

A Case of Temporary Blindness and an Opening of the Ajna Chakra

The Astrological "Anatomy" of a Healing Crisis

INTRODUCTION

"There are many degrees of sight and many degrees of blindness. What senses do we lack that we cannot see another world all around us?" — Frank Herbert¹

I received my vocation as a medical astrologer early on in that wondrous period – after my second Upper Saturn square, in my mid-30's – of awakening, after an early life of profound spiritual disconnection and silent suffering, to my own potential as a healer. I began, for the first time, to reconnect with those intuitive and other abilities which had been so suppressed by my upbringing and presumably, past karma, that I had virtually no previous cognizance of their existence. Unfortunately, I have no precise record of the timing, during a concurrent period of Jungian analysis, of the fleeting, but extraordinary, dream in which I was vouchsafed with an impression of astrological knowledge figuratively being "beamed into" me from beyond this sphere, and prior to emerging once again into consciousness, heard the single word, "Pleroma." It was only later that, after my initial befuddlement, that I discovered that this Greek Gnostic word – meaning, according to my therapist, "the fullness" – had been reconfigured by American transpersonal astrologer Dane Rudhyar to refer to the World consciousness, a spiritual Communion². More significantly, having announced its presence to me in this dramatic fashion, I was given to understand, per Rudhyar, that, the Pleroma would shepherd me during my progress upon this new career trajectory³ – such guidance being contingent upon the fact that I was aligning myself, in a conscious manner, with my true life's purpose.

I had already begun tentatively investing in medical astrology books, and it was not long afterwards that I became convinced that this arcane branch of the astrological art should be my focus. I eventually acquired a voluminous library on the subject. However, since 2003, I have also been unmistakably guided to a unique synthesis, of "standard" astrological consultation, involving an application of Western and Oriental medical theory and symbolism in interpretation, with vibrational remediation by means of planetary tuning forks and other remedies, including gem elixirs.

As an outgrowth of my earlier fascination with Tarot divination, I am likewise keenly attuned to the astrological significance of the timing of certain seemingly random or arbitrary events, and I ascribe to a divinatory paradigm of astrology, as was espoused by UK astrologer Geoffrey Cornelius in his ground-breaking book, *The Moment of Astrology*⁴. As part of my other activities as a co-instructor of international seminars in facial acupuncture and related modalities with my partner, C, who is a leading exponent worldwide, I am invariably involved in clinical situations where participants undergo significant, and often life-changing, energetic shifts. While Western astrological medicine is not ostensibly a part of the Oriental medicine based curriculum of these courses, with the consent of my partner, I often approach the individuals in question and ask if I might explore the cosmic background of these evolutionary developments as they occur. What I unearth is at times wondrously synchronous, with a wealth of relevant symbolic import that can be highly meaningful for the person.

A Healing Crisis and its Treatment

It was in such a clinical situation in a recent seminar that something astonishing transpired; a colleague, with whom we have more than a casual acquaintance, as she has participated in several of our events, was receiving a facial acupuncture treatment. My partner's approach to the facial landscape involves insertion of needles into acupuncture points that stimulate more optimum functioning of the facial muscles, to ameliorate the visible signs of aging (lines, sagging, etc.).

This person, K, has noticeable lines in the glabellar crease, located between the eyebrows; lines that form here are indicative of a disharmony in the Wood element, which relates, in Oriental medicine, to the paired Zang-Fu organs of Liver and Gall Bladder. There are two different manifestations – a single line, which relates to the Liver, referred to in Chinese physiognomy as a "suspended sword", and two parallel lines, designated as the "11's", that indicate a Gall Bladder imbalance. The patient, in this case, had developed the latter lines.

Although the modern practice of Oriental medicine is not explicitly astrological, the ancient Chinese established planetary correspondences for their 5 Element schema of medicine in one of their major treatises, *Nei Jing Suwen, The Yellow Emperor's*

¹ <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/blindness?page=5>; accessed 2/28/17.

² <http://www.khaldea.com/rudhyar/toohuman.shtml>; accessed 3/2/17.

³ I encountered the word and its heightened significance later in a book which I had purchased, but not yet, read, entitled *Astrology and Spiritual Awakening*, by California astrologer, Greg Bogart, a disciple of Rudhyar's; this was a clear case of what Jung would refer to as *cryptamnesia*, as I had no conscious recollection of having seen it previously, and with Mercury in Virgo trine the Moon, I have quite a prodigious memory!

⁴ Cornelius, Geoffrey, *The Moment of Astrology: Origins in Divination*, The Wessex Astrologer, Bournemouth, UK, 2005.

