a baby that I engulf with love. Facing me is a door standing wide open onto a long grey corridor disappearing into lovely peaceful shades of deep, deep blue.

THE MEANING

YOU have been burying your talent or pushing it to one side as unimportant. Here you are being shown that through fostering it with love the greyness (indecision, since it is a blend of black and white) around you will grow into the deep blue of inspiration, creativity and spiritual understanding. Blue is also the colour of motherhood.

CONFRONTATION

THE DREAM

SINCE CHILDHOOD I have had a recurring dream. I cannot remember the exact details but wake up screaming and feel terrible.

THE MEANING

WAKING up screaming happens to many people and is an indication that there are things in daily life that we are not willing to face. If we are subjected to unfairness, cruelty or are simply misunderstood in waking life and cannot resolve this situation, we will suppress it or perhaps even deny its existence altogether.

There are adults who have so successfully suppressed things that, when confronted with the truth, they will refuse to acknowledge the fact, perhaps claiming that they do not remember. This may well be the case here, which would explain why you recall nothing of the dream's content.

by SOPHIA DANIEL

Ancestors usually indicate a need to look into our past for answers. We are the culmination of many previous generations and, through our genes, have access to all the experiences of those who have gone before us: a quite remarkable prospect. Thus we are able to have far memory dreams or past life regressions on which to call in order to help with today's problems.

A DOG'S LIFE

THE DREAM

I AM WALKING up a lane linking arms with two shadowy figures who swing me off the ground while supporting me. I call to my husband's labrador but, instead, see my son's puppy - now fully grown - walking behind us, which frightens me. Incidentally, my husband and father-in-law are both dead now.

THE MEANING

YOU are trying to follow your own path in life and are being supported in this. Your assumption that the two figures represent your lost menfolk is probably right.

Although dogs are usually associated with friendship, your son's dog here represents their other aspect, that of the dog-in-a-manger.

It seems that your son re-enters your new-found freedom and is feeling neglected. A talk with your son would be a good idea now as the dog in the dream is full-grown, possibly indicating that the problem will grow too if he is not disciplined as a puppy.

CREATIVITY

THE DREAM

I AM IN a child's nursery decorated in shades of grey (tones I use often when I paint) where a woman I have known for years and who loves children is strangling her grandchild. I experience anguish yet, at the same time, agree with this woman and make no move to stop the murder.

THE MEANING

SINCE this dream takes place in a colour environment you use when painting, it would appear that it concerns your creative talents.

Babies in dreams are ideas and people represent aspects of ourselves. So the woman is a side of yourself that you don't truly acknowledge.

We are supposed to like and enjoy our creations (paintings?) but there are times when you may want to destroy them. You are simply being asked to acknowledge this side of yourself.

CONFIDENCE

THE DREAM

I HAVE A recurring nightmare where I am in an aeroplane and every time, not long after take-off, it crashes.

THE MEANING

YOU have some high-flying ambitions but don't have the confidence to put these into effect. They therefore come crashing down to Earth because you are not allowing them to take flight.

Since this is a recurring dream, it would seem that you are being told to stop hiding your light behind a bushel. Now is the time to assert yourself, get up and go!

Rain, hail, sleet and snow — all are familiar sights as they fall from the skies. Perhaps not so familiar are the more bizarre falls of such objects as fish, toads, iceblocks, nails and even human flesh.

Even hailstones can be of a more unusual type. In New York in 1900 they appeared identical to human eyes, while in 1908 a region in France saw hailstones bearing the face of the Virgin Mary. The day? Trinity Sunday.

The fact that so many falls of the more unusual kind are reported — witnessed by countless people in all locations worldwide — proves their existence beyond doubt. Even those sceptical of such events would be hard-pressed to explain away the obvious evidence which remains after these strange downpours. Yet one aspect of these events is more often than not missing — why they happen at all.

While severe hailstorms have produced hailstones the size of tennis balls — not judged atmospherically possible by meteorologists — more disturbing are the instances where lone iceblocks have fall-

larly rain down on us.

In Glamorgan in Wales, in 1859, a shower of live fish fell from the sky in a sudden rain-storm. Rather than falling over a wide area, the fish fell from one specific spot in the clouds overhead. Again, this was not an isolated phenomenon. Showers of fish, both living and dead and sometimes preserved in blocks of ice, have occurred in places as far apart as the USA, Australia and England.

While in some cases it is feasible that fish, toads and other small objects can be sucked up into the atmosphere, perhaps by a tornado, and subsequently fall back to Earth in a down-pour occurring elsewhere, this is not an explanation which covers all bases. For instance, how can one explain the numerous falls of objects which can and have appeared out of cloudless skies?

Yet even this is not the most bizarre aspect of such falls. Where the more unusual falls of objects are concerned — such as the human flesh which fell in California in the 19th century — the question which arises time and time again is, where do they come from?

often hear of cattle disappearing from farmers' fields and people going missing for no apparent reason.

Some are never seen again but those who do return, when regressed under hypnosis, often recall being taken aboard alien spacecraft and being subjected to various medical tests, presumably so the aliens can discover more about the human race. Perhaps those who are not brought back, including animals, are subjected to more in depth tests and the alien beings simply discard those parts they no longer require when they have finished with them.

Far-fetched? Perhaps. But not impossible. It would explain the more bizarre objects which fall from clear blue skies.

Our own aeroplanes are known occasionally and unintentionally to have jettisoned unwanted matter while in flight so why should the same not be possible in the case of extraterrestrials and their own flying machines? We all keep that which matters to us and discard what we no longer need.

Whatever the answers for these strange and varied phenomena may be, one thing is certain — the old expression 'it's raining cats and dogs' may not be so far from the truth after all.

AERIAL ASSAULTS

by ALLISON WHITEHEAD

en from the sky, damaging property and in some instances coming very close to claiming the lives of the residents within. Such blocks of ice can be several kilos in weight and have the alarming habit of crashing to Earth with no clue to where or why they were formed.

The atmosphere could not support such an object long enough for it to grow to such a size and while some may well have built up and then fallen from the wings of aeroplanes — this can happen — it does not account for all such falls and certainly not for the torrents of fish, toads and various inanimate objects which regu-

Tornados and suchlike sucking up small fish and other widespread and common creatures is easily understandable — but human flesh? Since we do not hear reports of people experiencing a loss of skin during such storms, it is puzzling indeed to guess at where it might come from. Yet perhaps we could make a connection.

