



Exploring *Dream Imagery* through **Planetary Transits**

By MichelAngelo

INTRODUCTION

“Dreaming is essential to our well-being and may indeed contain a message of reconciliation that can be explored and developed towards better understanding of our whole lives. We must feel our dreams as well as attempt to intellectualize them.”¹

My approach to astrology has, over time, veered away from psychological considerations and interpretation, and, arising from its medical focus, into more traditional, and simultaneously, rather more esoteric, avenues (Saturn in the ninth; Uranus in the sixth, trine the Midheaven). It was, however, my earlier immersion in intense Jungian dreamwork and analysis that proved to be a potent catalyst for my emergent fascination with astrology. Several of the dreams that I recorded and discussed with my therapist are indelibly etched upon my memory, possessing qualities that I can only describe as numinous. One, in particular, sounded a peremptory clarion call, summoning me to take up the reins of this new vocation while apparently funneling vast amounts of astrological knowledge into me from somewhere beyond this terrestrial sphere of existence.

It was only following the conclusion of this weekly voyaging on the inner planes that I became aware of the possibilities of yoking Jungian style dreamwork to esoteric technologies—first Tarot, and then astrology. This is a particularly apt expression of my natal Chiron in the twelfth house, in opposition to Uranus in the sixth: employing astrology in the service of dream interpretation. In the intervening years, although my own inner wellspring of dreams has become less fecund and vivid, I make it a practice to capture and transcribe, to the best of my ability, the content of mem-

orable dreams when they arrive and try to fix the moment of that vital communication from the archetypal realm to subject it to amplification and analysis.

The intersection of imagery from the deep psyche and the cosmic background of planetary and zodiacal archetypes, as revealed in the horoscope for the moment of the dream, never ceases to be a source of interest.

My partner, C, had a compelling, if short, dream the other day, and, as is my wont, I made a cursory examination of the chart of the moment; this first glance revealed the dream imagery to be remarkably in alignment with the transiting planetary configurations.

THE DREAM

We both happened to wake simultaneously around 8 o'clock that morning, March 2, 2017 (which is unusual for me, as I tend to retire quite late here in New York), and she related the following simple account:

“I dreamt that my right breast (which has been feeling a little strange for a couple of days) seemed full of fluid, whereupon it leaked a large puddle of black bile (like ink) onto the floor.”

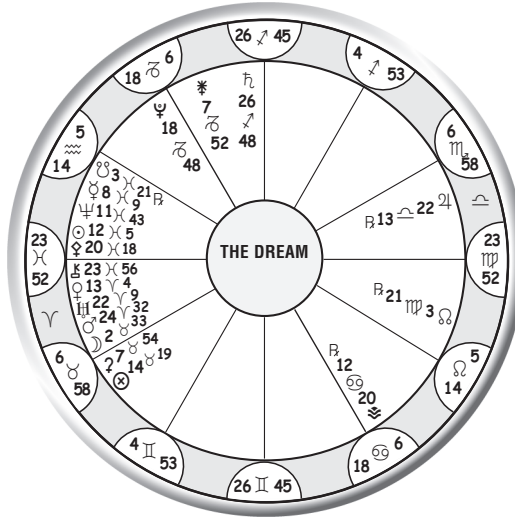
The imagery of “black bile,” which is one of four bodily secretions originally identified by Hippocrates, the father of Western medicine, as part of his system of humoral physiology, heralds this dream as being of more than ordinary significance. Prior to the emergence of the scientific paradigm in the late Renaissance, and the evolution of medicine toward its contemporary allopathic focus—Western medicine, astrologically based, also sought, in the balance of these vital substances, a portrait of health vs. illness like Oriental medicine—with its considerations of Qi, blood, and fluids. The four humors posited by Hippocrates and his successors were blood, yellow bile, black bile, and phlegm, which corresponded with the four elements of Western esoteric philosophy—air, fire, earth, and water—and likewise four humoral categories, in that order, sanguine, choleric, melancholic, and phlegmatic. Subsequent to these formulations, the four humors were linked astrologically with four relevant planets—Jupiter, Mars, Saturn, and Venus, respectively. The Moon, as the planet with the most demonstrable influence over human physiology, due to its impact on the tides, and its noteworthy synchronization with the menstrual cycle, was believed to have governance over all the humors.

