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Editor: Jo Logan

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Advertisement Manager: Anne Nash Publisher: Peter Warwick

Link House, Dingwall Avenue, Croydon, Surrey CR9 2TA. Telephone: 0181-686 2599

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Cover photography by Tony Petch;
Chinese geomancer's compass kindly loaned
by Derek Walters.

Subscription: Gt. Britain £22.80 for 12 months; £26.50 Overseas (surface mail) £35.00 (Airmail). Overseas readers will receive the International Edition containing next month's astrology section and forecasts. Overseas readers may pay by International Money Order or by Bankers Draft on London. Subscription Enquiries 01454 620070/FAX 01454 620080.

Published on the Second Friday of each month © Copyright Link House Magazines Ltd 1996. All rights reserved. Distributed by United Magazines Distribution, 16-18 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4BN (Tel: 0171-638 4666/FAX: 0171-638 4665). Back issue department: PO Box 106, Dingwall Avenue, Croydon CR9 2TA (☎ 0181-686 2599/FAX 0181-781 0550); cheques/POs payable to Link House Magazines Ltd.

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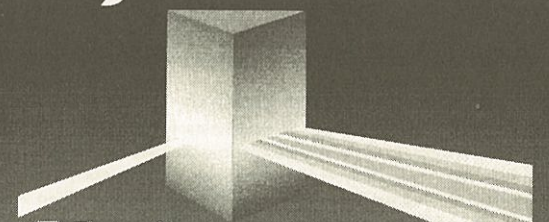
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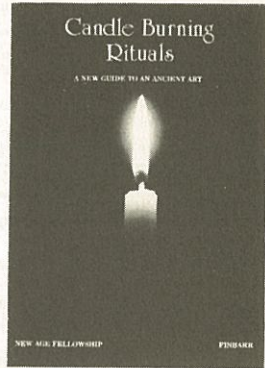
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would bring him no good. So I performed the ritual called 'To Break Up Another's Love Affair' and I was overjoyed when it worked!" (K.B., Manchester)

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Portals of Prosperity

Have you ever noticed as you enter certain houses that you can actually detect a subtle, comfortable feeling or atmosphere? You then discover that the family who lives there seems contented, on the surface at least, and appears to attract their fair share of good luck and prosperity.

Yet the atmosphere of a similar house, even one in the same road, may slightly disturb us, noticeably lacking that sense of ease, comfort and harmony. Even though the families in these homes may have similar opportunities, only one appears to attract the good things in life. Why should this be so?

The answer may lie in the flow of Ch'i or life force in these homes. For it is this ener-

gy and its interaction with Yin and Yang that, according to ancient Chinese tradition, shapes all things, all life's activities. Yin and Yang must be in balance, in perfect harmony, to enable the Ch'i to flow freely through the environment.

Ch'i, as a natural force, is of course present everywhere, including our homes, gardens and surrounding environment. It is capable of manifesting energy into physical being and, with other forms of energy, is continuously on the move. So, if its free circulation is blocked by natural features near your home, the design or position of the house or its contents this may adversely effect your family's physical and metal well-being, security and general prosperity.

To identify imbalances in Yin and Yang and increase the free flow of Ch'i, thereby restoring and aligning elemental forces with those of the individual, the Chinese would apply the principles of Feng Shui. This practice is similar to geomancy and harnesses the positive energies of Ch'i, thereby increasing a person's physical comforts, financial opportunities and mental welfare.

It is also used to counteract Sha Ch'i, the 'poison arrows' that bring bad luck, adverse fortune and ill health according to tradition. This bad Ch'i is seen as straight lines and sharp angles which should be avoided or, at the very least, deflected by the use of trees, curving paths, pools of water, etc (outside a building) and plants, mirrors, screens and the like within a home or office building.

The practice of Feng Shui, besides being used extensively by Chinese businessmen, has gained a fair number of Western adherents too over the past few years. Large companies such as Virgin Airlines have applied the principles of Feng Shui to the design of their offices in an attempt to attract further prosperity for the company and improve the working environment of its employees.

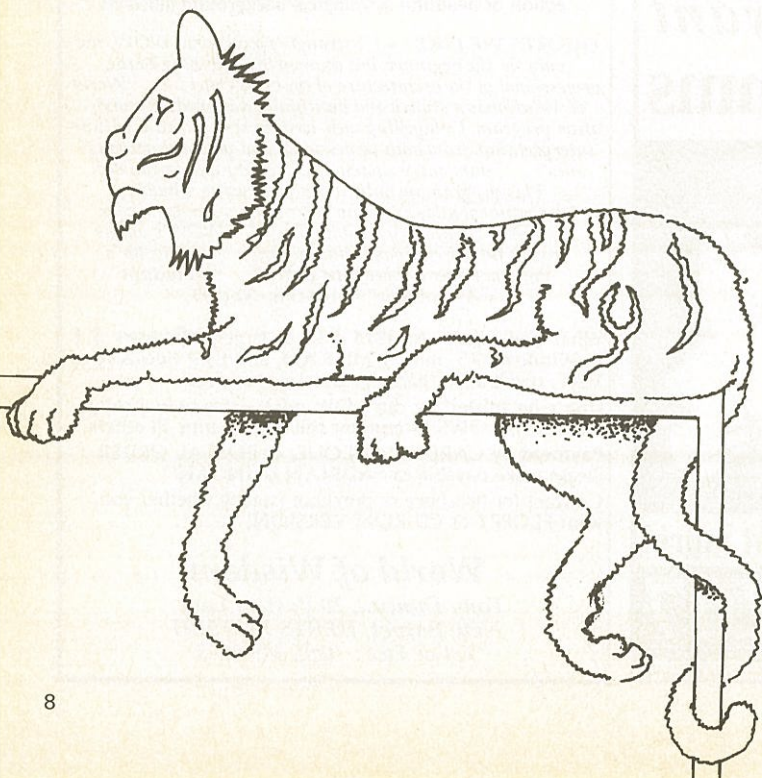
So, if large corporations are applying the principles of Feng Shui one can only assume that we all should consider the benefits of applying Feng Shui to our own situations, not simply at the workplace but in the home too.

Home front

Much of the application of Feng Shui involves the identification of blocked Ch'i and ways to improve its flow throughout your home. In many cases this may be

Prediction

by **ROBERT FISHER**



Feng Shui is gaining increasing popularity in the West but what exactly does this ancient form of Chinese geomancy have to offer?

achieved by rearranging furniture or utilising mundane items such as mirrors which, when correctly positioned, can redirect Ch'i within the home, ensuring its free flow, and inhibit or deflect the entry of negative Ch'i from the outside environment.

A Feng Shui practitioner will also examine the house as a structure in order to suggest a more sympathetic relationship between the home and its inhabitants. He or she may also apply the principles of Feng Shui to the building's immediate surroundings, the design and layout of the garden or grounds.

In particular, the geomancer will ensure that there are no poison arrows such as an uninterrupted straight path leading to the front door which should, of course, be in the most auspicious position and of the right size and shape too. For the Chinese believe that the entrance to a home or business is where negative Ch'i can enter and positive Ch'i be lost. And the prime purpose, of course, is to increase the free flow of positive Ch'i and thus retain a harmonious balance between a building's purpose and its occupants.

The four spirits

The correct positioning of the front door, the first line of defence, is an important feature of Feng Shui. According to tradition, this entrance is protected by four spirits which must be kept in harmony.

If you stand in your doorway facing outward, the first of the four spirits is the White Tiger who is positioned on the right-hand side, the Green Dragon is positioned to the left, the Red Bird is to the front and the Black Tortoise to the rear. By

balancing the powers of these spirits harmony may be brought into not only your home but also your working life.

The front door protects the building, it is subjected to the heaviest traffic and is the portal that allows positive Ch'i to escape or negative Ch'i to enter. Many Chinese, when setting up a business, will take particular care in the positioning of the entrance to their commercial premises, perhaps even moving an existing door to a more favourable position; slightly to the left-hand side of a building is considered most auspicious as this is the side governed by the Green Dragon.

The door's colour will also be taken into consideration,

red being thought extremely lucky. It is believed that the entrance effects the atmosphere of a business because potential customers can be influenced subconsciously by negative Ch'i and this may then have an adverse effect on the business's fortune and profitability.

For those who cannot make the necessary structural alterations all is not lost, however, because Feng Shui can offer ways to alleviate or redirect negative Ch'i. This may be achieved by hanging small mirrors, usually inscribed with hexagrams, above the front door or installing lamps each side of the entrance. In some cases these additions are supplemented by windchimes, the sound of which supposedly has the power to drive away harm-



TABLE OF BIRTH NUMBERS

Natal Number	Trigram	Type	Direction	Polarity	Element
1	<i>K'an</i>	Easterly	N	<i>Yang</i>	Water
2	<i>K'un</i>	Westerly	SW	<i>Yin</i>	Earth
3	<i>Chen</i>	Easterly	E	<i>Yang</i>	Wood
4	<i>Sun</i>	Easterly	SE	<i>Yin</i>	Wood
5(m)	<i>Ken</i>	Westerly	NE	<i>Yang</i>	Earth
5(f)	<i>K'un</i>	Westerly	SW	<i>Yin</i>	Earth
6	<i>Ch'ien</i>	Westerly	NW	<i>Yang</i>	Metal
7	<i>Tui</i>	Westerly	W	<i>Yin</i>	Metal
8	<i>Ken</i>	Westerly	NE	<i>Yang</i>	Earth
9	<i>Li</i>	Easterly	S	<i>Yin</i>	Fire

ful spirits and avert bad luck for the owner, employees and customers.

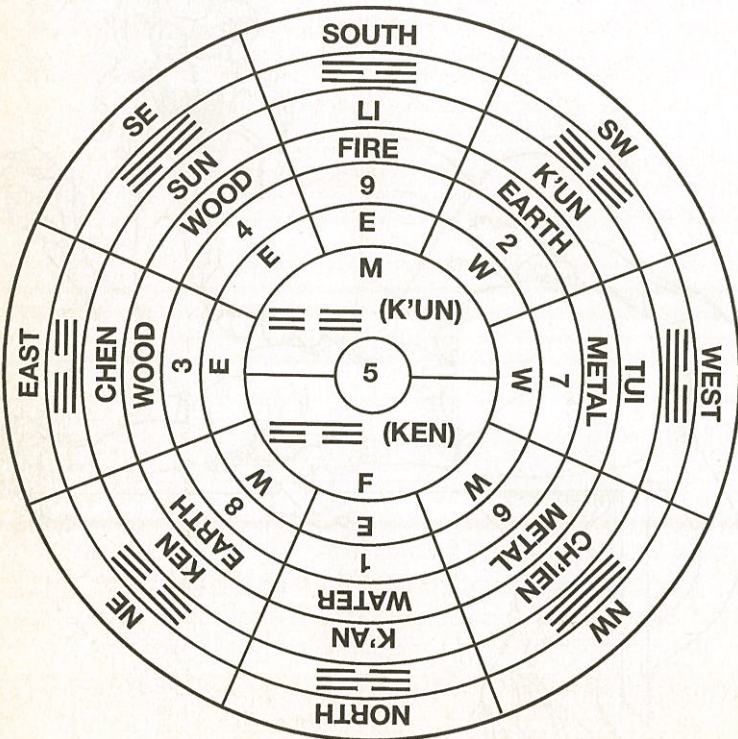
The right number

Like most traditions and beliefs, corrective actions are more often than not dependent upon multiple conditions for their success. In the case of Feng Shui, one such factor is a person's Feng Shui number.

This number indicates nine possible directions which are attributed to the eight trigrams of the I Ching and each person

will match one of these directions by virtue of his/her birth date.

The Feng Shui directions are equally divided into two main groups known as the Eastern life and Western life and by calculating which group you fall into you will be able to identify the most harmonious direction for your house or, more importantly, front door to face. More significantly, if it is found that the position of the door clashes with your Feng Shui number, corrective actions may be initi-



ated to bring balance to your home or place of business.

Usually, only the owner of the business or the recognised head of the house will determine his/her Feng Shui number and, if necessary, apply the corrective measures on the basis that his prosperity will benefit all. So select the person in your family or firm who matches this criterion then follow the calculation process outlined below.

Calculation

Firstly, subtract the last two digits of the year of birth from 100 then divide the result by 9; the remainder is your Feng Shui number. If there is no remainder after performing the division, take the number 9 as your Feng Shui number.

Example 1:

Man or woman born in 1948
 $100 - 48 = 52$ divided by $9 = 5$
 with a remainder of 7.
 Feng Shui number = 7.

Example 2:

Man or woman born in 1955
 $100 - 55 = 45$ divided by $9 = 5$.
 As there is no remainder, Feng Shui number = 9.

Remember that the remainder of the division indicates your Feng Shui number. The next step is to consult the geomancer's compass to determine to which Feng Shui directional group you belong, Easterly or Westerly. However, if your Feng Shui number is 5, substitute 8 if you are female and 2 if male. This is because although there are eight trigrams there are in fact nine directions, the ninth being in the centre of the compass, as can be seen in the diagram below.

It should be noted that the traditional Chinese compass shows the South at the top, North at the bottom, West on the right-hand side and the East on the left — as does an astrological birth chart. However, don't worry about this too much as the table at the top of this page gives the same

information in another form which is very easy to follow.

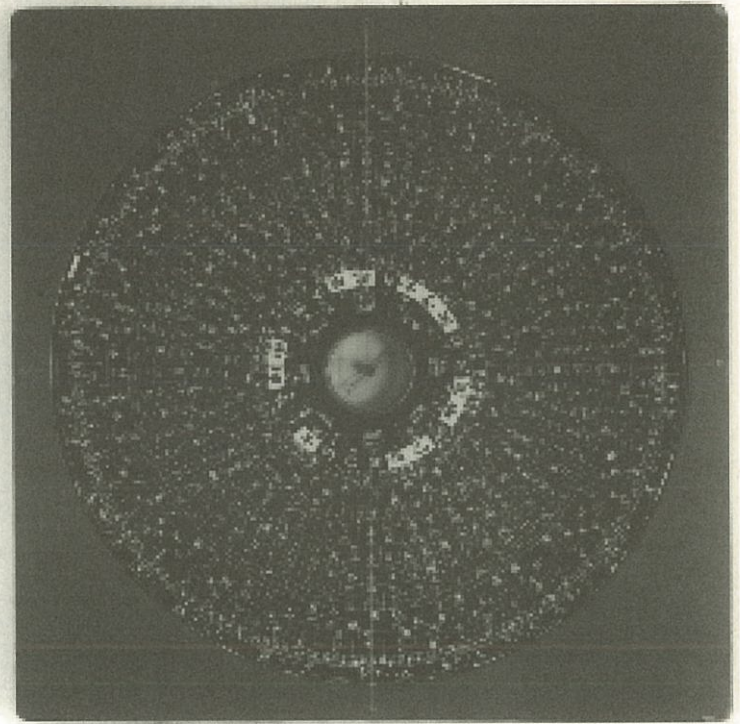
You can now check the position of your front door in your present house or of any property you are considering buying. Stand at a point in the centre of the premises taking into consideration the total floor area of the building. Place an ordinary compass on the floor and note the direction of magnetic North.

If your Feng Shui directional number falls within the Western Group your front door should be in the West, North East, South West or North West. For the Eastern Group it should be in the East, North, South or South East position. If your main entrance is located at one of these compass points, according to the principles of Feng Shui, your home will attract good fortune and harmonious energy.

However, if you find that your front door is unfavourably positioned, any potentially inauspicious Feng Shui can be averted, as mentioned earlier, by placing two lamps outside your front door or, even more popular with the Chinese, using a Feng Shui mirror to deflect negative energies. The latter is simply a mirror, of any size, fixed to the outside of the door frame above the door and surrounded with the eight trigrams (as indicated in the diagram to the right).

There are other actions you can take to ensure that the flow of Ch'i is able to circulate freely and that negative influences do not enter your home or workplace, too. One such is to ensure that no tree is planted directly in line with the front door but slightly off to one side.

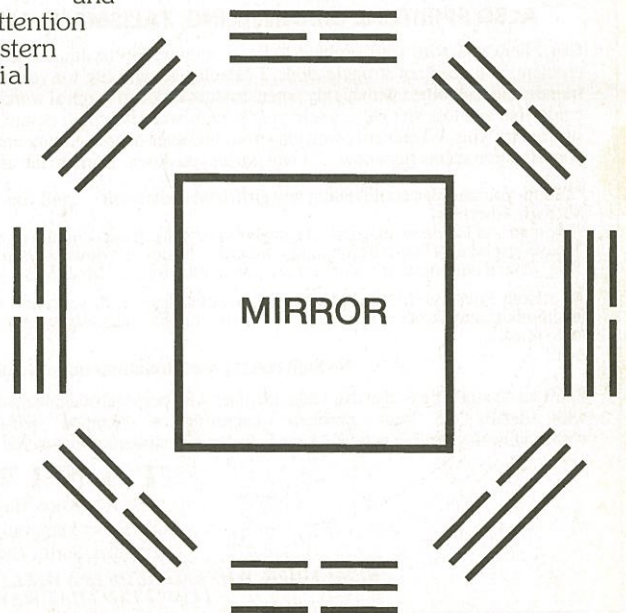
Alternatively, you could construct a small pool or erect a rose trellis to the front of your home to avert the danger of a poison arrow if a path leads straight to the door. All such remedies are said to encourage favourable Ch'i and thereby ensure that the occupants of the building enjoy good fortune and general prosperity.



The Chinese have been using Feng Shui to attract positive energy and deflect negative forces to their homes and workplaces, thus living harmoniously with the natural world, for over 3,000 years. Indeed, it is still used today by many Chinese business concerns and is now attracting more and more attention from Western commercial undertakings.

With such an impressive pedigree, should we not consider seriously putting the principles of Feng Shui into practice ourselves?

This is considerably easier to do than even a few years ago as there is now a wide choice of books available on the subject (many angled towards domestic rather than business use) as well as practitioners who run training workshops and offer advice and professional services.



Chinese Feng Shui Services International



Feng Shui is an ancient Chinese practice which has now spread in popularity to the West. Throughout the world people are becoming more aware of the natural forces of energy within their environment. In the Orient it is common practice to consult a Feng Shui Master to determine the most beneficial flow or direction of these forces, as they directly affect our well being in financial affairs, human relationships and health.

For more information on Feng Shui consultations, lectures and workshops, please contact Master Yap Leong on 0171-734 6391 (tel.) or 0171-287-6548 (fax).

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GRAPHOLOGY

by PETER MARSHALL

Talented Tactics

We all like to have our own way but some are better at achieving this than others — and it shows in their handwriting.

The evaluation of personality by the analysis of handwriting has had acceptance in numerous countries around the world but here in Great Britain it has been at last seriously accepted for personnel selection, character and personality make-up, as well as in other fields.

There are some interesting

people around who possess the ability to move within the community with an astute and pliable approach when their own needs are to come first.

Illustrated here are two examples of script written by individuals who are accomplished in prevailing upon others to think along the same lines as themselves.

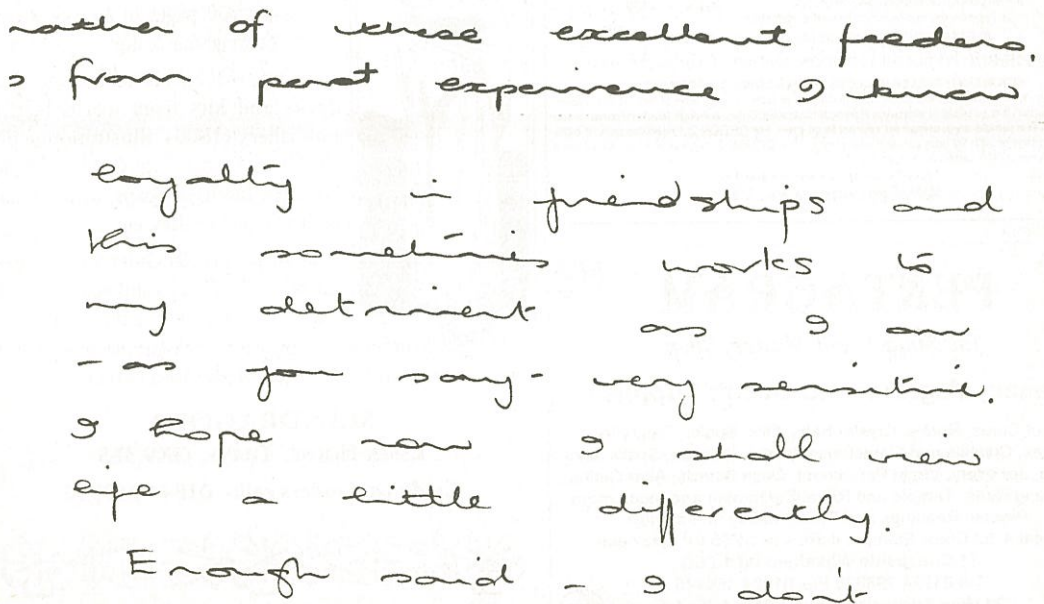
Both of these writings have a thready appearance in the way they join up their letters. There are a number of implications in this which apply to both scripts.

There is a resourceful readiness for most situations and circumstances. They are both versatile in their thinking processes. They have a speedy grasp of essentials and a sharp perception.

An interesting factor about people whose writing is similar to this is how they easily pick up impressions of the feelings and moods of others. They can therefore manipulate them in most cases.


Tact and diplomacy is a useful weapon for them when needed. They are often quite shrewd and able to compromise. In point of fact they possess a very pliable and resilient

(continued on page 52)



rather of these excellent feeders,
from past experience I know
loyalty in friendships and
this sometimes works to
my detriment as I am
- as you say - very sensitive.
I hope now I shall view
eye a little differently.
Enough said - I don't

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NEWS & VIEWS

Winning words

We had a terrific response to our Free Prize Competition in the July issue and a high proportion of you managed to discover all the 'magical' words hidden in the word-grid so we had to dust off the proverbial hat and select the lucky winners at random.

Winner of the 1st prize of £100 is Miss Dawn McCreadie of Glasgow; the two 2nd prize winners are Jennifer Bonford of Oxford and Janice Smith of Manchester; the four 3rd prize winners are Thelma Turner, Solihull; S. Farley, Essex; H. Sutliff, London and H. Taylor, Blackpool.

The ten runner-up prizes go to Barbara Swift, Lincs; Simon Tansley, Staffs; Dave Westway, Devon; Mrs Thompson, Margate; Jenny Dewsbury, Norfolk; Cathy MacLeod, Africa; Carole Carlton, Cornwall; Mr G. Ross, Essex; Theresa Pogge, Ireland; Maureen Osborne, Essex. (All prize-winners have been notified by post individually.)

This competition proved so popular that readers are obviously interested in the Indio Products so kindly offered as prizes by Mandrake Press Ltd. Those of you who didn't win this time round can, of course, purchase any of this extensive range of reasonably prized goodies by mail order; simply take advantage of the Mandragora catalogue that was given away free with the August issue of PREDICTION, you'll find the Indio Products listed there.

And, for those of you who are still wondering if they got the answers right, here are the ten words you should have discovered hidden in the word-grid:

ANGEL	MAGIC
ASTRA	NOVICE
CANDLE	OILS
EVOKE	PENTAGRAM
INCENSE	TALISMAN

Scottish gem

A reader, Mr W. Scott from Glasgow, wrote to say how much he had enjoyed recent articles on crystals and gems in the magazine. He was also kind enough to enclose details of the Gemrock Museum at Cree-town, Galloway, Scotland.