Reports of alien encounters and abductions of humans into spaceships are well known. For years people have witnessed strange lights, glowing objects which defy all natural laws and alien creatures wandering around on land. Going hand in hand with such sightings, we



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by MARGARET BRUCE

We sometimes forget that the function of simple practical magic is to reinforce our relationship with the cosmos and regain some control over our lives. Early man had to deal with countless natural hazards and needed to learn quickly if he hoped to prevail against climate, predators, hunger and his own fears.

The first lesson was obedience to nature's laws. To understand the vital importance of recognising, observing and working in harmony with the ebb and flow of the cosmic tides that govern all existence. This was the birth of magic in the human mind.

The laws of magic were then, as now, inseparable from physical being and the reality of the living world. Like the laws of physics, the laws of magic are immutable; not to be confused with the so-called laws of society that change at the whim of fashion and expediency.

Earliest man had the choice of learning and using the inflex-

ible laws of nature or suffering the inevitable consequences. Modern man has forgotten that elementary lesson and is reaping the bitter harvest of his moral illiteracy. All contemporary ills are the result of mankind's isolation from the cosmic reality; a process that began early in prehistoric times when society first expanded beyond the simple extended family groups into tribes and nations.

The rise of civilisation diluted instinctive magical awareness and the innate ability to put magical law into practice was displaced by symbols and rituals of ever-diminishing authenticity. The retreat of *Homo sapiens* from cosmic reality has accelerated over the past two centuries but it was the introduction of electric lighting that literally switched off our relationship with the basic Solar and Lunar cycles.

When clocks replaced the use of Sun, Moon and Stars as measures of activity and rest, time did indeed begin to tick away for the human species. Even after the industrial revolution there remained some communities who continued to live and work in harmony with Sun, Moon and the seasons. Late though it was, any determined individual could still reject the disintegrating culture to rediscover his/her own roots and that inner spark of magic.

Now, however, sophisticated housing, motor cars, computerised entertainment and media indoctrination have combined to displace cosmic

reality and substitute a world of total fantasy: a negative illusion that has become a substitute for living. Those able or willing to escape the stultifying effects of this wall-to-wall mirage are exceptional.

Citizens who feel themselves dogged by misfortune and unhappiness are not being cursed or hexed. They are experiencing the deprivation of contact with reality and over-exposure to the negative emanations of a sick and decaying society. Yet the remedy is simple for those with the will and self-confidence to try for themselves.

Moon magic

When was the last time you bowed to the New Moon? Can you recall making a wish as you watched a meteorite trailing a fiery path across the heavens? If you've never done these things maybe you need a bit of magic to help sort out your problems and put you back in charge of your own life.

Cynics may scoff at the idea of greeting the New Moon but this simple action conveys the age-old message that magic is a matter entirely between the individual and reality. Every man, woman and child is a star whose innate magic is kept alive by individual communion with the cosmos. Looking elsewhere for magic than in this direct link with cosmic reality is a dangerous waste of energy and precious time.

Human society offers no help in the reawakening of your limitless inner magic. You must bypass all mortal agencies if you wish to take responsibility for your own happiness. The very act of getting out and observing the Moon and con-

Cosmic Control

Simple magic can transform your life.

stellations that have witnessed the beginning of life and the birth, progress and decline of mankind puts all humanity's petty concerns in true perspective.

It is not enough to know the zodiacal signs and recite the names of Greek, Roman, Egyptian and Chaldean deities. You need to recognise them as eternal, living and unchanging entities that occupy the constellations and galaxies. They are not simply symbolic outlines on star maps but the infinite reality within which all else exists, including this small world and everything in it.

First steps

They are the source of your power to govern your own destiny. Despite the wide interest in astrology, nowadays, little attention is paid to practical star magic. So let's begin with what the late Madeline Montalban called 'the baby stuff' and demonstrate how a bit of simple Moon magic can improve your life.

If you are experiencing incredible runs of misfortune you can be sure that your innate spark of magic is in good working order. What has happened is that YOU are out of step with the cosmic rhythms and tides and, like an inexperienced yachtsman, are fighting the elements instead of using their strength to augment your own efforts. So the sooner you have a respectful look at the New Moon, the better.

Start by finding the date of the next New Moon in the yellow section of this magazine. The following evening sit down at a table, light a white candle and think about what you hope to achieve in the next fortnight.

Make a list if you can. Nothing is too trivial or too ambitious to include on your list.

Spend as long as you like planning your priorities and arranging your thoughts into some kind of logical order. If you feel like praying then do so. Or you can simply talk to the candle flame as you might to a person. The important thing is to create a plan of action, however unpromising it may seem; remembering to concentrate only on the good things you want to either increase or bring into your life.

The next step is to go outside and look for the New Moon. You may not actually see it but you have looked for it and that is enough to set your inner Lunar clock to the correct time.

However, if you do catch sight of the Moon, make whatever acknowledgement suits you as you remind yourself of your aims. The Moon and the power it exerts are real so concern yourself with this reality rather than slavishly following some mystical ritual.

The final and vital move is to go through each of your aims and then take any sensible material action you can think of to achieve each one. This may be a telephone call, a letter or just polishing the car. The action itself is less important than the message it conveys; magical entities read only actions and not words.

Always remember, if your actions convey a positive message you will get positive results. Now get on with your life until the Full Moon, the date of which you will also find in this magazine's yellow section.

The evening after the day of the Full Moon light your candle

and make a list of the things you want to banish from your life. Try to think of how you might achieve the best results and list your aims in order of priority. Again you may pray or talk to the candle flame — whatever comes most naturally to you.

When you have finished, go outside and look for the Moon. This is easy in the case of the Full Moon unless it is a cloudy night. You can bow, nod or just gaze while thinking of the Moon waning, day by day, and taking your unwanted problems with her. Once again, follow your ritual with some material action such as throwing out the rubbish, doing some washing or any other 'banishing' action.

Rapport

You have now put yourself in rapport with the phases of the Moon and that should mark the beginning of a general improvement in your circumstances. By following this routine faithfully at every New and Full Moon, always paying special attention to looking for the Moon in the sky and following each ritual with some symbolic but practical action, you will build up a vortex of positive energy working in your favour.

The Lunar phases are only one aspect of the complex rhythms permeating the galaxies and all living things. The goddess who governs the tides, the breeding seasons and animal migration is not alone. The entities who rule that realm of reality in the firmament are not remote, simply 'somewhere out there.' It is we who dwell within them and who ignore the tempo of their dance at our peril.

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.

