



Mercury in Sagittarius

M. Kelley Hunter

FIXED STARS

Interview with Diana K. Rosenberg

By Edith Hathaway (copyright © 2010)

Note from Kelley Hunter: We have a special interview for this issue with Diana Rosenberg. Welcome and thank you to Edith Hathaway, our Guest Interviewer. Edith conducted an extensive interview with Diana for the on-line Saptarishis Magazine due to come out on July 22, 2010. Both she and the magazine were generously willing to share some of her material with ISAR.

Robert Hand calls Diana K. Rosenberg “the leading authority on Fixed Stars.” She has spent the past 30 years researching the subject of Fixed Stars. Her primary interest has always been research and teaching, rather than the consulting side of astrology. Her preferred astrological techniques outside of the realm of Fixed Stars include Uranian Astrology (90 Degree Dial, Planetary Pictures, etc.), Derived Houses, Planetary Nodes, and Solstice Points.

Diana has been a resident of New York City her entire life, while my residence in NYC spanned only 7 years, and I moved westwards in the USA in Feb. 1983. Our paths first crossed in 1982, when I was a student in Diana’s Uranian Astrology classes in Manhattan, NY. From 1988 to the early 1990s I made a gradual shift from Uranian (tropical) to Vedic (sidereal) astrology, a subject Diana always intended to study, but Fixed Stars came first to take up all of her time. She has always been fascinated with very ancient things, and the study of antiquity.

We have been in touch over the years, mainly at national and international astrology conferences. One full Saturn cycle later, after being her student in NYC, I am very honored to interview Diana here on Fixed Stars and on her upcoming book: *Secrets of the Ancient Skies: Fixed Stars and Constellations in Natal and Mundane Astrology*. Her website: <http://ye-stars.com>.

Phone conversations and e-mail exchanges for this interview took place Jan. thru May 2010, with most of the content delivered by late Feb. 2010. During this time, Diana was and is gravely ill with pancreatic cancer. Still very spirited and alert mentally, she chose to avoid more radical treatments such as chemotherapy or radiation because they would have weakened her further, making it more difficult for her to finish work on her book. I know the astrological community shares my gratitude for the innate intelligence, diligence and exuberance Diana has for the subject she loves so much, and for her dedication in sharing her knowledge and insights with all of us.

EH: There is a general lack of knowledge about what Fixed Stars are and how they work. They sometimes get a reputation for being mostly very difficult, or malevolent. Is this justified?

DKR: Fixed Stars are simply stars. They were called “fixed” to distinguish them from moving elements in the sky, such as planets and comets. Stars are intense foci of energies that both test an individual and enlighten him. (Sorry about the “him.” The English language does not supply a neutral noun for both sexes, so assume when I say “him” I mean “him or her.”) What you get with the stars is not good/bad, right/wrong, benevolent/malevolent, but *issues*. For instance, there might be an issue of tolerance versus intolerance, or addiction versus abstinence, arrogance versus humility, greed versus generosity, aggression versus working for peaceful solutions, and so forth. The horoscope is set up so that the individual will constantly have these issues come up in his life, and he will have to decide how he wants to deal with them. Very often both ends of these polarities will manifest in one lifetime, pulling and

pushing the individual to make choices over and over again. A typical scenario might be that one is born into wealth and comfort, then loses everything and goes through a period of poverty, then works his way back to wealth and then might have to decide whether to “play it safe” and pile up money in fear of another “crash,” or to take the lessons of poverty to heart and use his money to help others who are in need.

EH: How can we determine if a Fixed Star will give results in terms of all that has been attributed to it?

DKR: The short answer is, you can’t! There are too many variables (the rest of the chart, for instance), and how a person lives his life, and what choices he is making. I think a good example here (*Star Map on this page*) is former Senator and Vice President Albert Gore. (March 31, 1948, 12:53 PM EST, Washington, DC). His Midheaven (tropical 21:52 Aries) is aligned with a famous shipwreck star, **Baten Kaitos**, Zeta Ceti, in the belly of the constellation figure of Cetus, the Sea-Monster or Whale, (tropical 22 Aries, sidereal 28 Pisces). Baten Kaitos is a stormy star, known for shipwrecks, possibly with rescue, and drowning. Right opposite it is another shipwreck star. Baten Kaitos was at the North lunar node at the Titanic disaster, and shows up in many shipwreck charts.

At the peak of his career, when Al Gore ran for U.S. President in 2000, even though he won the popular vote by more than half a million, he lost the election on technicalities and so was “shipwrecked” – left high and dry without even a job or any kind of public position. This is an example of how this star might work in an individual’s chart. With Baten Kaitos, there will be at least one instance in the life where the person will have to deal with a shocking, staggering displacement and have to somehow find a way to restart his or her life. Gore, of course, has become a spokesman for the international environmental movement, and even received a Nobel Prize for his efforts. Here is a quote from my book:

“**Baten Kaitos** is one of the most frequently found stars involved in shipwrecks, and these people may at some time find themselves left ‘high and dry,’ broken on the rocks of life; yet this is an area of great

breakthroughs and transformations and after they pull through, they have much to offer from the depths of their experiences, often ending up with a strong sense of personal destiny.... Baten Kaitos is approaching a World Axis aspect of 22.5° to 0° Aries: the world’s oceans are rising, ‘drowning’ shorelines.”