Classic of Internal Medicine, compiled c. 240 BC. They allocated the five astral bodies they recognized⁵ to each of their 5 Elements, as follows:

Wood: Jupiter
Fire: Mars
Earth: Saturn
Metal: Venus
Water: Mercury

Her treatment partner had needled the following indicated facial acu-muscle points⁶ as part of the treatment protocol, which addresses imbalances in the corrugator supercili muscle, responsible for the facial expression of frowning. The habitual contracture of this muscle, over time, produces vertical creases between the eyebrows:

1. Zanzhu : *Gathered Bamboo*
Bl-2: Bladder 2

Location: Superior to the inner canthus of the eye, in a depression on the eyebrow, close to its medial end.

TCM Actions:

- Eliminates wind and clears heat
- Benefits the eyes
- Clears the head and alleviates pain

TCM Indications:

- Pain of the eyebrow region, frontal headache, head wind, wind dizziness, nosebleed, rhinitis, sneezing, pain of the face, red face with cheek pain;
- Blurred vision, dimness of vision, visual dizziness, lacrimation on exposure to wind, night blindness, redness, swelling and pain of the eye, itching of the eyes, infantile epilepsy with upward staring eyes;
- Hemorrhoid pain, manic behavior, loss of consciousness, pain and stiffness of the neck

Neuroanatomy:

- Superficial innervation: Supraorbital nerve, from ophthalmic branch of trigeminal nerve (CN V1)
- Dermatome segment: CN V1 ophthalmic branch of trigeminal

2. Yuyao : *Fish Waist*
M-HN-6 : Extra Head/Neck 6

Location: In the center of the eyebrow, in the depression directly above the pupil when the eyes are looking straight forward. Traditionally located lateral to the supraorbital notch from which the supraorbital nerve emerges.

TCM Actions:

- Benefits the eyes;
- Relaxes the sinews and alleviates pain

TCM Indications:

- Redness, swelling and pain of the eyes, superficial visual obstruction, twitching of the eyelids, drooping of the eyelid, frontal headache. The implication is that, as, in the precepts of Oriental medicine, there is no separation of body and spirit, symptoms could include a psychospiritual blindness.

Neuroanatomy:

⁵ They did not view the Sun and Moon as planets, but rather the supreme archetypes of yang and yin; Sun = Taiyang (Greater Yang) and Moon = Taiying (Greater Yin).

⁶ Point summaries (edited for relevance) located at <http://www.steve-woodley.co.uk>; accessed 2/26/17. Data originally available from Deadman et al (2001): *A Manual of Acupuncture* with additional anatomical information researched by reference to Gray's Anatomy (38th Ed., 1995).

- Superficial innervation: Supraorbital nerve, branch of frontal nerve from ophthalmic branch of trigeminal (CN V1)
- Dermatome Segment: CN V1 ophthalmic branch of trigeminal

We should note that both treatment points, located in proximity to the eyes, are, in fact, significantly utilized in the treatment of eye conditions, and that they provide indirect access to ophthalmic nerves.

The treatment seemed entirely routine, however, when the designated patient, K, opened her eyes afterwards, she found that she could not see; instead her eyes were flooded with a white light. She reported to her colleague this unanticipated, and more than a bit perturbing, development, the intelligence of which was relayed first to my partner, who was supervising the clinical treatments, and then to me. Both of us had the same intuitive response, which was that there had been an opening of the 3rd eye, *ajna* chakra, and that K should not panic. As this treatment was being conducted during a practicum session in which there were at least 35 other participants, our primary concern was that the other practitioners should not become aware of the situation, which was unusual, but not unprecedented in our experience as teachers of transformative seminars. After recommending that K keep her eyes closed for the moment, C then suggested that her practitioner colleague should treat her patient with the following point:

Guangming : Bright Light
GB-37: Gall Bladder 37

Location: on the lateral aspect of the leg, 5 cun (approximately 5") superior to the prominence of the lateral malleolus, at the anterior border of the fibula

TCM Actions:

- Benefits the eyes;
- Dispels wind-damp, activates the channel and alleviates pain

TCM Indications:

- Eye pain, night blindness, itching of the eyes, long sightedness, short sightedness.
- One-sided headache, grinding of the teeth, distension and pain of the breast, febrile disease with absence of sweating, sudden mania.
- Knee pain, pain of the lower legs with inability to stand for long, atrophy disorder of the legs with difficulty in standing after sitting, atrophy disorder and painful obstruction of the lower limb with numbness, numbness of the body, heat and pain of the lower leg.

This point is especially powerful in its effects; “it brings crystal clarity and brightness, washes away the cobwebs, and provides a sudden rush of clarity to the body, mind and spirit – a clear vision of what’s ahead, out of the darkness ... It enables one to see into things, and see the unknown, gaining wisdom.”⁷

Concurrently, as I am aware, through my exposure in recent years, as a lay person, to Oriental medicine theory and practice, that Wood, i.e., the Liver, “opens” to the eyes, I suggested that K might ingest a 5 Element planetary gem elixir, specifically Jupiter, which planet, as we have seen above, relates to the Wood element. Gem elixirs are crystalline decoctions, vibrational healing remedies that contain the “essence” of gems, infused in water. They are analogous to homeopathic remedies and flower essences; however, their provenance is from inorganic material, and therefore, they are more stable than essences derived from organic sources.

