

## ASTROLOGY'S FUTURE

*by Robert Glasscock*

**With Uranus transiting Aries for the first time since 1927-1934**, cookbook astrology would predict a New Birth of astrology's relevance around the world by 2019. As with so many beloved astrological catch-phrases, "New Birth" is vague, generally applicable and perhaps ultimately meaningless in any informative sense.

Astrologers historically have enjoyed highlighting significant technological revolutions accompanying Uranus transits: Uranus' archetype is considered synchronous not just with inventions and technology but with astrology itself. (Prior to Uranus' recognition as a planet in 1781, Aquarius' Chaldean ruler, Saturn, was associated with astrology – as Saturn still connotes any rigorous professional discipline – scientific, technical or otherwise.)

Today's interconnected Global Mind – the internet – renders the frequency of technological research, discoveries and inventions virtually continuous. Inventions equally as significant as the wheel, the printing press and nuclear reactors now occur annually if not daily. Epochal technological breakthroughs arise no matter Uranus' transiting zodiacal position.

The day this article was written (January 8, 2014), the Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (BOSS) at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory announced at the 223rd meeting of the American Astronomical Society that their new measurements support the idea first proposed by Albert Einstein – the "cosmological constant" – indicating that dark energy has remained constant throughout the history of the universe.

According to BOSS, the universe appears to be quite "flat." Thus its shape can be depicted by Euclidean geometry.

"One of the reasons we care is that a flat universe has implications for whether the universe is infinite," said physicist David Schlegel. "That means — while we can't say with certainty that it will never come to an end — it's likely the universe extends forever in space and will go on forever in time. Our results are consistent with an infinite universe."

Just one discovery, one breakthrough of monumental historic significance, announced on one day.

More disquieting, given irrefutable evidence of accelerating technological advancements and uncontrolled human birth rates on Earth's biosphere and all species is the existential question: *How much longer can or will human civilization continue?*

Astrology might initially approach that question through Pluto's Death / Rebirth archetype and its passage through Capricorn from 2008 through 2023. The ancient Sea Goat sign is the Cardinal Earth sign *par excellence* of geology, the biosphere, and

everything concerned with “earth” – including mining, fracking, deforestation, pollution, governments, politics, economies, epidemics, pandemics, authorities, wars, fascism, corporatocracies and (obviously) plutocracies.

Psychiatrist and psychotherapist Carl Jung, wherever his presumed Soul may dwell, was doubtless delighted by the in-your-face synchronicity of the 2008 United States election of the first black leader of a world superpower – President Barack Obama – just as Pluto entered Capricorn (whose traditional color, for millennia, is black).

Prior to President Obama, the world’s first black leader of a superpower was considered to be Hannibal in ancient Rome. But Hannibal wasn’t “black” in the contemporary sense. Blacks in Hannibal’s day were called “Ethiopian.” Hannibal was North African – a Punic Carthaginian. Darker, as a Mediterranean, than Celts or Northern Europeans, but certainly not what is today commonly understood as “African.” Nor was he an elected leader, like President Obama, but a military conqueror. Nevertheless, Hannibal’s achievements as one of the greatest generals of antiquity were also synchronous with Pluto’s transit (unknown at the time) through Capricorn (202 to 185 BCE).

Nelson Mandela – eventual President of South Africa and one of the most compelling black leaders in world history because of his 27-year imprisonment over his anti-Apartheid fight for equality and justice, might more accurately be viewed not as leader of a world superpower but a towering hero arising from South Africa’s indigenous black majority population, in contrast to Hannibal’s or Obama’s emergence from a nation’s minority populace.

Assuming humanity survives its overpopulation and pollution of Earth’s biosphere to actually see the Age of Aquarius, it may yet be productive for present purposes to assess astrology’s future from Uranus’ passage through Aries and its opening square to transiting Pluto. (Though astrologers dispute the International Astronomical Union’s definition of the 88 constellations, the established edge between Pisces and Aquarius technically locates the beginning of the Aquarian Age around 2600 AD.)

But it’s uncertain that humanity *will* survive to the Age of Aquarius; or, if it does, that astrology will have much to offer survivors. We are reaching peak agro, peak oil and – most precipitously – peak exponential growth of the human race. Recent presentations like these illustrate just the tip of the iceberg, speaking of melting polar ice caps and rising sea levels.

[Dramatic decline in industrial agriculture could herald ‘peak food’](#)

[Former BP geologist: Peak oil is here and it will ‘break economies’](#)

[A Smartypants Scientist Makes An Easy Analogy About Our Planet, And Now I'm Scared](#)

600 years from now is irrelevant to astrology clients in 2014 anxious to know when they will find a job or if their marital prospects with the sweetheart they’ve been dating look favorable.

Nonetheless, it remains tempting for some to correlate underlying “essences” or themes of technological discoveries, breakthroughs, inventions and sociological movements with the signs through which Uranus passes. Those twelve ancient zodiacal sectors are nothing more (or less) than shorthand for cyclical seasons of Earth-Moon-Sun-Planetary relationships (“angles” and “aspects” in astrology) in Time and Space – through cycles of the Great Year (of about 25,800 years to complete one revolution of the precession of equinoxes around the ecliptic).

Important breakthroughs in warfare, engineering and surgical techniques, for instance, occur synchronously while Uranus is in Aries; or technologies concerning ecology, geology, climatology, agriculture, food production and economics emerge while Uranus transits Taurus; etc.

But the exercise involves finding correspondences *after* the fact and (usually) ignoring or diminishing the significance of discoveries and inventions that don’t readily fit with astrologers’ cookbook preconceptions of the signs’ significance. And the rapidity of contemporary discoveries and breakthroughs renders the attempt somewhat pointless (except perhaps for investment astrologers seeking clues for profitable bets on IPOs).

### **Can Uranus’ transit yet help astrologers forecast the future of astrology itself?**

The Industrial Revolution coincided with the Uranus-Pluto conjunction in 1850-51. The colonial expansion of European nations into Africa and Asia rapidly merged races on an unprecedented scale, using tactics of brutal conquest and exploitation that continue evolving through violent revolutions.

More recently, Uranus and Pluto were conjunct three times in Virgo during 1965-1966. Students at the University of California at Berkeley; the Watts riots; the emergence of the Hippies and the Sex-Drugs-Rock ‘n’ Roll generation and culture in San Francisco’s Haight-Ashbury; Timothy Leary’s *“Turn on, tune in, drop out”* mantra; antiestablishment and anti-war protestors; even the renaissance of New Age (actually ancient) philosophies – including astrology – exploded under that Uranus-Pluto conjunction to dramatically affect the globe ever since.

Initially, that Uranus-Pluto conjunction was most notable in California (and perhaps secondarily in Los Angeles), a state and city “ruled” by Virgo, the sign of the 1965-1966 conjunction.

Astrologer-philosopher Dane Rudhyar noted that this conjunction “was the spark that ignited a long series of similar events all over the world . . .” and “became a model for many such riots” – reaching fifty years forward to Tiananmen Square, the Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street protests against greed and corruption spreading internationally against the 1%.

Presently, with the continuous acceleration of scientific, technological and sociological “Uranian” discoveries, former astrological distinctions among “types” of breakthroughs

may finally be largely *passé* since they now occur *always*. The internet has rendered obsolete millennia of accepted meanings regarding Time and Space, replacing them with what philosophers and metaphysicians have always called (correctly) the Eternal Now.