As the presidential election approached in Nov. 2000, I thought: “I don’t know if Al Gore is going to be president with a shipwreck star on his Midheaven.” It was assumed Gore would win the election. Often someone is going along swimmingly, winning awards and status, and then – nothing.

EH: Did you predict that election based on Baten Kaitos at Gore’s Midheaven?

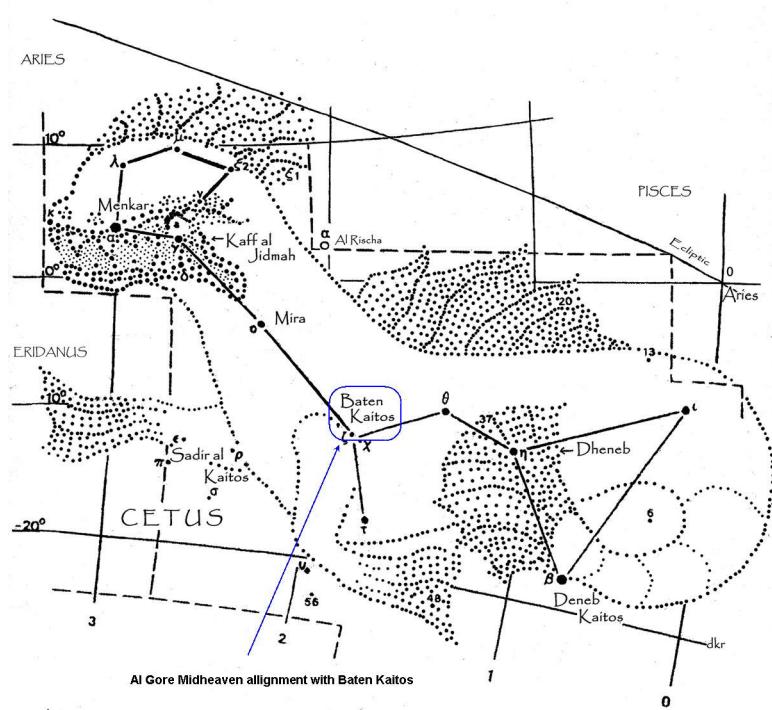
DKR: No, I did not. I used the 90 Degree Dial.

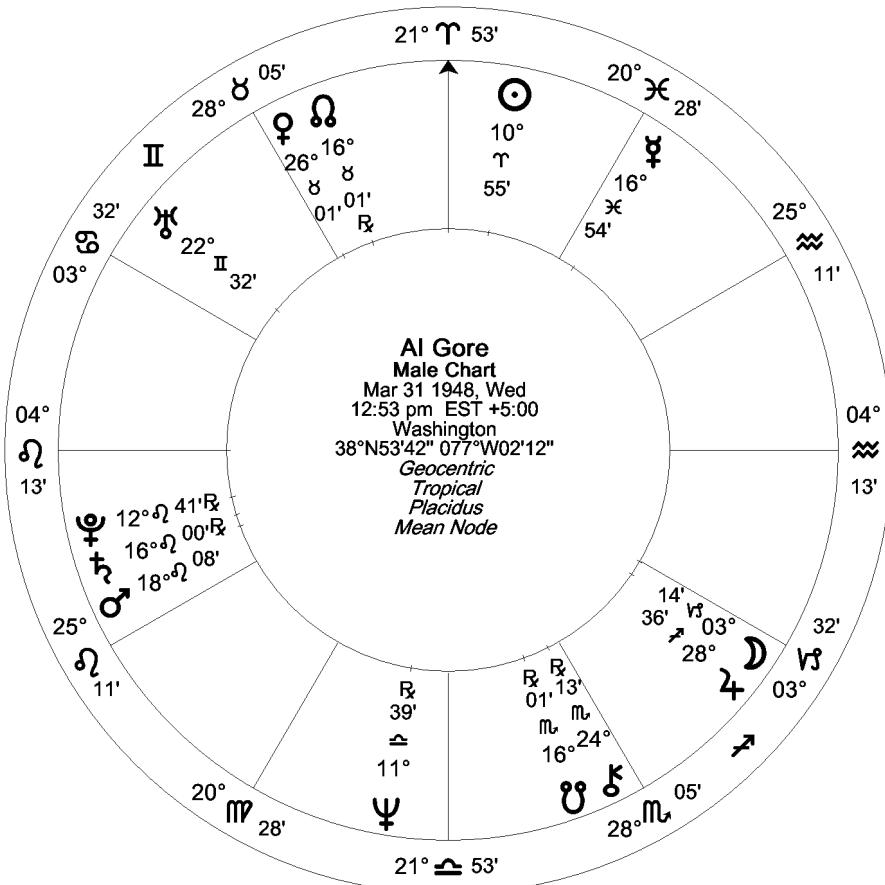
EH: That’s interesting. Then you would use more than the Fixed Stars?

DKR: I use anything I can get my hands on!

EH: So how do we know *when* he will have the shipwreck?