More importantly, because the elixirs are distilled from gemstones that have the characteristic color of the relevant element, in this case, green tourmaline, for the green of Wood, they can be considered, by extension, to embody the archetypal nature of the planet in question. I have been using gem elixirs for some time now, and have found them to be extremely efficacious in the alleviation of various health problems; moreover, it is usually the case that there exists demonstrable relevant planetary involvement by transit at the time, the action of which similarly triggers crucial planetary configurations in the natal chart. I routinely recommend that my clients, and the students who participate in my medical astrology classes, avail themselves of these dynamic energetic remedies to address planetary disharmonies, both natal and transitory. My partner and I will often have recourse to them, as was the case here, during our seminars.

⁷ Found in a private clinical reference of my partner’s, observed by 5 Element practitioner and teacher, Neil R. Gumenick, www.5elements.com.

Well, the results on this occasion were dramatic, to say the least ... K reported that, the instant she swallowed the elixir, her vision returned. Even more remarkable, she found that she had no need of her eyeglasses, and this effect persisted for many hours after the conclusion of treatment. She also related that there was an unusual clarity to her vision, that she could “see auras”, and her treatment partner said that she seemed unusually expansive, open and optimistic.

It seems abundantly clear that the original treatment points precipitated a healing crisis, due to a sudden opening of the *ajna* chakra, and the normal vision was temporarily repressed in favor of a heightened intuitive awareness. It is a truism of metaphysical thought that authentic vision and insight is not a function of the physical eyes, which present us with a distorted view of reality due to their binocular perception of the world, and their linkage with the physical brain, which is, as a consequence, mired in duality. According to certain occult traditions,

“All living species – including different races of human – were once less physical, more ethereal, than at present, and possessed but a single eye – the cyclopean eye: the sole organ of physical sight in animals and spiritual sight in humans ... As these early races gradually evolved, their cyclopean eyes became more open, attained more wisdom, and followed the path of light.”⁸

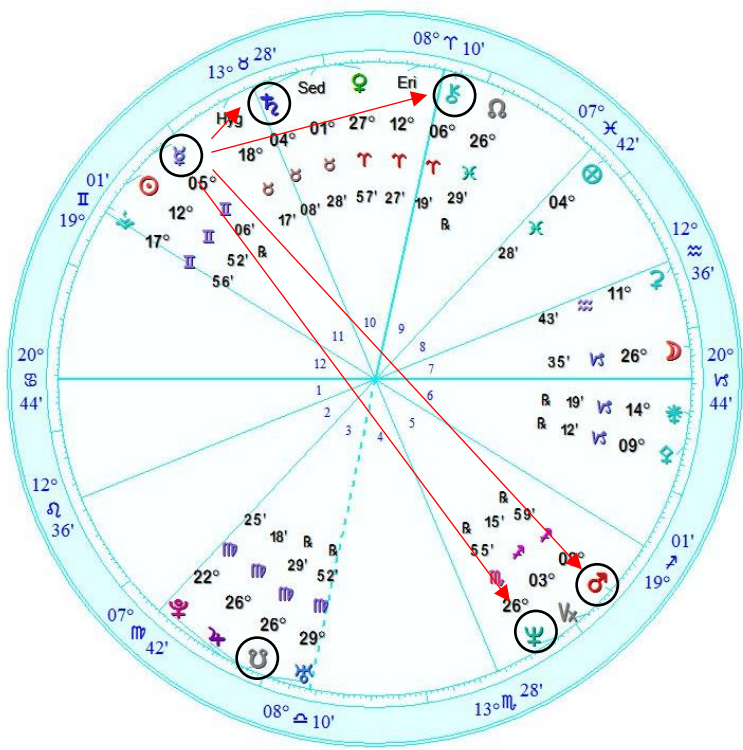
More properly, it is the pineal gland, situated behind the brow, at approximately the location of the acupuncture point Yintang⁹, that is the locus of this spiritual vision, a function of the 3rd eye, brow or *ajna* chakra. The synergistic effect of the combination of the GB-37 treatment point, an empirical point for vision, and the Jupiter gem elixir, in a seemingly miraculous way, restored her vision to normal, while she

simultaneously experienced a profound psychospiritual shift. Albeit temporary in duration in its immediate impact, this occurrence has, nevertheless, precipitated more positive developments in her life in the subsequent months.

As I was already acquainted with K, I did inquire at the time whether I might erect a chart for the moment, and shared some of my immediate impressions of the event. However, it was only following upon more concerted study of her chart and that of the transits at the moment, that I became convinced that this was a truly synchronous occurrence, and resolved to report my findings.