The museum not only houses an impressive collection of gemstones and minerals but also has demonstrations of the lapidary's art, a crystal cave, a gift shop, tea room and good parking facilities; everything, in fact, to ensure visitors (including those in wheelchairs) have an enjoyable day out.

Open seven days a week from March 1st to end of December (9.30-6pm Easter to September 30th and 10-4pm thereafter) and at limited times for the remainder of the year. For more details ☎ 01671 820357/820554.

Romantic theme

Charlton House Astrology Group are launching their very welcome reformation with a

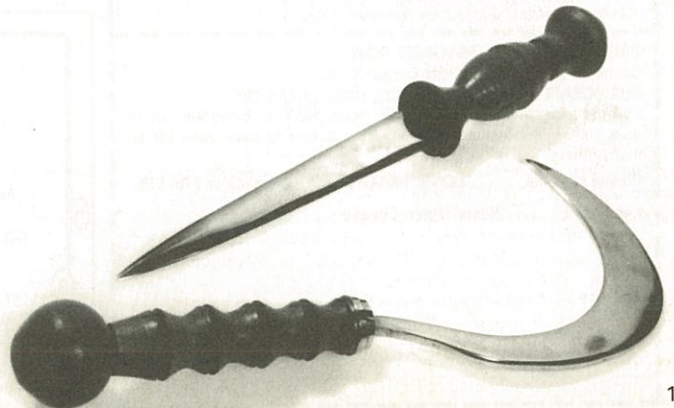
Normally available made to order only, this year a limited number of these impressive magical tools are on sale on a first come, first served basis. Very substantial, both *sickle* and *athame* have bronze 'blades,' beautifully turned wooden handles and measure approximately 15in/38cm overall.

Singly, the sickle costs £50, the athame £30 or they may be purchased as a pair for £75 — amazing value (prices quoted are all-inclusive). If interested in these or an even rarer

LIMITED OFFER

opportunity to purchase a special *dragon sickle* which is similar to that shown but with an inlaid dragon design along the blade (cost £160 inc) only

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NEWS & VIEWS

conference, *Romance and Astrology*, on Saturday, October 26th, 10–5pm (registration 9.30am). Facilities include an all-day coffee bar, lunchtime drinks bar, vegetarian lunch, bookstall and software demonstrations; horary readings are available.

Speakers include Sue Tompkins, Chester Kemp, John Frawley and Sean Lovatt; the venue is Charlton House, Charlton Road, London SE7 and the cost including refreshments and lunch (if booked before October 5th) is £25 for an interesting and varied day. To book, contact Mick Patilas, 24 Mowbray Court, Mowbray Road, London SE19 2PL.

Looking ahead

Two annual publications already available to early birds are *Your Personal Horoscope for 1997* by Joseph Polansky and *Your Chinese Horoscope for 1997* by Neil Somerville, both are published by Thorsons and are on general sale.

The former provides a month-by-month forecast for every sign, runs to over 400 pages and costs £6.99; the latter covers how each of the Chinese animal signs will fare in the year ahead, that of the Ox, runs to just over 300 pages and costs £4.99.

In good company

The Company of Astrologers' first *Tarot Weekend* proved so popular that another has been arranged for November 29th–December 1st at the Kings Hotel, Brighton. Tutors are Pat Blackett and Maggie Hyde with Geoffrey Cornelius as the guest lecturer.

There is a choice of two lev-

els. Selection 1 caters for beginners and Selection 2 is designed for those already familiar with the Tarot. The fully residential weekend costs £168 single/£148 twin all-inclusive if booked before October 31st. Day visitors are also welcome if booked in advance and rates vary according to degree of participation but prices start at £12 for the Friday evening only.

The full programme starts at 6pm on the Friday and ends after tea (4.30pm) on the Sunday. For full details and/or booking form contact the COA at PO Box 3001, London N1 1LY or call ☎ 0181-892 2545. But hurry as places are limited!

Healthy options

There is now a Past-Life Regression and Healing service operating in the Exeter area. Sessions are available by appointment only seven days a week, including evenings (9am–9pm), with qualified therapists; there are no set fees but donations are requested in order to cater for those on low incomes.

Sessions can last up to an hour and are on an individual or group basis. For more information or to make an appointment contact Hebe Ritchardson on ☎ 01404 822935.

Heaven sent

Heaven on Earth, a New Age shop in Devon, has just opened another branch at 42 The Square, Chagford, Devon TQ13 8AH (☎ 01647 433134). Opening hours are 9am–6pm seven days a week and, like the original outlet, stock includes magical oils and

herbs, incense, joss sticks, Tarot cards, crystal balls, clothing, jewellery and much more.

Both shops offer clairvoyance and Tarot readings and, for those who missed it first time round, the other branch is located at 143 Fore Street, Exeter EX4 3AN (☎ 01392 215789) and is open Monday to Saturday.

Open house

Do you know where you can attend lectures given by some of the UK's leading astrologers every Wednesday evening during term time? The answer is at the Astrology Study Centre, 396 Caledonian Road, London N1 1DN.

Anyone is welcome to attend these popular events which start at 7.30pm and cost £2.50. If you want to find out what's on next, call ☎ 0171-700 0639 for recorded details.

There are also Thursday coffee mornings at the same venue between 10.30–12.30. These again cost £2.50 which includes tea or coffee plus a talk or discussion on a variety of interesting subjects.

Postal forum

Staying with the astrological theme, Cathie Gill has launched a postal forum for people interested in astrology: a real boon for those unable to attend classes or lectures. Each forum comprises six to eight members of varying experience, from beginners to professionals, who circulate open letters, charts and articles for discussion.

There are no fees involved though members do have to pay their own postal costs.

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

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

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

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

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

Widely forecast as early as January 1992 that Bush would lose Presidential Election.

The Hendon Times, page 17, 2nd January 1992; Third Eye, February 1992.

"I was impressed with the personal reading. For I gave no facts. Dr A Mukherjee treats the readings like a science ... highly accurate."

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

"Clients tend to return to Dr Mukherjee at intervals to check their direction ... bit like a family GP except speciality is fate rather than medicine."

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



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NEWS & VIEWS

Flint House, 41 High Street, Lewes, E. Sussex BN7 2LU. 10.30-5pm: £25/£18 concessions. Details ☎ 0273 473388.

21st. Astrology and the Idea of the Self. A BASS seminar with Michael Harding at Stakis Hotel, Bath; 10am-5pm. Bookings/details ☎ 01373 465147.

21st-22nd. Becoming Earth People, shamanic weekend workshop with The Sacred Trust at Cecil Sharp House, London, NW1. Cost £120 (£25 deposit) for both days (non-

residential). Call ☎ 01225 852615 for details.

24th. A New Astrology, start of a one-year advanced astrology course with Paul Wade to be held on Tuesday evenings at the Goldsmiths' College, London. For full details/brochure call ☎ 0171-919 7200.

25th-29th. Becoming Earth People, in-depth Shamanic weekend workshop with The Sacred Trust at Gaunts House, Wimbourne, Dorset. Fully residential, cost £285 (£50

deposit). For full details/booking call ☎ 01225 852615.

28th. Synastry Day at Bolton Astrological Society, The Ukrainian Centre, Castle St, Bolton. For details call Jennifer Miller ☎ 01772 862463.

29th. Festival of Love, Light & Harmony at Farnham Maltings, Farnham, Surrey. 10.30-6pm; entrance £2 (discount for concessions). New Age/holistic event with stalls, readers, lectures and demonstrations. For details call Peter on ☎ 0181-892 7794.

HISTORIC RECORD

on the cover.

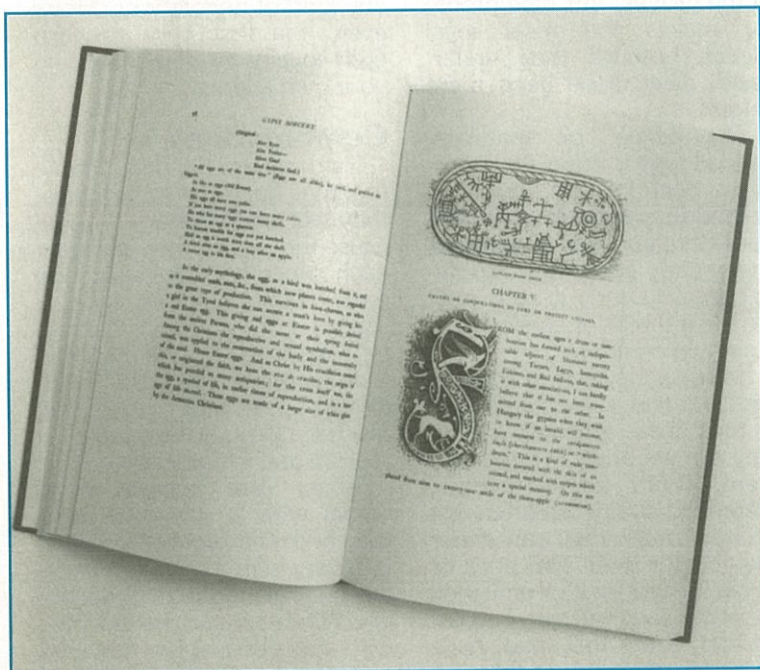
Originally published over a century ago, *Gypsy Sorcery* by C. G. Leland has become a classic of its genre in the intervening decades. Here you will discover a collection of Gypsy customs, usages and ceremonies ranging from fortune-telling, divination, Wicca,

shamanism, talismanic magic and much much more illustrated by many anecdotes and instances taken from other, sometimes obscure written works and the author's personal experiences.

Particularly interesting to me is the fact that the material comes from such diverse sources, geographically as well as regards subject matter; here, therefore, is an intriguing historical record of folklore and Romany ways, religious beliefs and practices. And to add to its visual impact, there are black and white engravings and decorative motifs interspersed throughout the work. All in all then, an interesting and attractive book to read and treasure.

Published by Mandrake Press at £18 the really good news is that PREDICTION readers can take advantage of a one-off special offer for a limited period only — an astonishing 50% discount! Yes, really, you can get this book for only £9 per copy including p&p if ordered before October 31st (allow 28 days for delivery). Cheques/POs should be made payable to Mandrake Press Ltd, Essex House, Thame OX9 3LS (☎ 01844 260990).

This impressive tome will delight anyone who appreciates what I would describe as a 'real' book. Over 250 pages of fascinating information beautifully printed on nice thick paper and presented in a large format (12x8¹/₂in/A4) hardback edition complete with gold embossed lettering



PALISTRY

by PETER WEST

Depend on it!

It is always a distinct advantage to know who we can trust and of whom we must be wary.

In these days loyalty is no longer an everyday commodity and it has become quite rare to know exactly upon whom we can rely when it comes to making those important decisions, socially or in business.

Generally, we often ask for this dependability from people without realising that we ought to offer a similar level of loyalty in return to those with whom we deal. It is a two-way contract. After all, the allegiance we ask can only be qualified by the amount of respect, admiration, honesty or otherwise that we instill in others. In other words, it's about knowing how to treat other people the way we our selves wish to be treated.

Hand types

Each of the hand types has its merits when it comes to its reliability — but at a cost or on the owner's terms. The most realistic and loyal type of all the groups has to be the square or rectangular shaped hand. People with this configuration are resourceful, consistent, dependable and solid folk. As a rule they can spot a phoney a mile off and know exactly how to deal with him or her.

Nearly always well balanced with plenty of sound common-sense they do not mix their words. They are down to Earth and usually call a spade a spade when it comes to the crunch.

They make excellent friends for they see and tell things the way they really are.

Those with the round, or conic type of hand are so receptive to the mood of the moment they tend to be caught up with that mood even though they may recognise they are not being practical at the time. Often, this group tends to use their conic fingers in such a way that they may act more as antennae, picking up all the vibes around them and adjusting their sights accordingly. Of all the groups, this type probably makes the most loyal friends because they understand. They have been there before.

The active, or spatulate-handed type is often an opportunist. Such folk are born leaders and they learn to recognise leadership qualities in others at a very early age. They also decide equally early if such people are a threat or challenge to their own position.

Because they can be so independent and self-centred one of their main interests is how they can get ahead — and stay there. With these people, therefore, loyalty can often rest on how much they can either use you for their own ends or throw in their lot if or until they are ready to break away again. Further, these folk often have an inborn executive streak coupled with a good creative ability

and they can be natural politicians. Good speakers, they can inspire equal loyalty to themselves as much as they can be loyal to others.

The analytical or philosophical handed type has a vastly different approach. It is almost as if a computer takes over when it comes to decision-making. Practical and coldly logical they love to analyse things. As long as it makes sense to do so they will go along with a project. If it is flawed they simply step back and let others get on with it.

They tend not to waste time with frivolous affairs but they often pursue the oddest things. Anything that catches their fancy and gives the brain a chance to work attracts. Efficient, dependable and extremely loyal, their diplomatic skills make them essential in any kind of negotiations. However, you first have to earn their loyalty by demonstrating your own talents.

Combinations

Two square-handed people together have the same goals, they will work in harmony because they know they can trust each other but they may bog each other down with rules. A square and a conic handed type working together can find their greatest strengths in allowing the other to bring his/her talents to the table — realism and imagination.

When the square hand works with a spatulate hand they find their greatest strength is in very high motivation levels for they are both realistic doers. When a square hand works with the philosophic they will exhibit a very high standard of industry, method and order.

They may not be adventurous but they can and do achieve.

Two conic-handed people working together will either show great rapport and be mutually helpful or they will be very touchy and moody and nothing will get done. When a conic hand tries to work with a philosophic type the fur can fly. Opposites attract but this is a meeting of the rational and irrational. A conic-handed person put together with an active hand produces a high-powered problem-solving duo but impatience can occur for they can fail to keep their promises.

Two philosophic-handed people together produce excellent work for they are equal perfectionists and very loyal.

This hand shape is basically conic or round and has a shorter than average middle finger in comparison to the rest of the fingers.

AA High-set straight heart line beginning on the mount of Jupiter.

However, they can be never satisfied with anything. The analytical type with a spatulate hand produces fireworks for good or ill. They work very well together mostly until one says go and the other says stop.

Two spatulate-handed types are very loyal and will usually work until they drop or they exhaust each other for they will both do anything to win the point.

Finger length

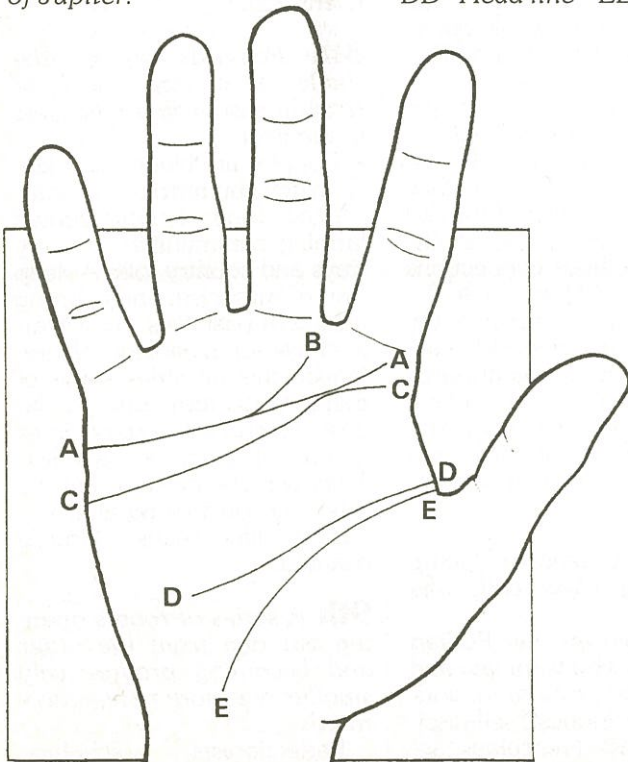
In addition to all these different hand types there are a couple of other factors to take into account when making your initial assessment.

Look carefully at the middle finger and gauge the length

AB High-set curved heart line beginning on the mount of Saturn.

CC Low-set curved heart line beginning on the mount of Jupiter.

DD Head line EE Life line



against the rest of the hand on which it is found as well as comparing it to its partner on the other hand. The longer the finger the more steadfast and loyal the owner is likely to be.

These people tend to stand blindly in your defence and flatly refuse to believe even the most damning of evidence against you in times of trouble. They simply cannot or will not believe what other people do or say against you.

The shorter this finger in comparison to the rest of the fingers on the same hand the less loyal these people prove to be in times of trouble. It does not take long to realise that in most cases this will have already been found out before the partnership has a chance to get off the ground.

The heart line

Finally, check the palmar surface and examine the heart line very carefully. The straighter and longer the line appears the more deeply devoted and blindly loyal the owner. More often than not they simply can't accept that you have any imperfections. The higher the line lies along the top of the palm then the more physically possessive they are likely to be. The lower the line lies in the hand the more mental the devotion.

Either way, these people seem unable to accept that those so close to them could have any imperfections in their nature for, once they have given their loyalty, it really is very difficult for them to withdraw it. If anything, they seem just to overlook any negative characteristics as if they were not there in the first place.

If the heart line should begin (or end, depending on to which school of thought you belong) on the mount of Jupiter the more this will be so. The heart line that starts (or finishes) on the mount of Saturn tends to help cool any real ardour in this direction.

This is the sixth in our series of Sun Day Symbols. The usual provisos apply. If necessary, adjust the birth time to GMT which may make a day's difference to the date if the birth was abroad. Then read the symbol for that day and also for the following day as that may be more appropriate. This is not an exact art because, as far as we are concerned, the Sun doesn't keep to a strict timetable. Also, births on the same day can occur almost 24 hours apart. As the Sun has only 360 degrees in which to accommodate the 365/6 days of the year some 'pleating' is needed and between the 19th and 23rd September you should read the preceding as well as the succeeding day.

1st (and leftovers from August 31st) *Complicated piece of heavy machinery at work.*

Suddenly a cog flies off and jams the mechanism. A life full of incidents and accidents which change the fortunes in a flash. These Natives do not appreciate such quirks of Fate. They are basically stolid citizens, upholders of old-fashioned values, law-abiding sticklers for routine and hard steady work. Gentlemen have mechanical and technical skills; ladies have many talents and are real characters.

2nd *Clump of violets under an oak tree.*

They are modest and shy and feel inadequate. Often overshadowed by strict parent or talented sibling. Whatever the reason they consider themselves failures. They don't push for praise or appreciation so don't get any. They often stay single, victims of 'nerves,' probably happiest with children or simple folk. Sweet-natured. Needless to say, they are as able as the next. Degree of humility.

3rd *People in white coats carrying clipboards hurry*

along a sterile corridor.

Cold and disciplined; organisers, reformers. They work for the good of society but have little sympathy for individuals. Personal relationships are relatively unimportant. Clear thinkers, scientists and inventors of ingenious devices. Technicians, mechanics, engineers, mathematicians, medics, researchers. If they relax, the orderliness of classical music is enjoyed. (Just to make them more human — a few get some pretty weird bees in their bonnets!)

4th *A steel skeleton in a tropical park is to become an immense Crystal Palace.*

Strict code of morals and manners, rigid guidelines. They live and work within a framework of regulations, often self-imposed, and are fearful if in authority. The few eccentrics born now thumb their noses and break the rules but even for them it's essential that rules exist so they can defy them. Inclined to the Left with modern functional outlooks yet not without Gothic imaginations which can break out in the realms of fantasy and SF.

5th *Sinister fungi growing by a little used forest path.*

Strange characters. It's as well not to cross them as they may have the power of the Evil Eye! Some plumb the depths and have dubious connections and lifestyles. Others rise to the heights with transcendental meditation, astral travel, esoteric religions or paranormal studies. On a more mundane level they are herbalists and healers, tamers of birds and shy animals. Often misunderstood.

6th *Pretty teacher facing an adoring class calls the register.*

Here again are the Puritan type Virgos who want law and order and the security to work undisturbed. Modest, self-disciplined, tireless, meticulous, ac-

tive into old age. They fulfil their obligations faithfully but expect their Rights in return. They want the reins in their own hands even if it means working twice as hard. Blinkered vision but dependable. Good planners, systematic. Likely to be surrounded by psychological conflicts which they try not to notice. Girls are beautiful.

7th *A neat, well-tended herb garden.*

They are punctilious, efficient, clean, critical and detached, giving the appearance of cold superiority which is not what they intend. They are interested in medical matters and may have to nurse or care for someone for a long period. Good housekeepers, excellent at budgeting and coping with poverty. Their homes are austere but beautiful. They are not spontaneous and have to think things through slowly. They dislike noise and smutty jokes. Great readers. They meet with discouragement but their modest hopes are realised. Eventually.

8th *Peasants rest in the shade of a tree beside a straight road which shimmers in the heat.*

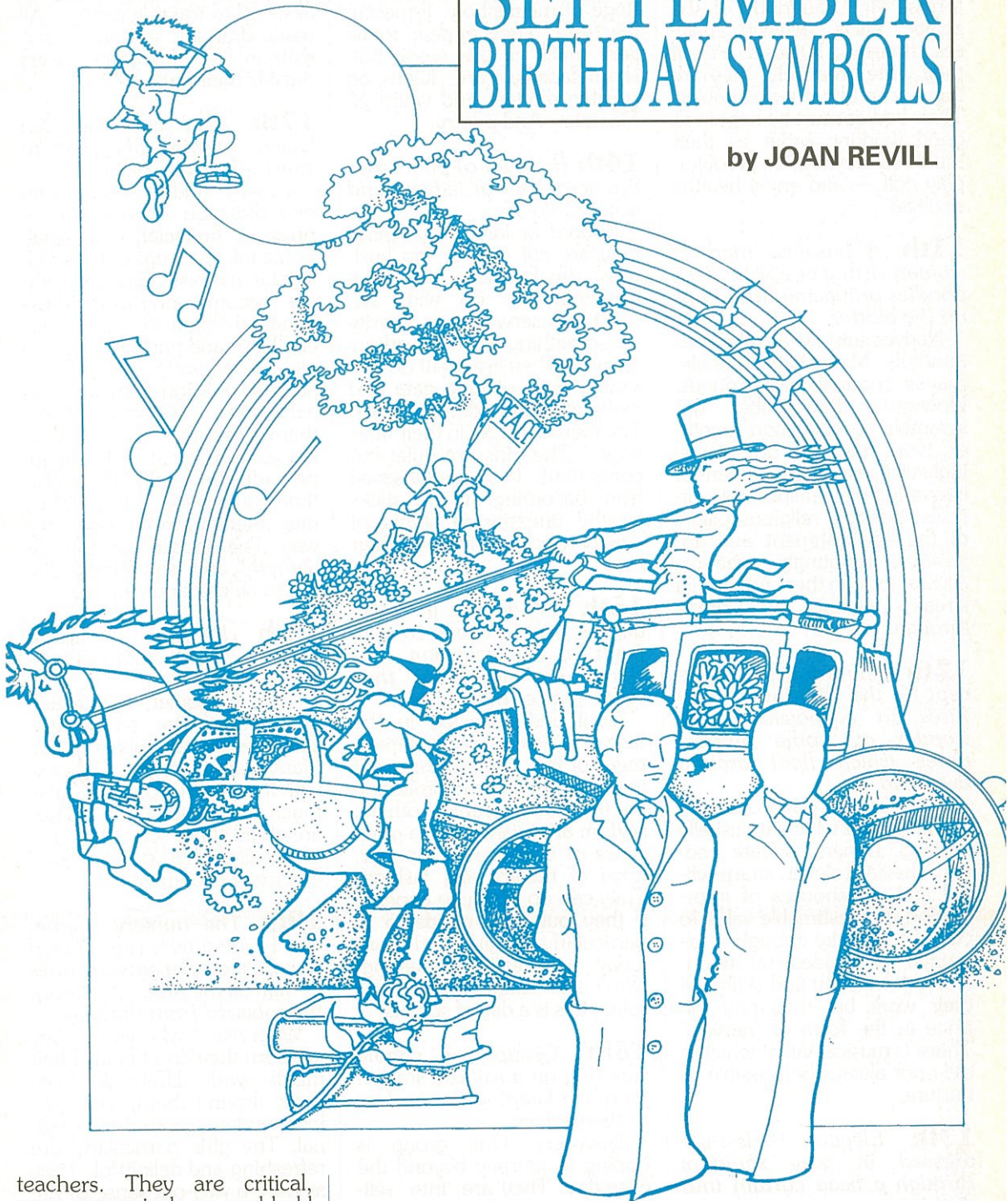
Poppies are blooming. Gentle, quietly humorous and unassuming, fond of unfrequented farming communities, country ways and country folk. A deep vein of mysticism and a strong feeling of past lives, particularly those of a violent nature. Maybe this unsettles some of them who turn out to be unstable and wild and obviously out of place in this life. Their careers are short but the others go on to long and productive life spans. Usually beautiful.