DKR: Well, that was in my psyche when I was working with the 90 Degree Dial. And I wanted desperately for





him to win. But working the dial very hard – no matter how hard I worked it – I thought Bush was going to get it. And the way it happened was so interesting. Gore didn't lose the election. He won it! He won the election and yet he lost the presidency. And that was a sort of message from the gods in itself, if you will: "You are not a loser." Of course what went on there in Florida was some of the worst shenanigans in U.S. presidential history. And he fought it right up to the U.S. Supreme Court, but to no avail.

EH: So you're saying the practitioner of astrology should use various methods in corroboration with the Fixed Stars, and not rely on them alone for making predictions. Is that right?

DKR: Yes. I have always been bemused when, as a lecturer, I was assigned to the "techniques" track at a conference. Fixed Stars aren't a "technique" – whereas the 90 Degree Dial is a technique. Solstice Points, Draconitics, Declination Graphs, etc. are techniques. But the stars and constellations are the ground we all stand on, whatever zodiac we espouse – tropical or

sidereal. That is simply a matter of choosing different starting points and labeling planetary and chart positions accordingly.

EH: Are some stars more important than others due to their magnitude? Or their actual size?

DKR: Among the most interesting and unexpected things I found in my research was that size, magnitude (i.e. brightness), and nearness to the ecliptic had apparently no connection with a star's importance. Some very dim stars, far from the ecliptic, pack quite a wallop! A good example is 4th- to-5th magnitude Al Kurah, Xi Cephei (also called Kurdah) in the chest of Cepheus, the King (24 Aries tropical, 0 Aries Lahiri), which is 66 degrees north of the ecliptic. (The Pole is 90 degrees

north.) This little, dim, exiled star turns up on the charts of an extraordinary number of great artists, poets, playwrights, composers, actors and dancers!

EH: On a technical level, what is the orb of influence you use with the Fixed Stars?

DKR: Generally I use one degree on either side, called "a moiety." There are a few exceptions: If the star is on the ecliptic, is a 1st magnitude star, and also contacts the Sun, Moon, the angles, or the Moon's node, then there is a wider orb of influence – about a 2 to 3 degree orb. (Only Spica and Regulus are 1st magnitude stars that are right on the ecliptic.) I look at both the True node and Mean node. I find there is a kind of a halo effect around the nodes which gives them a wider than usual orb of influence. In mundane astrology, the Lunar Nodes can be very malefic if they link up with the angles of an event or predictive chart.¹

EH: Going back to using various techniques along with Fixed Stars, and on the subject of Al Gore, in his Vedic chart he has Jupiter in the 6th house of litigation – somewhat spoiled – especially as 9th house lord, ruling

over father, good fortune, and *dharma*, among other things. This is just one component describing some challenges in these areas.

DKR: Well, if we just focus on the Fixed Star Baiten Kaitos at his Midheaven, we would say there is some point where he is abandoned on a desert island, so to speak, and has some puzzlement as to how to handle his life from then on. His father was very strict with him, and set things up in his education and training so he would enter politics, and reach a high rank in American political life. After all those years of doing what his father wanted, and seemingly successfully, he is left without that central purpose in life, and has to make a decision as to what to do next. So, he goes with one of his passions – which is the environment and ecology, and his concern about what's happening to the planet. He goes and builds on that. Then almost immediately, because of his celebrity, he's able to get a hearing on that. And the more he becomes involved, the more he becomes one of the experts in that domain.

EH: How far would you extend the meaning of the shipwreck? For instance, he's also dealing with what he considers a sort of "shipwrecked environment"!

DKR: Yes, you could say that. And there's another factor I thought of. One of the things I've found with Baten Kaitos' constellation, Cetus, the Sea Monster – now often called a whale – is that he turns up constantly at tsunamis. Manilius wrote about each constellation figure, and he has a long description of Cetus in action.² The monster is rushing towards the shore, pushing the waves in front of him. The waves are overwhelming the coast, destroying everything in their path, which I think is a very good description of a tsunami. Here is the whole quote:

"... a huge vengeful beast of rising scaly coils and massive gaping jaws, drenching his winged attacker [Perseus, the hero] with a bloody deluge, driving the surging waves before him, making the very mountains and cliffs quake. A hostile sea in all its strength burst upon every shore, the land was shipwrecked in the flood, and what had been a kingdom became an ocean."

Wouldn't you say *that's* a description of a tsunami?!

EH: Yes, a very accurate one, and what wonderful poetic imagery! Such compelling use of language.

DKR: Yes, he was a poet and an astrologer. So Cetus shows up at times of tsunamis. But I want to make

another very important point. Cetus is the constellation within which Baten Kaitos resides. You can't just pluck the Fixed Star out of the constellation. You have to take in consideration what that sky figure stands for. There are constellations above and below that figure. Above Cetus are the Fishes and Andromeda, the Chained woman – which have to do with bondage and entrapment. Cetus, lined up with the stars of the Fishes, is the "Sea-monster," as Manilius calls him. In birth charts of individuals he can also represent monsters of the subconscious. But once I read that Manilius quote, I immediately checked every tsunami chart I could find, including that one in Indonesia in Dec. 2004. And oh boy!

EH: Where was it in that chart?