The striking thing about the dream imagery is that black bile, associated with the melancholic humor, is arguably a bodily secretion that is purely hypothetical in nature—it has been suggested by certain commentators that it was never actually isolated by those early physicians,² but that they were extrapolating the fact of its existence from a consideration of the elemental nature of Earth, as it related to Saturn. Thus, the peculiar phenomenon of a profusion of it leaking forth from her breast strongly suggests that this dream is proffering a message of psycho-spiritual import, not anything specifically related to C's health.

Of the four humoral states, melancholy has historically been considered the least desirable, and its introspective and contemplative expression is decidedly at variance with the excessively Yang nature of our society in the early 21st century—driven increasingly by the inhuman demands of our inveterate interface with communications technology as part of our compulsion to receive increasingly insupportable amounts of information. Of the four elements, earth and water, the yins, are the slowest and least active. Earth is, naturally, the densest of the four, and the element that unpleas-

Saturn at the MC

1. As we might expect, Saturn, the planet that directly relates to melancholy, is situated at the MC, signifying the eruption of its archetypal matrix into consciousness, transmitted by the dream's imagery of black bile (and ink);
2. Chiron, the signifier of unique gifts, is athwart the ASC, widely conjunct Venus, and squaring Saturn;
3. Jupiter is inconjunct Chiron, the handle of a bucket chart; it has dominion over the Sagittarius MC



Profile of Melancholy/Promise of Success

1. Saturn, peregrine in Sagittarius, indicating creative frustration, trines the Moon in Taurus, which is conjunct the fixed star Mira in the constellation Cetus, the Whale;
2. Given this high-profile Saturn transit in synch with the Moon, Mira is believed to herald the arrival of melancholy, an inner state of contemplative receptivity;
3. A happy outcome to the creative work is suggested by Mercury's conjunction to the benefic fixed star Skat in Aquarius; Mercury rules the third house of communication and is in a quintile aspect with the MC

antly reminds us of our own mortality—earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. I am also struck, at this point, by the fact that this was a dream of Earth symbolism, and C has no earth in her natal chart, save her Capricorn Ascendant. She has worked very assiduously at being grounded throughout her adult life. It certainly seems as if there is some compensatory mechanism at work in the dream symbolism, and with that, let us consider the dream chart (shown above).

CONSIDERATIONS OF TIMING

The precise timing of a dream can be notoriously difficult to pin down, unless one wakes, immediately makes a note of the hour, and then chronicles at least some of the details prior to going back to sleep. I asked C if she had experienced it immediately prior to waking, and she said that she didn't think so—that she had lain there for a while, pondering the unusual symbolism, and then drifted off. Accordingly, by various means, including the use of a pendulum, I have determined that the appropriate time should be 7:00 A.M.

As we are practicing a form of divination here, I am of the considered opinion that pinpointing the exact chronological time is not of paramount importance, but, rather, whether the chart demonstrates its radicality, i.e., does it illustrate the individual and synchronous quality of the moment—in this instance, the eruption of the memorable symbolism into C's dream? I feel that there exists an essential core of truth to be gleaned from engagement with the planetary archetypes in this way. Geoffrey Cornelius has discussed the paradox of the “wrong” chart providing salient and valuable information to the astrologer in *The Moment of Astrology*:

“The entirely ‘wrong’ horoscope produced by misinformation or gross error not infrequently...works just as if it is a ‘right’ horoscope.”³

Such a contentious notion is no doubt supported by Richard Tarnas' characterization of astrological archetypes as being multivalent,⁴ in that different combinations of structural components can be interpreted as being somewhat equivalent. Even if the timing of this event should be “off” by 15 minutes or so, the essential quality of the chart, the planetary interrelationships and zodiacal placements, will not change. The most important thing for me is that the chart “feels” right, and the synchronous nature of the symbolism that is associated with it will, as we shall see, reinforce that intuitive choice.