LETTERS

HAIL ANUBIS

FURTHER TO THE OQT regarding help in finding lost items, I realise that different people have a rapport with different gods, saints and spirits, etc but personally I have found Anubis, the Egyptian, jackal-headed god to be a wonderful help in such matters. I wear contact lenses and the number of occasions when I have asked Anubis for help in finding a lost lens now runs into dozens yet he has always 'come up trumps.'

I mentioned this aspect of Anubis to a highly sceptical friend and, weeks later, he told me that he had mislaid a pair of secateurs while gardening. A careful search proved unavailing so my friend challenged

Anubis to 'do his stuff' — the secateurs turned up moments later.

A further twist to the whole business was that my friend told an acquaintance of his, whom I have never met, about Anubis' power to find lost items. This acquaintance had not heard of Anubis but asked for his help when, some weeks later, he lost his watch: lo and behold, there was the watch!

Cleveland J. Hillier

LEVITATION

IN RESPONSE TO the OQT concerning levitation, there have been numerous witnesses of unimpeachable veracity who have witnessed such an event.

There have been many well-documented cases of Catholic

saints, Hindu orderlies, Spiritualists and so on being levitated. Mrs John Le Breton, in *The White Magic Book*, mentions that she witnessed a levitation while visiting India and there are many other detailed reports.

So what's the answer? We know that every force has a dual nature so if there is gravity there must be anti-gravity also. Scientists have also discovered anti-matter, which may account for apparitions.

Spiritual rapture seems to account for many cases of levitation. Bhastrika, a form of Pranayama, is reputed to make one become lighter than air; though this would have to be practised over a long period.

Malta Edward G. Willis

PERSONAL CLASSIFIED

PENFRIENDS

SAGITTARIAN female, 29.11.49, seeks correspondence with anyone, any age, interested in the supernatural, Tarot, runes and all thing mystical. Box E498.

SAGITTARIAN female, 30, interested in Paganism, witchcraft, Tarot, anything magical, wishes to correspond with like-minded people, especially other lone witches, to exchange views and broaden horizons. ALA, Box E499.

ANTIPODEAN female, 28, Pisces/Aries, seeks correspondence to discuss and learn more about Celtic myths, ancient sites, Wicca/high magic, faerylore, King Arthur, women's spirituality. Blackburn area/anywhere. Box E501.

FEMALE Piscean, artist, 24, seeks friends. I love cats, music, magic and remoteness. Can anyone teach me more about the Craft? ALA, Scotland/anywhere. Box E502.

FEMALE, 18, interested in Tarot, Earth magic, anything New Age or occult, natural health therapies, the countryside, dogs and 'Disc World' novels. I would like to hear from like-minded people, any age or gender. Box E503.

PISCAN male, 21.2.67, wonderfully Bohemian, would like to correspond/meet new friends. Interests include Wicca, paganism, Druidry, magic, Vanny Ogg, writing, Steeley Span, Queen, Jethro Tull, folk music, cats and much more. Write and be amazed. Box E504.

CANCERIAN female, vegetarian, animal-lover into automatic writing, poetry, paranormal, UFOs, magic and ghost cats, seeks penfriends

to exchange views, information on most PREDICTION subjects. Box E506.

PAGAN/WICCAN female, 40s, would like to correspond with others with a sense of humour. Anywhere but especially the West Country, Scotland and Ireland. Interests include books, music, art, poetry, walks, wildlife, Green issues, animal rights, alternative comedy, cats and lots more. Box E508.

CONTACTS

FEMALE Capricorn, 38, seeks like-minded people for friendship and discussion in the Bournemouth area. Interests include astrology, dreams, psychology, astral projection, Cabbala, poetry, music and nature. Non-smoker. Box E407.

MALE Cancerian, 24, unpretentious and sincere, seeks friends interested in New Age subjects, meditation, UFOs and psychic awareness. I also love animals, music (all types) and enjoy life! If of similar age and interests, why not get in touch? Derbyshire/anywhere. Box E505.

WANTED

MATURE palmistry student seeks private/group tuition in or around the Bath area. Box E500.

LADY seeks information on reflexology, aromatherapy and Aura Soma courses that are reasonably priced for the low-waged. Alternatively, is there anyone with his/her own practice willing to teach me for a low fee? I also

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.

need employment as a receptionist in a alternative health practice Mansfield/Derby areas. Box E495.

I am looking for classic books on palmistry, particularly *The Hand Speaks* by Noel Jaquin. Please reply with price required to A. Preston, 103 Bold St, Fleetwood, FY7 6HL.

BOOKS on transcendental astrology (Norris); Draconic astrology (Crane); topocentric system (Polich) and *The Mandala Astrological Tarot* cards (Mann). Phone 01738-637165.

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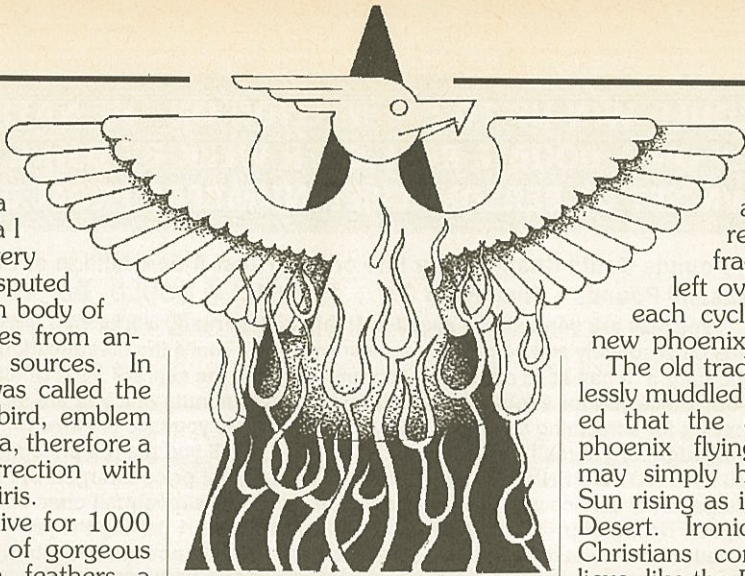
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The phoenix is a mythical bird of very ancient and disputed origins. The main body of information comes from ancient Egyptian sources. In Egypt the bird was called the bennu, the Sun bird, emblem of the Sun god, Ra, therefore a symbol of resurrection with strong links to Osiris.