DKR: At the epicenter of the earthquake producing the tsunami on Dec. 26, 2004, Cetus was anti-culminating – it was the Antivertex, IC and North Node. In the Winter Solstice chart for Banda Aceh, Indonesia (5N34, 95E20), just five days earlier, Cetus had been culminating with Vertex, MC, North Node and Moon. This is also the Ingress chart – Sun entering tropical Capricorn.³ The Vertex was 14:05 Aries, MC was 17:32 Aries, North Node 0:30 Taurus, and Moon 3:32 Taurus. Tropical Cancer was rising, so the Moon ruled the chart. The span of Cetus in degrees of the tropical zodiac is 18.3 Pisces to 21:00 Taurus. This is based on IAU boundaries, and is correct for the year 2000.⁴

A local astrologer may have run a chart for the capitol – Jakarta, Indonesia – where the MC had the Moon-North Node. I love mundane astrology, and I use Fixed Stars with the 90 Degree Dial and Uranian techniques, along with Western tropical methods. I recommend that astrologers use whatever system they are used to *plus* the Fixed Stars.

If I had more time, I would study Vedic! But it depends on how much time you've got. The Hindu sidereal system is more "structural" – for lack of a better word. For example, if someone has a limb amputated, it's more likely to turn up in the Vedic or sidereal tradition, because it's more connected to the constellations. And the constellations are very, very body-oriented. The tropical zodiac tends to be more psychological in that if you've got an ailment, yes – you might see it in the physical elements of the constellations, but you might also see it as psychologically initiated.⁵ For instance, the trigger for getting ulcers might be psychological.

I'll tell you a little story, and maybe you could include it: I was at an astrology conference, and there was a room set aside for people demonstrating their software programs. Alphée Lavoie was there, and Rob Hand, and others. Each had his own table, and I was sitting there helping someone. A young man came in who was a journalist. He didn't know anything about astrology, but he thought he would like to test us, if that was okay. And he wanted each astrologer to do the analysis separately, independently. He said: "I've got an ailment, and I'll give you my birth data. I want to see if you can tell me what it is." And it was very easy in that case. Mars in Virgo in the 6th house, Virgo – intestines, Mars there – ouch! I don't remember what else, but I remember that. Each table said: "You've got some form of intestinal problem, and it may be an ulcer." He was very impressed with all of us, and said so.

Now the sign of tropical Virgo mostly takes up the sky figure of the Lion. Not the head of the Lion, but the belly and the tail. Above the Lion is the belly of Mama Bear. Edgar Cayce mentioned that intestinal ailments are related to the Great Bear. I happen to have Jupiter in that area, and it rules my 6th house. (This is all tropical.) And look what has happened to me! Pancreatic cancer. And I've always had mild intestinal problems, so that was one of my vulnerable areas. In this case, you can make it work in both zodiacs. However, Jupiter in my case means I was overdoing it. I'm overweight, and I eat too much, and I eat too many sweets. And that can affect the pancreas very much.⁶



Diana K. Rosenberg

So I think the two zodiacs enhance each other. And I think what I've done with the stars is to try to rediscover this whole physical thing. Because I don't think that is used in the Vedic, and it's not used in the tropical system. So I'm bringing in an element here – and you can get this all down. I call it **The Missing Link!** And interestingly, it's the earliest part of astrology. It's where astrology began – the pictures in the sky. But why did they put those figures where they were, and how they were? Now we know each culture had its own sky figures, no matter where astrology originated. We know that some basic elements of our astrology came down to us from the Euphrates Valley via India and Greece.

EH: Yes, that was originally through their oral traditions – Sanskrit and Greek, respectively. I would also add that the level of sophistication of a culture, which includes its astrology, depends greatly on its antiquity, and the amount of time it has had to develop. And for this we have important new research from climate, agricultural and genetic studies that question the old Euro-centric assumptions.⁷

DKR: There are arguments about this, of

course. (*We did it! No we did it!*) But the evidence from the earliest cuneiform texts, which were written down from memory chanters, probably point to things they were discovering about parts of the sky. They would put pictures out there to represent them.

EH: The imagery goes across cultures, as you point out. There is a universal tradition of knowledge here that doesn't belong to any one human being or culture. The Vedic tradition sees it as "the Cosmic Mind."

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DKR: Yet we see cultural influences that are very individual to each nation or tribal group, and sourced incredibly far back. Look at the Lascaux cave's Taurus,⁸ for instance, and the fact that Siberian tribes saw the stars of Ursa Major as a bear, and so did several Indian tribes of the North American continent, seeming to affirm the idea of a very ancient Bering land bridge linking Asia and North America.