The Astrological Background: Natal Dispositions to “Blindness”

As K had previously sponsored a seminar for us in her home town, during which we had lodged at her home, she and I had briefly discussed her astrological chart, shown at left, albeit not in a formal consultation¹⁰. I was, nevertheless, acquainted with the fact that she has natal Mercury retrograde, a planetary condition which I associate, through experience, with a blockage in the throat chakra. Mercury is likewise considered to influence the entire nervous system, of which the eyes are the most developed and exposed part; an afflicted Mercury is often a signature for myopia¹¹, which also relates to a Wood element imbalance, related to Jupiter. K, as we have noted previously, is usually dependent upon eyeglasses to see clearly.



Weakened throat chakra:

1. Mercury retrograde in Gemini is further debilitated by both major Malefics, Mars and Saturn; it also opposes Neptune, and is sextile Chiron
2. Virgo, ruled by Mercury, on the 3rd house cusp is yet another signifier of this condition; the placement of the enervating South Node here additionally undermines the expression of the chakra

⁸ McGillion, Frank, *Blinded by Starlight: The Pineal Gland and Western Astronomy*, Xlibris Corporation, Bloomington, IN, USA, 2002, p. 43.

⁹ The English translation of Yintang is “Hall of Impression” – pointing, perhaps, to the intuitive “impressions” or inner visions that one is able to access via this point; http://taoism.about.com/od/Acupressure_Treasures/a/Yin-Tang.htm, accessed 2/27/17.

¹⁰ Birth date: June 3, 1969, San Diego, CA, 8:31 am; Rodden category A.

¹¹ Carter, C. E. O., *An Encyclopedia of Psychological Astrology*, Theosophical Publishing House, London, UK, 1937, p. 163.

Additionally, the planet Neptune, which widely opposes Mercury, and is generally linked with psychic abilities and intuitive insight, is likewise retrograde; my colleague, Dr. Ingrid Naiman, relates Neptune retrograde to a karmic issue around psychic gifts¹².

Dr. Margaret Millard, another noted medical astrologer, in an article on astrology and the brain, cites a fascinating study by a Frenchman named Renoux, who established that astrological dominion over the twin hemispheres of the brain seemed to be shared between Jupiter and Neptune. The left brain is arguably Jupiterian, while the right hemisphere appears to be “more interested in connectedness and dropping the barriers between self and the other.”¹³ This is demonstrably Neptunian in focus, and indisputably relevant to psychic abilities. Thus, it seems reasonable to suppose that Neptune retrograde would indicate an impairment of the visionary capacities of the 3rd eye, one that is probably karmic in nature.

Neptune retrograde is also sextile the South Node, suggesting that this is indeed a past life issue carried forward. Jupiter, the Wood element planet, that similarly relates to vision, is in a weakened state, detriment, in Virgo, and within only 5° of the South Node. The South Node is regarded as an energy drain, anabolic in its effect, thus planets that are proximity to it are impeded in their functioning. It is also a point of difficult karma from a past life where the native is subject to frustrations and limitations that are only resolved with greater consciousness. The homeopathic use of the Jupiter gem elixir in the remediation treatment served to re-harmonize this dysfunctional Jupiter, and undoubtedly began to alter whatever negative karma is associated with the planet. At the risk of going slightly off topic, I would venture to guess that, as Jupiter, through its association with Sagittarius and the 9th house of the horoscope, relates to faith in something larger than oneself, there is a profound existential despair centering around feelings of abundance and a lack of self-worth. Other signatures in the chart would support this thesis.

The cumulative effect of the adverse zodiacal placements would certainly suggest the potential for a metaphorical blindness, i.e., that afflicting intuitive sight. The presence of retrograde Mercury in Gemini, very strong in its own sign, and its dispositorship over the Virgo planets, including the debilitated Jupiter in Virgo, would pre-dispose the native to an excessive rationality, something that I have previously discussed with her. Moreover, the Moon in Capricorn, weakened, being in its detriment, and a signifier, as one of the Lights, of the right eye in a woman, is very tightly sextile the Neptune retrograde in Scorpio; this is a further indication of a hindrance, i.e., obscured, “cloudy” (Neptune) vision. I would further offer, that, per an interesting transmogrification of the natal chart into a map of the chakras, the Moon, in fact, can be shown to relate to the “inner” vision of the 3rd eye.¹⁴

Other chart signatures that may refer to blindness include two midpoints, for which I am here offering new interpretations:

Sun/Moon midpoint: This is the most important midpoint in astrology, medical or otherwise. Medically, it represents the focal or balance point between an individual’s innate vitality, as expressed through the Heart, and their instinctual response to their environment. It also represents, per Ebertin, the balance of the fluids in the body¹⁵ -- the equipoise of yang and yin.

However, going all the way back to Ptolemy in *Tetrabiblos*¹⁶, the Sun and Moon, as the great Lights in the heavens, are considered analogous with the lights of the soul, the eyes. Therefore, I am proposing that the Sun/Moon midpoint may also refer to vision.