It was said to live for 1000 years and to be of gorgeous appearance with feathers a mixture of red and gold, rainbow-coloured wings, blue eyes and purple feet. Larger than an eagle, it lived alone in a sacred wood in paradise where there was no grief, no hatred, no death.

At the end of 1000 years, the bird flew to Arabia, land of spices. There it filled its wings with perfumes and essences and flew on to Phoenicia where it made a nest containing the spices. At dawn it sang in a voice so beautiful that the Sun god stopped in his tracks to listen — and sparks from his fiery halo ignited the nest.

The bird was consumed in



In more academic terms, the phoenix was connected with astronomical calculations. The Egyptians had no leap year; every year the fragment of a day left over at the new year was saved up and at the end of 1460 years (called a Sothic year), the fragments amounted to a whole year. This meant that the fixed festivals, having become more and more displaced as the years went by, finished up again in their rightful places and a whole year was intercalated in the annals.

This very special day, occurring only once in 1460 years,

eagle/phoenix a little worm — representing the fragments of time left over at the end of each cycle — became a new phoenix.

The old traditions are hopelessly muddled but it is suggested that the account of the phoenix flying from Arabia may simply have meant the Sun rising as if from the Sinai Desert. Ironically the early Christians continued to believe, like the Romans, in a literal phoenix. The Christians saw its attributes as Christ-like and its rebirthing process made it a symbol of resurrection which often figures on Christian tombs. Also it was said to be only bird that did not share Eve's sin in having eaten the forbidden fruit.

The Greek historian Herodotus claimed that he saw the phoenix at Heliopolis in the 6th century. He saw it as representing the Sun which disappeared as an old man and was reborn as a child every morning. It was mentioned both by Pliny and Ovid but not until the 8th century in the

PHOENIX

Rising

by MARY BROWN

the fire but instantly a tiny worm emerged and grew swiftly into a new bird which took the ashes of the fire to Egypt and placed them on the Sun god's altar. As it flew — glimmering in the Sun — it was joined by thousands of other birds attracted by the perfume of the ashes. Its job done, the phoenix then flew back to paradise for another 1000 years.

was a great festival day. As part of the celebrations at On-Heliopolis, the chief Sun temple of Egypt, an eagle with painted wings was burned alive with spices in a nest of palm leaves. The eagle represented the Sun god and the palm was sacred to the great goddess his mother. The Sun's great revolution was complete and a new age about to dawn. The legend was that from the ashes of the

West. Most sources gave its origin as Egyptian. It featured in Central American, Eastern and European myth.

The great Greek scholar, Robert Graves, comments that the Emperor Augustus killed the phoenix in 30 BC when he stabilised the Egyptian calendar — thus removing the inconvenient oddments of time which had led to the invention of such a charming myth.

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The curious case of Captain Thomas Mantell occurred on January 7th 1948. On that day, at around 1.15pm, several residents of Maysville, Kentucky, saw what appeared to be a strange looking aircraft flying over the town. Puzzled by this, they contacted the Kentucky State Highway Patrol who, feeling that such curious aerial phenomena were way outside their province, passed the information on to the nearest USAF base at Godman, near Louisville.

There is no doubt that there was something unusual in the sky that day because, a short time later, there were further reports of a similar airborne craft moving Westwards at 'a pretty good clip' over Irvington and Owensboro. Given the times of the sightings and the distances involved, the object, whatever it was, must have been travelling at a speed in excess of 400mph.

The air force personnel at Godman had no idea what the strange object could be. They had no knowledge of any aircraft in the vicinity at the time. It was then that the assistant tower operator saw 'something.' What he saw was not especially spectacular — little more than a dim light in the hazy sky. It seemed to be hovering in a more or less stationary position which does not square well with earlier reports of a fast moving UFO.

At the time of these sightings, Captain Mantell was airborne. He was leading a flight of four F-51s en route from Georgia to their base at nearby Standiford Field. The ground staff at Godman radioed to him, asking him to investigate. Mantell agreed to do so but said that one of his pilots was low on fuel and would have to

return to base. The other three set out in pursuit of the object which they could not yet see, under directions from the tower. At 15000 feet Mantell reported that he could see something above and ahead of him.

The other pilots never established visual contact with the object. They were more concerned with the fact that Mantell seemed determined to pursue the chase to foolhardy altitudes where lack of oxygen might prove fatal. They tried to tell him as much but were unable to make contact and decided to set off for home.

Descriptions

There are various versions of Mantell's description of the object as radioed back to the tower at Godman. The most commonly reported is that it was a metallic-looking object of 'tremendous' size. Sadly this message, which was to be Mantell's last, was rather garbled and not recorded. All that is known for certain is that he was in stubborn pursuit of the object and still climbing steeply.

An hour later the wreckage of Mantell's crashed F-51 was found some 40 miles from Godman. Mantell was dead. It was reported by a witness who did not see the UFO that the plane had gone into a spiralling dive and broken up in mid-air, losing a wing.

The USAF held an extensive investigation into the crash which, they not unreasonably concluded, was due to Mantell having flown too high without oxygen. The official explanation was that he had blacked out and lost control of the plane. This explained the crash itself but not the identity of the UFO which Mantell had been chasing.

The USAF was anxious to still the growing number of bizarre rumours surrounding Mantell's death — the most persistent being that his F-51 had been shot down by an alien spacecraft. The initial 'knee-jerk' explanation which they offered was generally agreed to be wildly improbable. They claimed that Mantell, an experienced pilot, had been chasing the planet Venus.

Later, realizing that this was too transparent even for a gullible public, they suggested that he had seen one of the large 30.5 metre 'skyhook' high altitude balloons being secretly tested in the area at that time by the US Navy. Unfortunately for officialdom, there is no record of such a balloon having been released on the day in question.

The Mantell case has never been explained to the satisfaction of Ufologists. As a professional and highly trained pilot, Mantell stands out as a reliable and valuable witness. He must have known the extraordinary risks that he was taking in flying at such high levels without oxygen. What made him do it unless, as was later suggested by one of his close friends, he was 'after something that he believed to be more important than his life or his family?'

