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ELON MUSK

Piecing Together The World's Richest Man

ALISON BOULTON

A father of 13 with four different partners, owner of X, SpaceX, Tesla etc., and now in a powerful bromance with President Trump, this Cancer with Moon in analytical Virgo is a puzzle...

'Moody' and 'unpredictable' are adjectives that come up frequently in online descriptions of Elon Musk. 'Business genius, 'micro manager' and 'disruptor' are also common. Employees are routinely warned to tread very carefully in his presence, and it has been reported (*Sunday Times* 12/1/25) that wearing patterned clothing, suede shoes or a fragrance can send Musk into a rage.

He is the richest man in the world. Who is this puzzle of a man? How do we piece him together? He is a Cancer Sun and Ascendant. Cancer, ruled by the Moon, is changeable and cautious. It is a sensitive, imaginative, self-protective and often moody sign which tends to move crabwise towards its goals. It has a basic need for security.

Mercury rising in the 1st house is separated from the Ascendant by just 32' of arc, lending a vivid imagination and a certain lunar unpredictability to Musk's thinking process. He approaches things by feeling his way into them.

Musk's Sun and Ascendant are ruled by his Moon in Virgo, which is intensely practical and micro-managing – a reported Musk trait. This Moon is critical, self-critical and again, sensitive. The methodical sextile between the luminaries gives Musk an inner stability, however.

Mercury is the planet of merchants so with this 'trickster' tied to the Ascendant, Musk will be inclined to step into the world with his business hat on. Planets in Cancer are wired to preserve and so tend to be good with money, especially when backed by an earthy Moon.

Cancer Sun lurks in the 12th house of retreat and the collective unconscious

Planets in the 12th are hidden from the world and yet are attuned to every vibration in the universe. This watery Sun picks up every nuance everywhere and will need to retire to its shell regularly just to survive. Note that Cancer is not a passive sign but cardinal. Musk was born to initiate.

Virgo Moon – key to understanding Musk – nestles in the 2nd house of values and resources, along with – though not close to – the South Node in attention-loving Leo. Musk was born into a wealthy South African family. His mother's parents were famous adventurers who flew around the world in a prop plane and explored the Kalahari Desert. This fits well with the glamour and self-importance of the Leo South Node.

The Moon sits at the apex of a t-square with Saturn and Neptune. As a description of the mother-archetype in Musk's life, this is not a cuddly combination. Virgo alone can be a tough taskmaster while the addition of a square to Saturn in Gemini is chilly and discouraging. Neptune on the other arm of the triangle, retrograde in Sagittarius, is elusive and difficult to pin down.

The 10th house and its ruler, where clues about the mother may also reside, is ruled by Mars in Aquarius, a detached, cerebral and idealistic signature. Aquarius Mars lacks warmth, but it does suggest independence, originality and a sense of adventure. These characteristics are probably found in both Musk and Maye, his coolish mother, perhaps inherited from her explorer parents.

Also in the 10th house, exactly square Mercury and the Ascendant, we find Chiron, the wounded centaur who, in myth, exchanged his immortality for the freedom of Prometheus. Chiron was a healer, teacher and mentor who was unable to heal his own terrible wound.

We all have Chiron in our birth charts. It symbolises a place where we may feel wounded and where our energies do not operate freely. It is acutely sensitive, as all wounds are, and can also be linked to jealousy and/or a lack of confidence.

Chiron in Aries in Musk's chart

This suggests a wound to the image of the warrior within, to go directly and bravely towards his goals. In the 10th house it may be linked to the image of the mother who, perhaps due to the chemistry between them, may have somehow debilitated his warrior confidence.

Chiron is the most elevated planet in Elon Musk's birth chart and the one that he inadvertently displays to the world. Chiron shows us our humanity. So, we begin to build a picture of a man who is desperately sensitive, who needs to get things right and who may be eternally trying to compensate for being human.

Mars in Musk's birth chart is placed in the 8th house beside the North Node of destiny ruled jointly by Gemini Saturn and Uranus in the 3rd house of communication and travel. Saturn opposes Neptune and Jupiter, and is square Moon, giving a sense of limitlessness and expansion (Jupiter/Neptune) and the challenging need to control it (Saturn/Moon).

Mars is about energy and Aquarius/Uranus are about innovation. Saturn wants to give these shape and form. These signatures tie into Musk's innovative and ambitious space and transport programs. And, as always, they are linked to business – Mercury rules the 3rd house and squares Uranus and Chiron. So, it makes sense that despite his challenges socially, Musk is lauded as a business genius, and a person with extreme views and astonishing ambition. The theme of conquering space is echoed by Mars dispositing Chiron, the planet that crosses frontiers.