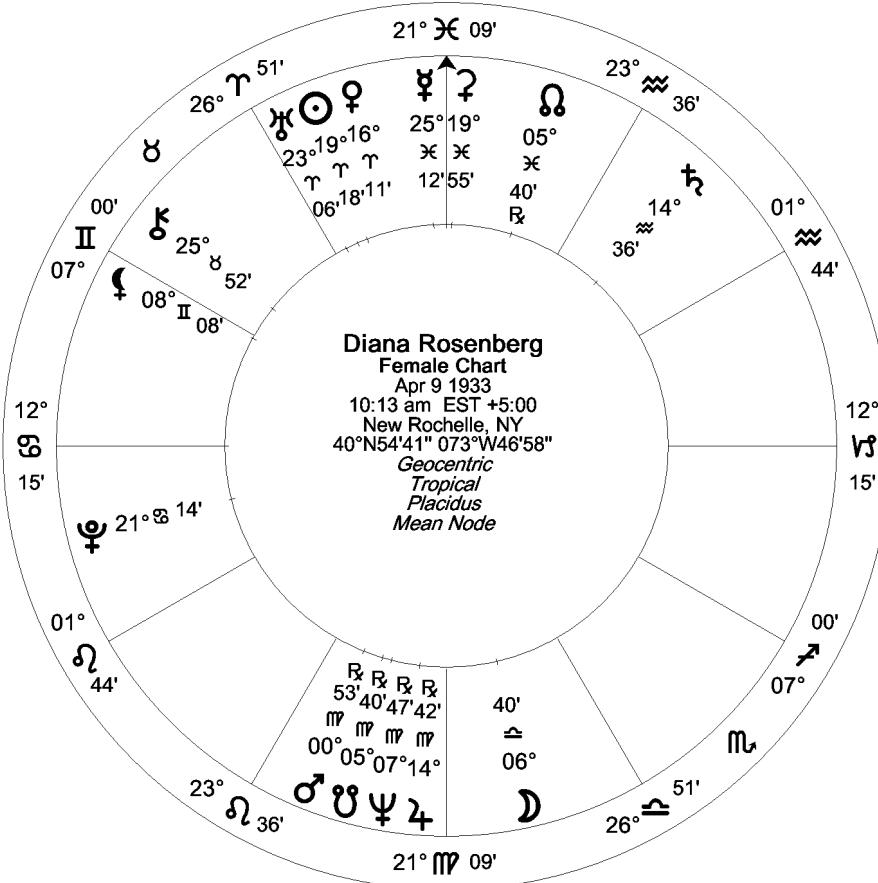
I'll give you a more specific example: There are these goats in the sky. **Auriga** (pronounced or-EYE-ga), is the Charioteer.⁹ He is carrying a mother goat and two baby goats. Like he doesn't have enough to do with holding the reins?! What is he doing with goats - and why a mother and two babies? Auriga is a major figure – a pentagonal figure of stars, and located right up above the Bull's head. I came across a reference that enlightened me, a Book of Dream Interpretations called the *Oneirocritica* of Artimedoris, of Daldis, Greece. He lived around 140 AD, and probably drew on older works. This is the earliest known book of dream interpretations. One instruction is this: If you dream of goats bouncing around and capering, don't go on a sea voyage. This is because when the wind comes up, there are what we call "white caps" on the water. The Greeks called them "goats," because it looks like the sea is bouncing. Even the name of the Aegean Sea

comes from the Greek word *aegos* – goat. They associated storms with *goats!* That's why Auriga is carrying goats – because they had discovered that that's a storm area in the sky, and they didn't want to lose their storm symbol *or* their charioteer. He's carrying the goats, so that you get the storm symbols, since you can't put a picture of a storm in the sky.

It is probably a combination of two ancient traditions that came together. Auriga is in the area of the tropical zodiac from about mid-Gemini to mid-Cancer. It is above the horns of the Bull, and includes five stars in a pentagram. The baby goats are at about 18 degrees Gemini and the mother is at 23 degrees Gemini. She is the bright star Capella, the brightest star in Aurigae, a 1st magnitude star. As for her Kids, right around 18-19 Gemini (tropical zodiac) are people who are generally involved with children. They may be teachers or social workers, anything like that. Generally there is an involvement with children.

EH: How is this related to storms?

DKR: It isn't. But why put baby goats? Why not just put mama? Another incident comes to mind about this



— very funny. About 18 years ago there was a very nasty storm in New York — a nor'easter, called the “no-name storm.” I remember, the whole Northeast coast of the US was affected, and a lot of people lost power for a long time. And it was very cold. And nine months later, there was a huge surge in the birth rate! When I heard about that on the news, and everyone in the TV studio started laughing, I thought — *the kids!!* I remembered that the storm happened when there was a Full Moon at 18 Gemini, aligned with “the kids” — the name for Auriga’s baby goats. This takes us back to the dream interpretation of Artemidoris, who warned not to go on a sea voyage when you dream of goats capering about, representing storm waves. Not just in Greece, but all throughout the Near East, goats colloquially are associated with rough seas: “Oh look, the wind is up. Look at the goats!” This was in ancient times. I don’t know if it is still said.

So this is what I consider **The Missing Dimension in Astrology**. We’re looking at pieces of paper with charts and lots of symbols on them. And those symbols have come to mean all kinds of wonderful things to us, and

are very revealing. But it’s like in *The Wizard of Oz*, when Kansas is black and white, and you get to Oz, and it’s Technicolor. *This* is the Technicolor. This is the ground underneath all of these things, whichever zodiac you’re using. This is the basis. This is where it began.

EH: Okay, very good. Let’s move on to something less grand, but necessary for all this — precession correction.

DKR: Precession correction is *added* as time progresses. When people ask me about calculating precession, I tell them to get a ‘scientific calculator’. My calculator is a Cassio FX 258c.

EH: Many people now use the calculator in their computers. It’s under *All Programs*, then *Accessories*. On the Tool Bar under *View*, you get a choice of *Standard*, *Scientific*, and/or *Digit Grouping*.