Sceptical

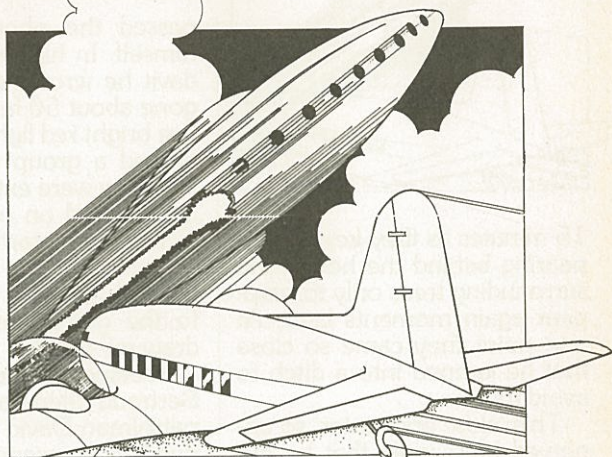
The USAF and other government agencies have always been outwardly sceptical about UFO sightings, seeing in them the potential for widespread public panic. The Mantell affair is one of many which they are either forced to admit that they cannot explain or for which the official explanation seems highly suspect.

Since then pilots have reported frequent sightings of UFOs. On July 24th of the

THE PUZZLE

U S A F
O

by RUSSELL WARREN



Are the facts really being hidden?

very same year that Mantell met his untimely death, Clarence S. Chiles and John B. Whitted were flying an Eastern Airlines DC-3 from Houston to Atlanta. It was 2.45pm on a brightly moonlit night when Chiles and Whitted spotted a red glow which they at first assumed to be a new, ultra-modern jet fighter streaking towards them. Realizing that a collision was likely, Chiles pulled the DC-3 to the left. The unidentified craft passed within half a mile of them and they saw it clearly for 10-15 seconds.

Cigar-shaped

The account which Chiles and Whitted were later able to give tallies with no known man-made aircraft. Whitted described it as, 'about 100 feet long, cigar-shaped and wingless, about twice the diameter of a B-29 with no protruding fins.' Both witnesses made mention of a blue phosphorescent glow which seemed to radiate from the ship for the full length of the fuselage. It was also said to have a red-orange exhaust which shot out of its rear for a distance of some 50 feet.

Quite suddenly the craft accelerated with a phenomenal burst of speed and disappeared into the clouds. The violent blast from its jets caused the DC-3 to wobble. Chiles esti-

mated its speed at that point to be somewhere between 500 and 700mph.

When it had vanished, Chiles went to the back of the plane to check on the sleeping passengers. Only one was awake but he was able to confirm that he had seen a brilliant streak of light flash by the window.

Once again the USAF went to work. There had been no other known craft flying in the area at that time, either of a scheduled or experimental nature, so some other plausible explanation had to be concocted.

The investigators found it in the unusual amount of meteoric activity over the South-East during the week in question. They concluded that what Childs and Whitted had seen was an uncommonly bright meteor which had passed within perhaps 50 miles of the plane. It was in the process of falling to Earth and giving off a 'tail' of flammable gases. It had then simply disintegrated.

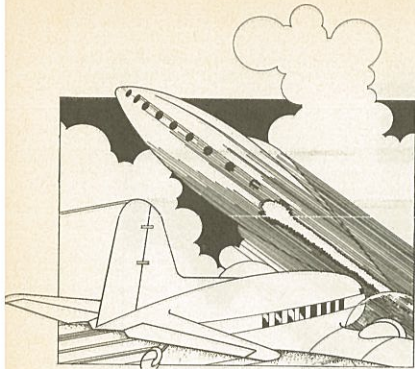
The trouble with this explanation is that it again insults the intelligence of two trained and competent pilots. These two

men both insisted that they had seen some sort of craft — even to the extent of describing its two rows of lighted windows — and their expert observations convinced them that it was under some form of intelligent control. They had seen it perform deliberate and purposeful manoeuvres.

Difficulty

One case which the USAF had even greater difficulty in explaining was the so-called 'Incident at Exeter.' During the early hours of September 3rd 1965 a young man called Norman Muscarello was walking towards his home in Exeter, New Hampshire, along Route 154. He had been visiting a friend some 12 miles away and was hoping to hitch a lift. Traffic was light at that time of the morning and, much to his chagrin, the few cars there were failed to stop.

It was while walking along the dark road that Muscarello saw what he later stated to be 'a group of five bright red lights' over a nearby house. The lights were pulsating and Muscarello, fascinated by the sight, watched them for some



15 minutes as they kept disappearing behind the house and surrounding trees only to reappear again moments later. At one point they came so close that he jumped into a ditch to avoid them.

This 'close encounter' so unnerved Muscarello that he ran to the nearest house to seek help but, despite his vigorous pounding on the door, there was no answer. Fortunately he then spotted a car coming along the highway and was able to flag it down. The occupants, a middle-aged couple, agreed to drive him to the police station at Exeter where, in a state of some agitation, he recounted his strange experience to the duty officer.

Sceptical

The officer was sceptical at first, thinking that the young man's tale was a mischievous hoax, but was impressed by his sincerity. He agreed to arrange for a police car to investigate. Eugene Bertrand, the patrolman who subsequently went to the scene with Muscarello, was himself an ex-USAF man. He had already been stopped that night by a woman who had been badly frightened by lights in the sky. They had been following her car for miles and she had finally stopped the vehicle at the side of the road 'too upset to drive.' Bertrand had thought nothing of the incident at the time and had not even bothered to report it; he had merely assumed that the woman was being neurotic.

When he went to the scene with Muscarello, Bertrand wit-

nessed the phenomenon for himself. In his subsequent affidavit he wrote 'When we had gone about 50 feet, a group of five bright red lights came from behind a group of trees near us. They were extremely bright and flashed on one at a time. The lights started to move around over the field. At one time, they came so close I fell to the ground and started to draw my gun.'

Seeking refuge in the car, Bertrand then radioed fellow-patrolman David Hunt. He arrived on the scene in good time to see the lights for himself and provide a corroborative statement.

Sightings

During the weeks that followed there was a rash of UFO sightings in the area. Some of these might possibly be put down to mass hysteria but several of the reports came from reliable witnesses and had the indisputable ring of truth. Such was certainly the view of the writer John Fuller who investigated the reports from a position of benign scepticism but quickly became a convert.

The USAF was, predictably, not open to persuasion. They made a number of tortuous attempts to explain away the phenomena. The astronomer J. A. Hynek, himself a consultant on the USAF's 'Project Blue Book,' later wrote, 'their way of dealing with these witnesses' reports was to make every effort to locate some type of aircraft operation in the area in question; none was successful.'

In early 1966 the two patrolmen Bertrand and Hunt received a letter from Lt Col J. P. Spaulding of the USAF which stated blandly, 'The evidence has proved almost conclusively that reported aerial phenomena have been

either objects created or set aloft by men, generated by atmospheric conditions or caused by celestial bodies or the residue of meteoric activity.' The USAF must have known that this was a pretty weak rejoinder to the impressive body of evidence gathered at Exeter.