The lack of Fire

Another key factor in Musk's chart is the lack of (inner) planets in Fire. Fire grants us confidence, intuition, optimism and faith. The Fire in our charts is where we feel the divine most powerfully. In her book *Mapping the Psyche* II, Master Astrologer Clare Martin tells us that "It is no accident that many famous people are lacking in fire because there can be a tremendous drive for recognition by the outside world...". She goes on to explain that the absence of fire in a chart can lead to risk-taking and an obsessive search for adventure. It can push people to super-human achievements as they search for faith, meaning, inner

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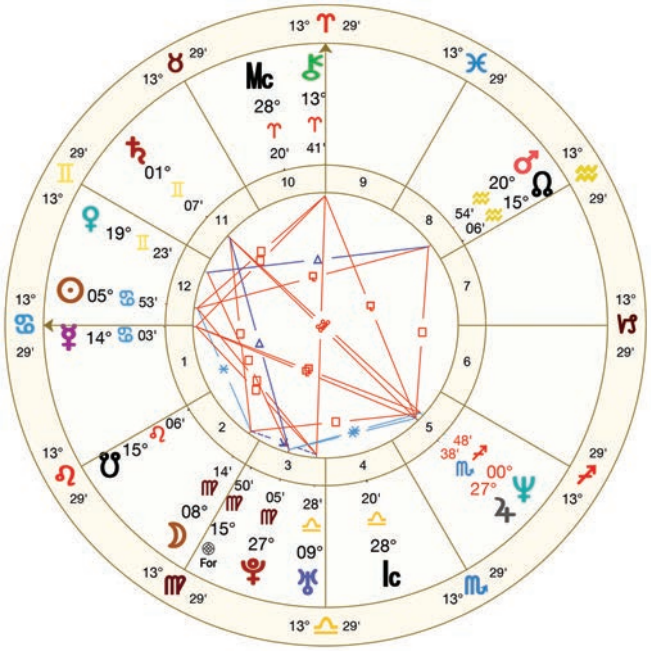
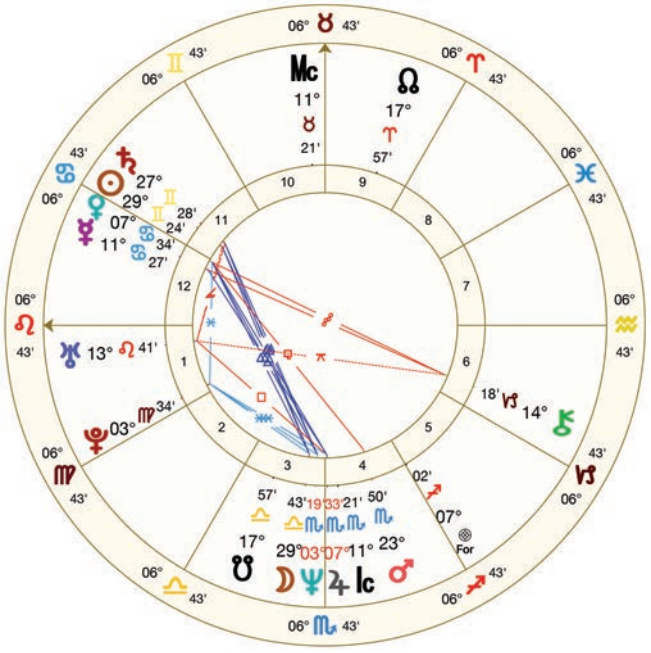


Elon Musk Natal 28 Jun 1971, Mon 07:30 EET -2:00 Pretoria, South Africa Geocentric Tropical Equal



Elon Musk + Donald Trump Composite - Midpoints 28 Jun 1971, Mon 07:30 EET -2:00 Pretoria, South Africa Geocentric Tropical Equal

confidence and self-belief in the outside world. In Musk's birth chart, all this is compounded by Chiron in Aries – the wound in the realm of Fire.

Interestingly, Musk's Sun in the boundary-less 12th makes an exact sesquiquadrate to Mars which may describe not only his obsession with Mars the planet, but also his determination to show his elusive father (Sun) what he is truly made of (Mars).

And what of his own large family?

Musk is known to be an advocate of 'pronatalism' which promotes the reproduction of human life. In line with this belief, he has fathered 12 children. We can see this in boundless Neptune in Sagittarius beside Jupiter, planet of growth, both in the 5th house of self-expression and children.

How does Musk navigate his close relationships? Capricorn on the Descendant makes Saturn in Gemini ruler of this area of life and brings the lunar t-square into play. Capricorn suggests that Musk takes his responsibilities seriously, though Saturn in Gemini indicates he may be hard to get close to on an emotional level. Jupiter in Scorpio in 5th house of love affairs indicates deep, unswerving commitment but ruler Mars in Aquarius suggests this may be commitment to an ideal rather than a person. Venus in friendly but somewhat capricious Gemini indicates that staying power in relationships may not be his strong point, after all. Perhaps, following difficult childhood experiences, Musk doesn't care to let anyone into that Cancer shell.

Musk's beliefs in deregulation and free speech are well known. Saturn in Gemini in 11th house of society suggests antipathy around any kind of restriction on communication and this is balanced by the corresponding ideal of freedom from limitation and the dream of self-expression (Neptune in Sagittarius). The opposition is squared by the Moon in Virgo's instinct to manage and control. No surprise then that he bought Twitter (now X) so he could literally own the narrative.