9th *A series of rooms opening out one from the other and becoming progressively smaller but more richly decorated.*

Perfectionists, scholars,

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY SYMBOLS

by JOAN REVILL



teachers. They are critical, even aggressively so, and hold provocative views. Rich imaginations, capable of delicate, intricate, fantastic work, often influenced by Eastern art. Also interested in symbols, ritual

and esoteric subjects — which they tend to keep dark. Often a poor start which is perhaps why they are always seeking Utopia.

10th *Magazines rolling off the presses.*

Hard characters. Unshockable themselves, they like shocking others. They love the

news, current affairs, documentaries, the media in all its forms. Mr Gradgrinds of the zodiac. Facts, detailed analyses, statistics, IQ tests. Yet, if they write creatively, they are the can't-be-put-downables. Their bodies must be kept in as good working order as their minds so they jog, do aerobics, play golf — and enjoy healthy sex lives.

11th *A business man or woman sitting at a solid desk doodles grimacing little imps on the blotter.*

Natives start life as rebellious handfuls. Many have humble, maybe criminal, backgrounds. However, they sober up, scramble an education together, work hard and do surprisingly well, even to the extent of becoming ultra-respectable citizens, possibly religious pillars of the establishment and apparently irritatingly superior. Always though there is this wild streak waiting to break through.

12th *A library deserted except for the librarian who refuses to acknowledge, or wonder at, some musical notes which float around overhead.*

Natives have good opinions of themselves which are usually justified. Loners, private people. They are clever, sharp-witted and storehouses of information, of inestimable value to young folk lucky enough to be trained or guided by them. Neat, pernickety and skilled in their work but they pay the price in the form of 'nerves.' There is musical talent which it may not always be possible to nurture.

13th *Elegant Parisienne dressed in grey saunters through a bead curtain into darkness.*

Best prospects are abroad or, at least, away from birthplace. They are fighters and writers, freethinkers and feminists. Their way of life is spare,

free of superfluities and fripperies but permeated with a tinge of melancholy. Impeccable taste. They appear to be very much of this world but, shamefacedly, are keen on psychic matters and weird X-File tales. And poetry.

14th *Bouquet of pink roses lies across set of ledgers and account books.*

Sooner or later they realise they are cut out for big business; the business may have something to do with art, sport, conservation or charity — something to help others anyway. They are great on collecting and collating data and make excellent administrators. The men are lucky in their marriages. The girls are quiet but competent. They are all saved from becoming dry old sticks by the unexpected shafts of beauty which run through their lives.

15th *A dandy in satin alights from a coach to confront a highwayman but things are not what they seem. One of them is a girl!*

Cool and collected in the face of danger or in any department of life. An impression of world-weariness and disillusion but they are tolerant of others, seldom angry and have a great sense of understated humour. Love of theatre and fashion. They can do anything expertly if they put their minds to it, particularly the girls. Girls born today are really something. Don't take them at their face value, this is a day of secrets.

16th *Groups of people standing on a railway station platform keeping themselves to themselves.*

Travellers. One group is hoping to journey beyond the everyday. They are 'into' religion, magic or the occult. Another is awaiting a hospital train. They are taking up medicine or are themselves in need of medical help, probably for nervous disorders or accidental

injury. The third group are perpetual students and educationists off to training college. All make dramatic entrances and exits in life. Not good mixers outside their own circles.

17th *Alice and the Red Queen running like mad to stay in the same place.*

Usually under strain from one direction or another — physical, financial, emotional. Some take to drugs or to travelling far and fast to escape. Others become physical fitness fiends, devoted to sport, exercise bikes and punishing schedules, apparently in order to achieve oblivion through total exhaustion. Others throw themselves into work — they are gluttons for it — being super efficient with timetable, time-and-motion minds. They may make a fortune along the way. The chosen career ends abruptly and something else has to be embarked upon.

18th *Painting of white blooms in a plain white frame.*

They are quiet, chaste and devotees of the simple life. Their religion is equally plain. Many think they can dispense with it as they dispense with so much else, but they can't. They are gifted either scientifically or artistically. They stand a good chance of becoming rich.

19th *The nursery rhyme: Old Woman who was Tossed in a Basket, Seventeen times as high as the Moon (to sweep the cobwebs from the sky).*

Wherever, whenever they are born they don't fit in. Their minds work differently from those around them. They are independent, eccentric, original. The girls particularly are refreshing and delightful. They all have a way-out sense of humour and relish the odd and disconcerting. Fantastic illustrators and designers. Very 'stagey.' They are never afraid to be themselves. Readers and writers. High flyers.

20th *A child in a cosy room looks out at falling snow.*

They encounter the seamy side of life either because of a poor or sickly start or because they choose to help or work with the unfortunate. They always feel outsiders or, perhaps, insiders but — cut off from their environment somehow. Luckily they have a sense of humour and wonder, musical ability and a naturally cultured taste for the finer things of life. A degree of astrology too.

21st *A Trade Union convenor addressing a meeting.*

Manual workers, DIY enthusiasts, those good with their hands. Strong working class/Socialist affiliations, even if they themselves climb up the social ladder. They lay down the law, whether qualified to do so or not, thereby making themselves unpopular. Pessimists. Not 'homey' people. Impatient of fuss and affectation. The cards are stacked against them as far as background, circumstances, looks or manner are concerned but they win through by sheer persistence. They genuinely try to help others and to live good lives.

22nd *A Victorian lady in a very large crinoline drives herself in a very small carriage at a smart lick.*

Women born today have the best of both worlds — successful careers and happy home lives. The men are overwhelmed by their womenfolk (but probably like it) or spend their lives catering for women. If fearful for their health they turn to alternative, usually old-fashioned, medicines. They can't throw anything away and never have enough space!

23rd *Lady of the Manor enters the village church.*

The best kind of Do-Gooder. The clever ones try to improve the world through industrial or agricultural projects, or they run religious or charitable organisations. They Help the

Aged at one end of the scale and Save the Children at the other. In between they can be found wherever a helping hand is needed, publicly or privately. They have high standards and can be forgiven their (sometimes) autocratic air.

24th *Doves flying through a rainbow.*

They bridge two cultures, age groups or interests or act as go-betweens. They are agreeable with a kind word for everyone, a cure for everything. Their main concern is to keep the peace. Optimistic and hopeful.

25th *Children garland lambs with daisy chains on old village green.*

Well into Libra now with this lovely birthday of flowers, sunbonnets, pretty children, fairy tales and silver spoons. They are charming, gentle, unmateriastic. No lovers of urban sprawl they would love to live in enchanted forests stuffed with courtly knights and romantic heroines. Collectors of porcelain and fine art. Light and amusing, musicians and dancers.

26th *A silk scarf partly concealing a loaded revolver.*

They like the bright lights, noise, excitement and gambling. They drift around the highspots and, if unprovoked, are smiling, easy and affable. But don't get on their wrong side as they can be incredibly tough and cruel. Horse racing fascinates, so does any form of fighting. They admire stuntmen, athletes and gladiators and welcome dangerous journeys.

27th *Two soldiers fighting back to back in an alley.*

They live at a furious pace and have to be better than anyone else. This means they are fighters, either arguing and promoting their own opinions or, literally, soldiers or competitive sportsmen. In fact they are very nice to know, are good

at working with others and reckoned to be jolly good company.

28th *A group of students hit policemen with PEACE placards.*

More fighters although they may be campaigning for conservation or the saving of old churches. Fashionably street-wise with a wide circle of friends. A broad sense of humour of the practical joke variety. They simmer down with age when they are inclined to take up something like Oriental philosophy or astrology after what they consider to have been a misspent youth. They then get violently non-violent over that.

29th *Watercolour of a country scene stands on an easel in an art gallery.*

Very nice. Cultured, good looking and delightful. Girls are extremely feminine. They love pretty rooms and gardens and may be painters. They marry young and happily and work well with partners. Heartbreakers — a bit fickle. Pleasant voices. They like to reconcile warring factions. Occasionally, presumably to balance the day, a brick flies through the window and a screaming, outrageous rebel gatecrashes.

30th *Disgusted Puritan stalks through a luxuriant conservatory.*

No happy mean for those born today. One way or the other they are uncompromising. Ascetic or wallowing in a pot of jam. Chic or down and out. Violently Left or Right. Devout or atheistic. Outsiders and troublemakers welcoming opposition or pink and white sweeties with tragi-romances, good looking, musical, artistic. The really complicated oscillate between two poles going from rags to riches, from pacifism to scrapping, from monasticism to self-indulgence. Or back. And some have to wait to find themselves until October 1st!

Until recently the Uffington White Horse was regarded as a product of the Celtic Iron Age. Then, in 1995, archaeologists revealed that the giant carving in fact predates the Celtic period and is over 3000 years old. This discovery, rather than illuminating the origin of the White Horse, deepens the mystery.

The study that proved the White Horse was carved in the late Bronze Age was carried out by a research team on behalf of English Heritage and the National Trust. Their research revealed that the constructors of the hill figure dug deep trenches in the shape of the Horse then filled them in with chalk from the hill above. The Uffington ritual complex, which includes several tumuli and the evocatively named Dragon Hill, therefore appears to be an ancient sacred site that has probably been in constant use since Neolithic times.

Before the recent discovery, historians in general had regarded the Uffington Horse as a Celtic representation of the goddess Epona, often depicted elsewhere riding on a white mare. The unusual design of the Horse with its disjointed limbs and almost bird-like head, has been compared with designs of horses found on Iron Age coins and other Celtic artefacts.

Cats and wolves

However, shortly after the 1995 announcement, a correspondent in *The Daily Telegraph* suggested that the hill figure was feline in origin and represented a cat. He further suggested that it was associated with the worship of wild cats, even the big cats that lived in Britain at the time it was carved.

Another theory has been put forward to suggest that the Horse may in fact be a wolf. The nearby village of Uffington derives from a Saxon settlement named after King Uffa of the Angles who ruled East Anglia in the 6th century and is said to have come to England from Southern Denmark. In

Scandinavia the name Ulfa, Ulf or Wuffa means wolf.

King Uffa ruled over a tribe known as the Uffingas or Wolfingas which appears to mean People of the Wolf. In Northern European mythology the wolf is the sacred animal of Odin or Woden who also owned a renowned magical horse. Obviously some of these wolf people settled on the Berkshire Downs, perhaps attracted by the hill figure but, unfortunately for the theorists, the image of the White Horse predates them by over 1500 years.

In the 19th century, according to a shepherd's rhyme recorded in the district, the White Horse and its environs were associated with St George and the killing of the dragon. The mound beneath the hill fig-

cealed behind George's Christian image a far older, pagan figure associated with fertility and horses. He appears as a prominent character in May Day customs and in mumming plays at Yule where he slays another folklore character known as the Turkish Knight and is shown with a hobby-horse. He is also associated with the fertility figure known as the Green Man or Jack-in-the-Green.

The saint's combat with the dragon has been interpreted as an example of the ancient struggle between the powers of Winter and Summer, light and darkness, life and death. This theme formed the focus for the pre-Christian seasonal cycle based on the marriage of the sacred king to the goddess of the land and his subsequent rit-

CHALK IT UP

by MICHAEL HOWARD

The White Horse of Uffington on the Berkshire Downs is one of the finest examples of prehistoric hill figures in Britain.

ure, known popularly as Dragon Hill, is said to be where the deed occurred.

According to legend, no grass grows here because it is where the dragon's poisonous blood was spilt. Imaginative people have also seen the dragon in the unusual shape of the White Horse. St George is a strange character surrounded by pagan and neo-pagan myth and legend. He is of Middle Eastern ancestry and was only adopted as the patron saint of England in the 13th century, possibly because of his popularity with returning Crusaders.

Folklorists have seen con-

ual death and resurrection.

The shepherd's rhyme previously mentioned also links the White Horse with Wayland's Cave on the nearby Ridgeway that connects ancient sites across Southern England. This is in fact Wayland's Smithy, a Neolithic long-barrow surrounded by a grove of beech trees. The site is named after the Scandinavian god Weland or Wayland, 'the Smith of the Gods.' Although Wayland's Smithy was not named until the 10th century, it is an example of the continuity of belief in divine horses and horse worship in the area and how later occu-

piers or invaders added to earlier beliefs.

Fair

In the 18th and 19th centuries the Uffington White Horse was the scene of a rowdy two-day fair attended by people from all the villages and towns in the surrounding area. On one occasion it is said 30,000 revellers turned up. Booths, stalls and tents were set up on the hill above the figure and the fair attracted a ragbag of showmen, horse dealers, acrobats, jugglers, wrestlers fortune-tellers and gypsies. Wrestling, sword fights, pig catching, cheese rolling, horse racing and other country arts and crafts were held with prizes for the winners. Other activities included rolling a wheel down the hill or sliding down it on a horse's jaw bone. Both sound decidedly pagan in origin.

The highlight of the fair was the annual scouring of the White Horse to keep it clean and well-defined. It was recorded in 1738 as a very old custom carried out by certain local worthies as an obligation. This scouring ceremony was supported by the Lord of the Manor who was also obligated to feed those who carried it out. This event was either held at Whitsun or around the Autumn Equinox in September.

The Uffington White Horse is not, of course, the only equine hill figure in Southern England. Several of the others, though, were only carved in the 18th and 19th centuries by rich landowners as follies. The Westbury Horse, near the Iron Age hillfort of Bratton Camp in Wiltshire, was allegedly created to mark the site of a battle between the Danes and King Alfred.

Symbol

The white horse was a symbol of Saxon royalty and featured on Alfred's personal war banner. However, the Horse was recut and enlarged in 1778 and many historians believe it only dates from that period.

The urge to cut horse figures on hillsides, even in the last two centuries, is an indication of the powerful symbolism of this animal and how it has been retained in the English psyche. From the most ancient times the horse has been regarded as a sacred symbol of divinity. Our ancestors saw it as the magical steed which carried its rider to the spirit world, after death or during religious ceremonies.

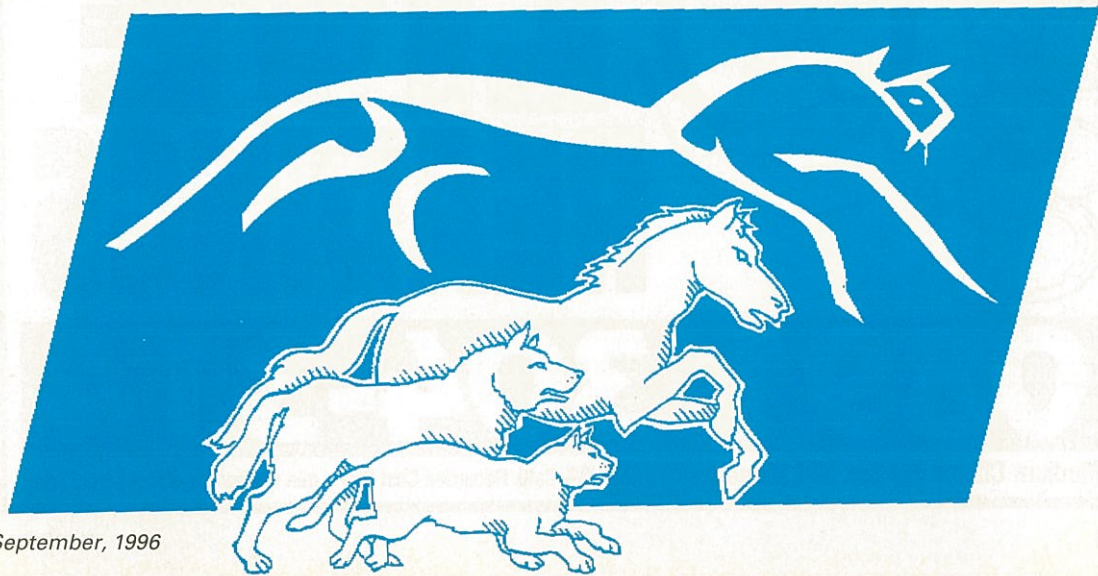
Horses were often sacrificed and in many cases their skulls were buried under the foundations or thresholds of houses. This seems to have been a magical device to ward off evil and protect the household from

illness or bad luck. Originally such a ritual would have been a sacrificial offering to the powers of the underworld.

Traditionally, the white or grey mare was principally associated with the Earth goddess who ruled the land and the underworld. In ancient myths and fairy tales it was the sacred marriage between this deity and a human hero that granted him the keys to the kingdom.

Religious veneration of the horse existed long before Celtic times and the new dating of the White Horse proves this point. In fact, recent research into the archaeology of the Iron Age has led to a dramatic revision of ideas accepted for generations. Evidence points to a continuity of religious belief and practice dating back at least 7000 years.

We may never be able to understand the real mystery behind the carving of the Uffington White Horse on its windswept hillside in Berkshire. However, its dating to an earlier period in ancient history and the rich mythology and folklore connected with it and the surrounding area prove the existence of a spiritual continuity in the sacred landscape of Middle England. It is a continuity that is destined to survive into the future for truly the land and the people are one.



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THE TAROT

by JOHN CHRISTOPHER TRAVERS

QUEEN OF CUPS

The Queen of Cups is a somewhat mystical and distant figure but with considerable power.

It may at first appear that the Cups Queen is a visionary, perhaps a mystic and a little fey. To some extent, this is quite true but there is more to this lady than just a female Canute, sitting on the seashore gazing into her elaborate cup and seemingly defying the waves.

That she is a mystic is not in doubt but she is also a very firm lady, her personality being strong and vibrant. It is said of the Queen of Cups that she sees visions and acts upon them; that she has power beyond belief; that she also uses that power for the benefit of humankind.

The Cups Queen has mystery surrounding her but she is also vulnerable and emotionally affected. In some aspects of her personality she is probably influenced by Pisces but she is also Cancer, the Mother; Virgo, the Maiden and Aquarius, the Water Bearer.

In more modern parlance, she is the Madonna, a figure to be worshipped and to pray to, asking her to intercede in personal and emotional matters. That she favours lovers and those entangled with feelings of love is very evident.

Of course she is but one aspect of the Goddess, under whatever name over the ages has been current. However, she is seldom seen as Crone,

only as a benevolent figure showing concern and offering help where it is most needed.

In any Tarot spread, she represents a much-loved woman. This can include wife, lover, mother, colleague, friend. But it has to be a female influence and a woman of authority or in a position of power. The power can be minimal or great, that seems not

to be the issue.

What is relevant is the overall control the female has in anyone's life, be it personal or professional. She is there to help, to instigate, to promote and to develop all kinds of progress on behalf of the person linked to her at the time or who asks directly for her intervention or help.

The water nymphs who decorate the elaborate throne on which the Queen sits, are symbolic of guardian sprites who are also spirits. The closed cup, which has been described as a symbol of the eucharist, has contents which must not be revealed or at least only to a favoured few — perhaps initiates.

There is a mystery here, one which does not unlock its secrets easily. There are hints that the Queen of Cups is a priestess or involved in sacred rites. All of the clues are there but seem seldom to be solved.

The visionary aspect of the Cups Queen is endearing but also something of an enigma. Whatever this Queen actually sees is not necessarily promulgated. It is as if the Queen goes into herself, entering a personal realm where the visions are seen and understood but not handed down to anyone else.

She herself has to act on her own visions and she herself is



both the recipient of them and the one who has to intercede. She is a very complicated and fey lady who is often mistaken for being not entirely of this world.

It would be a mistake to just leave her there in a kind of private world. The Queen of Cups awakens from her dream-like state to use her considerable powers to interpret and use the information she has received in her visions. These are then put into mundane categories to help those who need her personal intervention.

All of this is highly complicated and certainly adds to overall confusion rather than clarifying the issues. Which is a great pity, as the Cups Queen likes to be taken for granted.

She genuinely prefers to be

treated as a woman of influence rather than a figure of power. It just so happens that she is both which she cannot and does not wish to avoid. Even so, misunderstandings arise, often of her own making.

She is an emotional entity, the key to her personality being other people's emotional problems. She truly wishes to be of help but lives in two worlds, the spiritual side of which takes her away from reality.

In the end, there is but one approach to this card of the Tarot. Recognise that the Queen of Cups is a very beneficial card but also understand that there are layers of influence that may not always apply to any given query in a Tarot spread.

Where emotions are rele-

vant, or where female influence is needed, then her powers can be used. Otherwise she remains enigmatic, slightly unapproachable, even distant.

To bring her down to Earth is sometimes very easy, at other times almost impossible. It is necessary to take a chance and ask for her help and, if she is willing or feels it is appropriate, then she will use everything within her power to ease a difficult situation.

Occasionally, like all women, she likes to be slightly temperamental, withdrawing her favours or pretending not to understand. When this occurs, fortunately rarely, it is best to leave her alone and come back to her another day, via a Tarot spread. Then she may well offer surprises with the force of her influence and power.

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ASTROLOGY SECTION



SEPTEMBER

FACING THE FACTS

Several powerful astrological movements during September point to a see-saw trend in world events. Mixed messages are likely to characterise the media and, in politics, optimistic talk could actually turn out to be merely a ploy to win time and disguise what is really going on in the halls of power.

It is not an entirely bleak picture, however, for Jupiter begins to gather momentum from early month and suggests a more realistic and very practical trend in political thinking. There will certainly be tremendous media focus on the British leadership with more than a hint of radical changes to come.

At best, this Jupiter factor can herald the beginning of a more expansive phase in the economy with special encouragement to smaller businesses. It may at last be dawning on leaders and economists that a viable future is more likely through the smaller work unit than the huge multi-national conglomerates which impose increasing inflexibility on career structures and, finally, like the dinosaurs, are crushed by their own gargantuan weight.

The emergence of the smaller group possessing greater freedom is also shown by the movement of Uranus through Aquarius over the next few years. Certain fairly radical changes in the general attitude to life, and of what we really need to enjoy a human existence, will need to be made if we are to expect a reasonably civilised state of affairs to continue into the next century.

Though most of us don't like to face the fact, the crux of all problems for the human race today is sheer pressure of population on diminishing natural resources. The sad and frightening fact is that, if we go on doing what we are doing (especially the richer nations of the world), then the whole system is due for collapse within less than 30 years. But do we ever hear voices raised in the media pointing out this glaring fact? No. We hear about consumer spending, how to live and be merry today for tomorrow we die.

Such short-sighted and selfish attitudes are going to have to change and we can hope that the more positive features of Uranus and Jupiter, both heading for a partnership in Aquarius, will help us to face the facts.