Given the markedly Saturnian thrust (black bile, and blackness, in general) of the dream imagery, one would expect to see Saturn highlighted in some significant fashion, which is indeed the case. The chart for 7:00 A.M. puts Saturn right on the MC, within 3' of it, at 26°45' Sagittarius, and it is conjunct the Galactic Center. Equally compelling is the almost exact conjunction of Chiron, at 23° 56' Pisces, with the ASC (4' of arc), and squaring Saturn. The chart pattern is a bucket, with Jupiter retrograde at 22°13' Libra as handle, a singleton, save for Vesta, in the western hemisphere.

Liz Green has characterized Saturn and Chiron as the “twin defenses” of the personality,⁵ and their prominence does seem to suggest that the dream has constellated some essential crisis, perhaps relating to self-confidence (Jupiter). Whether, or not, the two are tightly conjunct the angles as the divined time would suggest, they are, nevertheless, squaring each other. Both further aspect Mars and Uranus, and each makes supplementary contact with Jupiter—Chiron by quincunx, and Saturn by sextile.

The vivid picture of black bile draining from the breast seems to relate to Chiron's placement in Pisces, and we might construe this as a “siphoning off” of vital force. In this instance, I believe it relates to the need for melancholic inertia and stillness as the necessary precursor to some sort of creative endeavor. All creative efforts must, in some way, arise from the void of non-activity, potentiality, of receptivity, listening to the “still, small voice” from within. This attunement to the inner promptings of the Muse is short-circuited by relentlessly outer-driven striving, including manifesting the necessary support for one's efforts from a financial perspective (Saturn in the tenth).

The analogy between the flood of black bile and black ink brings us further to a consideration of Jupiter as the “handle” swinging this “bucket,” and it is here, I believe, that the true import of the dream symbolism lies. Jupiter is the planet that is associated with the liver, and this underscores the presence of black bile in the dream. However, C and I are currently writing a book (“black ink”) on vibrational medicine in combination with acupuncture, the deadline for which is not too far off. Jupiter is the planet of publishing, and it is the nominative ruler of the MC, which is the point toward

which the energies of the chart are directed, as well as the traditional ruler of the Pisces Ascendant, the vehicle through which the teleological intent of the dream is to be accomplished.

Furthermore, the participation of C's right breast in the dream brings us to the significance of the Moon, which has dominion over the breasts, due to its rulership of Cancer; we seem to have a conflation of Moon/Saturn symbolism. More significantly, the Moon as a vocational planet, like Jupiter, through its association with the Sagittarian ninth house, also relates to writing. Therefore, in keeping with the idea of the leaching of some creative essence, I think that the larger message is one of temporary frustration, not because of anything like writer's block, but rather that the manifold distractions of real life are hindering (Saturn) the free flow of inspiration (Moon, through its governance over fluids).

In keeping with the overall theme of the dream as relating to melancholy, there is quite a remarkable synchronicity involving the Moon, which is conjunct the fixed star Mira in the constellation of Cetus, the Whale or Sea Monster:

"This star, in unhelpful connections, will bring as results failures...especially with Saturn transits; and, when linked with the Moon, melancholy will then appear."⁶

This rather succinctly sums up the current conflict; in the chart of the dream, Saturn, peregrine, in Sagittarius (also indicative of potential creative frustration), squares the Ascendant, the vehicle for manifestation of the desired goal. It is likewise widely trine the Moon, which is in its exaltation, so the implication is that the melancholy, which has resulted from the inability to pursue the creative urge, will be of short duration, but ultimately fruitful in fostering reflection and the ability to heed the arrival of inspiration. We could argue that the Whale is in fact the embodiment of the creative impulse, buried deep in the subconscious, which needs to be brought into the light—the book that must be birthed.

The recurrence of key archetypal motifs in these configurations highlights the considerable import of this dream for the conscious mind, which is undoubtedly why it made its way, like Cetus—surfacing, from the dark Neptunian waters of the dream state, into the light of day. The challenge of writing a new book is formidable, and one can be easily sidetracked by the myriad distractions of everyday life—the demands of promulgating a successful career, the necessity for interaction with one's partner, etc.