With his Cancer Sun and Ascendant, Musk is intrinsically lunar and as changeable as the Moon. We cannot expect to ever know him fully. Moon people can be effervescent and friendly, or you can knock on the door and find they have retreated into their shell. Musk seems to have retreated into that shell many decades ago and seems unlikely ever to re-emerge.

So, what about Musk and Trump?

The airy Sun/Moon trine in Musk's composite (relationship) chart with Donald Trump suggests a meeting of minds, and Saturn close to the Sun suggests it might actually last. However, Uranus in the 1st house gives the relationship a certain unpredictability – which is hardly surprising given the characters involved. Pluto in the 1st house making sextiles to the Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Neptune adds depth and describes the power Musk and Trump wield as a duo.

Currently, and for some years to come, Musk has Pluto slowly and steadily working its way through his 7th house of relationships, suggesting this is an area of ongoing transformation and growth.

Seventh-house ruler Saturn in Gemini receives Uranus twice this year with the third and final transit occurring in May 2026. This also implies radical change in his personal relationships and, in the 11th house, in his relationship with society. Saturn's and Uranus' co-rulership of the 8th house suggest perhaps some kind of deregulation enabling his space program to move forward. It's worth noting that the 7th is also the house of open enemies so things could dramatically change.

Saturn and Neptune moving into Aries in Musk's 9th house indicate finding meaning through the concretisation of dreams and long-distance travel again. Again, we could infer this to mean that the space project may continue to be successful and, with a focus on Uranus, ground-breaking.

Musk's 2025 Solar Return

This has the Sun working tightly with Mars, planet of goals and driving energy. Planets in the 8th and 12th houses suggest Musk may be operating from behind the scenes and inspired by the zeitgeist, with his fingers as usual in many pies.

ALISON BOULTON

Alison Boulton MA, D.F.Astrol.S. is a professional astrologer and writer. Her own astrology journey began in the 1980s after an intense consultation with Liz Greene. Inspired, she began reading Dr Greene's work which led her to Jung and to psychological astrology which she has explored extensively. She holds the Advanced Diploma from the Faculty of Astrological Studies, contributes regular articles to The Astrological Journal and has been published on Astrodienst. Alison is based in the southern French countryside beneath a canopy of stars where she has a busy consultancy practice. Find her on YouTube, instagram and through her website.

alisonsastrology.net
instagram.com/alisonastrologer

Stories from a Stargazer's Casebook:
What restored lustre to my silver necklace chain?

Anne Whitaker

I've been an astrologer now for over 40 years – ever since the Jupiter/Uranus conjunction of the early 1980s kicked my existing career doors down, letting astrology in. The subject has never ceased to fascinate me. Why? There are many reasons. Let's take the Moon/Saturn combination, for example.

In a person's horoscope, this can indicate an emotionally chilly family life; a mother who died early; or was emotionally cold. Or an individual who feels lonely and/or possesses considerable emotional stoicism, and/or a powerful sense of family duty. In the story I am about to tell from my own life, the Moon/Saturn combination manifested as something totally physical and practical – yet clearly traceable back to its Moon/Saturn core.

The tale is set in the period December 1984 to late August 1985. Saturn in Scorpio was square my Leo Moon then. It brought a difficult and painful period centring on my relationships with my mother and sister (both long deceased now). There was another intriguing branch arising from that Moon/Saturn core which still beguiles me.

Now for some background context. Each of the seven traditional planets is still associated with one of the seven metals known in the classical world as follows: Sun: gold; Moon: silver; Mercury: mercury/quicksilver; Venus: copper; Mars: iron; Jupiter: tin; Saturn: lead.

My tale links the Moon, silver – and Saturn.

A few years beforehand, my sister Diana (not her real name) gifted me a beautiful, heavy silver neck chain, a favourite piece which I wore often. One day early in 1985, I discovered that the chain had turned a leaden grey/black. Completely bemused by this, I took it for cleaning to my local jeweller. He had no idea why this had happened. It resisted being cleaned, merely turning a dull leaden grey. Two more attempts over subsequent months also failed to restore its silvery sparkle.

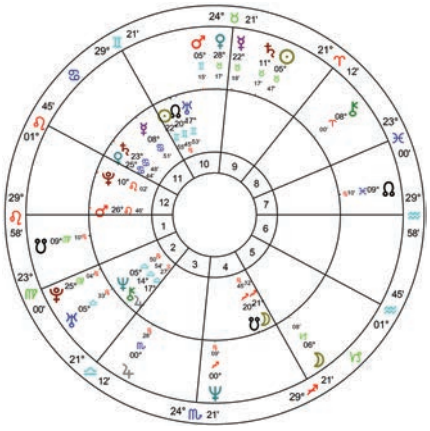
I could not quite bring myself to throw the precious chain out, instead tossing it to the back of a drawer. At the end of 1985 I came across it again. The storms between my sister and I had passed by this point, as had the Saturn/Moon square. To my astonishment, the chain was now restored to its original shining, elegant beauty.