Physical bodies still age and die, though life expectancies keep extending for those who can afford the latest in health care. Yet everything we say or do exists for eternity, to some extent – or as close to eternity as microchips and Wi-Fi permit – on Facebook, Google, Twitter and in the Cloud.

Once considered “merely” metaphorical and allegorical, the Eternal Now is literally evident in today’s 24 / 7 / 365 World Consciousness – a click away.

Just decades ago, the truth regarding astrology’s foundational role underlying all revealed religions remained purposefully buried, restricted, difficult and laborious to find or study – as it had been for thousands of years. Today it’s immediately available to anyone with curiosity and a tablet or smartphone.

The BBC aired a documentary on the topic in 1993, titled “[The Naked Truth](#).” Production values are simplistic and hair styles outdated but the facts are accurate. Numerous other researchers’ sites now document the same (and more) information regarding ancient astrotheosophy and the origin of modern religions.

Freely and instantly available at a click.

Through what's popularly called "Sun worship" (the ancient “Helios Biblos” – Book of the Sun or Holy Bible) – Sumerian studies of the Sun, Moon, Planets and Constellations whose refinements led to the ever-developing sciences of astronomy and mathematics, medicine, biology, physics, et al. – growing awareness of the origin of religions in *astrotheosophy* may yet suggest that Uranus' position in Aries early in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century at the turn into 2014 can indeed provide clues to astrology’s future role, if any, through the oldest recorded data base of human knowledge known.

## What Has Astrology Been? Where Is It Going?

***"Our King is God on Earth! His powers extend even unto the Heavens!  
Tomorrow midday he shall extend his staff and the Sun shall darken at  
Our King's command! All shall tremble and fall to their knees, begging  
Mercy and offering tithes for his Power and Protection!"***

It was good to be the king back in the day. Better still to be a royal astrologer circa 5,000 BCE. Kings were assassinated. Savvy astrologers hung around to be hired by competing kings at even larger retainers.

Today any Tom, Dick or Harriet with an ephemeris can announce the same startling prediction about the darkening Sun or blood-red Moon and nobody bats an eye. Even the few remaining primitive tribes hidden in Amazonian forests know it’s not the “King’s hand” that darkens the Sun: eclipses occur naturally regardless of regal claims to godlike powers. Millions of ordinary plebeians worldwide craft homemade eclipse goggles to

view what's still and probably always shall remain one of Earth's most awe-inspiring phenomena.

No wonder ancient "Sun worship" (astrotheology) was the world's original Religion, which has since divided and devolved like mutant cells into more than 10,000 religions all claiming to be God's Word and the One True Faith.

Alas, astrologers' lot has also miserably devolved compared to Olden Days when we roamed palaces, handsomely paid to be consulted by royalty.

From astrology's ancient beginnings, observed celestial phenomena were correlated with Earthly events – heliacal positions of planets and constellations associated with wars and famines, floods and droughts, barrenness and fertility, pestilence and plenty, births and deaths. Astrologers carefully noted their heavenly observations in the first hand-written ephemerides.

For generations, planetary movements, phases of the Moon and seasons of the Sun were recognized as repeating cycles forming intricate ever-changing spatial patterns against the zodiacal backdrop beyond the ecliptic.

Mathematics developed to permit ever more accurate delineations of relations among heavenly bodies to local horizons and zeniths, measured against the zodiac. Computations based on time and location were refined. Predictions of celestial positions became possible, though limited to the relatively few literate "initiates" fluent in the secrets: High Priests and Astrologers.

Even kings and queens were generally semi-literate – if that – in the beginning. They were too preoccupied waging wars, conquering lands, collecting taxes and producing heirs to pursue the lonely arts, sciences and letters – instead hiring artists, musicians, poets, entertainers, craftsmen, scientists, architects, generals, inventors, explorers, philosophers, physicians and teachers – and astrologers – upon whom they relied for information, entertainment, enlightenment, predictions and continuity of power.

Within the mechanistic and theistic worldview of the times, foretelling the Gods' unruly and sometimes vengeful caprices through divination – then appeasing their feared wrath through magic rituals – were societies' only hopes for preventing catastrophic disasters like earthquakes and Pompeian eruptions.

Astrology was originally concerned exclusively with what today is called mundane astrology: matters involving nation-states' and cities' welfare, and kings as governing authorities. Mundane astrology is the oldest of astrology's various branches. Births of kings were believed divine manifestations of great importance, marking the original emergence of natal astrology and its attendant branch, medical astrology.

By Hippocrates' time (Father of Modern Medicine, 460-377 BCE), astrology was routinely used in diagnosis and treatment of disease, but only of noble personages. The other 99% were denied astrology's benefits, if they could afford physicians at all.

Thus began astrology's legitimate claim, rooted in amorphous antiquity and paraphrasing psychiatrist Carl Jung, as "the oldest recorded data base of human observations known to mankind."

The general public was too uneducated to understand or learn the meanings and implications of the sciences that had evolved from astrology's refinements. Commoners were in fact chattel who existed to plant seeds, plough fields, harvest crops, fight wars and die for king, tribe and country – but not before siring the next generation of human chattel.

To prevent entire populations even *thinking* about acquiring such knowledge, and to motivate and control their breeding, toiling, tithing and fighting – while perpetuating and concealing vast accumulated scientific truths lest they fall into the hands of competing nation-states – so-called esoteric wisdom or higher knowledge was interwoven into oral traditions of fantastic fables relating dramatic larger-than-life heavenly soap operas of the terrifying and fascinating Sky Gods – concocted, told and retold in stories, plays, songs, incantations and seasonal celebratory rituals. The scientific facts behind these spellbinding dramas were withheld from all but "initiates" (the original "educated"), who were carefully selected and trained before being taught the truth.

The Sun was the central God and ancient astrotheosophy became the foundation of today's Great Religions including the three Abrahamic ones: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Esoteric knowledge of the Sun's annual apparent motion through its four solstitial and equinoctial points (the Sun God's crossification or crucifixion); its annual "death" as far South of the equator as it gets, where it remains motionless and "entombed" for three days (neither rising nor falling in latitude) in the vicinity of the Southern Cross constellation; then "resurrecting" or being "born again" each December 25<sup>th</sup> – rising one degree; the observed astronomical facts behind the story never change. But the tale is far older than Christianity; merely cast with different names.

The esoteric knowledge is scattered through the Helios Biblos (the Book of the Sun or Holy Bible) and enshrined in the architectural structures, details and embellishments of holy sites around the world (including the signs of the zodiac in Chartres' magnificent stained glass windows).

The evolving ancient "esoteric" (scientific) knowledge of astrology, astronomy, mathematics, climatology and medicine was more valuable than gold – in which astrology's practitioners were royally paid by kings for exploiting such "wisdom of the gods": particularly the art of forecasting, which knowledge of astronomical cycles fueled with ever-increasing accuracy.

That mechanistic view of the heavens and human nature created the still-prevalent assumption that – at its best – astrology is fatalistic. If only astrologers can uncover more precise horoscopic "signatures" for every conceivable condition and event, implies this philosophy, events throughout people's lifetimes can be unerringly predicted.

Indeed, that remains for many the tacit definition of the “best” astrologer: she or he who scores the greatest number of accurate predestined “hits.”