Countering this encapsulation of current frustrations, Mercury, the planet of communication, is conjunct the fixed star Skat in Pisces, which is most auspicious: it is believed to bring "good fortune and lasting happiness,"⁷ and with Mercury, "peculiar events, occult interests, psychic."⁸ In tandem with Mercury's placement in Pisces, conjunct Neptune, this suggests that the work of writing will be informed by intuitive insight and that with diligence (elevated Saturn) it will assume the form required.

Mercury is also in a highly creative quintile (72-degree aspect) with the Saturn/MC midpoint; this fifth-harmonic aspect may be considered to relate to the archetype of Venus, because of Venus' fivefold interplay with Earth as they orbit the Sun.⁹ It is a signature for innate talents that require expression in some vital way; independent, original, thinking; and a capacity to cope with the chaos that is attendant upon the cultivation of new ideas. We should note, however, that, per Ebertin, this combination, Mercury = Saturn/MC, reinforces the basic psychospiritual profile of the chart, "indulging melancholy thoughts, concentrating on oneself, an inclination to meditate

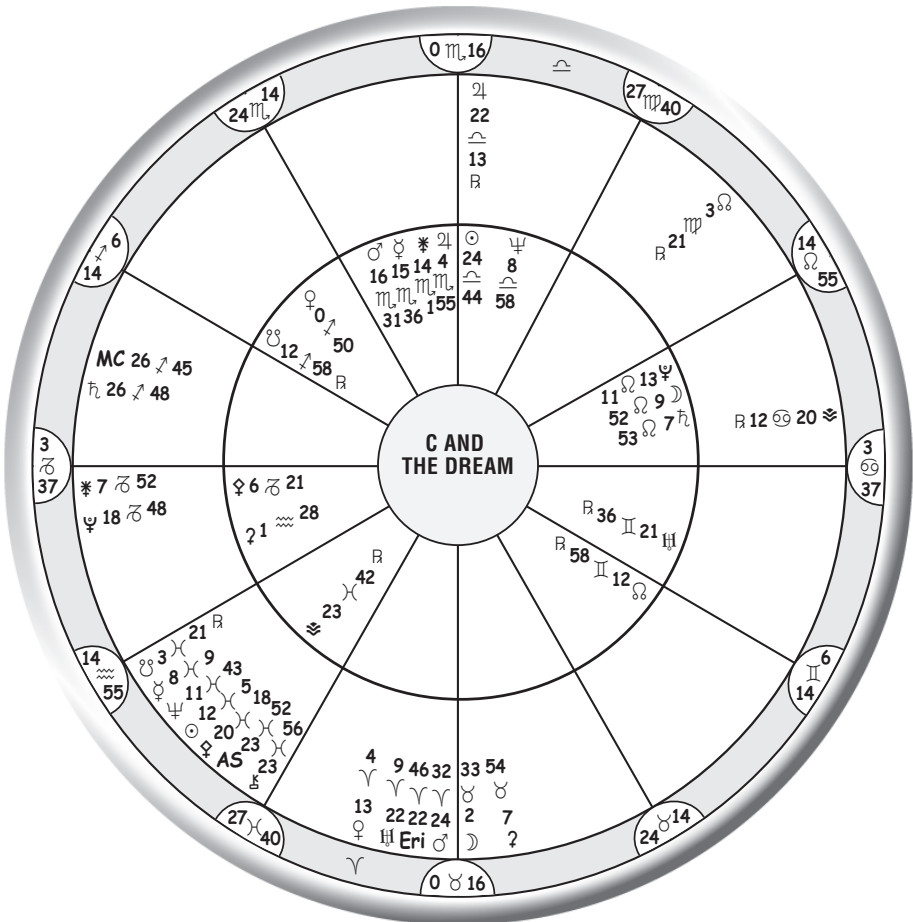
or brood,”¹⁰ this state of comparative quietus and lack of movement is a necessary adjunct to the creative outpouring signified by the quintile.