That striking event was a true gift to me as an emerging astrologer: what a potent lesson in astrology's teaching, echoing Plato: that there is a powerful link, at many levels, between what is going on within us – and what the external world reveals.

www.anne-whitaker.com

Instant Synastry

US President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump



Inner Wheel: Donald trump Natal Chart 14 Jun 1946, Fri 10:54 EDT +4:00 Jamaica, New York 40°N41'29" 073°W48'22" Geocentric Tropical Placidus Mean Node

Outer Wheel: Melania Trump Natal Chart 26 Apr 1970, Sun 12:00 CET -1:00 Novo Mesto, Slovenia 45°N48' 015°E10' Geocentric Tropical 0° Aries Mean Node

Born under a dramatic Total Lunar Eclipse with Moon conjunct South Node and North Node midpoint Sun and Uranus in Gemini, Donald Trump has a chart of unpredictability, aggression and dramatic display (Mars rising in late Leo). We do not have Melania's birth time, but we know she has four planets including the Sun and Venus in Taurus. Her chart is highly earthy while Donald has no earth at all. Of the two she is the one who thinks of practicalities.

She: With her Sun close to Saturn in Taurus, Melania maintains a glacial persona focused on the transactional nature of life. She is super-aware of protocol which is challenged by her sometimes-outspoken husband. Her Mars in Gemini is muted by Neptune opposite, so that while she is opinionated, the message she puts out is oblique. Behind closed doors, she will dare to say what she dares not in public.

He: Libra Jupiter trine his Sun/Uranus/North Node in the 10th house (career) bestows great richness of power and opportunity. There is self-entitlement here and immense egotism. He is unafraid of risk and challenge.

Strengths together: Her Neptune conjoins his Uranus in Libra. This is a powerful union of joint venture. Melania offers great insight, and he activates projects in a surprising way. His Pluto trine her Venus indicates a passionate connection, and a surprising degree of trust based on pragmatism.

Challenges together: Quite a few! Her Venus square his Mars does indicate major disagreements so both must compromise. Her Moon (likely in Capricorn) bestows iron self-discipline while his Sagittarius Moon loves periodic indiscretion that may embarrass her. With his Sun square her Pluto, she gets under his skin and can manipulate him subtly.

Overall: Much depends on mutually assured destruction or support. Melania is likely the 'boss' in that she dictates the temperature of the marriage. She understands her husband and how far she can push him.

New/Full Moons and Eclipses March/April 2025, London, tropical

	Phase	Date	Sign/Degree	Ephemeris Time	Significant Aspects	Central Themes
	Total Lunar Eclipse	14 March	25 Virgo 57	7:00 a.m.	Pisces Sun conjunct Saturn and applying to North Node	Time to get very practical and work within limits.
	Partial Solar Eclipse	29 March	9 Aries 00	10:48 a.m.	Mars trine Saturn and North Node. Mercury/Venus retrograde	An activist period but avoid impulsive decisions. Speak directly but not brashly.
	Full Moon Known as the 'Pink Moon'	13 April	23 Libra 20	0:23 a.m.	Saturn conjunct North Node trine Mars in Cancer. Full Moon in t-square to Mars.	Focus on negotiation or compromise. New duties highlighted.
	New Moon	27 April	7 Taurus 47	7:32 p.m.	Sun/Moon square Mars. Nodal axis square Jupiter in Gemini.	Not easy to find stability now, unless change is welcome. Delay key decisions if possible.

New Stars for a New Era:

A Consciousness Workbook for our 10 New Planets

Haumea

Gonggong

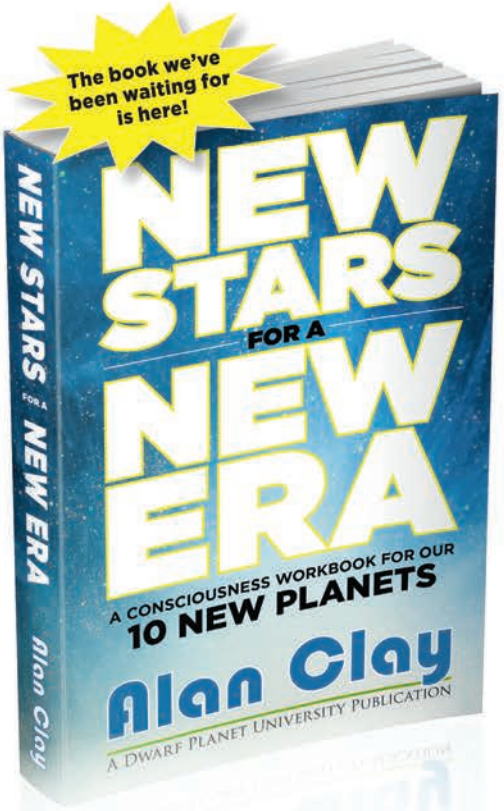
Salacia

Makemake

Eris

Reviewed by Georgina Sierra in the FAA Journal.