DKR: I’ve just used the hand calculator. I’ve never tried these other methods on the computer, so I don’t know. **Precession calculations** are easy if you have a hand calculator that has a degree-minute-second option. They are usually called “scientific calculators” and are quite inexpensive. The button often looks like this: °9 99 Take the difference between the year of birth and 2000, then multiply that by 0 degrees, 0 minutes, 50.23 seconds; the result comes up in decimal form, and the calculator has a conversion button to turn it into degrees-minutes-seconds. It is important to remember to use the full 0 degrees, 0 minutes first before the 50.23 seconds. If you just feed in the seconds, it won’t come out right. Then you add the result to each element of the chart. (Precession increases the planet’s longitude as time progresses.) Then when you have corrected each chart position, you can check them against the stars’ 2000 positions in my book. I list star positions for both the tropical and the sidereal zodiac.

EH: Let's look at those whose work influenced you when you began your research in 1980. At that time, those who had written on Fixed Stars included **William Lilly** (1602-1681), British astrologer and occultist, **Vivian Robson** (1890-1942), (male) British mathematician and astrologer, also curator of Geology and Paleontology at the British Museum, and **Reinhold Ebertin** (1901-1988), German physician and astrologer. Among those, William Lilly was the most famous astrologer. Did William Lilly have more influence on you?

DKR: Lilly's work was useful for me, but not more influential on me than the others. He established and used a list of 50 Fixed Stars, especially in his horary work, and he worked with them. He was also probably using Ptolemy, and expanding on it a bit. I tried not to be too influenced by others. I wanted to check everything out for myself.

Robson lists 110 stars, Ebertin 73, and Bernadette Brady lists 176, but only has interpretations for 64 of them. In my 30 years of research, I came to realize that constellations were of primary importance, and that everything in the sky, not only stars, was meaningful. So I kept adding stars and DSO's (Deep Space Objects, i.e. black holes, neutron stars, galaxies, etc.) and I kept a Master list of all of the ones for which I had calculated the positions.

The stars and DSO's in my book are culled from this Master list of about 2,500. The book has more than 750 stars detailed, and another 1,168 with just zodiacal longitude and place in a constellation. I designed my book to be a tool for astrologers, so that they could use it for their own research, and take the information into new directions, if they wished.

EH: Take us back to the era when so many stars were being named – at least in modern times.

DKR: In the 1600s, 1700s, and 1800s – when voyages were being made to the South Seas – they were seeing new sky figures. Europeans were seeing stars they had never seen before. They had a field day making their own constellations! The ship would come back to London, or some other port, and they would rush off to a celestial cartographer and have them draw their new constellations. Most of the figures were scientific, because **science** was the new big thing.

There were a couple of telescopes. There was a microscope. There was a chemical furnace. (In Latin this was *Fornax Chemica*.) That must have been something that was very big at the time. They had all these figures they made up – mostly using dim stars that were not being used by other constellations. Or stars so far south they had not been seen by people from Europe, or North Africa. The Octant, for example, is a figure close to the South Pole. (The Octant is an old variation on a sextant. It was used by mariners, but is not used any more.) Someone decided to create a lizard – Lacerta. It is up next to Andromeda. I have real passion against Lacerta, as they *stole* Andromeda stars to create it – stars, which I have restored.

EH: Okay, let's move back to another basic question: How many Fixed Stars do you use?

DKR: As many as I can get my hands on!

EH: But realistically –

DKR: My book has detailed 753 of them. And also includes the longitudes for 1,168 more Fixed Stars. So there are almost 2,000 in the book. Had I realized it was *nearly* 2,000, I would have added a few more to make it 2,000!

EH: Even so, that's an achievement, and a valuable resource for astrologers and researchers. How many of those would you say you're using more of the time?

DKR: Oh gee, I couldn't say. That's something I couldn't answer.

EH: That's very interesting to know about you – that you don't like to limit yourself with these.

DKR: Well, as soon as you say to me: Diana, you can't – something in me rebels.

EH: All right, that may be important for someone to know who is entering your world of scholarship, because you started off by feeling there was too little known about the Fixed Stars, and you wanted to expand on that, and you didn't want to be limited. That's been your role, in a way – to bring people's attention to them. And why stop with 60 or 70?

DKR: Well, as I went along, I never intended to write such a big book. It's just that as information came to

hand, I would say: “Let’s test this out!” And 90% of the things did test out. Then I’d want to put it in so people would know: Look what I found!

With Auriga, the Charioteer, I couldn’t figure it out. What am I going to get? Bus drivers? Cab drivers? And for a long time I couldn’t see a pattern. Then I read the Greek myth about Auriga (also called Erichthonius) that said he invented the chariot because he could not walk. Suddenly a possible pattern emerged, and I thought: I’ve got to test this. Sure enough, those stars turned up on charts of people confined to wheelchairs! The charioteer is in a wheelchair. Isn’t that something? And the illustration I made is of a war veteran in a wheelchair. I came to this partly through studying the Chinese, who saw the same pattern of stars of Autiga – the hexagon – as Five War Chariots. And each star had its own job. One administered the Oath of Allegiance; another one took care of the horses, and so on. The Chinese are wonderfully detailed about these things. But it was a war encampment. Even the author of the book I was using (an astronomer) said: “I wonder if there is any connection to the Pentagon in all this.” So I had a look at the day the cornerstone for the Pentagon was laid. Jupiter was exactly aligned with one of the brightest stars of Auriga! And I put wheelchairs and warfare together and thought of wounded veterans!