The Sabian symbol¹¹ for the ASC degree, 23° Pisces, also ties in nicely with these themes:

“A spiritual medium giving a séance,” or, alternatively, “A huge hulk of a woman medium has gone into trance; around her are entities continually forming and dissolving.”

Keywords: Spiritual channeling. A need to free up “stuck” or earthbound entities, efforts to materialize things, coming straight out with things. Giving voice to spirit... clairvoyance and clairsentience. Things seen ahead of their time, bringing messages from the other side.

The Sabian symbol for the MC, 27° Sagittarius, is equally pertinent: “The sculptor’s vision is slowly but surely taking form.”



Keywords: Shows being able to project one's visions, thoughts, or ideals out into the world so that they take form and come into conscious manifestation. Slow, painstaking work will bring rewards as things come to fruition. Ability to project shape and form onto materials to have a desired outcome. Follow your "vision," be creative; picture an outcome and watch it materialize! Concrete creative manifestation.

THE DREAM MOMENT AS AN EXPRESSION OF ONGOING PLANETARY MOTION

As we have seen above, the chart of the dream moment is extraordinarily resonant in its underscoring of the singular symbolism offered for consideration to the conscious mind—and the astrologer, as the interpreter of that seemingly cryptic archetypal communication. The next question we might pose is: In what way do the transits of this visit from Morpheus relate to the continuing spiritual pilgrimage of the dreamer?

The bi-wheel shows C's natal chart¹² on the inner wheel and the dream horoscope on the outer.

1. There is quite a remarkable lineup of planets in Pisces and Aries on this morning: with Chiron, three planets in Pisces, and with Eris, four planets in Aries. The nodal axis is also Virgo/Pisces. These seven planets, plus the ASC of the dream chart, are activating the two throat chakra houses of C's chart, the second and third, energizing those departments of her life for the task of bringing forth a new book;

2. The two natural rulers of the second and third houses, Venus and Mercury, are found in the third and second houses, respectively; there is a tremendous emphasis on communication and artistic expression;

3. The exalted Moon, just into Taurus, which also relates, as we have seen, to writing as vocation, has transited the IC of her chart; hence, it is the foundation of the moment; it will oppose her Jupiter later this day, and this Moon/Jupiter signature forms a T-square with her natal Moon/Saturn, which are, of course, the two archetypes signified by the dream imagery;

4. Mercury, the psychopomp, at 8° Pisces, who has ushered the dreamer into the realm of Morpheus, is closely inconjunct the natal Moon/Saturn midpoint; thus, it is the conduit for this subliminal infusion of natal chart archetypes into a potent tableau within the dream. Ebertin associates this midpoint picture with "uncommunicativeness, feelings of inferiority...melancholy, anxiety, lack of self-confidence."¹³ The quincunx, a 150-degree angle, is an aspect that signals the necessity for an accommodation with contradictory impulses or energies, and encapsulates the conflict within the psyche, which is then translated into the dream content.

"(The quincunx aspect establishes a dynamic) in which the energies of the...planets involved are perceived as very separate and the divergent needs cannot be satisfied concurrently. Adjustments that can be energy-draining are felt to be necessary and accepted as a fact of life. From the outside looking in, we might be puzzled as to why the person cannot fulfill the needs simultaneously."¹⁴

Although the image presented to the dreamer would appear simply to recapitulate

the essence of this impasse, the symbol also presents the possibility of a creative integration of the conflicting elements, and a course of action that allows for both motivations to be fulfilled. We must also not overlook the fact that transiting Mercury, in the second house, echoes the Moon's recent entry into Taurus, and the source of the struggle, the temporary writer's block, is clearly indicated by these placements and aspect relationships;

5. Jupiter is the most elevated planet in the combined map; it had been transiting C's ninth house of publication for some time, had approached closely to the Sun, and would go in to transit it, and the MC. The entry of Jupiter into the tenth, vocational house, in late October 2018, would signify the culmination of a Jupiter Return, a blessing 12 years in the making, and an entirely appropriate time for this kind of endeavor, which relates to the expansion of her career influence;

6. Finally, Saturn, the signifier of black bile and the melancholia highlighted in the dream, is finishing up a transit of the twelfth house, which relates to the subconscious mind, and will cross the ASC in due course; this is approximately the time frame for the completion of the book currently in progress. While this impending transit will constellate certain challenges for the dreamer, in that it impinges upon the house of the Self and the pre-existing identity expressed by the ASC as the interface with the world, Saturn's hindrances also present the opportunity for an imaginative restructuring of the life, and the possibility of even greater achievement.