Despite that primitive, false, ignorant and ultimately ugly underlying premise (that human lives are essentially predictable if the right astrological techniques are known and applied) it continues to be the measure of a “successful” astrologer for many if not most practitioners, clients and the general public.

If that premise is false, then astrology’s survival requires an overall reeducation concerning its true value and purpose.

Perhaps human lives *were* more predictable in ages when lives were largely constrained by birth and dogma; often brutish and short by circumstance; with few real “choices” and little or no knowledge of the psychological / metaphysical phenomena of “projection” and synchronicity.

But will that Grail remain Holy once Uranus leaves Aries in 2019? Was it ever genuinely *viable*, much less true? Or has astrologers’ understanding of their ancient art and science long since evolved, deepened and morphed into something else?

And if so – into *what*, exactly?

**Gradually, from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century BCE, some 300 years before Hippocrates,** astrology developed the techniques and practice of natal astrology as applied increasingly to individuals in addition to city-states and kings. By the 13th century astrology was part of routine medical practice in Europe.

But the acceptance of astrology as a science broke down toward the end of the Renaissance (for important reasons too complex to explore here). By the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the Romantic Movement, most astrologers hid behind pseudonyms, so discredited was astrology’s reputation.

Today, though serious astrologers mostly use their own names, vestiges of the tradition of adopting esoteric sounding pseudonyms (“*Sepharial*” – Dr. Walter Gorn Old; “*Alan Leo*” – William Frederick Allan; “*Sydney Omarr*” – Sidney Kimmelman) remain in “professional” pseudonyms like “*Madame Starchild*” and “*Trisha Trine*.” No wonder astrology is still held to such easy straw man ridicule, as in this clip of Irish comedian [Dara Ó Briain](#).

There is nothing “wrong” with assuming a colorfully starry moniker any more than billing oneself a “professional” astrologer. But what *is* the definition of a “professional” astrologer? One who has charged a fee, at least once, to a client? Someone whose sole income is through astrology? Someone whose reputation rests primarily on writing books, conducting workshops and teaching classes rather than counseling clients? Anybody who simply says, without justification or verification, that they are a “professional?” Astrologers who adopt circus-y New Age names attract specific sorts of

clientele: precisely the relatively immature, uncritical, unscientific fatalists who demand astrology tell them “what is going to happen to me.” Fortune tellers, by any other name.

Without universally applicable standards, a “professional” astrologer is a “professional” chakra balancer is a “professional” palm reader is a “professional” phrenologist is a “professional” dowser. Applied willy-nilly, the term can ring pretentious and hollow.

It can seem equally specious to demand a certain kind of respect for such choices. Whoever heard of a “professional” neurosurgeon or “professional” psychotherapist? It is understandable to attach “professional” to careers like golfer or driver, since millions of people drive and play golf. And perhaps it’s valid for astrologers too. Yet some astrologers (who aren’t by any definition “professional”) freely attach “professional” to their names on business cards and in publicity blurbs; perhaps to reassure themselves and clients. Who takes seriously a “professional” physician named *Empress Endoscopy*?

But since that is some astrologers’ desired and implied “occult” image – *Trisha Trine* or *Madame Starchild* – and as long as astrologers are comfortable being lumped together with spirit mediums, palm readers, tarot readers, psychics, voodoo practitioners and storefront gypsy charlatans – they will attract and deserve cynical comedians’ jibes and the skepticism of debunkers like Penn & Teller and The Amazing Randi, who take them at their word, erect astrological straw men, and prove such practitioners pompous and unfounded at every turn.

Even old Alan Leo was aware of the problem. He advised:

*“Let us part company with the fatalistic astrologer who prides himself on his predictions and who is ever seeking to convince the world that in the predictive side of Astrology alone shall we find its value. We need not argue the point as to its reality, but instead make a much-needed change in the word and call Astrology the science of tendencies.”*

Leo was convicted of fortune-telling on July 16, 1917. A few weeks later on holiday in Cornwall, where he’d retreated to restore his health after the stresses from his trial, he died from a cerebral hemorrhage – notably failing to predict his own demise.

Contrast that with Grant Lewi’s supposed feat at age 49, in perfect health, suddenly canceling all his speaking engagements; taking out a life insurance policy; making one payment; then promptly expiring from a cerebral hemorrhage on the day he predicted – “to the minute” according to [astro.com](http://astro.com) – leaving his family financially secure.

That anecdote has been widely published, told and retold in astrological circles for decades, without (to my knowledge) a shred of tangible or reliable evidence. Though he may indeed have canceled speaking engagements, made the one payment, then died; no one has ever shown verification for Grant Lewi predicting his own death in print and dated – on the record – anywhere. He may well have foreseen the *possibility* of his own death at some future point but that’s not the same as “predicting” it “to the minute” as claimed. The “evidence” for this enormously entertaining legend is entirely anecdotal: accepted at face value and repeated as fact by “reputable” sources whose reputations

are tarnished by their repeating it, unsourced, verbatim. Nor does the story's lack of veracity in any way diminish Lewi's impressive work and achievements in astrology. But it highlights one massive problem common to many astrologers (further discussed momentarily): *lack of critical thinking*.

Thus we trace astrology's long lineage from Ptolemy ("*The stars incline, but do not compel*") through Tycho Brahe, Galileo Galilei and Johannes Kepler to Reinhold Ebertin, Linda Goodman, Rob Hand and Liz Greene.

### **Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung first used “synchronicity” in a lecture in 1930**

on the psychological insights to be gained through the *I Ching*. By 1952 with the publication of "*Synchronicity*," Jung's now seasoned ruminations had fully explored and refined his "acausal connecting principle." Synchronicity forms the basis of most attempts to "explain," to this day, why astrology works.

The battle between scientists (who've not personally explored nor experimented with astrology yet who immediately dismiss it in an unconscious and childish refutation of the scientific method) and the internecine squabbles among astrologers over the most "scientific" approaches – sidereal or tropical; Hellenistic; Vedic; Cosmobiology and so on – characterize the challenge facing astrologers at the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as Uranus transits Aries for the first time since the worldwide panic and Great Depression of the late 1920s.

Astrologers' own gullibility and lack of critical thinking is striking when one vainly searches for a single astrological treatise throughout millennia that shows *mistakes*. *ALL* purport to show (or imply) the infallibility of the particular astrologer and of astrology itself. But anybody can read *anything* in a chart – *after the fact*. Again, astrologers' collective lack of critical thinking is what's actually demonstrated. Case study after case study pretends to prove, say, astrology's reliability in predicting the demise of a couple's third daughter through the unfortunate infant's kidnapping by a malnourished dingo whilst on family holiday in the outback.

I witnessed a reputable instructor present a horoscope to students and encourage their interpretations – letting them valiantly "read" the horoscope – only to finally spring the surprise that the person in question died in childhood. The students learned nothing. The instructor had failed to previously instruct them in horoscopic techniques for assessing the probability of early death before this grandstanding performance. The sole motive was to make the astrologer look superior and the students appear foolish. The infant's early death was a reported fact deliberately withheld by the instructor. The episode exemplifies the worst kind of astrological "instruction." Yet such so-called teachers con substantial fees from unsuspecting innocent students expecting genuine education instead of dishonest put-downs and parlor tricks.