Report

The 1,465-page Condon Report which appeared in 1969 provided the USAF with an ideal escape route. Funded by the USAF at a cost of some half-a-million dollars, the report was the outcome of an allegedly independent investigation into UFO activity. Dr Edward U. Condon, leader of the enquiry, was however a hardened sceptic who, along with project co-ordinator Robert Low, was openly contemptuous of the phenomenon he was supposed to be investigating objectively.

When the report was finally published it contained an opening summary which, despite some of the powerful evidence which followed, more or less dismissed the phenomena out of hand. Using a method completely at odds with normal scientific practice, Condon, an eminent physicist who should have known better, presented his conclusions before evaluating the evidence.

But, as Hynek has said, the UFOs have since had the last word. As he rightly wrote in 1977, 'When, in the Fall of 1973, a major wave of UFO reports occurred in the United States, the cold, clammy hand of the Condon Report was at last lifted by the UFO phenomenon itself.'

Perhaps one day we shall know the real truth behind a phenomenon which has long been an indisputable commonplace of human experience.

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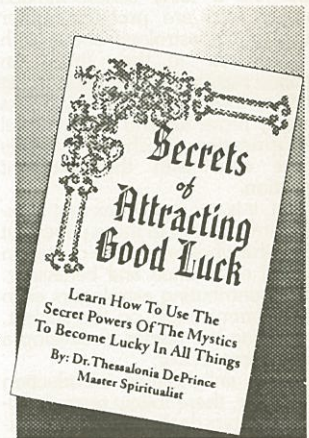
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BOOK REVIEWS

A HEALER'S JOURNEY INTO LIGHT

by Lorna Todd
(Bantam Press, £14.99 hbk)

THIS IS A semi-autobiographical book about healing and various other aspects of esotericism, written by someone who trained with the National Federation of Spiritual Healers and the famous White Eagle Lodge founded by Spiritualist medium Grace Cooke. It covers such subjects as healing, meditation, chakras, re-incarnation, the faery realm, angelic beings, death and planetary evolution.

It should be noted that the contents are an eclectic mixture of New Age concepts and Theosophical occultism. For instance, the text is littered with references to 'the Masters' and the final chapter predicts the Second Coming when Jesus will 'unite every belief and creed under his banner.'

Obviously such religious dogmatism will not be acceptable to the more broad-minded, progressive reader who has the capacity to look behind the crude images of established orthodoxy. Todd has obvious psychic gifts to offer and those interested in healing and allied esoteric subjects may glean something from these pages. — M.H.

SEXUALITY IN THE HOROSCOPE

edited by Noel Tyl
(Llewellyn/Macmillan,
\$14.95/£13.99)

IF YOU ARE a fairly serious-minded astrologer, you are probably rather sceptical about astrology books with the word 'sex' in their titles. An immediate reaction is to think it is just another of those pop astrology books that rarely move beyond a trivial level of interpretation. Such is definitely not the case with this excellent compilation.

In fact, it is not simply sex that is explored astrologically in these pages but in reality the whole spectrum of human emotional experience and behaviour. The ten contributing astrologers each take a different angle on the subject, thus enabling the reader to develop a very wide perspective.

After an enlightening introduction by the editor, there follow several substantial chapters dealing with complexities of sexuality, such as its 'darker side,' the dynamic of sex in relationships, sexuality and creativity, imagination and fantasy, homosexuality, the desire for higher union, counselling and the problem of repression. The final article deals with the phenomenon

of AIDS, its astrological correlations and how the sufferer can develop positive attitudes.

Altogether an invaluable contribution to the subject and an indispensable asset to all astrologers who seek a more rounded understanding of human needs and motivations. — R.H.

ABORIGINAL MYTHOLOGY

by Mudrooroo
(Aquarian, £8.99/\$18.00)

THE AUTHOR OF this work, presumably an Aboriginal, teaches Aboriginal studies at various Australian universities. His book is an A-Z spanning the immense history and complex mythology of Aboriginal religion from the earliest legends to today's sacred sites.

As the introduction makes clear, the Aboriginal way of life and world view is deeply spiritual in the sense that it finds an interconnectedness within all existence. This is encapsulated in the concept of Dreaming; a continuous process of creations which began aeons ago in the mystical, mythical Dreamtime.

Mudrooroo says that in writing such a book it is difficult not to offend the sensitivities of more conservative Aboriginal tribes who, quite understandably, do not want their sacred material exposed to the hostile outside world. However, he has succeeded in describing and defining the main sacred tenets, mythical concepts and divine images that are still revered by many Aboriginals who have rejected the teachings of the white missionaries.

If at all interested in this most ancient religion, world view and belief system, buy this fascinating volume and drink deeply at the well of Aboriginal wisdom it contains. — M.H.

LOVER'S GUIDE

by Marjorie Orr
(Aquarian, £5.99/\$8.00)

ANOTHER GENERAL BOOK on relationships to join the many gathering dust on shelves although, in fairness, this one attempts to take matters a stage or two further than the more usual Sun sign manual.

Characteristics are given by Sun sign in combination with one's Moon (tables for the latter are provided from 1920-2000); then the author mates these factors together in several differing ways. For instance, not only can you read up on 'Your Virgo Sun to Their Libra Sun' but also 'Your Libra Sun to Their Virgo Sun' which can make a difference.

The next step is to follow the same procedure with Moon to Moon and finally to crossmatch each Sun to every Moon. The book ends with a chapter on actual case studies of famous couples.

I like the idea behind this book and give Orr 'A' for effort. Sadly though, as is often the case with such books, when testing out the interpretations on actual couples I found the comparisons rarely worked in practice. — B.L.

GHOST TRAILS OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES

by Clive Kristen
(Casdec, £6.49)

ANOTHER WELCOME ADDITION to the paranormal geography of many of our tourist areas. Every part of the land is rich in folklore, ghostly happenings and 'murders most foul' and there can be scarcely a visitor to these areas who does not like the added spice of such information.

The Yorkshire Dales seem to be rich in supernatural content and the author outlines six possible routes to take exploring these themes, either at a fairly brisk pace or as a more leisurely, three or four day tour for each site.

This is a particularly well researched piece of writing and I especially appreciated the potted historical notes and glossary at the end of the book. A nicely presented book, with attractively set out text and illustrations. — M.R.