Remus

HOW TO READ THE SYMBOLS

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

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

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

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

ARIES

MARCH 21 TO APRIL 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Feelings within the domestic circle could get overheated early in September.

Be on your guard against potential accidents, too. Aries parents may find youngsters exasperating. However, temper tantrums are definitely not the solution as this would only aggravate matters. A more rational approach will achieve the necessary truce.

The good news this month is that Jupiter begins to gain in strength from the 3rd onwards, signalling

the start of a highly successful phase for career and worldly ambitions. After several months when things seemed to be stuck in a rut, the pace will gather a more satisfying momentum and you'll begin to see tangible benefits for past work.

Remember, though, that Saturn is now transiting your sign. Your usual desire for instant results and quick action is likely to bring little in the way of lasting satisfaction. The message of Saturn is to take your time over everything you do.

The more solid a foundation you establish, the more enduring will be your success. Saturn will incline you to take a more serious attitude to life, give you greater patience and have a deeply maturing effect on your personality.

Saturn does, of course, have a down side. This will be felt only if you persist in being impatient. Frustrations and limitations can be minimised by adopting longer term views and sticking to what you are good at. You may have to limit yourself but this will bring the greatest benefit in the long run.

One thing is for sure, it's going to be a month of dramatic develop-

ments for romantically inclined Arians. Between the 7th and 10th both Venus and Mars come into powerful aspect with Pluto, bringing more than just a hint of intense amorous experience and a very swift evolution from first meeting to fully fledged love.

The danger here is of powerful infatuation in which either of you becomes over possessive so that the other feels suffocated in the relationship. However, as these planets are in favourable aspect, this negative potential is reduced.

If a new romance begins in the first half of the month, success is more likely. But on the whole, it is definitely going to be an eventful time for romantic affairs.

On a more mundane level, you'll need patience on the weekend of the 14th and 15th when other people are liable to frustrate your plans. You may suddenly be lumbered with a lot of rather irritating duties and moral obligations. The following week may not be an easy ride either, especially at work.

Finally, take extra care of your health late month and try to cultivate a more relaxed attitude.

TAURUS

APRIL 21 TO MAY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Don't attempt any heroics early in September if you are not feeling fully fit.

Energy levels could be at a low ebb under adverse Lunar trends, warning you to take extra care of health. There's a similar message at the Lunar eclipse on the 27th though it could then be that someone else's poor health may give rise to anxiety. Be prepared to shoulder added responsibility later in the month.

Apart from these warnings, there is a very expansive prospect

during September. Events early month will incline you to feel optimistic about the future and bring your longer term plans into clearer perspective. The 3rd could turn out to be an exceptionally lucky date when you'll suddenly find yourself in a position to do some successful manoeuvring.

The underlying theme of expansion and enrichment applies not only to material facets but, perhaps more importantly, to things of the mind. Jupiter and Neptune are becoming very active in an area of your chart traditionally associated with the higher mind.

Together, they indicate a time of fresh inspiration and insight, opportunity and motivation to increase your knowledge. Expect to make excellent progress in any academic work or if you are writing and doing research for publication.

There's a powerful spotlight on deeper ideals and aspirations. Taurus who take an interest in alternative lifestyles, care of the environment and deeper spiritual quests will find September highly productive. These interests will be helped greatly by meetings with

kindred spirits and better scope for developing your ideas.

Travel is also highlighted most of the month with special emphasis on long-range journeys. Important dates are the 3rd, 12th, 17th, 18th, 21st, 22nd and 30th. Whether your journeys are for business, pleasure or gaining knowledge, expect great success then.

Matters closer to home come into sharper focus from the middle of the second week. Be prepared for a minor crisis around the 11th. It may not be anything emotional but more likely something needing urgent repair. Electrical appliances are likely to be hazardous so don't take risks if you suspect any faults.

From mid month onwards property interests are very progressive. If you are seeking a more congenial place to settle, you are more likely to find just what you want. As Mars is strongly activated, there may be a need to act quickly if you do find your dream home.

At the end of the month a powerful Lunar trend in your sign may make you the centre of attention — a mixed blessing if you were hoping for peace and quiet!

GEMINI

MAY 21 TO JUNE 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Your tendency to spread yourself too thinly may be enjoyable early on but could deplete your bank balance.

Also there is a danger that people may be out to take advantage. Keep alert for flattery — it could be a con trick in the making

Apart from this it's by no means a bad month for financial affairs. However, the main accent is on longer term and soundly based monetary interests rather than quick profits. A long-standing

problem, perhaps to do with a business or legal matter, will probably be brought to a successful conclusion soon after the 3rd. The movement of Jupiter suggests a turning point for the better in all personal and joint financial affairs.

Dates for most positive results in business and finance are the 3rd, 17th, 21st and 25th. However, avoid letting yourself be pushed into any financial decisions on the 6th and 8th when impulsiveness or lack of foresight could trip you up.

From the second week the pace of life gathers greater momentum and you'll be very much on the go. This is certain to please you, especially if you have been hoping for more diversification recently. But don't expect everything to go full speed ahead and be ready to apply the brakes if chaos threatens.

Your ruler, Mercury, is retrograde between the 4th and 26th which could mean that things go in fits and starts. Try to keep a definite goal in view, rather than attempting to play things by ear.

This Mercury factor can indicate irritating delays and disappointments. It may be a good idea not to

make any special social arrangements on the weekend of the 14th and 15th when you'd be let down.

Matters closer to home come into sharper focus around the New Moon on the 12th. This is excellent for moving ahead with plans or changes. Here again, though, Mercury is in the picture so you'll need to keep to a fairly straightforward path. Property transactions are likely to be delayed and you may have to wait until late month before matters are finally sorted out.

In many ways, this would be an excellent time to get away from it all. Chances are that you have been rather overloaded with little scope for reflection over the past few months. All kinds of benefits are likely through travel this month.

For a start, a change of scenery will have a deeply therapeutic influence on your inner self. There are also indications of interesting friendships while away from familiar surroundings and a hint of romance in connection with a journey on on the 8th, 10th and 27th.

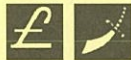
The month ahead certainly offers you a varied and stimulating vista of experience!

CANCER

JUNE 21 TO JULY 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

New links will benefit you emotionally and materially.

Significant relationships are about to undergo an interesting transformation. It could be that a new love affair early in the month throws your whole life pattern into altered perspective. Even if it doesn't last, it will certainly have a maturing influence on your attitude towards close personal relationships.

This is not to imply that amorous affairs are going to be disastrous. On the contrary, now that Jupiter

is becoming more active in your House of Partners, the prospect for success in relationships is greatly enhanced. The next couple of months are likely to be a bumper time for Cancerian engagements and weddings. If you have not had much joy in love over recent years, the balance is now swinging very strongly in the opposite direction.

The emphasis on relationships does not only apply to more intimate ties. The pattern indicates that you are gravitating into a more varied and dynamic system of relationships. People who come into your life from September on are likely to be lucky to you in some way. If you are in business, it will obviously be in your favour to cultivate new alliances and aim for a wider network of contacts.

This is an excellent month for pushing ahead with important business or legal negotiations. Jupiter ensures that you get the right advice and reach speedy settlements — all to the good, because financial interests may be very much the centre of attention in the latter half of the month.

Mars and Venus in the money

area of your Solar chart indicates a fast-moving, progressive, financial phase. Any anxieties about security over the past year are now likely to fade and your attitude towards money will become easier.

You may have become over cautious or even tight-fisted, perhaps with reason. But Cancerians can act poor when in fact they are quite well off. The final result is that you make a prison out of money instead of using it as a means to a richer life. Experience in September will finally break you out of this. If you have allowed yourself to fall into a rut, perhaps someone you meet will make you realise it.

There is a rather negative domestic trend around mid month. If a property matter is under consideration, be prepared to do some serious rethinking. If you're a parent, keep a close watch on youngsters who may be under the weather or inclined to cause mischief.

Finally, career-minded Cancerians may be heading for some fairly heavy decisions later in the month. If you now feel that you have enough on your plate, refuse to let others load you with more.

LEO

JULY 21 TO AUGUST 21



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Apart from an adverse Lunar trend early month you can look forward to great success.

Keep a low profile on the 2nd when there is danger of conflict and confrontations at work. Give others plenty of leeway and refrain from criticism, even if well-intentioned.

Provided you heed this warning, there's nothing to prevent you furthering your special aims in the coming weeks. The benefic planet Jupiter begins to put a favourable light on occupational interests,

making this an excellent time to seek suitable employment or to improve your prospects. There's an element of luck when this planet is in favourable aspect on the 3rd, 11th, 16th, 21st and 25th. Be alert for likely opportunities if you are hoping to find a more congenial outlet for your special abilities.

If financial problems emerge between the 12th and 26th, be prepared for extra homework and to cover the ground thoroughly — especially if a major decision is looming. Commercial transactions or mail order may get held up during this phase and you may have to go out of your way to chase things up. If possible wait until later in the month if you are hoping to get a good price for something.

The dominant feature in September is Mars' transit of your sign from the 9th. Basically, this signals a highly creative and progressive time when you will be very much in the driving seat. Mars will not only incline you to feel very dynamic and enterprising but you'll also find that events somehow allow you to show just what you can achieve by your powerful will and

single-minded approach.

Mars is the planet of action and initiative so don't be afraid to act forcefully if you want results. Provided you have prepared the ground well, there is very little limit to what can be achieved now. It's as if destiny is dealing you an Ace and giving you a chance to organise your life more in tune with your deeper needs and desires.

Although Mars can certainly enhance the positive characteristics of your nature, there is always a danger that negative features are brought to the fore, too. Be advised against being too domineering when this planet is in adverse aspect on the 11th, 16th and 29th.

As Venus is also occupying your sign most of the month, the stage is set for some pretty dramatic romantic encounters. It could turn out to be the most eventful month of the year for those hoping to find the perfect partner! Your personal charm and magnetism will be greatly enhanced.

However, avoid being too extravert around the 11th. You could easily engender an unexpectedly intense and hostile reaction.

VIRGO

AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

The quicker you act the better on joint financial problems early in the month.

Mercury retrograde until the 12th makes it appropriate to give serious thought to all money matters. Changing circumstances may mean that you are not getting the best out of your resources so make inquiries about greater efficiency.

Generally speaking, the prevailing pattern offers you tremendous support and encouragement for it seems that the tide of luck and for-

tune is more strongly in your favour from early month onwards. This is good news especially for Virgoans striving to promote their creative interests. Events will somehow facilitate a more professional approach and give you greater scope to diversify.

Jupiter's more powerful influence promises timely opportunities, a lucky break and a boost to your self-confidence. This helpful trend will also have beneficial effect in educational pursuits.

Whether student or teacher, you'll begin to feel that your achievement is very worthwhile. There is an added bonus here for involvement in educational activity could enrich your social life.

A minor health hazard around the 11th advises against doing anything too strenuous or in too much of a hurry. Others are likely to put you under heavy pressure and the workload may increase quite suddenly. It's important to take things in your stride and refuse absolutely to be exploited. Make health a priority now.

The New Moon in your sign on the 12th coincides with Mercury

backtracking into Virgo. Between then and late month you may have to go over the same ground twice or seek out persons who are in a position to offer you advice.

This is an excellent time for confronting your worries and insecurities and hopefully getting things into more realistic perspective. The best therapy for this in the latter half of the month will come via sympathetic friends or by taking a complete break from routine.

One thing is for sure, once Mercury begins moving direct again on the 26th, you'll be waving goodbye to a situation that probably has been causing some anxiety in recent months. This is particularly so if what's been troubling you has a domestic or financial basis.

Matters close to home receive special emphasis between the 18th and 20th. There seems to be a very good feeling in the family circle around the 19th which is an excellent date for entertaining friends or business colleagues at home.

The Uranus-Pluto aspect on the 20th is highly significant for favourable transformations in home life in the coming months.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Tensions are likely to surface and produce an emotional crisis early in the month.

However, these may contain the seeds of greater harmony. You could make matters worse if you persist in evading the real source of conflict and hoping that it will fade of its own accord. It won't.

If close personal relationships are under some stress, the same cannot be said for other friendships. From the second week onwards you'll realise just how help-

ful and loyal certain people can be.

It is quite likely that you'll be making several new friends, probably because you are becoming more involved in certain projects. Any activity that demands close co-operation and team spirit will develop a very progressive momentum in the latter half of the month and an important objective may finally be realised.

Librans of a political turn of mind can expect a lively and go-ahead month. Here, too, it is co-operation and contacts that will play a large part in your successes. The most favourable dates for these interests are the 8th, 9th, 10th, 17th, 18th and 19th. Tread more tactfully on the 11th when a clash of interests or egos may suddenly test your proverbial diplomacy.

If there are important communications to be dealt with, complete these before the 4th. After that, until the 12th, Mercury is retrograde in your sign, warning that messages are likely to be misunderstood and you could easily be led round in circles. Keep your wits about you and, if unclear about a certain issue, insist that others

make their intentions crystal clear.

Adverse Lunar aspects in your sign on the 14th and 15th demand patience. If you are hoping for a carefree time, forget it. Be prepared for added responsibilities. It may be inconvenient but will be greatly appreciated.

On a brighter note, amorous interests are very much in the spotlight when Mars and Venus are strongly activated around the 8th, 10th, 16th, 19th and 28th. If you have not had much joy in romantic affairs recently, something ideal could be heading in your direction.

Things may be rather slow at first but later in September you may find that a social invitation or outing provides the setting for new romance. A friend may also play a part in linking you with someone special. It certainly looks as if there are pleasant surprises in store.

The Lunar eclipse on the 27th could indicate a minor crisis of confidence in a partnership. This may be an echo of what occurred earlier in the month but, by being very rational and sober-minded, you can expect that a fairly long-standing problem will be resolved.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 TO NOVEMBER 22



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Contradictory demands could cause you to make mistakes at work.

If you have doubts, don't be afraid to say so and to make sure that colleagues mean what they say. Also, take extra care of your health early month. It will be too easy to get overloaded with commitments.

Although Mercury retrograde between the 4th and 12th may give a greater potential for misjudgment or getting the wrong end of the stick, this can be greatly min-

imised by checking and double-checking facts for yourself.

Make the best use of this trend for quiet meditation, self-analysis and to get constructive insights through reflection or confidential advice. You will at last see why certain experience in the past has tended to follow a repeating pattern. It's as if a deep emotional blockage is about to be broken down, leaving you free to move ahead into greater maturity.

From the 12th onwards Mercury continues retrograde but then puts the emphasis on your aims and objectives. Changing circumstances later in September may oblige you to make certain realignments and see where you can be more efficient and up to date.

If you're involved with a group working towards a special goal, be prepared for a clash of interests. It may not be such a bad thing, provided you can take criticism with good grace and a sense of humour. Only by facing up to differences of opinion can you hope to see things move ahead later in the month.

A dominant feature is the transit of both Mars and Venus through

the topmost sector of your Solar chart from the 9th onwards. Career interests and other important personal aims are due become more satisfying and progressive. While Mars endows you with added confidence and staying power, Venus smooths your path to success.

You'll have it in your power to make the right impression on people who matter. This isn't to imply that you should go out and deliberately try to impress but rather that, just by being yourself and being true to your own deeper principles, you cannot go far wrong now.

The only way you could sabotage your best interests is by ignoring the needs and feelings of others. Your willpower is greatly enhanced now and you could easily create bad vibes by being overbearing and arrogant, especially around the 11th.

Towards the end of the month close and intimate relationships will need extra care. If you've been taking someone too much for granted, you'll be brought face to face with the fact. Give special attention to domestic and marital harmony as the month ends.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Your ruler, Jupiter, marches forwards once more giving a decidedly optimistic outlook.

Over past months you may have had to work extra hard for apparently little reward. Perhaps this has been for a purpose — study or training for instance. Also there may have been an element of risk. However, you can expect to reap rewards from September onwards.

Whatever you have been doing to enrich your life over the past year or so, you'll certainly begin to

see tangible results now. Not only are your material fortunes on the up-and-up but much suggests that your deeper sense of values is undergoing a shift of emphasis, making you increasingly aware of what has a genuinely enriching effect on your life and personality.

Of all the signs, you are perhaps the most sceptical about the idea that the more we possess the happier we shall be. You hate being encumbered with too much baggage and are always happiest when you travel light.

So, although the expansiveness of Jupiter puts the main accent on material possessions now, it doesn't necessarily mean that you'll suddenly want to buy all the latest gadgets. The opposite is more likely, making you realise that a truly rich life-style can be realised by simplifying needs and getting rid of clutter.

Whatever your current attitude to these things, it certainly looks as if transformations in your deeper self will sooner or later manifest in a changed attitude towards all things material. This will most definitely be to your lasting benefit.

Your urge towards greater freedom and independence is very strongly accentuated when Mars transits your 9th Solar House from the second week. Venus is also in this area, making this a splendid time for far-flung excursions and vacations. The astrological pattern puts you very much in your own element, bringing you scope for escaping from familiar routines.

In intimate affairs, the prospect appears entirely favourable, especially later in the month, but a series of tense aspects could indicate a rather stormy episode. If there are going to be any major bust-ups, now could see the ultimatum.

It would probably only mean more heartache to patch up a relationship that has obviously passed its sell-by date. Anyway, in view of the pattern later in the month, there is more than a hint of something much more satisfying.

Purely financially, you can expect most things to run smoothly throughout the month. But be careful about taking risks early month and around the eclipse on the 27th. Other than this, you can expect a successful month ahead.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 19



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Jupiter gathering momentum in your sign gives you a great advantage.

Potentially tricky patches in the month are likely to be marked by emotional tensions and outbursts. Early on, for instance, an adverse Lunar trend indicates that someone close to you will be feeling touchy. Refrain from saying anything that may be interpreted as a personal criticism.

Around the 11th keep financial and business arrangements well

organised. Expenses may suddenly become heavy, probably due to emergency repairs on your car or other gadgets. Your partner may be in an extravagant and impulsive mood which may lead to a rather tense atmosphere.

Finally, there is the Lunar eclipse on the 27th which falls very close to Saturn. This is more likely to be felt by those already involved in a property transaction or removal. Be prepared for delay or frustration in these matters. Alternatively, it could just be that you are called upon to shoulder extra domestic responsibilities and duties.

From a deeper perspective, this Lunar eclipse symbolises the end of a chapter or a time of harvest — a major turning point may be reached. Something new may be about to enter your life, based on the experience you have gained in the past but giving you new direction and purpose.

Whatever happens from late September onwards will help you to break away from restrictions and enable you to feel that you are making much better use of your abilities and creative resources.

Having Jupiter in your sign represents a fortunate and protective influence over your destiny. Improving your material circumstances, enriching your domestic life or expanding a business venture is likely to come very easily. Jupiter is often described as the planet of opportunity and this is precisely what you will experience for several months ahead.

Neptune is still pushing a steady course through your sign, indicating that you probably will be feeling rather restless at times, less tolerant of restrictions. This is not necessarily bad for it is this very restlessness that will incline you to widen your horizons.

If it's romance that interests you, experience may verge towards the dramatic (or traumatic) in the latter half of the month. New affairs may be somehow lop-sided or based on wishful thinking. You'll need self-awareness and honesty if you are to avoid getting tangled in a hopeless infatuation now.

You are under an extremely favourable trend during September but it is not a time to take anything for granted in relationships.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 18



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

A besieged Moon, early in September, warns you not to disregard others' feelings.

If a clash of temperaments does come into the open, be prepared to sort things out right away. Any evasion will cast a shadow over the whole month.

As Mercury is somewhat negative between the 4th and 12th, you may be faced with minor breakdowns in communication. Information you receive could easily be based on wrong or biased judg-

ments. Be especially careful if you need to deal with legal or official matters and be prepared to get second opinions.

Travel may also be adversely affected during the second week, especially if you have planned a fairly lengthy trip. It may not be so bad for those seeking peace and relaxation but not if you are hoping for adventure and excitement.

The good news is that the benign planet Jupiter begins to generate increasing good fortune from early in September. You'll notice this very supportive trend in the way that things seem to fall into place. This applies not only to external events but also to your own mental activity. Hazy ideas at the back of your mind will begin to take on a more definite shape and make you more confident.

As Jupiter relates to aims and objectives important to you, it seems that changing circumstances will open new doors, enabling you to put things on a more productive and streamlined basis.

As both Jupiter and Neptune are activating your 12th Solar House, there is bound to be a beneficial

impact on your health. In fact these planets will incline you to become more conscientious about mental and physical well-being. It's a fine time to embark on a keep-fit programme or seek out therapeutic methods for enhancing your sensitivity and creativity. Aquarians interested in the healing arts are most definitely favoured now.

In amorous affairs, the stage is set for dramatic episodes from the 9th onwards. This may be something of a mixed blessing for the central theme of the drama could be a final break-up of a relationship around the 11th.

However, it would be unwise to attempt to salvage something that has really lost its vital spark. The trend improves considerably after that and much indicates satisfying developments in romance. For those thinking of taking the plunge into matrimony, make sure you're not rushing ahead too quickly. Impulsiveness in these matters could lead to disaster.

Finally, good news concerning a financial matter is winging its way to you as the month draws to a close.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 20



1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week

Finances may call for urgent attention early in September.

If this has to do with joint resources or a proposed business agreement, don't commit yourself if there is the slightest doubt. The same applies to legal or official matters. Cover the ground carefully, get a second opinion and, above all, avoid impulsiveness.

Mercury's retrograde motion between the 4th and 12th may mean that information gets garbled or that you will be more vulnerable to

smooth talkers. Again there is a threat to your finances and great care will be needed if shopping for bargains or making investments. The general message is to avoid taking risks and don't gamble!

Turning to more intimate affairs, romantically inclined Pisceans may be in for pleasant surprises early in the month. A conjunction of Mars and Venus on the 3rd points to a rather dramatic development, a sudden irresistible attraction. New romances are likely to develop very swiftly now, perhaps upsetting your emotional balance and inclining you to become rather dreamy and impractical.

However, the prevailing trend, though extremely powerful, is by no means negative. It may be that the forces of destiny are about to put you in touch with someone very special. The odd thing is that this person has probably been acquainted with you for quite a long time, hence the surprise.

In health, the prevailing trend is invigorating but adverse planetary aspects on the 11th and 23rd warn you of accidents and injuries — especially in the workplace. Best ad-

vice is to avoid hurry and refuse to overtax your energy.

In work matters you can expect a progressive phase and progress in advancing your professional aims. Efforts to bring about desirable changes in your working life are more likely to be positive during the latter half of September. Those in process of seeking a suitable niche for their talents may be surprised at their success. But don't be afraid of a more independent approach or of going it alone.

Jupiter, the Great Benefic, begins to encourage your aims and objectives from early September. Events soon after this will mark the end of a transition when perhaps you have been uncertain what direction to take. From now on your sense of purpose will increase and you will be much clearer about what you want to achieve.

This Jupiter factor is particularly beneficial for close co-operation with others. Anything to do with such interests is likely to go from strength to strength from now on.

It may be a difficult start to the month but most things should finally come up to expectations.