Lack of critical thinking – and professional ethics – *again*.

Nor do astrologers do astrology any favors by enabling and excusing such behavior. In any other profession, such conduct would be considered malpractice.

If we are to apprise astrology's future role, if any, in decades and centuries to come, it is crucial to know: *"What is astrology? What is it for? What is it supposed to do? What is a good astrologer?"*

In ancient days of mechanistic, fatalistic, theistic worldviews the answer was simple: "Astrology is for making predictions: the more specific, the better. The astrologer who makes the most accurate, pinpoint predictions is the best."

Astrologers may have once been highly paid retainers hobnobbing with royalty in palaces and aweing peasants in the streets. But if they were wrong often enough their reward was a javelin through their Root Chakra. Job security was iffy unless these soothsayers cultivated superlative weasel-word skills.

Astrologers keen on survival learned to speak in parables when necessary to hedge their predictions, a tradition carried on through Nostradamus, the Sabian Symbols and the like. Anybody can find any meaning in flowery allegories "channeled" from Higher Planes: *"A gravid loon nests on a ripe mango across the frozen pond. In the morning, as sunlight melts the ice, twin newborn wombats cry for milk and drown."* Interpreting such parables may reveal insights into the channeler's / interpreter's own projections, but they've nothing to do with astrology per se.

To see facts, critical thinking and logic demolish Nostradamus (and his ilk) nobody does it better than [Penn & Teller \(with James Randi\)](#). Puncturing pretense upsets many astrologers (though only pompous and defensive ones: those who don't make false claims about their or astrology's capabilities are as delighted by the skewering as everybody else).

Are astrologers the same as psychics? If not, how are they different?

Two questions I enjoy asking astrologers, since their answers tell everything about their beliefs about astrology and what they do with clients, as well as their perspectives on life and reality: *"Is there such a thing as Fate? Can Fate be changed?"*

Answers to those questions fundamentally depend on one's understanding of Fate and Free Will. One's philosophy of life, in other words: how and why you got here; how and why you live.

Most philosophers across millennia agree that Fate and Free Will both always coexist in any given moment. To the degree people are unconscious of their own psychology, predispositions, prejudices, conditioning, race, genetic heredity, economic and social class, geographic and national region, religion and education, and so on – they are quite predictable. Knowledgeable astrologers can make startling statements about their pasts and stunningly accurate projections about such people's futures, if they wish.

Sadly.

That approach to astrology reinforces the misconception that life is predestined: that Fate is inevitable and cannot be altered.

But the only inevitability in that approach is that the astrologer will sooner or later be proved wrong to greater or lesser extent – thus presenting astrology itself as “wrong” or “unreliable” or shallow, superstitious and silly. A shame, since astrology’s genuine priceless treasures are likely to be thrown out with the bath water.

Swami Paramahansa Yogananda, in *“Autobiography of a Yogi,”* who recognized great value in astrology, nevertheless said (paraphrasing); “If I desire to start a successful enterprise and am sufficiently prepared, then give me the least propitious date on which to undertake the enterprise according to my horoscope. I will still make it succeed.”

Astrologers willing to play “psychic” for clients eager to pay for hopeful fortune-telling about their futures would do better to learn cold readings: standard mentalist techniques perfected by magicians since the 1800’s.

Cold reading techniques are much easier than learning and practicing astrology, and often far more impressive to rubes than genuine astrological counsel.

For pseudo-astrologers primarily seeking big bucks, cold readings combined with hot readings (obtaining information under false pretenses or through hidden mics and earpieces, or phony pre-consultation interviews by stooges) laced with astrological jargon is the way to go. Unfortunately, for anybody capable of critical thinking, this approach still further tarnishes astrology’s already shady and shaky image.

If you want to learn cold (and warm and hot) reading techniques, save time: [start here](#). If you’re upset by the thought that there are such fraudulent astrologers, don’t BE one.

Nothing is more amateurish and irksome, I’ve informed students for 40 years, than telling clients you “see changes” in some area of their lives. If you indeed “see changes,” be specific about what they are, why they are likely, and when they will occur. Better yet, link those “changes” to specific events in the not-too-distant past that have led up to them. If you can’t do that, at least read to clients from a decent astrology cookbook.

If you believe your mission as an astrologer is to impress with a high accuracy of fated “hits” like psychics supposedly do – then your astrological research (if you’re sincere) will be geared toward techniques to achieve ever-increasing accuracy and specificity derived from your conviction that everything (or at least life’s major events and happenings) is absolutely foretold in the horoscope: it’s just a matter of getting more proficient at identifying them.

But if that’s your primary goal with astrology, you will deserve to be questioned and tested by scientists and pseudoscientists like The Amazing Randi – to statistically rate your hits and see how they stack up against random chance. If you eschew testing, you betray your own hypocrisy, insecurity and pretension, and damage the practice of legitimate astrology. Because it turns out that despite your claim that Fate is absolutely (or largely) foretold, you are unwilling to subject your belief to rigorous critical thinking and objective examination.

Yet astrologers blithely issue press reports touting their successes (and ignoring their misses) in predicting elections, investing in the stock market, betting on the ponies and locating buried treasure – virtually *none* of which are subjected to thorough investigation or verification.

Mundane astrology? There's a 50-50 chance, in a presidential election, say, that any given astrologer will be "right." Those odds decrease dramatically during the primaries, before the two main contenders are selected.

Yet non-astrologer Nate Silver – statistician, baseball-game and election analyst, formerly of the New York Times – correctly predicted the winners of 49 of the 50 states in his November 2008 presidential election predictions. He correctly predicted the winner of all 35 U.S. Senate races that same year.

In 2012, in the United States presidential election between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, Silver correctly predicted the winners in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. He also correctly predicted the winners of the U.S. Senate races in 31 of 33 states that same year. In print. On the record.

Try finding a mundane astrologer with Silver's verified track record. Sadly, most mundane astrologers do not have the education or background for genuine in-depth political analysis – and it shows, by comparison.

The stock market? No astrologer has yet matched William D. Gann's remarkable feats and predictions of highs, lows and turning points. His market forecasting techniques were supposedly based on geometry, astronomy, astrology, and ancient mathematics. But his writings never made his techniques explicitly clear or straightforward.

Still, despite widespread disagreement whether Gann himself made enormous profits through speculation (he admittedly also suffered heavy losses), his interview in the Ticker and Investment Digest in December, 1909, proved that his claim to profits, *at that time*, was as real as his documented forecasts.

But Ken Fisher, investment analyst, says of Gann: "He had no provable public record of accomplishment in the market...ever bragging, never copping to mistakes, his writing sounds very much like the earlier version of the modern self-promoting newsletter writer."

Among contemporary market forecasters using astrology, Raymond Merriman's *Merriman Market Analyst (MMA)* subscription newsletters have by far the longest and most respected track record. Perhaps that's because Merriman is a realist. He makes no claims to infallibility. He is an *analyst*, like many. With hits and misses, like many. With valuable insights and forecasts, like many. Except he uses astrology.