Jupiter/Saturn midpoint: Jupiter and Saturn are important regulators of metabolism, as they represent opposite poles of functioning. Jupiter is expansive and vital in its expression, whereas Saturn is constricting and regressive. Where they meet represents the balance point of the overall nutrition and metabolism of the organism. A planet targeted by Jupiter/Saturn represents a critical organ or function that’s problematic in the overall metabolic and nutritive balance of the organism, which may then represent and challenge to essential homeostasis.

Drawing upon 5 Element and Western medical symbolism, I am similarly choosing to associate this midpoint with vision. Jupiter is synonymous with the Wood element and the Liver, which directly impacts the eyes, and Saturn relates to the Gall Bladder in Western astrological medicine. Thus, these two gas giants, another archetypal yin/yang pair, can be linked with the functioning of the eyes.

¹² See Ridder-Patrick, Jane, *A Handbook of Medical Astrology*, Penguin Arkana, London, UK, 1990, p. 30.

¹³ Millard, Dr. Margaret, “The Brain and the Immune System,” in *Astrology and Medicine Newsletter*, No. 3, 1987, pp. 2-3; found in Ridder-Patrick, op. cit., p. 15.

¹⁴ See Grasse, Ray, *Under a Sacred Sky: Essays on the Practice and Philosophy of Astrology*, Wessex Astrologer, Ltd., Bournemouth, UK, 2015, pp. 45-51.

¹⁵ Ebertin, Reinhold, *Combination of Stellar Influences*, American Federation of Astrologers, Tempe, AZ, 1997, p. 70.

¹⁶ Ptolemy, Claudius, *Tetrabiblos*, Symbols & Signs, North Hollywood, CA, 1976, p. 104.

The positions of these two vision-related midpoints in K's chart are as follows:

Sun/Moon: 4° 43' Aries

Jupiter/Saturn: 15° 13' Cancer

The first midpoint is within 2 degrees of a conjunction with Chiron in Aries, which I consider to be a powerful, wounding malefic; it is also tightly semi-sextile Saturn at 4 Taurus (30 degree angle), which, like its complement, the 150 degree quincunx, is a stressful aspect that has specific relevance to health. The second midpoint, while not making any directly planetary contact itself, is similarly in a quincunx relationship with the detrimental Saturn/Neptune midpoint, the cardinal axis of disease¹⁷, which squares Uranus. Uranus is often implicated in eye problems, because of its connection, through its rulership of Aquarius, with the retina¹⁸.

Furthermore, Chiron in Aries can also be considered culpable in its impact upon the eyes, because of the relationship of Aries with the head, the anatomical location of the eyes. Marcia Starck says that the polar signs of Aries and Libra relate to eye problems; often there is ocular dysfunction due to poor kidney function:

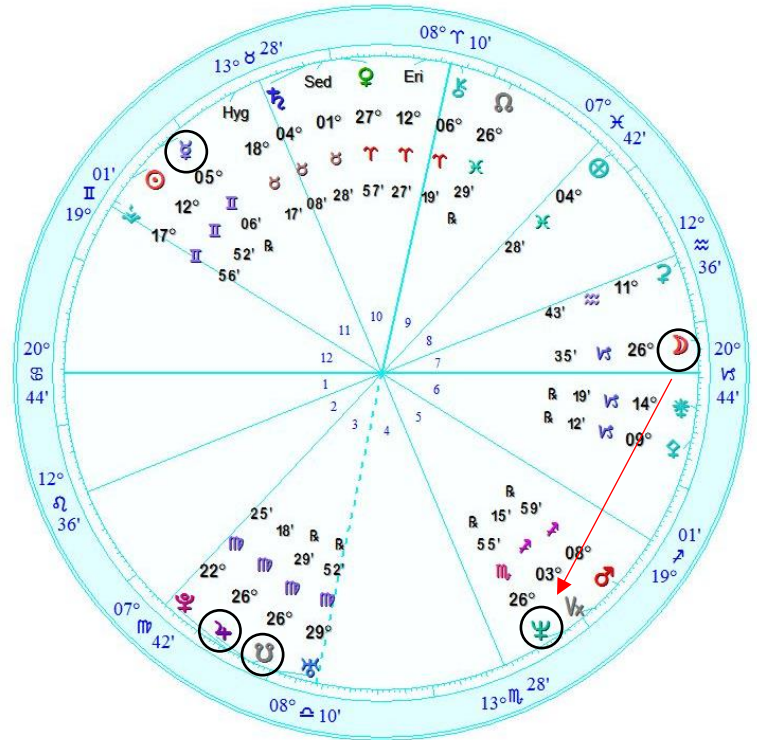
“To quote Dr. William Davidson, the reciprocalness between Aries and Libra and the consequent reflex influence from kidneys to eyes is well known, but not understood in medicine ... it is really due to the changing condition of the kidney function.”¹⁹

The two planets that relate to the Kidneys in K's chart are Mercury, through its governance of the Water element in 5 Element symbolism, and Venus, through its sign, Libra, in Western astrology. Both are debilitated; Mercury, because of its retrograde state, opposition to the pernicious Neptune, its proximity to the Sun (“under the Sun's beams”²⁰), and a close sextile to the malefic Chiron, and semi-sextile to the Greater Malefic, Saturn. Venus is similarly in its detriment in fiery Aries, and the focal point of a yod, a particularly fated aspect pattern, the “finger of God”, with the enervating South Node, and Neptune, the Dissolver.