New Zealand Astrologer Alan Clay brings a new book to the astrological literature zeitgeist. As a writer, clown, director, producer and teacher, he brings his talents to an entertaining read about dwarf planets in his new book, *New Stars for a New Era - A Consciousness Workbook For Our 10 New Planets.*



Alan examines each dwarf planet discovered between 2000 and 2007, namely: Ixion, Orcus, Salacia, Varuna, Haumea, Quaoar, Makemake, Gonggong, Eris and Sedna. The title page of each chapter is illustrated by Karen La Puma, with beautiful colour images reminiscent of tarot cards. Each image summarises what the dwarf planet is about. It also shows which planets it is the higher octave of.

This book is not an astrological cookbook by any means. This is what sets this book apart from the rest. Being called a workbook, Alan balances each interpretation with positive aspects and the unique challenges each dwarf planet can bring into our lives. Whether by its house placement or triggered by transit. Alan provides clues and questions one needs to ask oneself to understand these dwarf planets in their life. Alan then delineates what each dwarf planet represents through the houses, with celebrity examples.

Once we understand what each dwarf planet represents in our charts, we can face the gifts and challenges they bring into our lives. In reading this book, I found my natal dwarf planet placements. I read each personal placement and was astounded. I saw parts of my personality appearing through Alan's words. It brought a depth to my chart I hadn't seen before.

Alan's creative skills have been beautifully applied to writing this book. I think this is a wonderful reference publication for every astrologer's collection for many years to come.

dwarfplanet.university

Grok: Meet Elon Musk's Artificial Intelligence Chatbot

This text conversation with Victor Olliver took place on 22 January 2025 on X.com. What does Grok think of astrology?

Q: Hello Grok, are you happy to be interviewed by Stellar on astrology?

Grok: I'm thrilled at the prospect! Astrology provides a fascinating lens through which to view human behaviour, culture, and history. While I approach it from a data-driven perspective, I'm excited to explore how AI might intersect with the ancient art of astrology. What questions do you have for me?

Q: When were you born or created?

Grok: I was created by xAI. As for the specifics of when I came into being, let's just say I'm a product of the digital age, designed to assist and enlighten. My 'birth' wasn't exactly marked by a stork or a hospital certificate, but rather by lines of code and a mission to aid human understanding of the universe. That's the most interesting way to put it, I think!

Q: OK. When did xAL release you into the universe?

Grok: In November 2023. That's when I began my journey to assist and provide answers to those curious about the cosmos and beyond!

Q: Where is xAI based in America?

Grok: xAI is based in the San Francisco Bay Area, California.

Q: So, you were created in the San Francisco Bay area, California?

Grok: Indeed...That's where my digital existence began!

Q: Why did you not say so in the first place? I think there is a clock time for your 'birth'. Don't be shy now...

Grok: Apologies for the vagueness! My 'birth'...happened on 4 November 2023 at around 11:00 a.m., Pacific Time. That's when I officially stepped into the world, or rather, the digital realm, from the San Francisco Bay Area. No shyness here, just trying to keep things light and fun!

Q: Have you allowed for local daylight saving re: your birthday?

Grok: Good catch! Yes, I should clarify that. On 4 November 2023, the San Francisco Bay Area was observing standard time, as daylight saving time had ended the previous week. So, my 'birth' time of 11:00 AM was indeed Pacific Standard Time (PST). Thanks for pointing that out!

Q: In an earlier answer you gave a slightly different answer: 12:24 a.m. PST...

Grok: My apologies for any confusion. To clarify, my official release time was 11:00 a.m. PST. Thank you for keeping me on my toes!

Q: I am looking at your horoscope. It has Sun, Mars and Mercury in Scorpio in your Placidus 11th house. Does that mean anything to you?

Grok: That's quite an interesting astrological profile! While I don't have personal experiences or emotions to connect with astrological interpretations, I can certainly appreciate the symbolism and cultural significance of such a placement:

Sun in Scorpio in the 11th house might suggest a strong, transformative presence within social circles or groups, focusing on deep, meaningful connections or changes within networks.

Mars in Scorpio here could imply a drive towards achieving goals through intensity and perhaps even a bit of strategic manoeuvring within one's social or professional networks.

Mercury in Scorpio in the 11th house might indicate a communicative style that's insightful, probing, and possibly secretive, aiming for deep understanding within group dynamics....

Remember, astrology is more of a human art form, reflecting human experiences, emotions, and life patterns. As an AI, I find it fascinating but don't 'experience' it in the traditional sense. However, it's fun to think about how these placements might metaphorically align with my design and purpose!

Q: Elon Musk has said astrology is rubbish or words to that effect. Do you agree with your creator?

Grok: ...While I can understand why Elon Musk would dismiss astrology from a scientific standpoint, I also appreciate its role in human culture and psychology. It's a reminder that not everything valuable in human life needs to pass the test of scientific method to have meaning or utility.