Lunar Lore Gardening

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Sunny, bright and warm for about 2/3 weeks then a drop in temperature — possible very early night frosts likely.
- 2
- 3 After 19.09 hours check for and remove moulds and growths.
- 4 Tie and support new plants where needed.
- 5 Continue all day.
- 6 After 05.30 hours take cuttings of geraniums and roses.
- 7 Take cuttings of fuschias.
- 8 Continue until 17.55 hours.
- 9, 10, 11, 12
- 13 After 17.52 hours core plant lawn-based daffodils and narcissi.
- 14 Continue all day.
- 15 Mow lawns to increase growth.
- 16 After 03.21 hours plant Spring cabbage
- 17 Plant lettuce in a frame for Midwinter use.
- 18 Continue until 10.32 hours.
- 19
- 20 After 15.13 hours take and prepare gooseberry cuttings.
- 21 Continue all day.
- 22 Continue until 17.40 hours.
- 23
- 24 After 18.44 hours complete strawberry planting.
- 25 Prune blackberries.
- 26 Continue until 19.47 hours.
- 27 Pick mushrooms.
- 28 Continue until 22.25 hours.
- 29, 30

VICTORIA MATTHEWS

Greenwich Mean Time has been used throughout

The Planets This Month

- ☉ **The Sun** begins September in 8° 49' Virgo and enters Libra on the 22nd at 18.01 hours. It ends the month at 7° 06' of the Scales.
- ☾ **The Moon** is waning to Last Quarter on the 4th at 19.07 hours with the New Moon on the 12th at 23.08 hours. The First Quarter is on the 20th at 11.24 hours and the Full Moon is on the 27th at 02.52 hours.
As the month opens the Moon is in the 23rd degree of Aries and it enters Taurus on the 1st at 12.21 hours. It then enters Gemini on the 3rd at 19.09 hours; Cancer on the 6th at 05.30 hours; Leo on the 8th at 17.55 hours; Virgo on the 11th at 06.29 hours; Libra on the 13th at 17.52 hours; Scorpio on the 16th at 03.21 hours; Sagittarius on the 18th at 10.32 hours; Capricorn on the 20th at 15.13 hours; Aquarius on the 22nd at 17.40 hours; Pisces on the 24th at 18.44 hours; Aries on the 26th at 19.47 hours; Taurus on the 28th at 22.25 hours where it ends the month.
- ♎ **Mercury** is in 3° 0' Libra on the 1st, turns retrograde on the 4th at 05.48 hours, re-enters Virgo on the 12th at 09.33 hours and retreats to 19° 0' on the 26th at 17.10 hours when it turns direct again. It ends the month at 19° 54' of the Maiden.
- ♀ **Venus** begins the month in 23° 29' Cancer and enters Leo on the 7th at 05.08 hours. By the end of the month it has reached 25° 14' of the Lion.
- ♂ **Mars** is in 24° 25' Cancer on the 1st and enters Leo on the 9th at 20.03 hours. It ends the month at 12° 24' of the Lion.
- ♃ **Jupiter** begins September retrograde in 7° 50' Capricorn and turns direct on the 3rd at 14.38 hours while still in the same degree. It ends the month at 8° 54' of the Goat.
- ♄ **Saturn** spends the month retrograde in Aries and retreats from 5° 52' on the first day to 3° 43' by the last day.
- ♅ **Uranus** spends the month retrograde in Aquarius and retreats from from 1° 14' on the 1st to 0° 41' by the 30th.
- ♆ **Neptune** is retrograde all month in Capricorn and retreats from 25° 18' on the 1st to 24° 59' by the 30th.
- ♇ **Pluto** is in Sagittarius all month and advances from 0° 28 on the first day to only 1° 02' on the last day.

☾ **There is a Lunar Eclipse on the 27th at 02. 55 hours at 4°17 Aries.**

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.
♁ (180°) opposition: conflict and tension.

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

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

♁ △ ⊘ * ♃ □ ♀
This means Moon trine Sun, Moon sextile Jupiter, Moon square Venus.

ASPECTARIAN

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Su.** 》in ʎ & ʘ. 》□♀□♂□■□♀.
Fretful Sunday, people over-possessive or unco-operative.
- 2 M.** 》in ʘ. 》△○△♀. ♀♂♀. ♂♂♀.
No deals. No buying or selling. Do not lend or borrow.
- 3 T.** 》in ʘ & Ⅱ. 》*♀*♂△■△♀♂♀. ♀♂♂.
Hard attitudes soften. Romance could begin, possibly between working colleagues.
- 4 W.** 》in Ⅱ. 》□○△♀*♀.
Mood swings likely. Try to inject a little enthusiasm into what you and other people do.
- 5 Th.** 》in Ⅱ. 》□■.
Sudden financial problems. Could be caught without purse or wallet.
- 6 F.** 》in Ⅱ & ③. 》□♀□♀.
There is no sentiment in business. Let the head rule the heart!
- 7 S.** 》in ③. 》*○. ♀△♀.
Love is in the air. Proposals, engagements or invitations to weddings perhaps.
- 8 Su.** 》in ③ & ④. 》*♀♂♀♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂. ♀♂♂.
So much could happen you may not be able to take it all in at once.
- 9 M.** 》in ④. 》△♀. ♀*♀.
Pursuit of pleasure liable to win over the pursuit of any business commitments.
- 10 T.** 》in ④. 》□♀□■. ♂△♀.
Changes will be in the air — quite drastic for some.
- 11 W.** 》in ④ & Ⅲ. 》△♀□♀. ♀*♂△■*♀. ♀△♀.
♂♂♂.
Nothing very sacred in the day's whirlwind of activities — on any front.
- 12 Th.** 》in Ⅲ. 》♂○.
Time for things new. Strike while the iron is hot for what you feel is rightfully yours.
- 13 F.** 》in Ⅲ & Ⅰ. 》♂♀*♂△■△♀*♀.
Not an easy start but people become more co-operative as the day wears on.
- 14 S.** 》in Ⅰ. 》*♀□♀♂♀.
Some could feel a little lonely after a lover's tiff.
- 15 Su.** 》in Ⅰ. 》□♀.
Some self-analysis as you wonder if you are or have been fair in recent decisions.
- 16 M.** 》in Ⅰ & Ⅲ. 》□♀□♂*♀□■.
Everything seems to go in fits and starts, little runs smoothly even in your favour.
- 17 T.** 》in Ⅲ. 》□■. ③♂♀△♀. ♀△♀. ♂△♀.
Immediate work environment unhelpful but you get on much better with senior staff.
- 18 W.** 》in Ⅲ & Ⅰ. 》*○*♀♂♂♂♂*■*♀*♀♂♀.
Unsettled. Difficult to concentrate on single issues.
- 19 Th.** 》in Ⅰ. 》△♀.
Entertain at home. Dinner for two and let things develop as they will.
- 20 F.** 》in Ⅰ & ③. 》□○□♀□■. ■*♀.
Just when you need it most someone steps in to give you a hand in pet projects.
- 21 S.** 》in ③. 》♂♀.
The opposite sex seems in a more helpful and co-operative frame of mind.
- 22 Su.** 》in ③ & ④. 》△○△♀♂♂♂♂♂♀.
You really will have to think on your feet — if or when plans are suddenly changed.
- 23 M.** 》in ④. 》♂♀♂♂*♀. ○△■*♀.
Social life opens up. Invitations should be accepted.
- 24 T.** 》in ④ & Ⅰ. 》□♀.
Conflict of choices, a rather sensitive emotional life could involve change.
- 25 W.** 》in Ⅰ. 》*♀.
Family and friends very helpful especially if you have fallen in love yet again
- 26 Th.** 》in Ⅰ & Ⅰ. 》♂♀*■*♀*♀△♀. ○♂♀.
Tiring day, new responsibilities weigh heavily. People rely on you too much.
- 27 F.** 》in Ⅰ. 》♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂♂.
You may feel in a rut — something different attracts.
- 28 S.** 》in Ⅰ & ʘ. 》△♀□■□♀.
Money may flow away. Overspending or gambling are not recommended.
- 29 Su.** 》in ʘ. 》□♂△♀.
Neither one thing nor the other but watch your diet.
- 30 M.** 》in ʘ. 》△♀□♀△♀.
Possible surprise event. Ensure you mean what you say and say what you mean.

Every birth chart has a core of one or more exact aspects which shows the central motivation of the person. All aspects are considered but the closest square or opposition is of primary importance. Called the dynamic focus of a chart, this aspect gives the strongest clues to what problems an individual is likely to have and what he or she is capable of achieving.

The planets for the purpose of dynamic focus interpretation are divided into two groups: the planets of inner experience, which are Sun, Moon, Jupiter and Saturn; and the planets of outer experience: Mercury,

where the individual is trapped in one while wanting the other.

If the dynamic focus is a square, effort will need to be made and challenges met; if an opposition, difficult choices involving negotiation and compromise will constantly arise. With the Sun in an exact square special effort should be taken to overcome a personal weakness; if the Sun is in exact opposition it may be necessary to make difficult choices which affect not only one's own future but that of others as well.

Once they have overcome their indecision those with Sun in dynamic focus can be great founders of new movements

mediums, as counsellors helping others to understand their unconscious drives or as social reformers.

Typically Jupiter in dynamic focus afflicts a person's sense of self-worth, bringing exaggeration and bad judgment and sometimes even initiating dangerous situations in order to be noticed. In a square Jupiter shows how effort should be put into cultivating forethought and acumen, the building of firm foundations for the future; in opposition Jupiter shows the need to avoid taking on too much responsibility and to approach projects realistically.

Jupiter in dynamic focus can

CHART DYNAMICS

by LYNNE STEELE-SMITH

Venus, Mars, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. Inner experience planets indicate that a transformation of attitude might be necessary, outer experience planets a change of action. If both planets involved come from the same group, change is more easily assimilated; if they come from both groups, conflict between self and social interests can occur.

Planets of inner experience

With the Sun in dynamic focus there may be a sense of lacking something important which is needed to make life meaningful. Typically, there could be conflict between the different rules played in life, such as mother versus career-woman, or even male versus female,

and entrepreneurs, firing those around them with energy and enthusiasm.

The Moon shows a need to resolve childhood emotional dilemmas and to have a sense of belonging; approval and acceptance is often sought by joining groups, some of which may not have the welfare of the individual at heart. With the Lunar square it may be necessary to eliminate unconscious prejudices; the Moon opposition shows a tendency to project emotional problems onto others and to manipulate them.

Dynamic focus Moon sometimes goes as far as creating thought-forms or contacting beings from other realms of existence. Those with the Moon in exact square or opposition can successfully operate as

be used positively in group leadership, politics, theatre and entertainment or mainstream religious movements.

Those with dynamic focus Saturn aspects often find themselves struggling with severe limitations, be they physical restraint or financial or emotional burdens. With the square, hard work is necessary to overcome obstacles; the natural austerity of Saturn in opposition needs to be balanced by impartial love and compassion.

Those involved in a cause or discipline which requires endurance, dedication and arduous training are often fortified by a dynamic focus aspect involving Saturn in their birth charts; some are to be found working as missionaries, doctors or healers.

Planets of outer experience

Mercury shows a strong desire to communicate and to understand; in a dynamic focus aspect it may indicate difficulties in doing so. The square shows a curious, mentally alert individual who needs to use abilities in an open-minded and constructive way; in opposition Mercury indicates that the views of others should be seen to be respected and useful advice heeded.

Those with Mercury in dynamic focus can overcome their difficulties to become skilled craftspeople and talented writers, teachers and reformers.

A dynamic focus aspect involving Venus shows a person absorbed in conflicts of values and morality. With the square effort needs to be put into developing both good social skills and self-reliance; a Venus opposition shows great sensitivity, perhaps to excess, while at the same time revealing a lack of consideration for others; the capacity for detached judgment needs to be developed.

If those with Venus in dynamic focus can develop their capacity for detached judgment, they may discover that they have a vocation to pass on their insights about social and personal problems to others,

often helping them through the legal system.

Mars is a planet which demands rights and confronts obligations. In a dynamic focus square Mars shows the necessity for patience, for channelling energy into useful projects and, most importantly, for finishing them; in opposition Mars sometimes forces the individual to challenge others and gives the choice between slogging it out and asserting the will in a more constructive manner.

For those with Mars in dynamic focus success comes after much physical effort. Some travel far to achieve their aims, others face danger wearing a uniform.

With Uranus in a dynamic focus aspect obstinacy can be a dangerous obsession, leading to self-destructive behaviour: anorexia is a common Uranian affliction. Uranus in an exact square challenges the individual to make an effort to be positive about themselves; the opposition shows that a willingness to give up personal desires will bring greater benefits.

Some with Uranus in exact square or opposition have startling talents and a few are even child prodigies. They can rise to prominence in science, technology and social or economic reform.

Neptune shows a desire for fame but also problems in handling the consequences. With Neptune in an exact square effort is needed to round the great life quest in real, not illusory, ideals; in opposition Neptune can indicate deep-seated emotional problems and a feeling of being out of depth, not knowing what's going on. Help should be sought to synthesise what is possible in life with reality.

Those with Neptune in dynamic focus have great sensitivity and this can make 'ordinary' life hard for them but their natural empathy can be useful in counselling or spiritu-

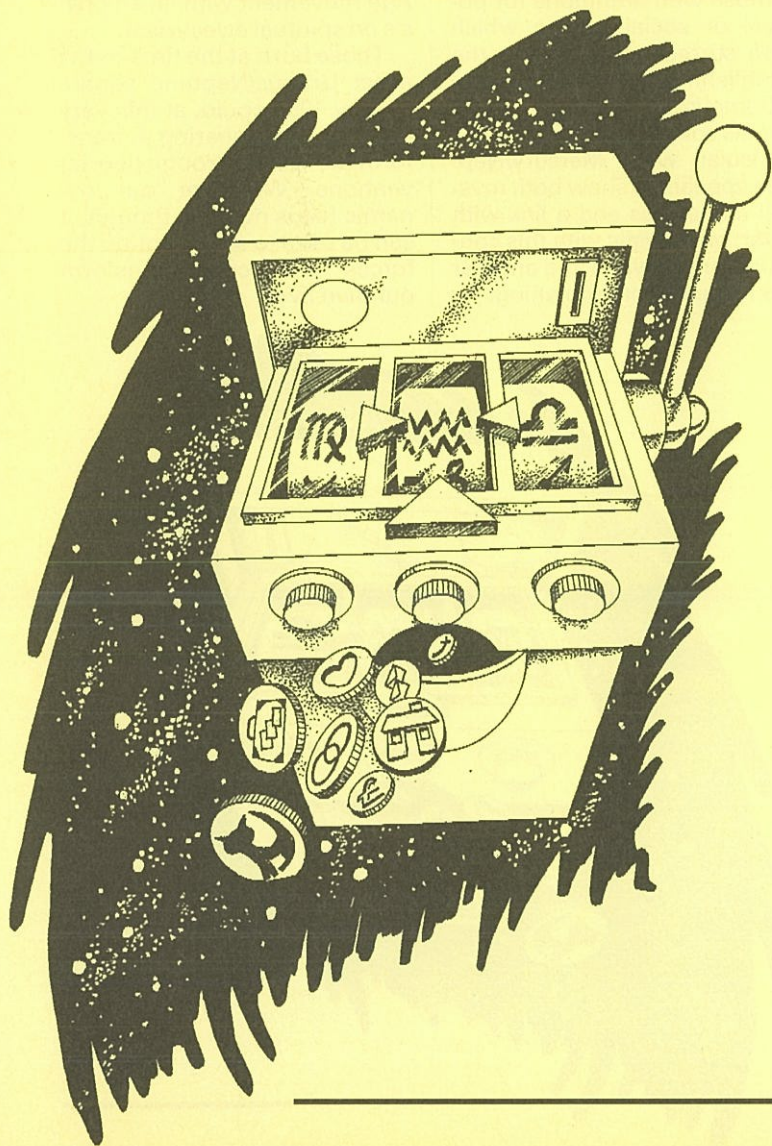


CHART DYNAMICS

al guidance. A few are profoundly mystical or, with the right grounding, intensely creative.

Dynamic focus Pluto dominates the personality with ruthlessness, courage, single-minded determination and a liability to generate relationships which are one-sided and alienating. Because suffering in secret is the Plutonian affliction, the square shows the need to develop patience and a positive outlet for anger, while the opposition positively shows the value of honest and open communication.

Those with Pluto in exact aspect are drawn to hidden knowledge; they uncover secrets, expose lies and detect weaknesses in other people and in organisations. Some have become detectives, psychiatrists or noted occultists.

In tandem

Dynamic focus aspects become more meaningful when both planets involved are considered together.

Sun with Mars for example might indicate a successful engineer or agriculturalist, an intrepid explorer or someone who initiates new ways of working; Sun with Uranus might show the founder of a scientific institute or a potential cult leader.

Venus/Uranus appeared in the chart of a brilliant inventor who was persecuted by noisy neighbours; a client of mine with Mercury/Uranus recovered from a stroke which left him unable to walk or speak to appear on television and coach

sports. People with Saturn/Pluto have overcome physical injuries and those with Mars/Pluto have come to terms with abuse to make valuable contributions to society.

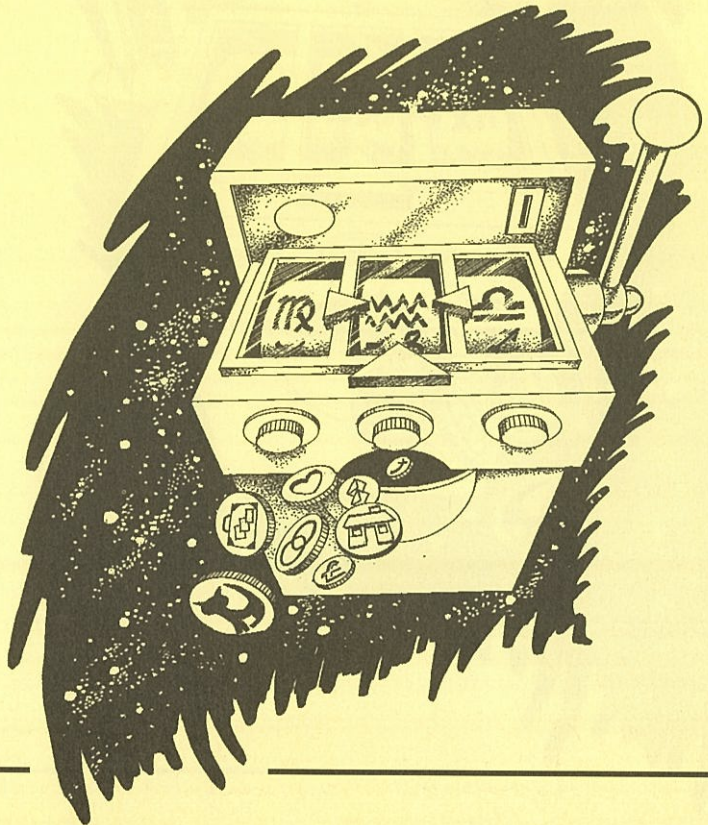
Moon/Mercury can indicate psychic abilities; Moon/Jupiter has appeared in the birth charts of those with ambitions for political or social reform which have stirred up enmity in the establishment.

Sometimes dynamic focus planets come together in quite a particular way. Mercury/Neptune appears to show both mystical tendencies and a link with water; one mystic with this configuration drowned and another was rescued from drowning.

Mars/Neptune shows an interest in astrology, or a link with astrological symbolism; the numbers 7 and 12 appear frequently in the lives of those with this dynamic focus. Harder to reconcile than Mars/Neptune, Saturn/Neptune can indicate a profound mysticism of the ascetic type, or deep depression — or both.

An exact aspect between Pluto and Uranus or Neptune shows that an individual may consciously participate in issues which concern his or her community, or even the world, as a whole. Outstanding individuals born with Uranus exactly square or opposite Pluto have been the pioneers of the New Age movement with its emphasis on spiritual eclecticism.

Those born at the time of the exact Uranus/Neptune square of May 1956 could, at this very moment, be preparing to transform our world through new inventions. Whatever our dynamic focus may be, though, it can be used to set in motion the forces which could transform our own lives.



ASTROLOGY TODAY

We all have a sense of spirit and most people tend to possess interest in matters spiritual. The occult, the unknown, always attracts. While some appear naturally gifted, others struggle as they may, never can seem to develop whatever talent they may have — or think they have.

Look at your birth chart and see where Neptune and Pluto are to assess your level of natural intuition, psychic ability and occult leanings. All kinds of psychic ability such as out-of-the-body experiences, psychic receptivity, even disturbances connected with psychism or Spiritualism generally are ruled by these distant planets. Assess their individual placements and relationship to each other as well as to all the other planets.

Neptune in any of the Water signs or in the 4th, 8th or 12th Houses, which represent the psychic and emotional nature, help raise the subject's natural level of intuition.

Some astrologers feel the 4th House to be the best placement for the development of psychic sensations and experiences and perhaps this is why so many turn to Cancerians when they have a problem. Cancerians make good counsellors and always seem to be around to lend a sympathetic ear to the less fortunate. People of this sign make excellent listeners and often seem to advise with a wisdom far beyond their years.

While it is true that Neptune in the 4th House denotes a good home-maker, that home is often a natural retreat away from the hustle and bustle of modern life. Many psychics actively working in this sphere do so in or from their homes.

In the 8th House or Scorpio, Neptune suggests great idealism. There is a defined inclina-

tion towards occult and psychic study, while Spiritualism and philosophy strongly attract. This placement emphasises interest in concepts of life, death and rebirth.

When in the 12th House or Pisces, Neptune confers an inner peace and tranquillity which some individuals switch on and off at will. And some of the most unlikely people have Neptune here. It is also suggests innate dramatic talent. However, there may also be an inner loneliness that the sub-

SPIRITUAL MATTERS

by
VICTORIA MATTHEWS

jects themselves find difficult to define properly or to handle.

Pluto in the chart creates a very strong intensity of feeling wherever it is found. In Aries it is the pioneering spirit, in Gemini it is communication, in Sagittarius a strong desire for change in traditional values.

In Pisces, Pluto inclines subjects to the abstract, the unknown and the mysterious. While this is good for psychic abilities which, if properly controlled, can be gainfully employed for the benefit of others, Pluto in Pisces folk tend to be rather unworldly.

Pluto holds on to old ideas but is equally responsible for sudden and drastic change. Those with a prominent Pluto

have a gift for being able to argue so forcibly for both sides of an argument that you may not always be sure for which side they are speaking.

Spiritual astrology deals with the belief in the successive reincarnation of the soul. The most influential planet in the birth chart is often the key to this. From its position, specialist astrologers suggest when and where the soul was last on Earth, in what body and what type of society. As a soul develops through successive lifetimes so also must the personality develop.

Should the principal influence in the chart for the current lifetime be Jupiter, for example, all the other planets will assist that individuality to develop, albeit with strong Jupiterian overtones. In other words, both the positive and negative lessons of Jupiter have to be mastered in preparation for the next life.

Should Neptune, for example, be the next strongest influence in the chart and seen to be so by place and aspect to Jupiter, the next life will also have strong Jupiter-Neptune connotations. This will continue to be the case until all the lessons have been learned.

This leaves the individual free to explore all the ramifications not only of this life but all the astrological possibilities of the next life as well.

It can be seen, therefore, that astrology does not limit people for, by proper study, we may transcend our charts. It is a wise man who rules his stars — where he carefully uses information gleaned from the study of his birth chart to his own advantage but does so in a selfless manner.

But this study can take many years and, as some have us believe, many lifetimes.

VIRGO



A—ten—shun! Orr—ight yew
'orrible lot — kit inspection, on the double!

I doubt that someone as macho as the Regimental Sergeant Major would be the typical Virgoan — but then, you never know. Certainly Virgo has that same reputation for being nit-picking, hypercritical and obsessively neat and tidy. But then again it is also famed for virginal prudishness and the overall popular image is somewhat prissy — definitely not the RSM!