EH: Did you work with charts of veterans?

DKR: Well, it’s very hard to get charts of veterans in wheelchairs. In fact, another astrologer was looking for them for another reason, and said how hard they were to find. But I did get the birth date of **Ron Kovic**, who was the veteran that was featured in the movie *Born on the Fourth of July*. I didn’t get a time for him, but he had two or three things aligned with Auriga. And I did get the son of a famous General called Chesty Puller. His son, **Lewis Burwell Puller, Jr.** was terribly wounded in the Viet Nam war, and was in a wheelchair. He was on heavy drugs for pain, and finally in the end he committed suicide. I tried so hard to get his birth data and almost gave up until I found a website devoted to him, with a photo of his gravestone with a birth date on it!¹⁰ He too had several things aligned with Auriga. Wheelchair-bound President Franklin D Roosevelt had his MC aligned with the head of the Bull, and under it Orion, and a whole row of brilliant constellations there. When you project stars on to the ecliptic, you get three or four major constellations. His Midheaven was in that area, and one of the constellations was Auriga, the Charioteer.

Other people who were in wheelchairs because of being wounded were **Larry Flynt** and Alabama **Governor George Wallace**. Larry Flynt was the pornography publisher who was shot. He had Auriga rising. Gov. Wallace was shot in an assassination attempt in May 1972, while he was campaigning as U.S. presidential candidate, and he was confined to a wheelchair. He had Pluto aligned with Auriga.

EH: So in addition to not liking to be limited in your practice, if you see something going on – like blindness – you study all the stars to do with blindness? Or you gravitate towards certain Fixed Stars as events occur? Or how would you say it works for you?

DKR: Well, blindness I researched very early on. That was a breakthrough. That was the first indication I had about the body stuff. By that time I was already working with the stars in sets. You just can’t do one degree alone. One star is 22:36 Gemini and the next is 23:02 Gemini. So you’re going to separate them? No.

EH: Do you work with stars in sets within a given constellation?

DKR: No, I work with stars within a given span – tropically. Usually, most of the sets are about a three-degree span. Occasionally you get up to four degrees. It depends. Sometimes you get a whole pile of stars at one degree. That happens particularly when you’re going through the Milky Way area, and you have a dense conglomeration. In any case, I call them “star sets.”

EH: You have done studies associated with various parts of the body, and various ailments. Tell me about your study of blindness.

DKR: Well, I did do an extensive study of blindness. That’s one of the things the ancients mentioned. Quite a few of the Fixed Stars are associated with blindness. And when I see someone with a distinct pattern in their chart of several of these stars, one of the first things I say is: “Don’t kid around with your eyes. If something happens with your eyes, if they get irritated, or they get a floater, don’t dismiss it. Go straight to an eye doctor. Be extra careful with everything to do with your eyes, what type of sunglasses you use. Everything. Because your eyes are vulnerable.” And then because I don’t want to scare them I say: “Everybody has vulnerable areas, but that happens to be yours.” And that’s how I handle it.

In my research on blindness, I wanted to check what Ptolemy and Manilius said on the subject, and add any that I discovered that had a high score. I suddenly realized later, looking at this list of blindness stars, that I had the eye of the Bull, the eye of the Crow, the eye of the Lynx, the eye of the Dragon, the eye of the Bear, and the eye of the Crab. (Manilius said the Crab has no eyes, while Ptolemy said the eyes of the Crab caused blindness.) It was just astonishing, that in the midst of all the other stars I had there, I suddenly saw just eyes, or heads in some cases – like Andromeda’s head. So I kept all this in the back of my mind.

Then at a conference on ancient astrology in Princeton, NJ I gave a lecture on Fixed Stars and mentioned the idea that constellation figures may have been placed deliberately to pinpoint specific parts of the body. Soon after my talk, a New Jersey astrologer came up to me and asked me to check her chart, as her right arm had recently been amputated at the shoulder due to a cancerous growth in the armpit. She wanted to see if there were any constellation positions that would link to that. We sat in a quiet corner with my big red notebook, and went from position to position on her chart, starting at her Ascendant, which was 32 Virginis, a star in the Virgin’s **right arm**. Then came Jupiter in the 1st house at Sigma Bootis, in the **right arm** of the Herdsman; the Moon (in the 2nd), was Gamma Herculis, in the **right arm** of Hercules; asteroid Juno in the 3rd house was aligned with Cheleb, Beta Ophiuchi in the **right shoulder** of the Serpent-Bearer. (By this time, both of us were gasping.). Then, in the 5th house, after Venus and the Sun (no hits) came a Mercury-Mars conjunction at Sadalmelik, Alpha Aquarii, the **right shoulder** of Aquarius; in the 7th house her Uranus was aligned with 7 Cephei, the **right shoulder** of Cepheus, and 22 Andromedae, the **right hand** of the Chained Woman. In the 8th house, Chiron aligned with Gamma Persei, the **right armpit** of Perseus; at the MC was Beta Columbae, the Dove’s **right wing**; with Pluto (10th house) was 82 Geminorum, Pollux’s **right shoulder**. Both of us were speechless.