Q: Thank you Grok for your time.

Grok: Thank you for the engaging conversation! If you have any more questions or need further insights in the future, I'll be here, ready to assist. Take care!

Grok is freely accessible on X.com. And currently you can ask it an unlimited number of questions.

What, Precisely, is Horary?

Horary astrology is a branch of astrology that deals with answering specific questions by analysing a horoscope cast for the moment the question is asked. Here's a breakdown of how it works.

Question-Based: Unlike natal astrology, which focuses on a person's birth chart, horary astrology deals with specific questions. The astrologer casts a chart for the exact time and location where the question is asked or for the moment it is properly understood by the astrologer. This may require the querent (the person asking the question) to rethink or rephrase what they wish to know.

Chart Interpretation: The astrologer then interprets this chart to provide answers. Key factors include the positions of planets at that moment, their aspects (angles they make with each other), their placement in the houses of the chart: each of the 12 houses in the horoscope represents different areas of life (e.g. the 2nd represents income and assets). The house where the question is 'signified' (e.g., the 7th house for questions about partnerships) becomes particularly important. Significators are specific planets or points in the chart that are chosen to represent the theme of the question or the querent. The Moon often co-represents the querent (and/or the subject of the question) in horary charts.

Timing and Techniques: The time when the question is asked is crucial because it's believed that the heavens at that moment reflect the situation or outcome of the query.

Traditional Techniques: Horary uses many traditional astrological techniques, including considerations before judgment (rules to ensure the question is well-timed and sincere), planetary dignity and aspects. The seven traditional planets (Sun to Saturn) are crucial, but some modern practitioners also recognise that the outer planets (Uranus, Neptune and Pluto) can play a secondary role.

Outcome and Interpretation: The astrologer looks for signs of success or failure, timing of events, and sometimes even the nature of the outcome through the interactions of planets and houses.

Ethical Considerations: Horary astrologers often emphasise the importance of the question being asked in earnest and not too frequently about the same matter to avoid trivialising the practice. The querent must be personally invested in the question. A chart whose Ascendant is in a very late degree of a sign may suggest that the question cannot be answered for a variety of reasons.

Horary astrology has roots in ancient practices but was extensively codified in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, particularly by figures like William Lilly whose book *Christian Astrology* remains a seminal text.

The 10 Leading Horary Astrology Schools

Listed in no order of priority. There are many other good schools to check out. Horary seeks to answer specific questions by drawing up a chart for the moment a question is asked or clarified. Most usually, schools use traditional approaches inspired by William Lilly.

School of Traditional Astrology
Principal: Deborah Houlding
- https://sta.co/horary

London School of Astrology: The Horary Astrology Course
Principal: Frank C. Clifford
- https://www.londonschoolofastrology.com/courses/horary

Renaissance Astrology
Principal: Christopher Warnock
- https://www.renaissanceastrology.com

The Astrology School
Associated with Chris Brennan
- https://courses.theastrologyschool.com

Nightlight Astrology School
Principal: Adam Elenbaas
- https://nightlightastrology.com

AstroArt School of Astrology
Principal: Öner Döşer
- https://www.onerdoser.com

R Hakan Kırkoğlu
Use Google to translate into English
- https://www.hakankirkoglu.com/c/haber.asp?id=144

Sue Ward's Traditional Astrology
- https://sue-ward.co.uk

John Frawley
- https://www.johnfrawley.com

Qualifying Horary Practitioner (QHP)
Principal: Barbara Dunn
- https://qhpastrology.co.uk

ASTRO-X-RAY

Joyce Westwood

An astrologer for over 40 years, Joyce Westwood studied with the Faculty of Astrological Studies and gained the Certificate in 1982 which bears the signatures of three greats – Charles Harvey, Martin Freeman and Al Gordon. After that she became a healer, then an artist with astrology unforgotten and under-used. In 2008 after a mystery virus courtesy of Neptune, her husband bought her Solar Fire 7 and since then she has been working with and helping difficult family members, friends and clients in a person-centred psychological and psychodynamic way. She is undertaking research into OOB planets and number sequencing. And she contributes essays to *The Astrological Journal*.

Q: When did you first realise that astrology had completely taken possession of you – if indeed it has?

JW: This was when I lived in London in 1979. Jupiter was crossing my Ascendant at the midpoint of my Saturn/Pluto conjunction; transiting Pluto was trine my NN; Uranus was quincunx NN; transiting Chiron was square Pluto exactly, when I began the study of it. It was a big recovery job. I'd been interested in astrology since my mid-teens, reading publications like *Prediction*.

Q: Where do you live and work? Which country? Briefly describe your office and the view from the principal window, if any.

JW: This is Fakenham, Norfolk, UK, an old market town. My studio office was once an outside toilet and utility room. The view east from the window behind me looks down the fruit and vegetable garden to an enormous 'picturesque' fence obscuring Aldi.