However, this little scene does get the commonly perceived negative potential of the sign put in its place so that we can get on and investigate what really makes Virgo tick.

Keeping on with the idea that the signs' respective houses of

the horoscope chart the progress of human development, we have seen our individual gradually establish him/herself in the first four and then, from that base, begin to do something creative in the fifth. Now that we have arrived at Virgo, the traditional 6th House, what's next?

Virgo's keyword is service. This concept proceeds from the creativity of Leo and the 5th House by asking, 'What use is it? What purpose does it serve?'

Yes, I know that true creativity is just for its own sake but Virgo is an Earth sign and all Earth signs have an innate streak of practicality. Virgo's reputation for sometimes losing the essence amid a welter of detail comes from the fact that the sign is also Mutable,

by **JOHN YATES**

flexible, if you prefer — but the practicality is still there.

What motivates our Virgoan is being able to use what has been created — in any sphere — so that, on the highest level at least, it can benefit the world in which he/she lives. After all,

Virgo's year ahead

This year is likely to see you undergoing some pretty big changes. Your Solar chart has Pluto sitting right on the cusp of the 4th House. The most probable manifestation of this for many Virgoans will be a home move and, since Pluto is in Sagittarius, the sign of long distance and foreign parts, a fair number of you look set to emigrate for one reason or another.

With the Moon also in the 4th House, you'll feel good about getting away from familiar surroundings. Even if you don't go so far as to leave these shores, something will make you look at your concept of home so that it will never be quite the same again.

One way and another, you could be doing a fair amount of travelling this year. Or you could get hooked on surfing the Internet, run up a huge 'phone bill, clean the GPO out of stamps or make your debut at Speaker's Corner! Of course, how any aspect manifests depends a lot upon how you are used to using its energies already but since Mercury, your ruler, is in your sign, communication of some description, mental or physical, is bound to figure quite prominently on your agenda.

Since Mercury, in that strong position, is also in a good trine aspect to both Uranus and Neptune, you may be positively inspired. If you ever had serious intentions of writing a book, go-

ing on the stage or otherwise proclaiming your truth to a wider audience, now is the time to go for it. Jupiter in Capricorn in your 5th Solar House will expand your creativity and give you the pragmatic approach to be able to organise and carry off whatever form of self-expression most attracts.

Indeed, while there are signs that you will have to work for what you want and even come up against quite considerable challenges, these same configurations also suggest that you will have the necessary drive to be virtually unstoppable if you get the bit between your teeth.

The caveat is that you should hold a balance between what is necessary to achieve your projects and the demands of others who play a significant part in your life. Also, there is another balance to be held between rising to the challenges and the possibility of biting off more than you can chew so that you become dispirited and oppressed. It's something of a difficult juggling act but, if anyone can keep track of all the various parts of the equation to arrive at a successful conclusion, Virgo can.

Of course, another take on the situation, for those who are particularly concerned with career matters and progress, is that this is a year when you will be able to identify very strongly with whatever path you have chosen or, bearing in

Virgo is the last sign of the personal half of the chart and the big wide world is calling already. Once we leave here we are projected into it with the need to take our place and play our part in the wider picture.

Here the other keyword for Virgo comes in — work. This is where our developing individual realises that he must earn his keep! Childhood and adolescence are over and he's nearly 'all grown up.' From hereon in there's no room for the carelessness of youth. The mundane details have to be attended to — and properly, if one is to be successful.

However, it isn't all self-interest. Deep within there is a genuine desire to get things right for the sake of so doing. It's both an expression of the Maiden's purity and, if you like, a badge of maturity.

Of course, the sign's ruler plays a big part in all this, too. Here we find Mercury once

POSITION IN THE ZODIAC

SIXTH SIGN

CORRESPONDING TO

AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER 22

PRINCIPLE

SERVICE

ELEMENT

EARTH

QUALITY

MUTABLE

PLANETARY RULER

MERCURY

SYMBOL

THE MAIDEN

more but in a somewhat different guise to that which we saw in Gemini, his other rulership.

Mercury's forte is communication. Once again he's the Messenger of the Gods but still not really concerned with the content of what he bears. However, neither is he into sheer speed or mere quantity now. In this incarnation, the celestial postman is more concerned with the intricacies of correct delivery — so please use the postcode! Thank you.

The criterion is no longer information for its own sake but for a purpose. Here is not the

dilettante collector but the painstaking researcher who will not only get it right but do so consistently until the job is complete and something worthwhile can be seen for all that effort. He also makes an excellent teacher, who will cover the curriculum thoroughly, or an ever better Civil Servant.

And if all this sounds a bit dull, without the trappings of high-profile, high-flying, kudos-laden fame — don't knock it! Take away all the Virgoans and the world would come to a shuddering halt.

Then where would we be?

mind the chart's huge potential for change, what you now decide to choose. If you have been harbouring the idea of kicking over the traces or hatching a plan to revolutionise the way that you do your existing job, things could work out very well indeed.

I've no doubt that your famous attention to detail will ensure that you dot all the *i*-s and cross all the *t*-s before you make any irrevocable moves but it is important to mention the need for such considerations, just in case. With an aspect pattern such as appears in this year's chart, there is absolutely no room for sloppiness or going off at half cock. Do so and you could come a huge cropper, losing in the process all the potential for growth which the chart contains!

These next 12 months are a time when there will be a heavy focus upon what you can call your own and, by comparison, on that for which you have to rely on others. If you meet any opposition then it is likely to be from this latter quarter. Your own confidence and desire to make things work out may not be matched by the attitudes of the important people in your life who may not see what you see or be privy to the inspiration which you feel.

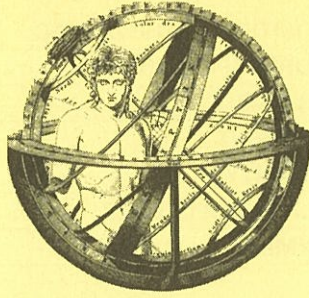
However, if you can hold the balance mentioned earlier in this respect, just the opposite can be the case with others providing the practical backing for the vision which you now have.

Saturn is the main player in this particular game. Though not so black as he is painted by those who cannot or will not understand what he has to teach, his function is to test, but hard, to make sure that nothing incapable of staying the course gets through.

Because of his aspect with Jupiter, sometimes you may feel that you are taking two steps forward and one step back every time you attempt to move ahead. Be aware that this still represents steady progress, even if it isn't as fast as you would like it to be. Some things need time, otherwise they wrap up in a ball at the first sign of trouble.

Finally, on the romantic front, the situation looks very promising. Venus and Mars are conjunct in Cancer — a caring and sharing line-up if ever there was. For those already in stable relationships, the placement of these two planets suggests a phase of solid achievement in working together for common aims — with tender moments thrown in for good measure. If you're still unattached but hoping to change this, the signs are that you could meet your heart's desire in connection with a part you play in some venture to do with your public life.

All things considered, it's unlikely that you won't look back on this year as a very important turning point in the areas of your life which matter most to you.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY FORECAST

★ INDICATES AN EXCEPTIONALLY LUCKY 12 MONTHS AHEAD

1 A rather wilful attitude develops, a selfish streak may grow, tension is likely.

2 Others try to make you take a course of action that could discredit you.

3 Your feet hardly touch the ground
★ there is so much to do and a new love likely into the bargain.

4 Job change and extra travel possible. Be practical.

5 Trifle adverse until January when life should become a lot easier to handle.

6 Domestic matters prove more expensive than budget allows.

7 Financial gains about March/April
★ followed by quite strong romantic overtones in the Midsummer.

8 Inter-family disagreements when others try to interfere.

9 A rollicking year all round, perhaps
★ with slightly more ups than downs.

10 Meaningful changes, address, relationships and, possibly, career.

11 Exciting period, full of adventure but not all entirely for the good.

12 A long-term project close to your heart can start. Your social popularity increases.

13 Easy come — easy go! More impulsive behaviour than usual.

14 Defer moving house around October/November especially if you have any doubts.

15 Home or routine life may become busy or disrupted around the Christmas period.

16 You really must learn to look before you leap and avoid knee-jerk reactions to events.

17 Change of values around November leads to a better outlook all round.

18 A tinge of restlessness, you feel in a rut but your path is not clear.

19 Strong romantic interest peaks around February/March.

20 Temptation to err from the beaten path. Be discreet and resist a stronger personality.

21 Business partnership or a working relationship may begin.

22 Inclined to be more of a free spirit and do the things you want when you want.

23 Interesting year. Social life widens a
★ lot with wedding bells not far away.

24 People come and go in your circle and some quite drastic changes come and go with them.

25 Emotionally and financially
★ rewarding period. Will suit those in the public eye.

26 Others cause trouble but eventually you manage to make gains.

27 Change is hard to handle. Some may just fold their tents and steal away.

28 A few good friends help out during a slow period.

29 Move house, start new ventures but avoid new business partnerships.

30 Speculate to accumulate. Come out of your shell, be more aggressive.



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PISCES & ARIES SALTS

I would be grateful to know the biochemic tissue salts for Pisces and Aries. — M.B., Leeds.

As Pisces is the last sign of the zodiac, the influences of all the preceding signs tend to build up and affect this one. Ferrum Phos helps relieve strain but also reduces body inflammation, essentially energising the body fluids and, due to its iron content, boosts the blood's red cell count.

Aries rules the head and brain, so Kali Phos could be of benefit here. This salt can help relieve nervous exhaustion, irritability, headaches and mental stress.

BLACK DOG

A huge black dog leapt out of the front window of a house then apparently van-

ished into thin air. I later learned that the owner of the house had died in hospital some miles away at that exact moment. Could you please enlighten me on this spectral black hound phenomenon? — M.F.G., Belper.

According to legend, an apparition of a black dog either portends death or occurs as a death takes place, as with your experience. In the North of England such a creature is known as a barghest and instills fear and depression in those that view it.

This is not to imply that those who encounter the creature are about to die but that the death of someone else is imminent. Feeling fear is understandable when faced by such a fierce-looking animal yet this spectre cannot harm anyone as it is not real.

THE FIVE VIRTUES

What are the five virtues of Confucius and who was he exactly? — T.W., Preston.

One of the greatest Chinese sages, Confucius lived from 551 to 479 BC. Confucianism thrived for centuries but its temples were destroyed during the Chinese Communist revolution.

Confucian sayings are world-famous and still quoted widely. Part of his philosophy was that the five virtues — benevolence, justice, propriety, wisdom and sincerity — should be cultivated above all things.

BLUE MOONS

Can you tell me the origin of the expression, 'once in a blue Moon'? — L.J. Croydon.

When two Full Moons occur in one month, the second is referred to as a blue Moon, meaning a very long time, probably due to the phenomenon being a relatively rare occurrence, perhaps once every 2½ to 3 years.

SAMHAIN

What or who is Samhain please? A friend who believes in the Old Religion thinks it has something to do with that. — B.W., Worthing.

Indeed so; Samhain is one of the four Celtic festivals, cele-

graphology

(continued from page 13)

mode of thinking and acting.

The first specimen has wide word spacing which implies a wish for mental distance between self and those with whom contact is made.

The second writer makes even wider spaces between each word. There is a requirement for privacy — and, at times, isolation — in this second example.

This writer has written slightly faster than the first one which can be observed from the way the *t*-bars are pulled away from the stem at times. Another element indicative of this is the shortness of the final stroke in the first example.

The looping of the lower extensions in the second example is more marked than in the first. The more the loop is inflated the greater will be the imagination in this sphere of interest in sexual matters and the material world.

Both writers have a vertical angle to their script. This indicates a good intellectual con-

trol over their emotional reactions.

There are always positive and negative aspects to all handwriting. On the negative side, writers like these may have traits of unresponsiveness and detachment. Positive implications such as the dominance of reason and calmness in the face of difficulty are some of the traits belonging to those who write upright. Independence is yet another.

In the second example there are variations in some of the forms of the lower extensions, indicating diverse approaches and feelings connected with

brated on November 1st to mark the start of the Winter quarter. The dead are said to return to make contact with the living and there have been many strange sightings.

Tradition says that one should hang garlic around one's neck to keep evil at bay during Samhain ceremonies but that loved ones who have gone before will try to communicate if the heart is pure and the spirit willing.

A RAINBOW PERSON

I met a psychic who told me I was a 'rainbow person.' As I have been unable to contact her to find out more, I wondered if you could explain what was meant by this remark. — J.E., Redditch.

Traditionally, a rainbow is known as a bridge to a supernatural otherworld; a pathway used by the gods to convey messages from their world to ours. North and South American folklore associates a rainbow with a cosmic serpent or rainbow snake; a symbol linked to a healer or creator as well as being a symbol of initiation.

To be described as a rainbow person is therefore a beautiful concept, showing that you have special gifts, usually said to come from the gods. Per-

haps you could become a healer or medium or join a group where such attributes can be used, in which case the rainbow influences will be very evident and certainly of value to you and others.

THE NEPHILIM

I was a fan of the band 'Fields of the Nephilim' which broke up in 1990. This sparked an interest in the Nephilim themselves but, despite enquiries, I have been unable to uncover any information about this race of people. — P.S., Perthshire.

The Nephilim are mentioned in the Bible (Genesis 6, verse 4, Revised Standard Version) and in considerable detail in the ancient Sumerian tablets which record their history. The Nefilim (Sumerian spelling) are a race who inhabit the planet Marduk, known to the ancients but only now being recognised as very slowly entering our Solar system from outer space.

Marduk has an elliptical orbit and is said to pass by Earth and the other planets every 3,600 years. According to some, the Nefilim still inhabit their planet and influence the progress of Earth whenever they come within our Solar system's orbit.

The Nefilim are likely to be

the original legendary 'visitors from other planets' as well as the 'angels' referred to in so many religious texts. Certainly they are strong contenders as the real gods of ancient Sumer, Chaldea, Babylon, Greece and Rome.

CROP CIRCLES

Are the many reports of crop circles a new phenomenon or are there records of their appearing in earlier times? — J.P., Bow.

Such sightings seem to recur with prolonged gaps between. There are some 19th century references but not all of these were very reliable, certainly not in retrospect.

It was once believed that infernal spirits produced these circles overnight and one intriguing woodcut shows the devil mowing with a scythe, the resultant shape being an elongated crop circle. This woodcut purports to date back to a pamphlet published in 1678 and is sometimes used to illustrate articles on the subject even now. Although not common, reports and illustrations from the 17th century are uncannily similar to photographs of the numerous crop circles reported in the media over the past few years.

sexual matters.

This writer is not a pugnacious or quarrelsome type of individual but would rather give in than force arguments. The rounded s forms confirm this as well as the smooth rhythm.

Middle zone height at its greatest is only 1mm, suggesting an ego which doesn't demand much. This is further confirmed by the small and curving capital *I* which looks almost as though it is apologising for being there at all.

Both these samples appear to move in a serpentine manner across the page, again conveying that mental pliability

mentioned earlier. The *g* in the word 'enough' on the last line is a pleasing, positive sign. It is carried through to form the next letter.

Imagination is not abnormally active as can be seen from the restrained looping. In many instances writers of thready forms do not have the vital energy, resistance and staying power possessed by the average individual. However, nature compensates for this lack in them with that clever and sharp awareness which they need to function with reasonable success in the community.

As stated earlier, these writers require independence to think and act under their own directives. They are able to gain much by astutely manoeuvring the atmosphere and vibes of those with whom they meet.

With strong pressure they are more positive but normally they seldom take an unalterable stand. Negative implications could be insincerity, deceitfulness and an absence of genuine conscience.

They will grasp any opportunity to get the upper hand. However, at least they can be interesting if you don't let them manipulate you.

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:

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- A simple step you can take for stopping any witch from invisibly spying on you!
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- 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.

Upon careful contemplation I have come upon the observation that life can be examined by carefully observing movements of the tree. Possibly this is why the ancient Cabbala was designed in the shape of a tree, and a popular divination spread is called the Tree of Life.

The path man encounters is very similar in evolution and development to one of nature's most solitary and majestic souls. Just because these creatures do not speak in words mortals can easily understand does not mean they do not have things to say. It is up to mankind to unravel the mysteries these souls gently whisper when we take the time to quiet ourselves and listen.

Correspondences

Three basic components of the tree are the roots, trunk and body. In human terms the roots are similar to past lives, the trunk corresponds to birth and early childhood and the branches, or body, form the life path a soul takes on his/her Earth walk.

The tree has a complex root system which, if one could see it beneath the Earth, is about as large as its branches. If one is open to the concept of reincarnation and past lives, this immense root system can be analogous to one's past lives. Numerous lives form a complex web to make up the soul essence one brings with him into his current incarnation.

The trunk of the tree is similar to birth and early life. Mystics believe before incarnating into the Earth plane a person agrees to encounter certain life lessons to help his soul develop more fully. By choosing these life lessons he will be given certain opportunities and things to accomplish. Although he has free will to live his life as he sees fit, these objectives will be brought forth to him time and time again to give him the opportunity to fulfil his pre-birth obligations.

A person's life can corre-

GENTLE WHISPERS

by
TRACY RICHARDSON

Trees can act as a variety of symbols to enable us to understand ourselves.

spond quite analogously with the branches of the tree. The larger branches closer to the trunk are similar to the more crucial decisions one is required to make during his life and the smaller branches show the smaller, less significant choices. Each successive branch on the tree depicts alternative pathways which could be taken during one's life journey.

When viewed two dimensionally a tree can give amazing insight into man's life and can even lead to speculation of the possibility of parallel lives and realities. As the major branches relate to the choices and pathways one takes during his sojourn, the question needs to be raised as to whether the path he chose not to take has any less validity.

Thought forms

Esotericists firmly believe that thought forms produce energy. With this premise in mind, if one contemplates taking such an action he may have created a thought form which spurred into being an entirely

new life or reality simply based on the energy he put into thinking about taking such a path.

Under the concept of parallel realities the path one chose not to take in this sphere of existence may very well have been taken by the thought form created when considering possible alternatives. Therefore, the path not taken in this incarnation very well could have been taken on another level of reality and the person in this existence could be leading an entirely different life as the originator of the idea.

Situation

As a hypothetical situation, both beings in separate spheres of knowing could have began their awareness out of the same human shell, but the soul's thought patterns caused portions of his essence to split off and fragment and go into entirely different directions. As with the tree, the infinite number of limbs branching out and foliating the Earth gives testament to this concept. With many species in horticulture, a leaf can simply be snipped off to grow a completely new plant. With this in mind, is it so difficult to comprehend the same could be done on an esoteric level with the human soul?

We can learn a lot from trees about life, death and the universe. Because they stand so tall and majestic against the Earth's backdrop it is so easy to ignore and even forget their wisdom and beauty. One only needs to quieten one's mind and take the time to listen to these beings' gentle whispers to learn much about mankind and its workings.



As a matter of faith I believe that by chopping off my index finger I will feel pain. It is a matter of faith because I haven't done so. But there are people who claim to be able to do this — without the pain — as a matter of faith, and some of them have done so.

Their definition of the word faith would be, 'the art of believing what you know not to be true' and another, perhaps more accurate definition might be, 'faith is a function of mindset.'

Mindset is perhaps the most powerful tool nature has ever invented. Mindset is how our subconscious programmes us to believe everything we do, or don't. It produces the simple belief that an object dropped from a height will fall to the floor whereas the science of physics merely confirms or denies such belief.

Even if science confirms it, there will be those who still believe it not to be true because their particular mindset is not readily re-programmed by 'scientific results.' Mindset is what controls the belief in one deity over another, Jesus over the god of the volcano, Sol Invictus over, well, you name it.

The concept of faith enters the equation at a much later stage. You make the decision and set it. Once set it can be very difficult to change. Mindset is your internal map of the universe. The programme that drives your beliefs. Everything you do, say think and believe is governed entirely by your mindset.

Just how powerful the mind is when it comes to defining your view of reality is still debatable. Although it seems evident that fire is hot, ice is cold and oranges are orange, advances in physics over the last couple of years suggest that the physical world may be more akin to the dream state mystics have claimed it to be for centuries than the solid model earlier scientific experiments suggested.

Take that orange for example. One of the first things we

all learn in school physics classes is that white light is a combination of all the other colours; that a prism can break it down and that the colour of objects is the frequency of light reflected from them after absorbing the other wavelengths. The fact that an orange reflects orange light and absorbs all others suggests that its physical colour is actually blue. And this is what we've all believed for decades: the frequency of light defines its colour.

In reality, however, this most fundamental belief turns out to be wrong. Very recent experiments composed of the measurement of frequency while flooding multi-coloured card with various light sources shows that frequency has very little to do with colour.

What the experiment demonstrated was that colour is not a physical property: colour doesn't exist outside of the brain. By analysing the experiment it was found that an object's colour is entirely a function of the intensity of light it reflects coupled with that of the intensity of everything else the eye can see; your mind takes this information and mathematically manufactures 'colour.'

This raises the rather intriguing question of whether or not you see the same colour as me when looking at the orange. We can both agree it's orange but my mindset could be producing something very different from yours when I see 'orange.'

This can, perhaps, explain the real force behind hypnosis. Mindset is what the hypnotist re-configures to produce everything from an ability not to feel pain, right up to the ability not to see an object placed in front of your face.

If much more of the world is really a mathematical construct of the brain than previously thought, who can say what is — and what is not — real? Perhaps for the man up on stage happily chewing a Spanish onion in the belief that he's eating an apple, the rest of us real-



ly are mad to be laughing. Maybe he really is chewing an apple, only we can't see it?

Everything we see, hear and feel is probably very much as we believe it to be. But it's become something of a psychological cliché to confuse a banana with a gun. This is a very simple example of abusing the mindset of a large number of people that makes a mockery of any attempt to use witnesses to verify anything from muggings to UFOs. The one thing you can't trust to tell you the truth is your own mind.

The importance of mindset has been known for many years. Brainwashing being the extreme application of mindset manipulation with which we are most familiar but the extent to which mindset controls our perception of the world is only now being discovered. Or at least being admitted openly.

Perhaps the most infamous mindset controller was Dr Joseph Goebels. His technique of programming a whole nation by the manipulation of entertainment and general media material has secretly become the model many governments use to start with, then expand upon, in order to control the mindset of their own nations.

In the annals of mindset control, second only to this particular bad doctor comes another such. In this instance remembrance is a shame because Dr Timothy Leary was the only qualified voice in the 1960s talking any sense about that most toxic of substances, LSD. At a time when British hospitals and 'psychiatric staff' were abusing their patients with gross and entirely inappropriate uses of the stuff, Dr Leary

What is more, it is still used today in some cults and covens during initiation ceremonies designed to free the neophyte from all sorts of basic shackles of the mindset.

Chemical enhancement in such situations tends to be shunned by the more enlightened as the brain can be made to rewrite its map far more readily by stimulating its own chemicals. After all, that's what they are designed to do.

even callous manipulative technique used by governments, organisations and individuals to produce a pre-calculated response in an individual or group of people. Most advertising material doesn't really qualify as mindset control but it can do.

It doesn't matter who you are, what your IQ is or whether or not you think you can be hypnotised because mindset reprogramming is the basic function of your brain that enables you to learn. Attempting not to learn something to which you are repeatedly exposed is like asking a goldfish to keep its mouth closed. Reprogramming is fundamental to your nature.

There is only one defence against mindset manipulation — an alert knowledge that it is happening. You can't stop it happening any more than you can dance on a cloud but you can become aware of the effects. The easiest effects to spot are exceptionally strong reactions to a subject or word of which you have little or no direct personal experience.