THE ASTROLOGY BOOK

by Andrea Lloyd
(Graham Brash/Gazelle, £12.99)

IGNORING THE DREADFUL dedication at the front of the book and the exaggerated hype on the back cover, basically this is a complete recipe book for the budding astrologer. Unlike most such works, this one contains a condensed ephemeris and rough-and-ready method of finding your Ascending sign.

The 'recipe' section contains only the interpretation of Sun, Moon and planets in the signs, plus the meaning of the Ascendant. Really, it's rather a limited affair, nothing exceptional, though if you are looking for a way into astrology this is probably as good a place as any to begin.

To be fair, some of the planet/sign interpretations are good, the author having the knack of saying a lot in few words; refreshing after the pretentious psycho-babble that has plagued so many astrological books in recent years. — R.H.

HOW TO DEVELOP AND USE PSYCHOMETRY

by **Ted Andrews**
(Llewellyn/Macmillan,
\$3.99/£3.75)

PSYCHOMETRY IS THE ability to read the psychic messages that have been imprinted onto everyday objects, buildings, people and places.

The author, a practising clairvoyant, has written an exhaustive handbook outlining all the various aspects of this fascinating psychic ability. Psychometry is perhaps one of the most useful talents in so far as it is eminently testable because objects with known histories can be pondered over by the psychometrist and the accuracy of the data revealed is instantly verifiable.

An interesting chapter deals with empathy which features very strongly in psychometric ability. Children show empathy for a few years before 'body armour' sets in, thus inhibiting the child's natural intuition. However, by following the sensible, balanced guidelines supplied by the author, the reader can hope to repossess and develop this ability and thus enjoy a productive communication with animate and inanimate objects. — M.R.

PERSUASIONS OF THE WITCH'S CRAFT; RITUAL MAGIC IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLAND

by **T.M. Luhrmann**
(Picador, £9.99)

THE AUTHOR, AN anthropologist, sought answers to the question, 'Why do intelligent, otherwise reasonable people practise magic and believe in the irrational' by first enrolling as a participating 'insider' through answering an advert in a London occult book-store. Then, via several initiations, she joined the occult network and attended hundreds of meetings and workshops, making many friends in the process.

Interspersed with her findings are potted guides to the Tarot, astrology, Cabbala, meditation and magic rituals as well as a list of core texts for the aspiring occultist. Not surprisingly, Luhrmann began to use Tarot cards and keep a dream diary and once saw six 'real' Druids at her window!

However, the main task was to remain detached and objective and her conclusions are based on the notion of 'interpretative drift' or, in other words, the fact that we shift our interpretations unintentionally in response to participating in an activity. However, this is a slow process which depends on an increase of skills and attainment in that activity.

Thus it is wrong to assume that people act purely from their beliefs as these tend to change with experience. The useful point is made that ritual, like children's play, may be both serious and playful in enabling us to ensure that our actions in the world have both

meaning and effect.

This book is earnest, often naive and sometimes unwieldy but is nevertheless a useful study. There are 400 pages of text, 50 pages of notes, plus a bibliography containing over 600 reference works. — J.T.M.

ASTROLOGY & HEREDITY:

The Thread of Life
by **Rosemary J. Peel**
(Blandford, £7.99)

IT IS ALWAYS interesting to find a book based on original research and I therefore welcome one on hereditary patterns. This work centres on the author's own family through five generations with the justification of familiarity and timed births as these occurred in Scotland. The outcome is an interesting and informative, thought-provoking book.

Peel, like many others before her, studied astrology with the aim of disproving it; but very soon her initial doubts were overcome and she became a psychological astrologer. However, curiosity in the form of a stellium in Gemini combined with familial interest through Cancerian leanings urged her to take the subject further and, 15 years ago, she naturally began her research into hereditary factors.

Her book commences with a broad outline of astrology for the uninitiated which is well written and worth reading even if an expert; then follows a brief biography of each family member together with his/her astrological analysis. At the end of this section is a summary by the author that explains her conclusions and, finally, an appendix supplies the data for each person mentioned together with actual chart positions.

Throughout, the author urges others to echo and improve upon her work and I, too, hope this is a challenge that will merit response. I enjoyed reading Peel's research and look forward to it being taken further. — B.L.

HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINE FOR CHILDREN AND INFANTS

by **Dana Ullman**
(Piatkus Books, £8.99)

WRITTEN BY AN authority on homeopathy, this is probably a tome few modern parents can afford to ignore. Ullman was introduced to this type of treatment in childhood and in adulthood has followed in his father's footsteps to become a doctor.

The book begins with a fairly usual format: an overview of homeopathy followed by basic principles and medicinal usage. The main theme is contained in Part 3 which covers 'Common ailments of Children' and these pages will doubtless prove to be the 'well-thumbed' section quite soon.

Part 4 is aimed at those who have

difficulty selecting a remedy while Part 5 describes medicines that can be obtained easily through commercial outlets. This latter section also contains advice on medicines that can be applied externally on cuts, bruises, etc.

Appendices include a review of homeopathic research and a useful list of Latin names and how to pronounce these. This book has been written with considerable thought; what else can I say except that it is recommended! — B.L.

THE LADDER OF LIGHTS

by **William G. Gray**
(Weiser/Airlift, \$12.95/£10.99)

OF ALL THE many and varied books written on the Cabbala, this is perhaps the most accessible to those who are coming to the subject for the first time. This does not imply that this is merely a 'beginner's' book, however.

The simplicity, beauty and profound symbolism of Cabbala is unique and has been a deep source of inspiration to occult and mystical souls for many centuries. However, it has suffered an unfortunate distortion and confusion in the past century due to a proliferation of self-styled occult schools trying to force it into their own arbitrary symbol systems.

A book like this will, therefore, continue to prove invaluable because Gray sticks to the main themes as originally conceived and expresses these in a language that is at once clear and sensible. His deep understanding of Cabbalistic symbolism and philosophy is conveyed to the reader without the usual occult mystification which has done so much damage to this profound doctrine in the past. — R.H.

FAERY WICCA Book One

by **Kisma K. Stepanich**
(Llewellyn/Macmillan,
\$17.50/£15.95)

THIS BOOK CLAIMS to present to its readers 'the ancient oral tradition of Ireland' as founded by the Tuatha de Danaan, the mythical race of gods and goddesses. Such claims are easily made but almost impossible to verify, especially when this 'oral tradition' is called 'Faery Wicca.'