Merriman also has the necessary background and experience in financial markets, in addition to astrology, to publish respected financial markets newsletters including: the *MMA Daily Market Comments and Trade Recommendations*, *MMA Weekly Market Comments and Trade Recommendations*, *MMA Cycles Report*, *MMA European Market Cycles Report*, *MMA Japanese Markets Report*, *MMA Japanese Markets Report*, *Weekly*

*Update Of Japanese Nikkei Stock Index, MMA Weekly Gold And Silver Analysis, MMA Weekly Stock Indices Analysis, MMA Weekly Currencies, MMA Weekly Treasuries, Crude Oil and Soybeans Report and the Market Timing Digest.*

Merriman is an equally accomplished in-depth astrologer as well as financial analyst. He coined the term “*evolutionary astrology*” in 1977 in his book, “*Evolutionary Astrology: The Journey of the Soul Through the Horoscope.*”

Merriman’s respect, by any measure, as an astrologer and market analyst, is earned and deserved.

At the end of the day what *are* astrologers?

Fortune-tellers? Paid enablers telling clients things they want to hear? Trained psychotherapists using astrology in conjunction with ongoing therapy? Cookbook parrots charging exorbitant fees for what clients can find online or in bookstores for far less or even free?

Are astrologers *genuine* professionals; knowledgeably practicing professional standards and ethics? Or dilettantes adopting New Age personas to make them seem special and interesting?

## **Developmental Astrology**

Do you believe astrology – like Life – is a yin-yang dance coupling Fate and Free Will? Then what, exactly, does that mean for astrology? Your answer informs your relationship to astrology and your clients.

Horoscopes, in this view, become depictions of both Fate (Ptolemy’s *inclinations; predispositions*) and Free Will (conscious awareness of a higher perspective within Time; thus expanded insights and choices of action that ameliorate or override Fate).

If you clearly present what you do as an astrologer, and what your intentions are in a session – *beforehand* with clients – you minimize or eliminate misconceptions and false expectations. By the same token, you accurately hear and understand their expectations beforehand and correct them, if necessary, so you both approach astrology from a common platform.

Astrology can and should be experienced directly, not merely quoted from books. Cookbooks are every astrologer’s beginning. But only through testing their rules, definitions and equations against the realities of clients’ lives and experiences – hundreds and thousands of them over time – can any true determination of astrology’s veracity (or lack of it) ever be achieved.

There are situations and questions when astrology’s predictive capacities *should* be employed. Horary astrology is one of the best demonstrations of predictive astrology available, in skilled hands.

In so-called natal readings, or Life Readings, Developmental Astrology is probably the preferred approach – and the most demanding and difficult, since it requires a working knowledge of and experience with various psychological disciplines, situational ethics, precise communicative skills, metaphysics, professional discipline – and astrology. (As well as a working knowledge of stock markets, investing, vocational guidance, politics, sports, medicine and so on – if counseling professionals or hopefuls in those fields.)

The combination of professional psychotherapy, astrology and metaphysics affords potentially the highest use of astrology's cumulative wisdom and contemporary self-development techniques.

One area for astrology's future growth lies in proving its efficacy in psychological counseling settings. Yet few astrologers possess the educational background or experience in psychology to constructively bridge the two disciplines.

A second area for astrology's potential growth lies in medical astrology. Yet here too, few physicians are inclined to study astrology as it relates to organic functioning, disease and treatment. Psychiatrist Sigmund Freud warned psychiatrist Carl Jung of ridicule were Jung to publicize his investigations of astrology. True to the scientific method, unlike most scientists exploring astrology today, Jung dismissed Freud's advice and continued his investigations.

Writing to Hindu astrologer, B.V. Raman, in 1947, Jung said:

*"Since you want to know my opinion about astrology I can tell you that I've been interested in this particular activity of the human mind since more than 30 years. As I am a psychologist, I am chiefly interested in the particular light the horoscope sheds on certain complications in the character. In cases of difficult psychological diagnosis I usually get a horoscope in order to have a further point of view from an entirely different angle. I must say that I very often found that the astrological data elucidated certain points which I otherwise would have been unable to understand. From such experiences I formed the opinion that astrology is of particular interest to the psychologist, since it contains a sort of psychological experience which we call 'projected' - this means that we find the psychological facts as it were in the constellations."*

Conversely, few astrologers are sufficiently medically educated or qualified to earn physicians' respect. Still, the goal is worthwhile and astrology's value undeniable.

Further, it is easy for scientists – eager to invalidate astrology – to erect straw men and design experiments which astrology is guaranteed to “fail.” An *authentic* scientific investigation of astrology necessitates mutually respectful dialogue and expectations – founded on objectivity and critical thinking – between scientists and astrologers.

Nothing, other than astrology, offers such immediate and deep insights into an individual's dynamic Mind-Body connection evolving through Time. Nothing, other than astrology, yields the predictive element afforded by timing and cycles of archetypes and

synchronicity pertaining to every facet of human lives from cradle to grave (including psychological and physiological disease, treatment and health).

It may someday be possible, then, to view astrology as a valuable adjunct discipline capable of enriching sciences like psychology and medicine, rather than the charlatan stepsister to “real” sciences.

For nothing, other than astrology, leads to and guides so fully conscious an exploration of self-development across Time – when accompanied by those other disciplines.

Looking toward astrology’s future, then, three great dangers confront its continuing relevance and value.

### **Lack of Critical Thinking, Ethics, Professional Standards**

Astrologers acting on “received” astrology, like dogmatic parrots of “revealed” religions, merely echo hearsay and anecdotal evidence without thinking critically or testing astrology’s precepts against objective experience.

If something “works” most of the time or only a percentage of the time, fine. Astrologers need not pretend they or astrology are infallible. If astrology’s archetypes carry valid thematic importance among several existential layers simultaneously – illuminating several or many issues at once which are connected and related, synchronously or causally – fine. Human growth and development is not engineering, or identical to repairing a car, building a rocket or erecting a skyscraper.

In astrology, “this” doesn’t always equal “that.” “This” may equal any among several possibilities united by common archetypes, which can be made conscious for clients so they understand how their personal threads of birth, genetics, parental and social conditioning – and Timing – are always organically interactive. Further, personal areas of stress and conflict – or harmony and support – between and among competing areas of Self and Others, at any given time in any given situation, may be made conscious through astrology to elevate perspectives and horizons for any questions, decisions and choices of actions.

Ultimately, through experience with numerous clients over many years, astrologers become confident of where and how their understanding of astrology is most reliable and effective in serving clients’ varying needs – *and where it is not*. Astrology becomes experiential, not theoretical; pragmatic, not vague; developmental, not merely (nor necessarily reliably) predictive.

Fate is not just accepted, it is understood and *embraced* as something given but alive, dynamic, ever-changing – and capable of *being* changed, consciously.

At that point, astrology is finally realized as humanity’s greatest tool for fully employing Free Will; and Fate as something to be welcomed at its highest and most positive estate, rather than predestination to be passively experienced or suffered.

Together, Fate and Free Will – consciously perceived within Time through astrology – become One: or two aspects of the same thing – *Being* – since astrology’s astonishing synchronicity with the solar system implies there are reasons for being born, and revelatory treasures to be unearthed through increasingly conscious living.

After lack of critical thinking, perhaps the greatest liabilities common among astrologers are lack of ethics and professional standards. In most cases, those deficiencies result from not knowing any better: a lack of education and training. In some, however, as we’ve seen, they result from weak, needy pretentious egos and even charlatans out to con people. Of course, astrologers are hardly alone in harboring their share of scam artists.