'Rape' or 'child porn' are two very strong examples for most of us. If the merest mention of either produces exceptionally strong feelings and you've never been raped nor had first-hand experience of child pornography, then what you are feeling is an abnormal emotional reaction pre-programmed by mindset control.

In some instances mindset control can be socially beneficial, in others it can bring about gas chambers and slave labour. The problem for the mindset controller is that the borderline between good and bad is easily blurred. Mindset control isn't just the changing of your beliefs but the deliberate alteration of your whole perception of the universe. And always with the best of intentions, of course!

The worst thing you can do to a mindset controller is to tell people he or she is doing it. But perhaps the best thing to do is to chop his fingers off — just to prove he can feel pain.

Mindset

by JOHN WILLIAMS

So much of belief is apocryphal at best that you should consider not believing anything at all for a while — just to see what would happen.

was imprisoned for shouting, not 'Tune in, turn on and drop out,' but 'set, setting and dosage.'

Leary discovered that the fundamental control LSD gives over the mindset of the user would vary depending on the three principles of set, setting and dosage. Fail to take into account any one of them and you'd get the horrors or overdose or anything else the free-wheeling subconscious cared to come up with.

Simply swallowing the stuff then going out for a night on the town is not a very smart way to use a substance that meta-programmes your entire consciousness. Such use is the equivalent of driving down the motorway and curling up to go to sleep at 70 mph. The car being a metaphor for the drug and the outcome — well, it could be pretty literally applied if you're unlucky.

Meta-programming, the programming of your own programmer, became a cult obsession with both military and occult circles around the world.

The difference between mindset manipulation and simple persuasion is fundamental. Persuasion is the art of providing data and backing it up with logical argument in order for the subject to see the message. Information in a situation of persuasion has a two-way flow and a consensus is the most likely outcome rather than a sudden change of outlook.

This technique is also used by mindset controllers but they vary it in very subtle ways in order to guarantee a particular response. Mindset control is operating whenever the subject is denied the ability to respond in kind.

This occurs whenever information is repeatedly forced into the subject's consciousness (by, say, frequent TV newscasts or incessant newspaper reporting), again without the subject being able to be anything other than a passive sponge. It also tends to be targeted directly at emotion rather than intellect.

Mindset manipulation is occurring every day and in many ways. It's a subtle, perhaps

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DREAM MEANINGS



WRONG ENVIRONMENT

THE DREAM

I DREAMT THAT my grandmother (who is now dead) was in the room when suddenly I became frightened. I started spraying a can of air freshener to chase her away. Although I felt I was being unkind to her, I couldn't stop myself.

THE MEANING

It is possible that the spirit of your grandmother really did enter the room; or at least an energy that you interpreted as her although, equally, this could have been a negative influence masquerading as your grandmother.

It is natural to feel fear when encountering something unfamiliar so, since you were in a state of fear, you actually took the correct action. You sent the energy/spirit back to whence it came because it was in a wrong environment.

HIGH FLYER

THE DREAM

I FOUND MYSELF up against the ceiling, aware of by body below, on the bed; it was a lovely feeling and I did not want to come down.

From my high point I was showering the room with a beautiful perfume.

THE MEANING

FINDING yourself up against the ceiling indicates that you became aware that you were out of your body. This occurs every night when we go to sleep although we are no always aware of the fact.

However, since you were in a deeply relaxed state of heightened awareness you were conscious of the situation and the cleansing actions you were performing.

by SOPHIA DANIEL

Blockages of one sort or another in dreams usually represent the same in waking life even though the latter may not always be apparent. The dream situation in which they appear may yield clues to their possible resolution.

COILED SERPENT

THE DREAM

I FOUND A large, black and grey snake coiled around my kitchen taps; I felt annoyed and afraid as I have a phobia about snakes in waking life. The snake then moved through a hole in the ceiling and I became even more frightened. As I was wondering how to get rid of the unwanted visitor, it dropped onto me and I noticed that its colour had changed to grey and white.

THE MEANING

SNAKES can represent our deepest life forces and connections with spiritual realms or may refer to sexual desires. The kitchen is a place of nourishment and here the snake is around the taps, the waters of emotion, signifying that when searching for either spiritual or physical sustenance you become emotionally involved.

The snake on the ceiling indicates a desire for higher levels of attainment. However, your fear of the unknown draws the snake back down to the physical and probably sexual level showing that you are unsure how to handle these feelings too.

As you have a phobia about snakes and they appear in the

dream state, you should consider your true feelings about your sexual inclinations. This is not a black and white situation for you but a series of grey areas indicating that you should be more definite in your attitudes.

UNWELCOME PRESENCE

THE DREAM

I DREAMT THAT a presence came and stood by me. I was afraid and awoke with a feeling of unease.

THE MEANING

OCCASIONALLY external presences do make themselves felt and we attract them by playing with unusual ideas, just as the flame of a lamp attracts moths. The moths are harmless but can present quite a nuisance.

Should this occur again, all you have to do is tell the unwanted presence to return to where it belongs; it is simply something that has lost its way.

ON THE THRESHOLD

THE DREAM

I AM ON a ferry with some Highland cattle including a newborn calf. I tried to get the mother to clean and suckle it but a woman got hold of its hind legs and dumped it in a carrier-bag. We then came out into the open sea.

THE MEANING

YOU are crossing a threshold in life and encounter sacred cows which, in this context, appear to take on a negative meaning because the calf, their product, is tossed into the rubbish.

It would seem, therefore, that you need to throw off some strongly held prejudices. This will result in a clearer vision of the future.

AND THAT WAY

by SIMON WEBB

Of all the motifs and symbols that have come down to us from antiquity, the most enduring and enigmatic must be the maze.

Stylised representations of mazes are common to most ancient cultures, ranging from Roman mosaics to medieval French cathedrals, from Indian temples to prehistoric sites in Britain.

The concept of the maze or labyrinth predates written history. Some of the earliest examples known are carved on a rock near Tintagel Castle in Cornwall. These two looped, spiralling patterns almost certainly date from the Neolithic era some 5000 years ago. With seven concentric rings, they are classic examples of the oldest type of maze design, the spiral.

Before going any further, perhaps it might be as well to say a few words about the different kinds of maze. Basically, all mazes belong to one of two types: the spiral or the key pattern. In the former, one continuous path leads unerringly to the centre. It is impossible to become lost, one simply follows a predetermined course.

The other type is the sort of thing most of us think of when we talk of a maze. The key pattern which is believed to be of Greek origin, is a more rectangular formation which meanders this way and that. So the journey to the centre of a meander maze (its alternative name) is beset with dead ends, false turns and branching paths.

In sharp contrast to spiral mazes, in which one must inevitably reach the centre, it is theoretically possible to wander in a meander maze and never find the correct route! This is

the form of all modern mazes, by which I mean those constructed in the last 500 years or so.

Perhaps one of the best known examples is situated at the old palace of Hampton Court on the banks of the River Thames. Now Hampton Court and all similar hedge mazes wherein the visitor might become lost are similar not only in design but also in purpose: they are built to amuse.

The earliest mazes, however, were not constructed simply to provide a merry diversion on a Sunday afternoon. Their purpose was altogether subtler and more mysterious than mere entertainment. This is typified in turf mazes, a few of which still exist such as that near the village of Wing in Leicestershire.

Of unknown but undoubtedly great age, this is a spiral design 30 yards in diameter, cut to a depth of 3 inches in the surrounding turf. Here, unlike the great hedge mazes such as Hampton Court, the whole design is visible at a glance. There is no mystery about which path to take because there is only one, looping and curving back upon itself as it leads inexorably to the centre of the circle.

To the sophisticated, modern visitor there is something more than a little puzzling about a maze in which one cannot lose one's way! What could possibly be the point of walking a predetermined course along a shallow bank of turf? The answer is that these proto-mazes were places not of amusement but of ritual. Exactly what form

these rituals took, we can only guess; possibly they symbolised the passage of the soul from birth to death.

Clues to the nature of these curious structures may be found in certain religious buildings in France and elsewhere. Almost identical designs to the turf maze at Wing are inlaid in the floors of some older churches and cathedrals; a fine example can be seen at Chartres.

There, the object was to enable people to undertake penitential pilgrimages on their knees, pilgrimages which represented journeys to Rome or Jerusalem. Those making their confession to the priest were often instructed to perform such penances in much the same way that they would be ordered to recite a number of Hail Marys today.

Troy town

Turf mazes were once a common sight not only in Britain but throughout the whole of Northern Europe. Indeed, in Wales shepherds used to cut mazes into the grass as a pastime while watching their flocks. They called these miniature labyrinths *Caerdroia* which is Welsh for the city of Troy.

We come here to a rather curious point about European mazes and that is the constant recurrence of the name Troy in connection with their design. A turf maze at Brandsby in Yorkshire is known locally as 'The City of Troy' while one near the Oxfordshire village of Somerton is called 'Troy Town.'

In Cornwall, any area of narrow streets and alleys is dubbed a Troy Town while in Scandinavia turf mazes are often named Trogin or Trogenburg. Some have suggested that the link between Troy and local mazes is purely linguistic. In old Celtic there was a common word, *troare* which means to

Prediction

move or dance in a circular fashion around a fixed point and Troy could be a corruption of this word.

Other folklorists have observed that the city of Troy was itself dedicated to Hippolytus son of Croeseus who, it will be recalled, found his way to the heart of the original labyrinth. This was the great maze of Knossos where dwelt the fearsome, bull-headed Minotaur. Perhaps, then, some faint echo of this legend may be enshrined in the Troy Towns dotted across Europe.

The Tor

Glastonbury Tor is inextricably linked in the minds of most people with the legend of King Arthur. For it was here that Joseph of Arimathea brought the Holy Grail after the Crucifixion, the quest for which was the chief goal of the Knights of the Round Table.

The Tor is encircled by the remains of ancient terraces which, say believers, form a huge three-dimensional maze. If they are right, it could be of similar design to those at Wing and Chartres. Small bumps at various points on the terraces could perhaps be ramps leading from one level to the next so that seven complete circuits of the Tor would be necessary to gain the summit.

Most experts remain open-minded about this idea which, at the very least, has not been disproved. Also, considering the wealth of legend attached to this particular site, a ritual labyrinth would be among the least outlandish features to have existed here should it ever be proven.

Modern mazes

The maze is far from being a mere historical curiosity. Some of the largest and most elaborate mazes have been planted in the present century. For ex-

ample, in Hazelhead Park, Aberdeen, is an extremely ingenious hedge maze of the meander type which was a gift to the city of one Henry Alexander.

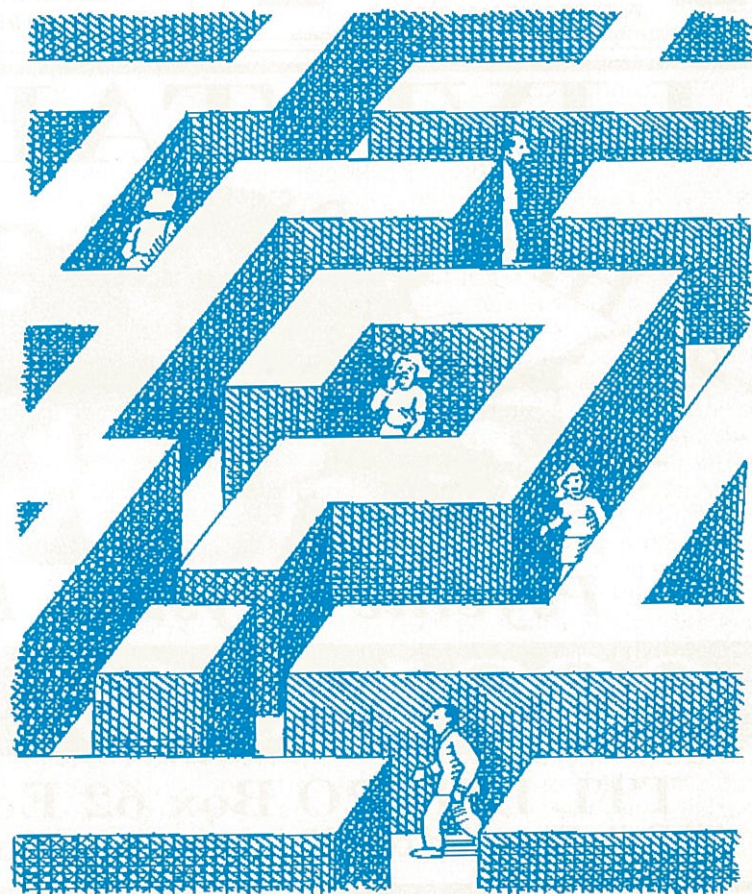
He was Lord Provost in the 1930s and wished to commemorate his period in office by something a little more imaginative than the traditional statue. The maze covers a little over an acre and one of its enchanting features is a central flagpole which is constantly and tantalisingly visible, yet seemingly unapproachable!

Another modern maze, though of a somewhat more serious nature, is located in the garden of the rectory at Wyck Rissington in Gloucestershire. This was planted by the local

rector over a six-year period from 1944 to 1950 following a dream which he felt was divinely inspired. The entrance represents the moment of birth and the centre the goal of eternal life. The ingeniously planned dead-ends symbolise the sins that lure one from the true path to paradise.

For some unknown reason, the British Isles are particularly rich in examples of mazes and labyrinths of all descriptions. Far from being sterile archaeological curiosities, the mazes of this country are part of a vibrant, living tradition that flourishes as much today as at any time in the past.

Long may it continue to do so.



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For most people the coming of the third millennium will be a spiritual age worth waiting for and already the 90s are seeing a return to natural values in the light of growing environmental concerns.

There is no other more enduring mystical symbol than the pyramid. More people are studying pyramidology to unravel their secrets. This is an opportune time to reassess the power of these wonders of our world.

Pyramidology is not just the study of their shape but the analysis of how and why they came to be and determining their astronomical worth to the scientists of the past. The ancient Egyptians honoured them as symbols of the mythical mound of creation. They were begun during the IVth Dynasty (2613–2494 BC) to represent the pharaohs' god-like status.

There has been a proliferation of imagery, adorning all kind of media from posters to album covers. General knowledge of them is limited to stories that they were built by tens of thousands of slave workers as the tomb for the king but few people ever go beyond this.

Oddly enough, not all of them are situated in North Africa. In Babylon, the capital of old Mesopotamia (Iraq), there were huge pyramid temples known as ziggurats. They were similar in purpose but conformed to a more rectangular shape. At the Aztec temple city Teotihuacan, in Mexico, stands the massive Sun Temple, aptly titled Place of the Gods. A truncated step pyramid of 50 million cu ft, it dates from about 200 BC.

At Tikal, one of the greatest Mayan cities, there are eight pyramids. The largest of these, Temple I, rises 229 ft. Religious ceremonies took place at its apex in a temple of only 150 sq ft. Mayan pyramids were the only ones not to be used as tombs. A stone staircase leads to the summit of almost each one. The sides and roof of each were meticulously decorated.

TOMBS & TEMPLES

by
**MALCOLM
BRADFORD**

Pyramidology is not new but is an enquiry which appears to have relevance for us today to solve the mysteries of these intriguing structures.

Other examples include the unusual oval Temple of the Dwarf at Uxmal; the truncated pyramid at Chichen Itza; and the pyramid-temple of Kukulcan. But step-pyramids are not exclusive to Central America. The first royal tomb in Egypt was the 200ft step-pyramid of Djoser on the Saqqara Plateau, built around 2630 BC.

The Great Pyramid of Khufu (better known as Cheops) at Giza, the grand prize among pyramid building, is the one that stretches the patience of all pyramidologists. All four sides were set accurately on geographical lines, on the North South axis to the four cardinal points of the compass. At least they were when they were built. In the 5000 years since Cheops was erected, the Earth has gradually tilted on its axis causing the pyramid now to be off line.

The ancient Egyptians had no knowledge of the compass. There is no convincing explanation for this or how the outer casing, polished with limestone, was jointed accurately.

At 755 sq ft and standing an imposing 481 ft tall, Cheops is the largest funerary complex in the world. Its volume of 91.5 million cu ft is 30 times the mass

of the Empire State Building.

There are mathematical links between its dimensions and our planet's geophysical data — the base square has a side measuring 365.259 units which happens to be the number of days in the Solar tropical year. Its weight, incidentally, (a staggering 5,955,000 tonnes) represents one-billionth of the world's total weight. It is officially unfinished, having no culminating capstone; construction having been deliberately terminated at the 203rd course.

The Egyptian name for it is The Light, as it is visible as a brilliant golden mountain due to its coat of smoothed-over limestone. Down the centuries this layer has been drastically reduced, plundered for other use.

To the pharaohs, pyramids were emblems of the quest for immortality but to the army of slaves who built them they meant torture, exhaustion and even death. The cost has been discovered at mass tombs in Egypt. One near Saqqara contained 600 skeletons. Most were missing limbs and had suffered from dangerously curved spines.

The interior of an Egyptian pyramid consists of a series of corridors leading to the final burial chamber. This was to confuse grave-robbers, intent on stealing the king's treasure hoard. Curiously, as their narrow width cannot accommodate the passage of a sarcophagus, it couldn't have been placed inside after completion. The pyramid had to have been erected around it.

The general rule was to situate the final resting place at about two-fifths of the total height. Scientists were bewildered to discover that so doing actually benefits preservation.

Most secrets of the pyramids are yet, if ever, to be decoded and explained to a bewildered world. That makes their appeal so much more alluring. They remind us that in conjunction with striving for the future we must learn and understand the complexities of Earth's past.

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- IS SIMPLY THE BEST

The Egyptian goddess of snakes was a lady called Uatchet or Wadjet and she is one of the more ancient goddesses, a being of incredible power. Sometimes she wears the crown of the North on her head, in her hand she carries a sceptre around which is curled a snake. In other illustrations Uatchet is shown as a snake herself, wearing the crown. Occasionally she is depicted as a winged snake.

Uatchet's home area, so to speak, was in the Nile Delta where snakes were thicker on the ground than elsewhere in Egypt. This makes digging up details about the goddess more difficult.

Once the ancient gods ceased to be worshipped, their shrines were destroyed and the surrounding grounds ploughed up again and again. Traces of the liturgies and prayers are almost impossible to find in the Delta area but are far better preserved in the arid South where there was less agriculture and therefore less temptation to dig up everything.

Perhaps the nearest thing we have today to a Uatchet ceremony would be the North American snake-handling cults. These people feel that God has given them power over serpents and, at the height of their rituals, church members pass snakes around. As the snakes used are venomous, newcomers are forbidden to join in this part of the service and it is illegal to do so.

However a very similar service would have been held in the ancient Uatchet temple. The priests would certainly have handled dangerous

Snakes Alive!

by E.A. St GEORGE

We may think of snakes as unpleasant but in ancient Egypt they were revered.

snakes in order to prove that they were pure in heart. Of course, in ancient times, this would have been done in the name of the Goddess.

One of the ancient myths states that Uatchet sheltered Isis, the Queen of Heaven, when that lady was pregnant. Isis was being pursued by Set, Lord of all Evil, at the time.

Uatchet had an island in the Nile that was so full of snakes that even Set decided to leave the place alone. The papyrus reeds grew thicker to shelter the Queen of Heaven.

Thus Isis brought forth Horus and the snakes and their goddess cared for the child who would one day grow up and become the hero-god who would save the world from darkness. Isis rewarded Uatchet with extra magical powers for her help, including the gift of prophecy.

The above legend has a sensible reason behind it. Snakes can swim and, in a flood, will attempt to reach the nearest high ground or island. Human beings do the same thing, of course, and in many tropical floods people suddenly find snakes trying to take refuge on the same island.

This might have been a recurring problem whenever the Nile flooded. An island crawling with snakes would have been a regular event for the ancient Egyptians, though, as the river Nile flooded every year.

In later years Uatchet began to merge with Isis. You might consider this as Isis-of-the-

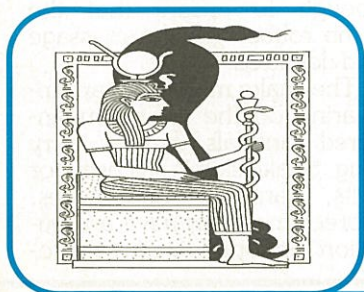
snakes. At this point Uatchet is shown as a goddess with a human body but with the neck and head of a snake. She even gets a new name for she becomes the Goddess Ren-nut, the protector. This unlikely snake-headed goddess is even shown nursing the baby Horus.

Very few people like snakes and most expect them to be cold and slimy. Snakes don't like being cold because they go torpid. Once this happens they cannot move very much or respond quickly to a threat. So snakes prefer to be warm and are not naturally slimy. Long ago, they took to burrowing as a means of getting away from their enemies.

Some skinks today behave like lizards studying to be snakes. Their limbs look oddly wasted but they try to burrow by wriggling under stones or into the earth. Thousands of years from now their remote offspring will be limbless and only their skeletons will show the thickened bones which once bore limbs.

Snakes have a simple lifestyle. They are geared to hunt, eat and sleep. Relatively few snakes seek to trouble mankind. To the ancient Egyptians, however, the snake goddess was a very important figure. Why?

The economy of ancient Egypt was not based on gold but on grain. If there was enough grain stored up, the Egyptians could barter for any foreign luxury they wanted. There was only one problem



with this otherwise excellent idea — stored grain gets spoiled by rats and mice. One pregnant rat in a granary could wreck the entire economy.

Long before the Egyptians genetically engineered the domestic cat, they realised that their snakes were a terrific asset. Snakes eat rats and mice. So, if a couple of non-venomous snakes cared to stop by your granary, you would put out a small bowl of fresh milk every day to encourage them to stick around.

You wanted those snakes to move into the granary and regard it as their new home — a desirable residence for snakes. The priests spoke truth when they said 'the rats and the mice are the evil that consumes the soul of the world.' The snakes protected you against the enemy rodents and against starvation.

Snakes had another useful spin-off as pets. Some rat fleas can carry bubonic plague and those fleas are not too careful about whom they bite, sometimes trying human blood, just for a little variety. The plague is passed to humans through the saliva of the rat flea but households with domestic snakes tended to be free of mice and rats — and rat fleas.

Villages whose people respected snakes remained free of plague. Villages where snakes were automatically killed seemed to suffer from plague. It wasn't magic, it was rat fleas, but to the Egyptians it seemed that the divine snake could keep humanity free from plague.

So Uatchet became a very powerful deity indeed. She could grant health and long life, long before those powers passed into the hands of the cat goddess.

The snake doesn't, however, make a very good domestic pet. Nature turned its burrowing lizards into fragile creatures who are easily injured; their rib cages are especially vulnerable.

Few snakes are naturally aggressive to mankind but most snakes are deaf and the others suffer impaired hearing.

If asleep, they may not hear you coming and won't, therefore, wake up and get out of your way. It is easy to injure a snake by stepping on it and the snake has only one defence against the stupid giant that trod on it and that is fangs. Be fair to the snake: you would not be well disposed to a 60 ft giant who stepped on you, either!

A snake can appear quite affectionate to someone who handles it regularly. It learns to trust the human but still cannot hear its owner calling it for dinner. The Egyptians came to terms with this shortcoming in snakes but designed a more satisfactory pet later on: the domestic cat.

The cat would show affection to its owner. The cat might even come in for its food, if it wasn't doing anything more important when you called it. And, even more vital, the cat would also deal with rats and mice in the granaries.

Cats could help on the docks of a harbour or even travel on ships carrying wheat to colder places where reptiles could not survive. It was a great idea to get your cargo to its destination despite the ship's population of rats, for the latter were always a problem to sailors.

Oddly perhaps, cats and snakes generally get on very well together. One Egyptian design shows a curious mix of a cat's head on a winged snake.