Two other midpoints of relevance that Marcia Starck cites as relating to eye disorders are Sun/Neptune and Moon/Neptune, both of which relate to fluid imbalances, but also traditional rulerships of the eyes – and, as we have seen, to shared dominion over the 3rd eye chakra. Here are their positions:

Sun/Neptune: 4° 53' Virgo

Moon/Neptune: 26° 45' Sagittarius



Impaired vision/ spiritual “blindness”:

1. Mercury retrograde in Gemini relates to the nervous system, particularly the eyes; Neptune retrograde, sextile the South Node, indicates past life karma around psychic abilities;
2. Jupiter in Virgo, in detriment, translates into a Wood element imbalance, hence difficulties with vision; its placement conjunct the South Node is further debilitating;
3. Moon, associated with inner vision and co-ruler of the 3rd eye, is in detriment, and in contact with the karmic retrograde Neptune;
4. Mercury is exactly conjunct the planetary nebula, Hyades, indicative of obscured vision

¹⁷ I am aware, of course, that the quincunx is not an 8th harmonic aspect, and thus, the Uranus = Jupiter/Saturn = Saturn/Neptune midpoint picture would not be considered relevant by practitioners of cosmobiology; but I cannot overlook its repeated significance in planetary aspect patterns that involve health, so I am extrapolating from traditional practice here.

¹⁸ Starck, Marcia, *Astrology: Key to Holistic Health*, Seek-It Publications, Birmingham, MI, 1982, p. 113.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 113.

²⁰ Planets that are too close to the Sun, within 15 degrees, generally, are regarded as being invisible, their own rays obliterated by the brilliance of the Sun, and thus they are less than optimally effective in their functioning.

The Sun/Neptune midpoint opposes the retrograde Mercury in Gemini, and Moon/Neptune is square the Jupiter/South Node conjunction.

Furthermore, there are contacts from fixed stars associated with blindness²¹:

Vertex, at 27° 08' Aries, is conjunct Venus

Algol, a particularly malevolent star, at 25° 28' Taurus, is conjunct the Moon

Another major indicator of blindness is Spiculum, at 29° 57' Sagittarius; square Uranus,

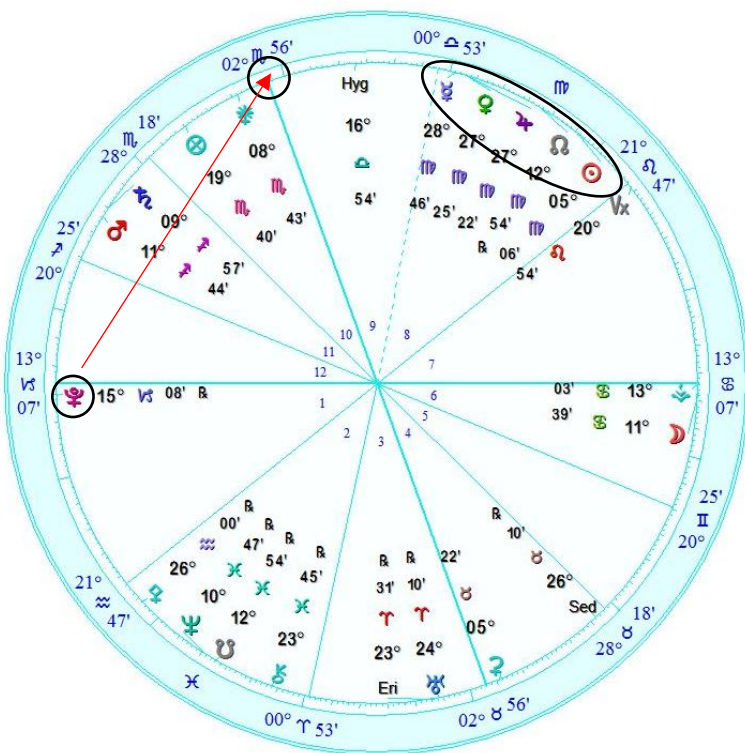
Finally, there is one outstanding signature involving fixed stars. Planetary nebulae are traditionally associated with blindness, because they are clouds of stars within the firmament, that serve to obscure the sight, literally, of heaven. The Hyades cluster, one of the most significant of these, is exactly conjunct K's Mercury retrograde at 5° 06' Gemini!! This is a truly remarkable alignment, and a convincing marker for her manifest vision problems and karmic issues revolving around the acknowledgement of her intuitive abilities.