Here is a common question clients often asked astrologers; *“Is my spouse cheating on me?”*

How would you answer it? *Can* astrology answer it? *Should* astrologers answer it? If so, how would approach giving your answer to the client?

What if your answer turns out to be wrong? What if you decide the horoscope shows the spouse is not cheating, only to later learn that was indeed the case? What if you think the chart shows a spouse is definitely cheating, then eventually learn they were not?

If you think you’re infallible and automatically assume that astrology and your understanding of it are always right, you’re already in quicksand and don’t know it.

Your willingness or reluctance to tackle the question, and how you answer it, may potentially cause serious long-term damage in clients’ lives.

Astrologers who unthinkingly answer *any* question, and answer with ill-considered responses (even correct ones); or, worse, respond with flip know-it-all certainties completely lacking the psychological background and nuances necessary for handling such sensitive issues; are a dime a dozen. They do a tremendous disservice to astrology in general.

One reads lengthy articles on how to delineate that question: *“Is my spouse cheating on me?”* – by authors who completely ignore both the potential harms for being wrong and the ethics demanded.

Is horary astrology or natal astrology the best approach to *“Is my spouse cheating?”*

Many knowledgeable astrologers refuse to answer questions in which the “querent” or client has no direct participation or deciding factor. They may well consider this question beyond astrology’s legitimate scope, since whether the spouse is or is not cheating is completely out of the client’s hands.

I can only relate how *I* handle it – and why – whether I think the chart says the spouse is cheating or not.

Generally, when questions about a cheating spouse arise, one archetype of “cheating” and “deception” – Neptune – is indeed prominently configured with signifiers of love

and marriage. Some simplistic cookbook astrologers automatically assume that means the spouse is indeed cheating. But it can equally mean that the client (querent) is neurotically insecure, suspicious and constantly looking for validation that the perfectly innocent spouse is unfaithful. Astrology's indicators for either situation can be identical.

*"What if I say yes?"* I begin. *"How will you feel?"* Then I listen to the client's response.

Next, I ask, *"What if I say no? How do you feel now?"* Again I listen to their answer.

Finally, I explain the facts, according to their horoscope.

*"The question is not whether your spouse is cheating on you or not, but why you believe he or she is. Why are you suspicious?"*

*"And since you're suspicious, why can't you communicate your suspicions directly, adultly, with your spouse? Instead of asking an astrologer?"*

*"What are you afraid of? Because your chart indicates your entire family background is riddled with exactly this sort of suspicion and mistrust and secrets and betrayal and elephants in the living room. Even your own self-worth has been undermined early on by your family conditioning. And it's important to explore why, so you can see it operating clearly in your life. Because it has tremendous ramifications – for you, your spouse, your children, your finances, your health – everything."*

*"You don't believe in yourself; don't trust yourself. With good reason. That's the atmosphere in which you were raised, so why would you believe in somebody else?"*

*"If you actually get involved with a spouse who is faithful and innocent, your suspicions and mistrust will ultimately drive them away, somehow. So you can claim you were betrayed and feel victimized – again."*

*"On the other hand, if you find that you only fall in love with people who ultimately prove untrustworthy and unfaithful, then your heart is broken again. And you still win: because, in your playbook, the payoff is to feel betrayed and victimized. Because that's what you believe is real about your life."*

*"Even your children and closest friends, your employers and financial advisors, your attorneys and co-workers, are likely to ultimately betray you in some way, sooner or later, from your perspective."*

*"But the issue is not in them: it's in your own self-mistrust and self-protective lack of commitment. Unconsciously, you're always looking for a way out of close relationships. Because if they stick around long enough, you're afraid they'll see things about you that you'd rather not face. Safer, you think, to be attracted to people who will betray you."*

*"You were betrayed and hurt too deeply in your family background. And you think that's normal and inevitable. So you're vulnerable and frightened and jealous and insecure."*

*"Rather than face that early hurt and betrayal and undermining of yourself that you were raised in – because it's not easy and might take time, and make you feel even more vulnerable temporarily – it seems easier to fall in love with inherently untrustworthy"*

*partners. Or drive trustworthy partners away with your suspicions before they make you confront yourself.*

*“So let’s talk about all that, for awhile. Then you’ll be prepared to honestly communicate your own self-doubts and insecurities with your spouse. And in the context of opening up about yourself, you will either draw closer and be reassured, or know for a fact that your spouse is cheating on you. Rather than taking some astrologer’s word, secondhand.*

*“Because, in fact, going behind your spouse’s back to seek an answer from an astrologer about your spouse’s fidelity is itself a form of cheating and dishonesty, compared to a loving and trusting and honest reaching-out to the spouse you claim to love. Or seeking joint counseling to save the marriage.”*

Words to that effect with such clients are authentic, based on astrology and constructive. They invite productive self-examination through astrological counsel. They aren’t shoddy fortune-telling catch-phrases. They don’t carry potentials for disastrous destructive effects on clients’ lives through astrologer-error, no matter how “sincere.”

But this pragmatic, adult approach to astrology requires honesty and psychological work on the client’s part – as well as the astrologer’s – and acceptance of adult responsibility. Few astrologers are also psychotherapists – one reason why every astrologer should study and undergo as much psychology and psychotherapy (to work on their own issues) as possible, and maintain a list of referrals for clients who seek or need therapy. Unhappily, with many astrologers’ clients, that’s the *last* thing they’re prepared to face.

But to try to accommodate such self-deceptive and irresponsible clients by pandering to their escapist search for fortune-telling is destructive to all three: the client, the astrologer and astrology.

Such practices are unethical; whether by design, desire to charge a fee, or lack of education and experience.

Another question asked of many astrologers throughout their careers? Death.

I can’t count how many times I’ve been asked about death in various situations over 50 years. But I have answered it for clients precisely six times (in addition to foreseeing my own parents’ deaths). Always in situations I felt were ethically justified. And only *once* for the client directly – their own death (and that client was another astrologer).

*Can astrology answer questions about death? Yes, often (if not always). Should an astrologer answer the question? It depends completely on the legitimacy of the question and the situational ethics.*

The first time I was asked a death question was in the late 1960s. A Los Angeles client I’d worked with for three years phoned me in New York where I was seeing clients for a week. She wanted to know about her sister, a brain-damaged alcoholic who had been living with a couple in Florida for several years. The sister was now so far gone that the couple could no longer care for her. My client wanted to know what to do.

“If I have to place her in a facility, it means selling our family property in Florida to afford her care and treatment. It’s been in the family for generations. But I hate to do that if she’s not going to live much longer. Can you see anything?”

I told her I would call her back in half an hour. Now, in my mind, that was a legitimate question for astrology, concerning my client’s long-range financial security as well as her seriously ill sister. I used a horary chart for the time of her call. The answer was clear to me, from whatever aspect I studied her question. I phoned her back.

“If you can wait until after the first week in April (it was now early March), you’ll find the decision will make itself,” I told her.

“Is she going to die?”

“I can’t say that. But if you can wait another month, the situation will take care of itself. I don’t think you’ll have to sell your property.”

Her sister died during the first week in April.

Lack of ethics is one thing among astrologers: absence of professional standards is another.

Unfortunately, there are no academically accredited schools of astrology that teach or license universal professional standards, as are common among schools of medicine, for instance. (And there are still unethical physicians, as there are unethical professionals in every field.)