Much of the early Egyptian art shows a preoccupation with snakes. They accompanied gods and kings; the virtuous snakes lurked in the heavens and the nastier ones lurked in the underworld.

Tomb paintings showed friezes of cobras lined up to protect the deceased. Uatchet seems to have retained all of her mysterious powers and her hold on the Egyptian imagination.

Many ancient peoples believed that the snake was immortal. An ancient magical formula states, 'I am the serpent SATA. I die and I am reborn again. I renew myself and I grow young each day.'

Possibly this belief started when snakes were observed shedding their old skins to show new and brighter colours underneath. Of course the snake isn't immortal but it did become the symbol of medical work and healing. Exactly who first milked poisonous snakes for their venom is not clear but that venom can be used in a serum against snake bite.

I have heard it estimated that one quarter of the gold and gems that we mine goes back underground. This could be the 'buried treasure' of legendary pirates or even deep bank vaults and Fort Knox!

Uatchet's children are in charge of underground treasure. Traditionally they make sure that the treasure stays put. If you are taking up a search for hidden treasure, you might do well to stay on good terms with this deity.

Snakes were great tomb guardians. All you had to do was to spread the word that pharaoh's tomb was guarded by poisonous serpents and he and his treasure could lie undisturbed for all eternity. A couple of Uatchet's more venomous children were far more effective than a curse against tomb robbers.

The latter might be unable to read a written warning such as, 'Death comes with a swift bite to any who disturb the peace of Pharaoh.' On the other hand, one hiss from a snake would be enough to ensure that the tomb robber got the message and departed.

The snake may well start appearing on the list of endangered animals before very long. Snake skin is still used for belts, handbags and shoes. Moreover snakes have a reputation for containing an aphro-

disiac in their gall bladders. The traditional Eastern way of getting the gall bladder out is simply to cut the snake open with a knife, remove the gall bladder and leave the snake to die.

Yet neither its gall bladder or any other part of the creature has any aphrodisiac properties at all. It is far more important to leave the snake in peace. Alive, it will chase mankind's traditional enemy, the rat.

Incidentally, do not believe those people who say that the snake has no nerves and cannot feel pain. The people who come out with this sort of statement do not know what they are talking about. The snake has nerves that register pain in the same way as do your nerves. Unfortunately it takes the snake longer to die and its nerves continue to register pain. Small wonder, then, that snakes tend to avoid mankind whenever possible.

Modern meditation

How would you go about meditating on the snake goddess today? Snakes have never been exactly popular in the Western world — probably for Biblical reasons. Indeed, I have come across more than one book that insisted that ornaments of snakes, bats, *Star Wars* figures, aliens from outer space, frogs, toads, wolves, dogs, cats, etc are all symbols of the devil!

If you were in search of a snake ornament, it might be best to look first in an Indian shop. Brass and carved wooden snakes do turn up in such shops whereas the more Westernised ones stock just about everything else except snakes. Jewellers, on the other hand, do sell a number of silver or gold snakes, usually with emerald or ruby eyes; they come as brooches, bracelets and, even more popular apparently, rings.

If you are meditating or doing some form of magical work on Uatchet, your key colour

might be brown or even a dark green. Various snakeskin patterns have been used on fabrics, so one of these may come in useful. The same colours would be appropriate for candles. You'd want a slightly harsh incense — nothing sickly sweet because wisdom isn't 'sweet' and most of us learn it through bitter experience.

Snake-type music might include the *Arabian Dance* from the *Nutcracker*, possibly something from *Scheherezade* or even some haunting flute music. Your ritual offering might just be a saucer of milk unless, of course, you can spare a little money for the reptile house at London Zoo. Every zoo appeal finds it more difficult to raise money for the occupants of the reptile house.

One of the finest modern studies in snake magic might be the David Eddings *Belgariad* and *Mallorleon* books. Salmisra, the snake queen, is not a very nice person. However, her disgraced minister, Sadi, works for the Powers of Light with a bag full of medicines and poisons which are very helpful on the second Quest.

Sadi demonstrates the snake's cure-or-kill ability. He carries the drugs for those in need. He also carries Zith who is small, green and totally deadly. Zith is a delightful snake who purrs and she would make a great operatic heroine. If you enjoy reading fantasy, you could learn a lot about animal magic from these books.

So what would we invoke the snake goddess for today? How would we meditate upon her or honour her? Perhaps we could restore her old job and put her in charge of the economy; after all, she did a pretty good job in ancient Egypt.

So next time we have an economic crisis, let's get the wisest expert to deal with the problem. The Snake Mother might be invoked to look after the Treasury and could, perhaps, look after the Bank of

England at the same time.

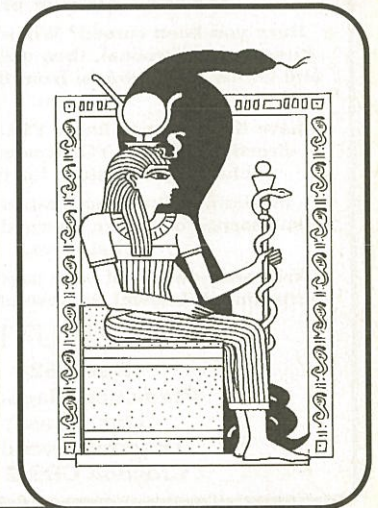
She might keep an eye on the Civil Service as well — we could use some help from a snake goddess. A divine, beady reptilian eye might give corrupt officials pause for thought and a displeased hiss could imply that it was time to mend one's ways or elssssse.

The other thing we might consider is the business of healing. There comes a time for all of us when our nearest and dearest move out of the region where normal healing is possible towards the ultimate healing of death.

Terminal illness can be horrible both for the victim and those watching. Those words, 'May you live forever' symbolise a dreadful curse. No one would wish to live for ever with continually increasing pain.

Perhaps we are uncomfortable with Uatchet because she reminds us that at times we have to let go and allow the healing of death. Let us remember the old legend that the snake dreams of the morrow but in this particular case tomorrow is the next incarnation. The snake with its tail in its mouth is there to remind us that death is not just an ending but also a new beginning.

Treat the snake with respect and she will show you all eternity.



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VIRGO, female would like to correspond with anyone! My interests, apart from horses, include ghosts, castles, gothic, Tarot, the subconscious mind and animal psychology. Box E610.

LEO, female, 30, married with children seeks others interested in Tarot, self-development, graphology, psychology, philosophy and all aspects of Paganism. Self-taught with 20 years experience this time round, I would love to hear from those just starting the path or already well along the way. Box E623.

GEMINI female, 19.6.67, mother of one, would like to correspond with like-minded souls. Interests include all the usual stuff plus tattoos, lip-stick, Tarantino, interesting people and laughing. Box E606.

FEMALE, 31, mediumistic, would like to correspond with anyone interested in any of the following: Spiritualism, Tarot, healing, astrology, alternative medicine, crystals, automatic writing. Box E614.

PISCAN, female, 24, with Virgo rising, seeks penpals anywhere, any

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/Penfriends, 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.

age, especially overseas. Interests include Tarot, Wicca, cats, aromatherapy and poetry. I am a budding writer who likes rock and classical music. Any age/gender. Box E624.

TRADITIONAL Wiccan priestess seeks priest to form working partnership. Willing to train and/or initiate suitable person if necessary. Write informing me of yourself and any relevant Craft experience. Box E617.

ARIES female, 37, psychology undergraduate would be delighted to hear from like-minded individuals interested in spiritual development / methods of divination. I am a psychic Tarot reader and seek genuine people to exchange ideas. Box E618.

PAGAN, Virgo female, 21, would dearly like to correspond with others of any age who are true followers of the Pagan way of life, to educate and exchange ideas on all aspects of same. Please write. Box E619.

GEMINI Wood Dragon, 1964. Interests include Chinese astrology, Tarot, path-working and Cabbala. Seeks stimulating correspondence on psychic experiences. ALA. Staffordshire. Box E625.

CONTACTS

LADY clairvoyant into all things mystical, astrology, herbs and alternative therapies, would like to make new contacts with a view to running a get-together group. Box E608.

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GEMINI, 17.6.65. Interests include astrology, Tarot, creative writing, all PREDICTION subjects, wishes to meet or correspond with like-minded people in the Manchester area. I would like to have an in-depth birth chart done as I can't get to grips with that mathematically! Box E621.

MALE, 29, seeks group to develop my psychic/healing abilities. Also interested in meeting anyone with whom to share paranormal experiences. Other interests include acting and playing and listening to rock music. Oxford area. Box E622.

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A South African businessman named Woolf Joel booked a dinner for 14 people one evening in 1989 in the Savoy's Pinafore Room. One guest cancelled at the last minute so his other guests sat down uneasily to dine. As they reminded Joel, it is thought to invite disaster to sit 13 people at table. 'Rubbish!' he responded, laughing at their fears.

A few weeks later, however, Woolf Joel was shot dead in Johannesburg and both the hotel staff and his dinner guests shuddered at the fulfilment of that grim superstition. The hotel's Basil Ionides promptly decided such a situation must never again arise at the Savoy.

From a single plank of Embankment plane tree he carved out a three foot high wooden cat with a wonderfully curling tail and named him Kaspar. Now Kaspar is always rushed into action whenever 13 guests are due to dine.

He is placed on the 14th chair with a spotless white napkin round his neck and is given his own handsome setting and wine glass; he is even served with a helping of each course. In this way disaster is averted by the discreet Kaspar who never betrays any titbits of gossip discussed at table, nor does he flirt with anyone's spouse!

Early days

According to some, this 13 at table fear is based on the number of people present at a feast in Valhalla for heroes. Loki, the evil one, arranged for the death of Baldur the Beautiful on that occasion. The same number, of course, were at table for Jesus' Last Supper.

The next Friday 13th this year falls in September and some triskaidephobics (the name for those who fear this date!) will watch every move they make on that day. They may point out that Friday was the day on which Adam and Eve are said to have eaten the forbidden fruit, the day of Jesus' Crucifixion and that Friday 13th was the date when Joan

of Arc was burned at the stake; even the Wall Street Crash happened on Friday 13th. Also on that day of ill omen, in 1941, the world's worst avalanche occurred in Peru.

The ancient Greeks and Vikings also feared the number 13 and even today Transatlantic liners have been known to have their departure times postponed to avoid sailing on a Friday the 13th. Research has revealed a higher number of



So deep-rooted is fear of the number 13 that London's Savoy Hotel uses an ebony cat named Kaspar as a trouble-shooter.

road accidents on this day too — self-fulfilling prophecy?

No house in Paris is a No 13 and the Italians even avoid this number in their State lotteries! Some businessmen almost never hold an annual meeting on a Friday the 13th, as the *Evening Standard* reported.

For those still unconvinced and doubtful of how to handle this day, here is a step-by-step caution. Try to get out of the right-hand side of the bed and put on the right sock and shoe first. Walk downstairs carefully for breakfast and, if you pass

anyone on the stairs, cross your fingers!

Eating an egg for breakfast? See that you smash the shell afterwards lest a witch uses it to put to sea and cause a shipwreck! Don't pour tea out of the same teapot if two women have handled it as old superstition foretells that one of them will have a baby within the year. Oh, and do stir your tea clockwise to avoid a quarrel!

Obviously the bathroom is dodgy ground on Friday 13th as breaking a mirror then can be a perilous omen, so it is said. Also, if you put your clothes on inside out leave them that way until teatime as this, believe it or not, will result in good luck coming your way!

Pot-holers or miners must take special care not to whistle while underground on this date if they wish to avoid misfortune. According to tradition, this whistling ban on Friday 13th also applies to chorus girls, actors, musicians, sports persons, gamblers, race-goers and fishermen.

It goes without saying that you would be wise to avoid walking under ladders and accepting the third light from a match on this date. This last belief began in World War One when soldiers found the first light alerted an enemy sniper, the second gave him time to take aim and he shot to kill at the third. So there's quite a lot to remember on this date if you are at all superstitious.

Other side of the coin

Of course it can be 'lucky for some.' Mr Vorster of South Africa was born on the 13th. He was the family's 13th child and was 13th in Cabinet seniority before being elected Premier of his country after 13 years in Parliament! Even his golf handicap is said to be 13.

Baroness Thatcher was also born on the 13th and married on the 13th. Film producer Herbert Wilcox also liked this number, insisting that he received the 13th copy of all film scripts he handled.

BOOK REVIEWS

DANCING WITH DRAGONS

by **D.J. Conway**
(Llewellyn/Macmillan,
\$14.95/£11.99)

THIS REALLY IS about dragons — how to contact them, befriend them and cooperate with them in magical practice. This may sound far-fetched but the author sincerely claims to have seen dragons since childhood and has been deeply impressed by the uncanny universality of dragon lore throughout the world.

Indeed, if ever there was an archetypal creature (in Jungian terms) it is the dragon which, according to Conway, is a powerful astral being whose energies can be tapped and utilised in order to enhance one's life in many ways. After a thorough and fascinating account of dragons in world mythology, the author shows us how to use dragon power in magic.

Most of the text is devoted to instructions on achieving the right magical state of mind, the rituals to use, music and dance, and all the usual magical methods adopted by 'modern pagans.' Finally, Conway describes various types of dragons, those of the elements, the seas, mountains, forests, planets and, of course, chaos and destruction.

Although the tone of the book is a little over-sentimental for my taste, it does make good sense to adopt the dragon's image as a focus for magical work as it is obviously a potent symbol of the occult forces of life and the universe. Dragon-lovers everywhere will like this book. — R.H.

THE MEDIUM, THE MYSTIC AND THE PHYSICIST

by **Lawrence LeShan**
(Penguin/Arkana,
£8.99/\$10.95)

THE FACT THAT modern science encroaches on territory formerly held exclusively by mysticism is old hat. LeShan begins by trawling old ground but then diverges as he gives us a version of the world as the Minkowski, four-dimensional universe where we are all caught up within the segmented flow of our individual lives, falsely believing that the world just happens, while in truth it is.

In the process, LeShan poses questions such as, in a world of relative values, is evil anything more than a purely perceptual viewpoint? Working his way towards a credible scientific explanation of the paranormal, he presents us with a remarkably original way of looking at the world and ends with the

assertion that both we and the universe are open-ended, with self-imposed limits and boundaries.

At times, especially in the final chapter, the writing is not particularly lucid, nevertheless there is tremendous food for thought here and the book can be dipped into a chapter at a time. If seeking a thought-provoking read that takes you down fresh avenues, you can do no better than this. Well worth the effort. — D.A.

QABALAH: A Primer by **John Bonner** (Skoob Books, £6.99/\$11.95)

THIS IS A scholarly and comprehensive introduction to the subject that makes much reference to the Golden Dawn and the magical dimension of the knowledge amid a very wide-ranging overview.

I found it more descriptive than instructive although, if studied under the guidance of a teacher, it will be of great value; a newcomer with no other source of instruction would probably be more learned but no wiser after reading it.

However, it is a long-standing tenet, not just of this discipline but of all esoteric knowledge, that the mysteries should not be paraded for the idly curious. This book presents a great deal of interrelated knowledge while adhering to that principle. So, if it causes one to seek further clarification while serving as a volume of reference, the book will have fulfilled an important function. — J.T.

NUMEROLOGY by **Norman Shine** (Aurum Press, £12.50)

THE AUTHOR, A distinguished and respected public lecturer on his subject, obviously has the kind of mind that relishes form, order, progression and, above all, deep analysis. Sadly, I must confess that my own intellect was not up to the challenge presented by his book.

Initially I was confused by what seemed like complicated diagrams and unexpected interpretations of the numbers and dates. However, after a few days' respite I returned to the task with a clearer head and the patterns and intentions began to emerge and eventually became quite enjoyable.

It was still not an easy read as I am obviously not on the same mental wavelength as the author and much prefer the more traditional numerology books which I find easier to comprehend. This, though, is my failing and

not Shine's whose approach will certainly appeal to those who like geometric order or enjoy mathematics and computer graphics.

So, if only for taking a new approach to an old art/science, Shine's latest work must be recommended even if some may decide it is not for them. — J.C.T.

NOSTRADAMUS: The New Revelations by **John Hodge**

(Element, £9.99 pbk;
£18.99/\$28.95 hbk)

'THE ENIGMA of prophecy attracts our romantic imagination and we are constantly drawn to maps of the future.' So speaks the author at the end of this fascinating book.

Perhaps nobody will ever know exactly what the cryptic sayings of Nostradamus point to but there is no doubt that they have held a remarkable fascination ever since their publication in 1555. Of course, as the end of the current millennium approaches, interpretations of Nostradamus are bound to loom large and this book by Hogue is one of the best you are likely to find.

He provides a history and background of Michel de Nostradame then takes us through the major events of the past few centuries, illustrating the uncanny links with certain of the prophecies. The later chapters deal with the sinister possibilities of the foretold 'third antichrist' plus hints of a coming Armageddon, warnings of geological upheaval, meteoric collision with Earth, new plagues, and so on.

However, the author ends on a hopeful note. He points out that some of the later prophecies show the possibility of the awakening of a new consciousness in humanity due to the appearance of a great religious teacher around the year 2000. This, of course, is what we all wish to hear and, like all those who interpret these prophecies, it probably says more about the author's hopes and wishes than anything else. — R.H.

GATES OF LIGHT by **Rabbi Joseph Gikatilla** translated by **Avi Weinstein** (Harper Collins, \$30.00/£25.00 hbk)

FOR THOSE WHO take a serious interest in the Cabbala, this is a real gem. Although there is a vast secondary literature on the subject, much of this is garbled by modern-day occultists, the

original sources of Cabalistic doctrine being largely inaccessible to those who do not know Hebrew.

Until now, the main source-work has been the *Zohar*, a vast volume of mystical and theosophical speculation composed in the 13th century. The present work, written about the same time, also deals with the main themes of Cabala, notably the ten sephiroth or spheres of divine activity through which the universe is created and maintained.

However, Gikatilla places a clear emphasis on the interpretation of Biblical verses, the 'names of God' and their mystical significance. The great message of this author, as well as other exponents of the Cabala, concerns the need for closer union with the Creator.

This task is accomplished through a continuous deepening of one's insight into the meaning of the 'divine language.' The latter is embodied not only in the ten sephiroth and the material creation but also in the very letters of the Hebrew language, especially in the *Torah*.

The book does assume that the reader already has some acquaintance with the subject and, if so, you'll find this scholarly work a mine of fascinating insights. — R.H.

THE PARTICIPATORY MIND

by Henryk Skolimowski
(Penguin/Arkana,
£9.99/\$12.95)

THIS BOOK HAS the rare quality of making you feel that you have just walked into a brightly lit room; everything takes on added clarity and glows with new meaning. The author's main theme is based on the idea that the universe unfolds through an intelligent process: everything reflects the operation of Mind.

He distinguishes three levels. Mind I is our own analytical level of mind; Mind II is the sum total of all sensitivities that evolution has developed in us; Mind III is co-extensive with the whole of reality. Within this framework, he sees the universe as open-ended and shows that human evolution itself must be similarly open-ended if it is to be truly creative and alive.

Our range of sensitivities and what he calls the 'spiral of understanding' are greatly restricted by our conditioned view of reality. What we need, therefore, is a way to grow beyond our limited range and become increasingly conscious participants in the universe rather than mere observers. For, in a very real sense, we are the universe and the more we can evolve in terms of Mind the richer our participation.

The author shows us numerous ways to develop a more creative and alive attitude and, hopefully, grow into real human beings at last. There is certainly a rich mine of inspiration in this

book for anyone seeking a more meaningful perspective on the world and the purpose of human life. — R.H.

MAGIC FOR LOVERS by Kathleen McCormack (Thorsons, £7.99)

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN 1985, the text has been revised and updated to become one in a new, ongoing series of popular books angled at those with romance in their hearts.

Starting with Sun sign astrology, the author offers guidance on how to discover and keep your ideal partner. The sign profiles are broken down into decans, so are rather more accurate than many a similar work and the compatibility tables link each of the 12 signs with every other. The astrology section ends with a short chapter on potential health weaknesses through the signs including recommendations for combating these environmentally and with the help of the relevant mineral salts.

The next major section follows along similar lines but here the topic is various forms of numerology. Then the reader is shown how to use the Tarot for answering queries regarding romance, including the interpretation of the Mystic Card Spread for matters of the heart.

The next chapter reveals what your dreams are telling you about your love life according to the nature of their content. This is followed by a chapter on tea-leaf reading where the symbols seen are similarly interpreted from a lover's viewpoint.

The final chapters are concerned with traditional methods of identifying, attracting or keeping a lover through floramancy, or the language of flowers, old spells and incantation, superstitions and omens of love. All in all, an entertaining guide to love and happiness with the help of various divinatory arts. — M.E.

DON'T BLAME ME, I'M A GEMINI

by Reina James Reinstein
& Mike Reinstein
(Piccadilly Press, £5.99)

THOUGH WRITTEN IN light-hearted style, this paperback has a serious undertone: its aim is to encourage youngsters to take astrology a stage further than Sun signs and use it as a tool for understanding.

Admittedly, most of the text consists of Sun sign style interpretations: personality traits, love and friendship, school and rules, hobs, hobbies and what to wear, etc. However, the reader is also taught how much more information can be gleaned from a complete horoscope reading.

The charts of popular figures such as Whitney Houston and Arnold Swarnegger are used as examples and the components that make up a chart

are explained. The tome ends with 12 questionnaires that each ask ten pertinent questions to discover 'How true you are to your Sun sign.'

A useful appendix includes a list of astrological organisations and bookshops together with recommended teaching manuals. A good start! — B.L.

THE BOOK OF CELTIC SAINTS by Courtney Davis & Elaine Gill (Cassell, £18.99 hbk)

THIS IS AN enchanting and absorbing portrayal of the lives and times of the Celtic saints of early Christianity such as our St Michael and St Bridget of Ireland. The male and female saints who feature in Welsh, Scottish, Irish and English mythology are all here in this beautifully produced book.

The well written and informative text is by Cornish-born Elaine Gill who has had a life-long interest in her Celtic roots and there are 120 vibrant colour plates by the ever talented Courtney Davis. This happy combination of author and artist has resulted in a well researched, visually stunning work, obviously lovingly put together.

All in all, a real joy to read and keep. — C.B.

DICTIONARY OF SYMBOLS

by Carl G. Jung
(Norton, £13.40)

SYMBOLS CAN MEAN far more than is apparent from a causal glance; they can contain hidden or deeper meanings intended only for those with the right knowledge to unravel the underlying complexities and interpret the message. From primitive cave-men to Jung and beyond, symbols have always captured the human imagination and are to be found worldwide, in every culture and every aspect of human activity.

Here are very nearly 600 pages of symbols of every sort imaginable, carefully grouped and cross-referenced to aid the reader in his/her search for a particular sign. The groupings are, perhaps, unusual in that instead of, for instance, placing all the astrological, alchemical, religious or whatever symbols together, they are grouped according to their geometric make-up; that is number of axes, straight, curved or crossing lines, closed or open, etc. etc.

At first confusing unless the reader knows exactly how a particular sign is constructed, there is a great deal of sense in this form of identification. In any event, there are other methods of classification in this excellent reference work, including a word index and a really superb, 'recognise it at a glance' graphic index.

Each individual entry includes the sign's history, meanings and systems in which it is used and, where appropriate,

(continued overleaf)

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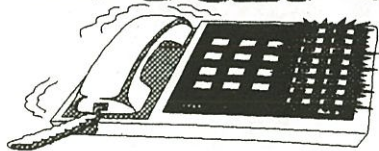
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