

Water Houses

By Drew Becker

Grounding Uranus, the planet of sudden change, is moving in and out of Pisces this year. This planet will return to and remain in this water sign for the next seven years. I recently understood the greater significance of Uranus to be our resistance to sudden, unexpected change as it manifests in our lives. I expect we will all confront resistance to changes in our feeling and spiritual nature (the stuff of the water houses) during this transit. To prepare, we might all benefit from looking at how we deal with the element of water in our own charts.

In the natural chart with Aries beginning on the horizon (at the ascendant), the water houses take up interesting locations. Many astrologers believe that houses and planets above the horizon deal with what occurs in the outside world, in the conscious mind. Those below the horizon influence the inner world, our inner journey within the unconscious. The fourth house is below the horizon and in fact begins at the bottom of the chart. The eighth house occupies space halfway between the back of the chart (the descendent) and the top of the chart, and the twelfth house rests on the horizon just above the ascendant. Both the eighth house and the twelfth are above the horizon although their content may seem more aligned with the inner journey.

All of the water houses deal with a

hidden or unconscious aspect of your chart. The fourth house ties you to your roots and represents how your past might impact you through your unconscious. The eighth relates to the search for security, sexual connection and mortality. The twelfth is connected to past lives and suggests relationships with Spirit in this life. These are indeed the bedrocks from which our motives and behaviors spring and as such have profound effects upon our lives.

When clients see a house void of planets in their charts, they often conclude that they don't have to work on that part of their lives. I am amused. Every house is influenced by the sign on its cusp (where it begins), which suggests a theme to be worked with in that part of the self. Planets in the houses, of course, increase those houses' influences on the chart as a whole. To get a better understanding, let's examine details about each of the water houses.

The Fourth

The fourth house pertains to your roots and origins, your history, one might say. This history can be limited by factors from childhood that formed your values and the way you do things. This history can also be influenced by attitudes inherited from parents, grandparents and/or ancestors. Some people are focused on their lineage and concentrate much energy in this arena in this

lifetime.

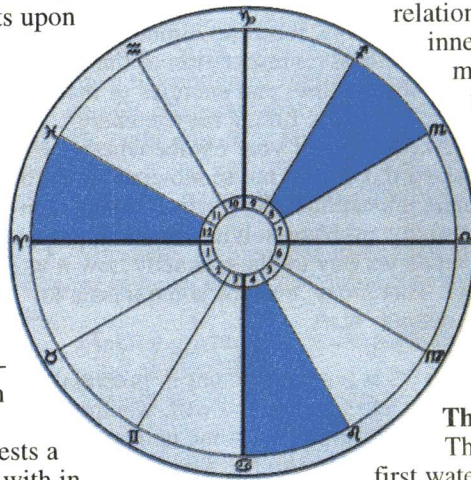
Since the fourth house is associated with the sign of Cancer, many believe that it relates to your home - the home inside where we are anchored to our humanness. The bottom of the chart should signify the deepest internal work; so it is fascinating that the position of this house forms the foundation for emotional responses to the outer

world. Clues to the nature of the relationship between one's inner and outer journeys may reside in this fact. Many people with heavy fourth house influences spend their lives focused on family, security, being protective and working through issues from childhood.

The Eighth

The eighth house is the first water house on the upper hemisphere of the chart. The substance of this area of the chart is the "instinctive blob." Within this house are subjects we don't really want to mess with: Sex, death, pain and pleasure, and transformation. The stuff of this house is usually hidden and only taken out after company has gone. Therefore, you might expect that this house would also reside below the horizon in the natural chart. The fact that it doesn't suggests that the eighth house is an opening to the deeper self, a crack where we are forced to expose something private to the world. Most people do not discuss eighth house topics in everyday conversation. It is left for the underbelly of humor and intensely personal conversations.

This house, associated with the sign of Scorpio, is also referred to as the house of secrets. It deals with the unconscious in the present and is the receptacle for personal issues and opportunities to transform conflict into awareness and growth. These issues reveal our fears and apprehensions. Is it such a surprise that we need others (the outside world) to deal with them? If left to our own devices, we might avoid them, but since this house is in the more public hemisphere of the nat-



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from the world by successive rings of stone, yet open to it through the stone screens. Indeed, at the very center the participant in the rites of Stonehenge experienced a most profound connection with nature, for the monument seems to have been dominated by a powerful cult of sun worship. From its center, with the awesome trilithons on three sides, one could observe on the fourth side, at the summer solstice (the longest day of the year), the rising sun coming up exactly over the apex of the Heel Stone."

There are over 70 extant "henges" (a Saxon word for temple of stone or wood) in Britain alone. There is a Woodhenge, where the Neolithic Temple was constructed entirely of wood. This may explain why the lintels of the third phase of Stonehenge have mortise and tenon joints.

COVER PHOTO: Cliff Wassman, mysteriousplaces.com. Thank you.

RESOURCES: Trachtenberg and Hyman. *Architecture: from Prehistory to Post-Modernism*, Howells. 2000. *A Guide To The World's Greatest Buildings*.

ural chart, we confront these issues in daily life.

Our lives are impacted by this material as we are forced to address inheritance, power, sex and comfort from the storm. Heavy eighth house influences in a chart may indicate a lifetime of transformation.

The Twelfth

The twelfth house is mysterious and manifests itself most subtly of all the water houses. The twelfth's natural placement, just before the first house, makes it the transition house between past and future. In The Astrological Houses, Dan Rudhyar refers to the individual consolidating a seed of successes or facing the results of failures. We are facing evaluation of the end product of some cycle when we look at the twelfth house in our charts.

The twelfth house, associated with the sign of Pisces, focuses on endings and beginnings. It deals with issues on the higher emotional plane. In the twelfth house we come face to face with our emotional connection to Spirit. Each manifestation is unique and defies generalization. For some this house provides clues about past lives; for others this house reveals how the current cycle will be "encapsulated" to carry its wisdom forward. Twelfth house influences on a chart may signify that a person is dealing with transitional issues such as relationship to Spirit, legacies, forgiveness of past and present life wounds, or completion of stages.

So to prepare for Uranus' return to Pisces which begins December 31, 2003, we might want to give further study to the planets and signs that influence the water houses in our charts.

Drew Becker practices Empowerment Astrology. His goal is to help others maximize their gifts and talents and find ways to confront challenges and barriers in life and find the joy that springs from facing grief and allowing forgiveness.

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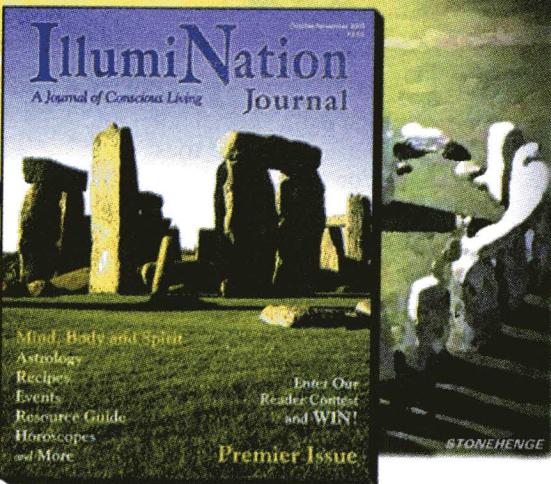
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