Astrology is incapable of being taught or tested with the same methods as hard sciences. As a soft science, however, like psychology, astrology is certainly capable of being presented, examined and verified in accredited environments – though never while it maintains its uncritical association with all manner of discredited quacks and kooks claiming credence and equal validity.

One doesn’t see licensed clinical psychologists setting up booths for quickie “readings” at Psychology Fairs.

But astrologers are commonly found at Psychic Fairs next to Egyptian Sand Readers, turbaned tarot readers, numerologists, crystal ball gazers, palm readers, Kirlian photographers, Pyramid Power salespeople, “wholistic” healers, tea leaf readers, crystal energy mavens, self-published “experts” on UFOs and alien abductions, past-life regressionists and psychics of all descriptions.

Some of those, by objective experience, may yield impressive and valuable insights. Others are less laudable than Ouija boards. Metaphysical practitioners are by nature open to experiment and alternative disciplines. But not all alternatives are created equal.

Astrology is in a league by itself, bridging physical, psychological, scientific, spiritual, philosophical and metaphysical disciplines as nothing else.

As long as astrologers are unaccredited and uncritically cozy with being synonymous in the public's mind with flamboyant but semiliterate frauds and carnival sideshow performers, astrology's reputation will continue – deservedly – to decline until it joins worship of Thor and Zeus in the Halls of the Forgotten.

Examples abound of astrologers' lack of professionalism and ethics.

Two students over the years (one a successful executive, the other a professional astrologer) who originally began studying with me in Los Angeles after first attending one or two classes with a well-known, well-regarded (in some quarters) astrologer – whom I happened to know well – independently related the same story:

“When I signed up for [this astrologer's] classes, he/she phoned me at work and quizzed me about my background, education, job responsibilities, how long I'd been working there, and so on. The next week, with my chart on the board, she/he made it appear she/he was getting all this detailed information about me from my horoscope alone. I never went back.”

I may not be Ptolemy, but I'm not as ethically bereft as that astrologer. Last year in an online workshop for Kepler, using a student's chart, I pointed out to the students the possibility of the early loss of a parent, perhaps around age 5 or some such early age shown in the chart.

“That's right. How can you see that?” the student asked. We explored the indications in her chart. It was near the end of our time for that workshop. “Can you tell which parent?”

“Probably the father,” I began,” but – “

“It was my mother,” she countered. Out of time, all I could do was explain, “This is why you want to be careful when you do this kind of work. Because if you're wrong, as I just was, it can invalidate all of astrology for a client; when it's not astrology that's wrong, but you as the astrologer.” Time up. Over and out.

This is why I've always taught as I do: to get students' immediate confirmation (or not) of techniques under discussion.

The following week I explained *exactly* for the class how to arrive at the determination of whether the mother or the father had died at an early age in that student's chart. “That's how you do it. But it takes longer than a quick second's glance, which is all I gave it last week. And why you as astrologers should NEVER do what I did.”

To my eternal gratitude, a student piped up: “An astrologer who admits making a mistake. *Unheard of!*”

**Will astrology - and what it offers - become increasingly elitist? Is it already? Has it always been?** Or can astrology capitalize on Uranus in Aries

ushering in a new resurgence? And if so, can or will that resurgence last 84 years and beyond? What might it look like?

The struggle and conflict between Haves and Have-Nots has characterized the human condition throughout recorded history. There is no rational reason to suppose it will disappear in some imagined Utopia of Aquarian Age bliss and self-realization.

To some extent, then, people's access to high-quality collective services like health care, food, sturdy protective shelter, transportation, education and the like has always been more or less elitist; available primarily to those who could afford it or were recipients of collectively endowed programs (derided in some circles as "entitlements" but equally indispensable infrastructures to societies' functioning as are transportation or electrical grids) or collective social charities.

That includes relative luxuries like mental health care and self-development programs; psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, gyms, tai-chi classes, yoga, etc.

Astrology – the *original* science: utterly royal and elitist – from which evolved mathematics and astronomy, medicine, biology, physics – and the original religion of astrotheosophy – has devolved into just another among the Have-Nots' fallback pseudo services along with voodoo spells and potions, fortune telling, faith healing, prosperity consciousness, native witch-doctors and the panoply of collective superstitious "services" which have a precisely random 50-50 chance of "working" or failing.

Will astrology primarily be pursued in future by curious Haves with the funds to pursue a dilettante's interest in colorful old "New Age" practices they hope lend them distinction – because as people they're too shallow, unfocused and flighty to dedicate years of hard study and effort in more genuinely rigorous, demanding and competitive professional achievements?

At best, astrology is practiced by relatively few professionals who've expended the lengthy study, critical thinking, relentless investigation with thousands of horoscopes and lives, ongoing education and training in allied fields like psychology and metaphysics – which are *all* required to become more than indiscriminate impressionists repeating unverified hearsay from soothsaying forebears, cryptic oracles and cookbooks.

Happily, there *are* astrologers who have arrived (largely through self-study, because serious critical thinking and instruction in the field is weak compared with other academic disciplines) at honest assessments of what astrology can and cannot do – and what they as astrologers can and cannot do for clients.

There *are* astrologers who publish truly advanced insightful work that furthers and enriches the practice, among hundreds of pop-astrology titles that, again, are just parrots in new plumage talking for a buck.

Astrology can never be taught or studied in ways analogous to physics or microbiology, since astrology is not a hard science. But it *can* be taught and studied in the same way as psychology or philosophy or art or dialectics, even if few psychologists, philosophers or artists become a Freud, Jung, Plato or Picasso.

Another realization necessary for revitalizing astrology is the claim or inference that it is capable of being, or is supposed to be, infallible. Medical science isn't infallible, though medicine is incredibly valuable and often life-saving. Psychology isn't infallible, though it too offers enriching, even life-saving validity for human lives. Philosophies aren't infallible, though they vary in depth and insight. All three are taught in accredited schools and degrees awarded for various years of study and levels of expertise attained.

Why not astrology? It too can change lives constructively – and, yes, save them.

The primary overriding educational differences in astrology and those other (yet allied) fields is astrology's widespread lazy tolerance of an appalling lack of critical thinking and erratic or lackadaisical professional standards and ethics.

Astrology conventions notoriously abound with self-styled "professional" astrologers making absurd, wildly illogical and unfounded claims – even mispronouncing basic terms like "ephemerides" or "heliacal" – often to flocks of equally uncritical star struck fans.

Sadly, that has become one measure of serious astrologers whose experiences of conventions has led them to abandon attendance entirely. "A waste of time and money," they chorus from Calgary to Calcutta. As long as conventions willingly play host to amateurish "kooks and nuts," in the words of more than one disillusioned astrologer, nothing will change and astrology's reputation will continue to deteriorate.

Astrologer Margaret Gray, among many – including astrologers at Kepler College – now works with equally concerned and dedicated astrology organizations to redefine and reconfigure their missions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. She explains that national and international astrology conventions aren't what they once were; *essential*.

Among other realities, Gray acknowledges that attending conventions is expensive and time-consuming. The internet can make the costs of travel, lodging and meals superfluous and moot the social benefits of in-person "sharing" and camaraderie that are equally available with an internet connection and a web cam.

If astrology conventions often remain glorified but pricier versions of local Psychic Fairs, the general public – much less academia – can hardly be blamed for dismissing astrology and astrologers.