CONCLUSION

"Dreaming as a phenomenon is possibly the most fascinating aspect of psychic life that we experience. Even those who claim to dream rarely, will, at some time, dream a dream that has an impact on their lives."¹⁵

Dreams are mysterious things...for many of us, they are but an inkling of realities beyond our ken, providing a glimpse into a hidden realm of enchantment—in a world that seems ever-increasingly bereft of magic. The same sense of wonderment is invoked, at least for me, by witnessing the splendor of the starry skies, the timeless infinity of the empyrean, the ancestral abode of divinity.

In the blink of the eye, an *Augenblick*, during which this dream emerged from the innermost reaches of the subconscious mind, these two worlds intersected, in a superabundant synergy of individual symbolic import and astrological meaning. The *Wunderkammer*, cabinet of wonders, of the archetypes of human experience and wisdom, was opened by the dreamer so that she might gaze within, upon a single pregnant image. Simultaneously, a hologram of the great Wheel of Time, seemingly arrested in its perpetual traces, was superimposed upon that fleeting vision captured by the inner eye.

Astrology has provided us with a rhetoric whereby we might integrate these two distinctive communications, originating from macrocosm and microcosm, unlocking the message encoded therein, providing the dreamer with insights heretofore unavailable to her conscious mind. Her journey of self-discovery and spiritual evolution will continue, fortified by this contact with the transcendent archetypes of cosmos and psyche. As we began this exploration with a consideration of Saturnian melancholy, and the indelible image of a cascade of black bile, let us permit Saturn to have the last word:

"Saturn...resonates to the wisdom of the ages, to personal maturity and authority over life, to survival, understanding, and acceptance of death, pain, and rebirth as a

natural cycle in nature...It is with Saturn in the dream world that we can access a sense of deep, abiding harmony and self-worth, of accord and absolution.”¹⁶



An opera singer, classical composer, pianist, astrologer, healer, diviner, and writer, MichelAngelo served as Advisor, Astrological Medicine & Musical Studies to Acutonics® Institute of Integral Medicine, LLC, for whom he co-authored the book *From Galaxies to Cells: Planetary Science, Harmony and Medicine*. He has written several articles on medical astrology for *Oriental Medicine Journal*, and has previously published an article on tenor astro-twins in *Dell HOROSCOPE*. He has created a 3-part certification series in which he synergizes Western medical astrology with Oriental medicine theory and practice, introducing a variety of vibrational methods of remediation to address constitutional disharmony. He is currently compiling a book of astrological essays for publication, and will appear as a presenter at the 30th Institute of Vedic Culture astrology conference in Kolkata, INDIA in 2020. To contact: planetaryvibrationalmedicine@gmail.com or www.michelangelo-medicalastrology.us.

Footnotes:

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4. Tarnas, Richard. *Cosmos and Psyche: Intimations of a New World View*. New York, NY: Viking Penguin, 2006, p. 87.
5. Green, Liz. *Barriers and Boundaries: The Horoscope and the Defense of the Personality*. CPA Books (Kindle edition), 2014.
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11. Lynda Hill’s Sabian symbols found at <https://sabiansymbols.com/symbol-lookup/>; accessed 3/4/17.
12. Data is Rodden A rating; details withheld at the request of the native.
13. Ebertin, op. cit., p. 102.
14. <https://cafeastrology.com/articles/inconjunctaspects.html>; accessed 5/13/18. (my emendations)
15. Reid, Linda, op. cit., p. 1.
16. Reid, Linda, op. cit., p. 72.