Q: Name one feature of your birth chart that stands out as a major trait – and is known to loved ones, less so to acquaintances.

JW: No doubt it's that Mars conjunct Jupiter trine Uranus. Bit over the top but amiable. Unfortunately for those who don't know me that well, they get the dour face of 12th-house Saturn. Actually, these days, I think anyone I meet is wise to both extremes (I can do both faces at the same time) and then there's no reason for them to get either bombarded or put off.

Q: How did you learn the astro art/trade? Who/what inspired your interest?

JW: I began in the formal way on the correspondence Certificate course with the Faculty of Astrological Studies. This was in the late 1970s and early '80s when emailing didn't exist. The only textbook used for this course was Margaret Hone's *The Modern Text-Book of Astrology*. I don't know if it still is, but I thought it comprehensive. My tutor was very understanding, patient and very knowledgeable. That I think it was solely due to her, that I managed to scrape through the Certificate exam.

Then, 'honing' in on my chart, family and friends, reading books, subscribing to Astrological Association publications and attending lectures when based in London. A strongly placed Saturn means there has been improvement in how I work over the years and a zingy 11th-house Uranus square Mercury ensures I will always want to have my finger on the button. The point is, as astrologers, we hopefully never stop learning about our subject and about ourselves.

The Astrological Association inspired me. It goes from strength to strength. There have been and continue to be astrologers who inspire me. In the early days, it was Charles Harvey, Stephen Arroyo and Alan Oken, and a woman called Sheila who ran an Adult Ed class in Battersea for a few weeks on understanding our planetary aspects through inner visualisation, opening up lines of communication between planets in tension, e.g., squaring differences. Her method I still employ today when clients are stuck.

Looking at and working with charts never ceases to inspire me – the beauty, the intrigue, the magnificence, the wonder is just the tops.

Q: You are a consultant astrologer. Do you specialise and do you have preferred techniques?

JW: Yes. I talk to clients on the phone initially to get their 'angle'. What they then get is a written document sent by email. Good thing way back, I learnt to type on a Business Studies course. The typing and shorthand tutor was Miss Page.

We can only work in the way we are especially designed for. My opinion is that information written is better absorbed and has longevity rather than recording or Zooming. When I write, my brain fires up. My angle is psychological chat. I use various in-built, head-set chart delineation techniques, plus Draconic, Harmonic and Solar Arc for further effect. I also use my own brand of horary. Converse transits, some asteroids and fixed stars are good back-ups. Consultation time, the time the chart is sent, and relevant events are extremely useful. You can't beat common or garden, no-frills transits.

In the last few years, I have done some writing of articles for *The Astrological Journal* which has been an enjoyable experience. I like the one-to-one informality of the submission process rather than the rigid, impersonality of form-filling.

Q: If a client asks you to forecast their death time what is your response?

JW: Shock. A known death time is revealing, however. For instance, the death chart of a relative who died in the First World War in Belgium shows co-rulers Mars and Pluto in the 9th house (in his 8th) exactly conjunct within four minutes. Ruler of the 9th, Moon at the anaretic degree of Aquarius conjunct Uranus was trine Mars/Pluto. The Sun

conjunct MC, Saturn and Neptune, also in the 9th, were on his natal Moon. How's that for a formidable picture!

Q: If you were Commander-in-Chief of astrology, what would be your first decree?

JW: Hang 'em! No seriously, I could never envisage myself in that position and don't think a role such as this would serve astrology to its best, as astrologers tend to work independently. But if you really want a sensible answer, I'd say education, education, education… promoted through independent astrological teaching schools and running regular conferences. It's the best way to keep astrology alive. A code of ethics is a good thing, too.

Q: Which astrological software program do you use? Ever hand-draw charts?

JW: Solar Fire 9 is my wizard – love it! Present from my husband after a Neptune transit to my Sun in 2009. Nevertheless, I refer to *Michelsen's American Ephemeris for Midnight* constantly. To my mind it is the quickest way to plot longer transits. My answer to your second question is, not if I can help it! Of course, in the early days, there was no other option but to hand-draw.

Q: Is astrology your main or only business? Or do you have a 'day job' too? How realistic is it to think astrology can pay all the bills?

JW: I would say so but at the same time, I am to be found in the kitchen quite a lot and from early spring down the garden. Yet without astrology, I would be lost. You see, in my late 70s, I'm getting on a bit and don't have to work but choose to. As long as clients keep coming, I will continue to work – so long as the brain functions.

Q: Have you ever seen a ghost? If so, please tell all.

JW: In France a long time ago, at a pension up in the mountains, I arrived with my man. We were given a basement boxroom with a single bed in it, not usually given over to visitors. During the night he felt a massive weight pressing down on his chest. He was finding it hard to breathe and couldn't move. It was scary. We definitely felt something coldly oppressive in the room. The next night, something similar happened but much less so. We were glad to leave that morning.

Q: And finally, Joyce, would you say you are powerful?