Nor will astrologers impress with behind-the-curve websites featuring outdated and ineffective design and marketing techniques of a decade ago. Astrology's internet presence must keep pace with today's constantly evolving dynamic web. Astrology competes with all other online education, information and entertainment sources. It must be effectively *sold* like everything else.

So what, exactly, *are* astrology's perceived values? Predictions? Situational assessment? Self-optimization and development?

Humanistic growth services will never go out of favor. Indeed, they have become increasingly important over centuries as leisure time has increased relative to survival labor of providing food and shelter. But what happens to incomes as more and more

people are exponentially born, while more and more machines take over jobs? How will human work and worth be redefined?

Yet in the field of humanistic growth services, much of the public sees astrology as threadbare superstition, not humanism. For good reason: many astrologers share that view.

The pendulum swing in the proportion of Haves to Have-Nots is perhaps greater today than at any time since the French Revolution; now global instead of Gallic. Uranus was discovered in 1781, between the American Revolution of 1776 and the French Revolution of 1789.

Then, as now, economic inequality was an epidemic disease growing alarmingly across continents and cultures.

Unlike then, today's economic disparities are exacerbated by long-range cataclysmic potentials of unaddressed man-made climate changes; destined to erupt chaotically, violently, in societies resistant to abandoning decaying, corrupt, dysfunctional power structures and terrified by collapsing fear-based and psychotic superstitions overwhelmed by mass information and expanding rational secularism on an unprecedented scale.

Does astrology have anything relevant to say or solutions to suggest regarding extinction of elephants and lions in Africa? Religious wars and theocracies? Climate change? Rising sea levels? Inundation of coastal cities? Terrorism? Same-sex equality? Women's equality, health care & reproductive rights? Fascist takeovers? Plutocracies? World government? Widespread income disparity? Privatizing education?

For that matter, do psychology or quantum physics or microbiology have anything valuable to contribute or solutions concerning those topics?

As a matter of fact, yes.

At least, physics does. In his just-published *"The Accidental Universe: The World You Thought You Knew,"* physicist Alan Lightman often waxes philosophical and metaphysical about once-and-future Uranus breakthroughs (without calling them that). An early 21<sup>st</sup> Century Boswell, Lightman notes that if the emerging consensus among theoretical physicists that our own universe is but one among countless alternate universes where properties of matter and energy can significantly diverge from our own – if "the multiverse" is true – then "the philosophical ethos of science is torn from its roots."

Is that Uranus-square-Pluto *enough* for astrologers?

The notion that science moves us to an ever more complete comprehension of natural laws – and that those fundamental principles are "so restrictive that only one self-consistent universe is possible, like a crossword puzzle with only one solution" – turns out to be naïve.

As Nobel-winning physicist Steven Weinberg says, “We now find ourselves at a historic fork in the road we travel to understand the laws of nature. If the multiverse idea is correct, the style of fundamental physics will be radically changed.”

The multiverse, incidentally, also refutes the concept of Intelligent Design. If there are infinite universes, then ours is but one of some universes configured to permit life. There’s nothing especially extraordinary about our existence in the multiverse: ours is accidental rather than the inevitable result of predestined laws that can be discovered and comprehended by humanity.

What Lightman *doesn’t* acknowledge or address – why *would* he, given astrology’s inferior reputation – is millennia of verifiable synchronicities between planetary positions in our solar systems and the psychologies, physiologies and core events in individual lives.

Where are Dane Rudhyar’s astrological descendants when we need them?

*Now*, not the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, is the Age of Reason championed by Thomas Paine.

*Now* is World War III: the battle for Enlightenment over Delusion.

Perhaps in 2019, when Uranus finally enters Taurus to stay for seven years, we’ll know which side has won. Or perhaps the Earth itself and millennia of foundational security structures will shatter when the archetype of Chaos blasts old immovable Taurus to smithereens.

*Earthquakes! A giant asteroid wiping out civilizations! Survivors starting over from scratch! Aliens arriving to save or enslave us!*

Maybe not.

Eventually humanity may resettle into redefined (hopefully more egalitarian) collective patterns – if not extinction.

Given the variance of Earth’s current collective educational and economic conditions, the range of “personal growth and development” services may continue to encompass everything from voodoo practitioners down by the bayou to tribal witch doctors in remote jungles to psychiatrists at the Menninger Clinic – and everything in between – including astrologers of all stripes.

Collective certainties, faiths and beliefs outlive their usefulness and die. Thor and Zeus are long gone as gods. That upstart Xenu, a burp on humanity’s timeline, already recedes in history’s rear-view mirror along with bell-bottoms and Flower Power. Is astrology too destined to disappear relatively soon in the Left Behind?

Doubtful.

As long as even one person (there are millions already, and millions more born every day) is drawn to astrology and begins to experience – objectively, for a *fact* – that observed celestial phenomena like the heliacal rising of a particular planet in a particular

sign, or the angular relationship of an awe-inspiring eclipse to the degree of a person's Ascendant, can presage specific events like career success, illness, death, initiation into higher knowledge, marriage to a soul mate – much less illuminate why one is born, what is one's mission and which forks on the road to take – astrology will endure and thrive.

**No other science, art, philosophy, metaphysical discipline or whatever else astrology may be and has been for millennia** – no other data bank of accrued human knowledge – unequivocally proves its underlying premise that human beings and the vast solar system in which we exist, despite cosmic differences in scale, are – get ready for it – *the same magnificent living thing*.

Transiting Uranus in Aries in 2013-2014 repeatedly forms an opening square to Pluto, begging the question: "Will Astrology (traditionally associated with Uranus) see a Rebirth? Unfold at a new level of its evolutionary development (symbolized by that opening square)? Or finally die (that square's ending-and-beginning symbolism too) to go the way of Zeus and Xenu?"

Wrote Dane Rudhyar in 1970:

*"Uranus and Pluto symbolize in a rather fascinating manner the atomic bombs or reactors using uranium or plutonium. They represent even more broadly our whole technologically-controlled society, our computerized business and (soon) education, our T. V. determined political Elections. In every field of human activity and individual responses, these technological procedures, and the mentality which both gave them birth and has been spreading everywhere as the result of this technology, have produced a radical transformation of human values and ways of life.*

*"And the confrontation with the Saturnian Establishment and its police-force or army goes on, and may well grow far stronger and widespread, even if controlled for a while by the frightened mood of a still overwhelmingly large majority seeking to retain at any price their security, their gains and their suburban comfort; which means inevitably a kind of more or less overt military dictatorship or 'Fascism.'*

*"Perhaps as Uranus and Pluto form again an opposition during the twenty-first century, the issue will be even more definitely settled, and what remains of the old world will give way before the rise of a New Age, the Aquarian Age."*

Perhaps.

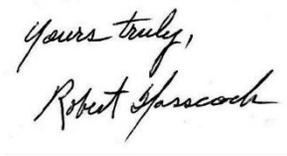
**Finally?** An uncanny, accurate, jaw-dropping, profound, spot-on prediction for the future of astrology.

Astrology's future totally depends on **You**.

What *you* think astrology is.

How *you* practice astrology, explain and demonstrate it to others.

Beyond that, after 50 years in practice, the only future of astrology I'm sure of is my own.



*Yours truly,  
Robert Spence*