Thus, while our subject, K, is by no means blind, there is a plethora of astrological symbolism in her natal chart that provides testimony as to impaired vision, outer and inner.

The Event

This brings us now to a consideration of the cosmological timing of the episode of temporary blindness, the healing crisis, and the intersection of the archetypal template of that significant moment with K's natal chart. As previously mentioned, I am a fervent believer in the practice of astrology as divination, and capitalizing upon the intuitive, irrational aspect of our art that Geoffrey Cornelius refers to as *psi-Neptune*²². As such, I believe that I am often guided to an appropriate moment for the erection of a chart by my now developed intuition.

It is indeed paradoxical to adopt such a seemingly retrogressive stance, as the modern practice of astrology, here in the scientific era, hinges upon the procurement of data that is mathematically precise and unimpeachable in its provenance, to produce the most accurate results – impressively calculated and displayed for our delectation by highly sophisticated software²³. However, despite this veneer of quasi-scientific exactitude and technological wizardry, the astrological “effect” cannot be captured in a laboratory setting, because it relies in no small part upon something entirely different – a perception of time that is not quantitative and chronological, but, rather, qualitative and synchronous. In this paradigm, the quotidian activities of human beings, can, through the lens of intuitive engagement on the part of the astrologer, be shown to align themselves profoundly with the larger-scale evolutionary movement of the cosmos – a



A Moment of Extreme Significance:

1. Pluto rises; the death of the inauthentic, the release of karma; Scorpio is on the MC, indicating the evolutionary import of the moment;
2. The third Plutonian signature is indicated by the stellium of 4 Virgo planets, plus the North Node, in the 8th Scorpio house of the map – purification and transformation

connection that is replete with significance.

The healing crisis occurred, to the best of our collective recollections, late in the afternoon on August 27, 2016, in Culver City, CA; the time for which I have been prompted to erect the chart is 4:30 pm. An essential point of departure for the practice of

²¹ Star positions found in Starck, Marcia, op. cit., p. 114.

²² See Cornelius, Geoffrey, *The Moment of Astrology*, op. cit. pp. 75-76.

²³ Our art is now being subjected, like so many of the healing disciplines, to the incursions of those practitioners who insist that astrological interpretation and reportage be “evidence-based”. What I am advocating is diametrically opposed to this trend.

astrological divination, whether horary, electional, decumbiture, or otherwise, is to satisfactorily answer the question, is this chart radical? In other words, does it describe the event that it purports to illustrate?

At first glance, my answer would be an unequivocal “yes”; Pluto, the planet of transformation, rises in Capricorn, atop the Ascendant. There are no less than 4 planets in Virgo, plus the teleological North Node, in the 8th Scorpionic house; this reinforces the Plutonian profile of the map in an unambiguous fashion. Additionally, we find Scorpio on the MC, the point of highest good. The presence of the Part of Fortune, also in Scorpio, in the 10th house, demonstrates that this event is profoundly centered upon K’s *Ming*, her authentic destiny in life, her true vocation.

The stellium of planets in Virgo further indicates that the focus of the moment is healing and personal transformation. The nodal axis of the chart, Virgo/Pisces, is exactly the opposite of that in K’s map. This “flipping” of the Nodes strongly implies that the karmic baggage of the horoscope is to be addressed. Moreover, she has just experienced her 4th Jupiter Return, an auspicious time, one characterized by a heightened optimism and feeling of abundance. The two Benefics, Jupiter, the Greater, and Venus, the Lesser, are in an intimate embrace at 27 Virgo (only 3’ of arc separate them!), and conjunct the natal Jupiter/South Node; the implication is that the Universe has marshalled these beneficent archetypes to assist K with the transformation of her karmic challenges.

What of the manifest symptom, the temporary loss of sight, a by-product of an opening of the *ajna* chakra? This is where the radicality of the map asserts itself in what I can only describe as an astounding manner. The ASC, 13 Capricorn, is conjunct the fixed star, Manubrium, Omicron Sagittarius. Ptolemy characterized this star as being a blending of Sun and Mars, and, as such, considered it one of the “blind” stars.²⁴ Thus, the means whereby the healing crisis is activated (ASC, which is the vehicle for the energy of the horoscope) is through temporary blindness.

The transiting Sun/Moon midpoint, 8° 23’ Leo, which we are associating with the eyes, is conjunct yet another fixed star of this nature, South Asellus, the Southern Ass. Transiting Jupiter in Virgo, which we have identified with a disharmony in the Wood element, linked to the eyes, is similarly inconjunct yet another “blind” star, Vertex, a nebula, Messier 31, in the constellation Andromeda. This star, as previously noted, is conjunct K’s natal Venus. Uranus, at 24 Aries, is inconjunct Copula, another nebula, at 24 Virgo, also relevant to defective eye conditions, which is widely conjunct Jupiter. The Jupiter/Saturn midpoint, which I have posited as yet another identifier for eye conditions, is conjunct the MC, demonstrating the evolutionary thrust of the moment.