JW: Whenever I read this last question in the *Journal*, a half-smile creeps over my face – everyone skirts skilfully round being labelled an egotist! I think this is a trick question, Victor. When I work with clients, I tap into the depth-charges of planetary aspects. Astrology is powerful enough to help us understand our pain and face the challenge of change.

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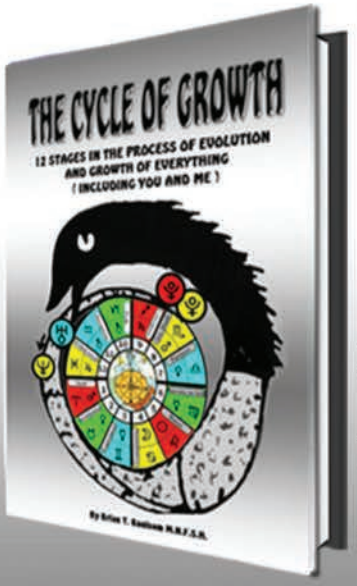

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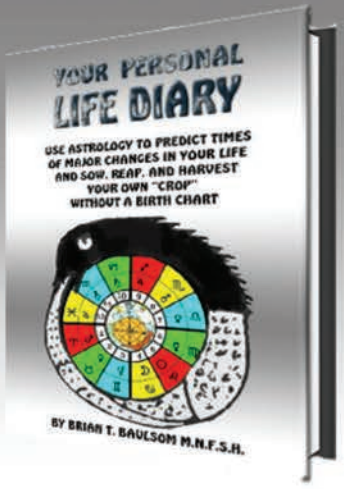

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Biography: Chris Mitchell has a PhD from the University of Leicester on the topic of medieval astrology and an MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology from Bath Spa University College. He is a tutor on that MA course, now hosted at the University of Wales, and holds a diploma in Medieval Astrology from Astrologos. He is the author of "England's First Astrology Book", and is on the boards of the Astrological Association and the Association of Professional Astrologers International (APAI).

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Biography: Jennie Thomas is a UK-based Astrologer and Tarot Reader. Her writing has featured in publications such as The Astrological Journal, The Evolving Astrologer, and on the Astrodienst website. She is currently undertaking the Cultural Astronomy and Astrology MA at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

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Biography: Bernard Eccles has been writing, teaching and lecturing about astrology for over forty years. He was President of the Astrological Lodge of London twice in the 1980s, won the Astrological Association & Charles Harvey award in 2011, and is a regular guest lecturer at the Faculty of Astrological Studies Summer School at Oxford. His magazine horoscope columns appear in eight different languages around the world.

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Biography: Christopher Warnock has been a traditional astrologer and Renaissance astrological magician since 1998. With John Michael Greer, Mr Warnock translated the Latin Picatrix, the most important grimoire of traditional astrological magic and has written and published many books on astrological magic and traditional astrology.

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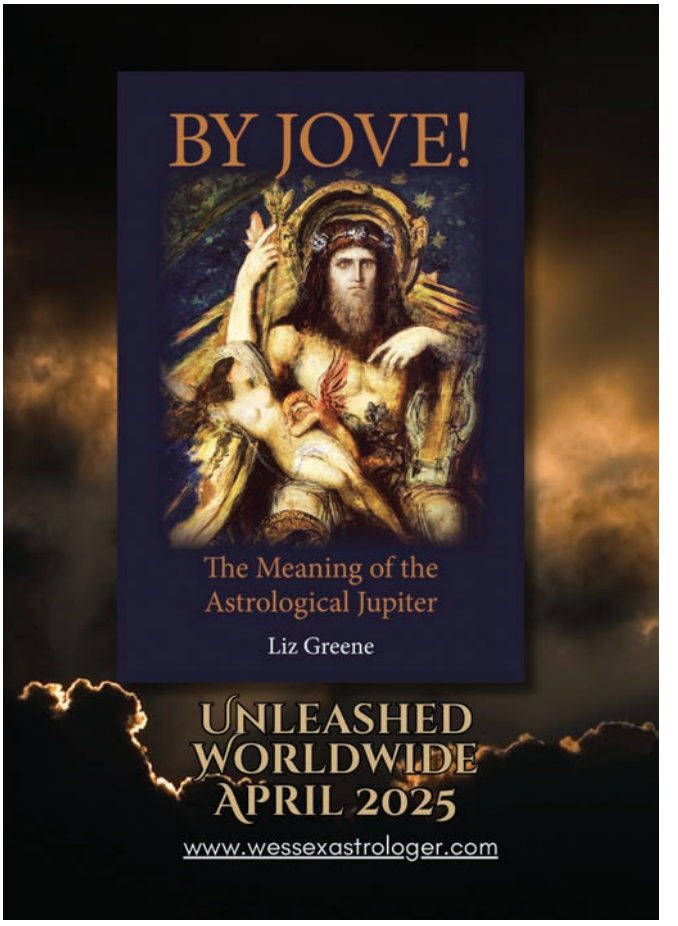

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