As far as one can gather, the author has researched deeply into Celtic Irish mythology and religion. She has then grafted this on to a modern neo-pagan and Wiccan format. The material presented herein must therefore stand or fall on its merits and does not need inflated claims of antiquity to support it; indeed, such claims only serve to confuse and irritate.

Anyone who reads this book should ignore its historical pretensions and, instead, judge the value of its contents to his/her own spiritual quest. — M.H.

(continued overleaf)

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

NEWGRANGE: ARCHAEOLOGY, ART AND LEGEND by Michael J. O'Kelly (Thames & Hudson, £14.95)

THIS IS A full-scale academic work on one of the most remarkable Neolithic sites in Europe. Newgrange is a megalithic tomb built around 3200 BC by a people obviously adept in both architecture and astronomy.

The book is divided into three parts: first a brief history and description of the site; secondly, a long and detailed account of the excavation carried out between 1962 and 1975. Lastly, there is a discussion of the finds and their significance.

Since the author of this book was both the authority and on-site archaeologist of Newgrange, it is necessarily precise and detailed on the discoveries unearthed, with no fanciful theories on offer. The skeletal remains, human and animal, are listed with markings and incisions, plus seeds and pollen samples and there are drawings of various stone and bone objects.

The text is complemented by over 150 line-drawings, diagrams and photographs, some in superb colour. One shows the Sun at dawn on Midsummer's Day, shining through a slit in the roof, illuminating the interior passage and chamber.

If you have even the slightest interest in the history of one of Ireland's greatest landmarks, then this book is an essential reference work. — J.T.M.

BODY STAR SIGNS by Bel Hislop and Jane Oakley (Vermilion, £7.99)

THE IDEA BEHIND this book seems fine at first glance because everyone has stereotyped expectation of the long, the short and the tall. The authors start by stating that astrology is now respectable and therefore a trustworthy guide to personality then, through Hislop's work as a style consultant, hit upon the notion that women fall into four body types: Pear, Hourglass, Rectangle and Triangle.

To ascertain body shape the reader is asked to stand unclothed in front of a mirror and answer a questionnaire — honestly, of course! Then the supposed personality characteristics can be read off, along with several examples such as Emma Thompson, an Hourglass/Aries or Meryl Streep, a Pear/Cancer, and Lucretia Borgia, Rectangle/Aries, or Elizabeth 1, Triangle/Virgo.

But who, one wonders, ever saw the latter two in a mirror? The authors

acknowledge difficulty in deducing the correct body shape from a photo, let alone a stylised portrait, so have had to make 'informed' guesses at times.

It is worth noting that W.H.Seldon's three body types (endomorph, mesomorph and ectomorph) have been used to profile personalities since 1942 yet few agree on their value. So by all means discover your body/star sign just 'for fun' as they say on TV's *The Big Breakfast*. — J.T.M.

BUDDHA FOR BEGINNERS by Jane Hope & Borin Van Loon (Icon, £7.99)

PUBLISHERS TODAY SEEM fixated on producing ever more simplistic introductory texts on any aspect of mysticism that may appeal to the New Age market. While fashionable, very few of these books add anything of real value to the extensive body of spiritual literature that already exists and the title under review is no exception.

This particular edition has the superficial appeal of a comic, the scanty message almost lost amid a plethora of cartoon imagery, the baroque style of which displays a late 20th century egotism that is the very antithesis of Buddhist teaching. Through a collage of pictures, quotes and brief commentary, the author and illustrator provide a broad but very sketchy review of the subject which covers the Buddha's life, his early teachings and the way these have developed through the historical and geographical spread of Buddhism from its origins in India to the present day.

While their approach is certainly novel, clever and at times entertaining, the book does little to explain the tenets or practice of Buddhism. Nor does it do justice to any of the Buddhist masters from whose teachings the mishmash of quotes and other material is drawn.

Useful perhaps as a source of witticisms for New Age party-goers but hardly a serious introduction to one of the world's most important religions. — M.M.

PENDULUM DIVINATION FOR TODAY'S WOMAN by Cassandra Eason (Foulsham, £4.99)

THIS IS A remarkably clear, concise and easy to read book which commences with information about pendulums, what they are, how to choose one and how to use it.

As is common in books on pendulums, all the directional options are not covered, which can lead to confusion if, as a novice, yours does something not described such as, in this case, swing to and fro; also, there is one direction mentioned in the text that is unclear: going off at a tangent. However, setting such minor quibbles aside, Ea-

son's stage by stage instructions are excellent.

The outstanding point in this book is the use of flow charts. These indicate how, within the confines of 'yes/no' answers, questions can be phrased progressively in order to arrive at the ultimate answer. Thus the reader could create a veritable network of queries to discover something really obscure.

Eason also provides another method, this time using concentric circles on a cloth which forms an external square, which can be used on its own or in combination with flow charts. Numerous case histories are included to clarify the text.

I am not sure why this work is aimed specifically at women except for it being one of a series of books. All manner of topics of interest to both sexes are covered here — health, finance, chakras, past lives, route finding, diet, ley lines, ghosts, pregnancy. In fact, it's a good read and a valuable tool. — V.F.

THE TIBETAN BOOK OF THE DEAD translated by Robert A.F. Thurman (Aquarian, £12.99)

THIS CLASSIC TEXT, the real title of which is *Liberation Through Understanding in the Between* (ie between death and rebirth), is believed to have been written down in the 8th century AD and first translated into English in the 1920s by W. Evans-Wentz and Kazi Dawa Samdup.

Although there has been a more recent translation by Freemantle and Trunga (1987), there can be little doubt that this latest effort by Thurman reaches new levels of insight and understanding.

This is achieved through his use of little-known Tibetan teachings on Yoga-Tantra which are incorporated into his commentaries, thus shedding further fascinating light on the mysteries of death.

The text itself consists of instructions to the dead or dying person, describing various visionary experiences in the disembodied state between death and rebirth. Such experiences, if properly understood, can lead the soul to an enlightened and liberated state of being.

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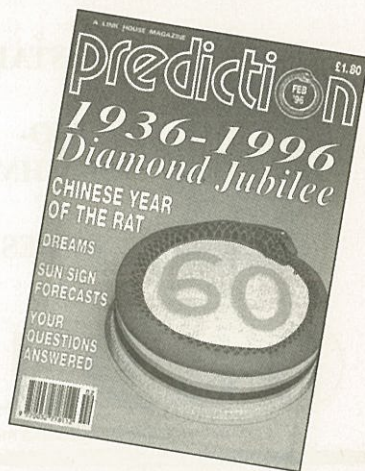
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