Finally, the two Malefics, Mars, the Lesser, and Saturn, the Greater, oppose the Mercury retrograde of K’s natal chart, thus activating that signature for visual impairment by transit. However, what is truly synchronous is and wondrous about their transiting positions in the zodiac on this summer afternoon in sunny LA is that *each* is conjunct a star associated with blindness:

Mars; Antares: 9° 03’ Sagittarius. Antares is the Heart of the Scorpion, and is unfortunate for the eyes²⁵

Saturn; Rastaban: 11° 15’ Sagittarius. Rastaban is in the right eye of the great dragon, Draco

Moreover, Neptune, the signifier for psychic sensitivity, and likewise a malefic which obscures the vision, at 10 Pisces, squares the Mars/Saturn midpoint. Marcia Starck associates this midpoint picture with “the ability to ground physical energy while working in states of higher consciousness”;²⁶ so the blindness is surely the precursor to the resurgence of K’s long suppressed psychic capabilities, and the “sloughing off” of the negative energies from her previous incarnation. The presence of Neptune at the South Node points to the re-emergence of those native abilities, and the integration of them more completely into her healing work (Virgo North Node).

CONCLUSION

“I can see better when I close my eyes; don't make much ado, that's my latest style of view.” — Michael Bassey Johnson²⁷

I feel that I can say without prejudice that this event chart presents us with an extraordinary concatenation of planetary and astral symbolism, illustrative of the *Kairos* attendant upon the conclusion of this seemingly routine healing treatment in an educational seminar. It is a noteworthy benchmark, delineating a crucial step in the ongoing shamanic initiation of an

²⁴ Morse, Dr. Eric, *The Living Stars*, pp. 96-97; found at <http://www.constellationsofwords.com/stars/Manubrium.html>, accessed 2/28/17.

²⁵ Ebertin, Elsbeth, *Fixed Stars and Their Interpretation*, 1928, p.70-71; found at <http://www.constellationsofwords.com/stars/Antares.html>, accessed 2/28/17.

²⁶ Starck, Marcia, op. cit., p. 32.

²⁷ <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/third-eye>; accessed 2/26/17.

individual destined for the vocation of healing others. K's elevated Chiron in Aries – a difficult placement, as it signifies a wounding to the Self and the self-image – situated within 2 degrees of her MC – is an unequivocal signature for this calling.

She is in the throes of several dynamic outer planet transits – Uranus, having completed its opposition to its natal placement, prompting the upsurge of kundalini from the base chakra to enliven the damaged throat, has recently transited the MC, now bringing its electrical energy to bear on her house of career. Chiron, the sigil of the Wounded Healer, the healing gift originating as curse, is in the process of transiting the Pisces North Node, reinforcing the authenticity of her pursuit of this art. Neptune has entered the 9th house of metaphysical inquiry and expansion of perspective; having squared the natal retrograde Mercury, it has now contacted the Sun. The integration of the long-buried intuitive skills into her consciousness, the reclamation of that which was lost, is strongly indicated.

The astrological “anatomy” of this catalytic event speaks for itself, I believe ... the question might then be raised, as to why this highly resonant and virtually un-ignorable phenomenon should have transpired on this occasion, targeting this person alone? There were perhaps 40 people in total in that acupuncture clinic ... none of the rest of them experienced anything out of the ordinary.

The uncomplicated response to such an inquiry would be: she was ready. The intersection of the pertinent astral configurations of her natal chart, relating to metaphoric blindness and existential guilt about her psychic endowments, with, as we have catalogued, a supercharged array of signatures replicating and amplifying these hindrances, produced a synergetic effect that was a small-scale equivalent of Saul's experience of the Divine on the road to Damascus. Saul, too, was blinded by the light ...

This was a watershed happening, triggered by the activation of the long-dormant 3rd eye through facial acupuncture needling; it forcibly derailed the ego from its pre-existing dysfunctional orientation by the most dramatic means available – shutting off the myriad distractions of this world of *maya* – of illusion, duality and separation. K was blessed with unalloyed spiritual vision for the first time ever, seeing with her cyclopean single eye. It is unlikely that the experience of that magically altered state of consciousness will ever depart her memory. It is the equivalent of my dream of the Pleroma – a wondrous gift and an affirmation of the underlying elegance of cosmic order.

I, the astrologer, am the interpreter of the cosmic significance encoded in this tiny increment of unfathomable Time, and assume the responsibility for the transmission of the symbolic message contained therein; this is the nature of the astrological moment, revealed to us in these pages in its evanescent energetic traces – it is a holographic mandala of spiritual revelation and transformational power.

“To even begin to embrace the magnitude of God's vision, we must first embrace our vision as being nothing more than vision by definition.” — Craig D. Lounsbrough²⁸

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²⁸ <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/blindness?page=2>; accessed 2/28/17.