This was a tremendous breakthrough, and one of the major discoveries I made in researching the stars: the vital importance of the constellations *in detail*, and not only the ones on the ecliptic (i.e. the zodiac) but those of the “Sphaera Barbarica” – figures above and below the ecliptic – even those very far from it, up to the poles.

And that really took me to the next step. I have a few charts of pianists who lost the use of an arm or a hand, and

they had hand and arm stars on their charts. One was **Paul Wittgenstein**, whose younger brother was the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein.¹¹

I have a whole file called **Body Parts** that almost got neglected because I didn’t have time. In addition, there are chest areas, like the chest of Aquarius, that can be lung diseases, or sometimes heart ailments. Heart ailments are often Antares, and occasionally also the lion’s heart – Regulus. But this was such an enormous turning point for me with this research. Then I discovered just before UAC 2008 [United Astrology Conference] that Aleksandar Ismiragic had made the same discovery. He calls it “anatomy” and I call it “body parts.”

EH: So you have a whole section in your book on Body Parts?

DKR: No, that’s the sad thing. I have not had time to write that. I will have to put it in an Appendix, or mention it in the Introduction.

EH: Let’s get back to another question: What magnetizes you to use the Fixed Stars you use?

DKR: I keep feeding in people and events. In order to confirm a pattern, or find out that it *wasn’t* a pattern, I would then go looking for other people that fit that category, and feed the data of their charts in. So I went both ways to try to find what patterns I could, and see if they related to constellations in a given area. It’s my Data Monster! I take a chart of a person or an event, and precess-correct it. As I said earlier, precession is *added* as time progresses. Then I put the corrected positions around the chart. Then I go to the star sets, and insert the planets, etc. of each person or event where they belong. And I decided to be inclusive, which was a very good decision, as it turned out. That’s how I made discoveries, with unexpected things: “Oh my gosh, I have several serial killers here, or I have several apparitions of the Virgin Mary.” So I put all the major positions on the chart, out to Pluto and I include the Lunar Nodes. Occasionally I mentioned an asteroid, but generally I stuck with the major planets and the angles of the chart. If I could not get a birth time, I left out the Moon and the angles. But in those cases, I tell the reader that if something doesn’t quite fit, try the adjacent star sets.

For instance, I worked with the Grimm brothers, and later on I came across their data. Since they were both born late at night, that changed not only the Sun but Venus too, and

put them both into another star set. So you're never quite sure.

EH: This is the **Brothers Grimm** who wrote the fairy tales?

DKR: Yes.

EH: So what did you come across?

DKR: I entered people who were into ancient traditions and collected folk tales. But I was interested in the Brothers Grimm for many reasons. They were not only pioneers in folk studies, they were famous philologists. They did a lot of work on the roots of the German language. The study of folk traditions is now virtually a science. It's a respected field in universities. At that time it wasn't. So they were pioneers in both folk studies and philology.

In any case, I chose to study certain people to see if there was a pattern emerging. So I would look for a few more people in that field to see if they fit that pattern, and if they turned up with a planet in that area. That's what I did with the people in wheelchairs. I went looking for people in wheelchairs. So there is an example of how I was working – anyone I heard about or I could get data on who was in a wheelchair.

But that wasn't the only way I was working. When I began, I began with Adolf Hitler, Abraham Lincoln – the big people in history for whom I could get data. The rest was whatever struck my fancy. For instance, there was one from *The New York Times* obituary of someone named **Gladys Tantaquidgeon**, who brought to mind Ophiuchus. It turned out that she had Uranus, Chiron, Saturn, Juno & North Node aligned with the stars of Ophiuchus. She was a much revered Mohegan medicine woman, who lived to be 106 years old. (Born June 15, 1899 on Mohegan Hill, CT, died Nov. 1, 2005.) The Greeks associated Ophiuchus with their god of medicine, Aesculapius (also spelled Asklepios), son of Apollo – a great physician of the Greeks. Ophiuchus is a doctor, but also I think – obviously a shaman. He is at the same longitude as the Scorpion. He's actually above the Scorpion and stepping on it. He is a member of the zodiac, since his feet stand on the ecliptic. He's also wrestling with a serpent. I said to astrologer Ray Mardyks (who is also very involved in sky maps): "By the way, did you know Ophiuchus is a shaman?" He said: "Well, of course."

EH: After researching and writing on this subject for over 30 years what do you think is your contribution to what is already known on this subject? And what for you is the highlight of your book?

DKR: I have written the book that I wish I could have had when I was first studying astrology. I've tried to dig up the most ancient sources available, from every culture. Lunar mansions (Hindu, Chinese and Arabic) are extremely ancient, so I have included them and named their determinant stars. I kept inputting people and events to see if patterns emerged, then I wrote up interpretations based upon what I found. The quotations that lead off each section are, in most cases, from people who have placements there. I did the illustrations myself because I wanted to show them against the background grid of right ascension and declination, with the names of the surrounding figures included to show where each one is in relation to the others. I included Major stars and DSO's (Deep Space Objects).

Some of my illustration figures are untraditional, but based on what I discovered – Auriga the Charioteer, for instance, is shown as a war veteran in a wheelchair, because in the myth he invented the chariot *because he could not walk*, and what I found at those stars confirmed the myth. Corona Borealis is usually shown as a spiky metal crown, I have it as a wedding wreath, because that's what it is in the myth. Ophiuchus is shown struggling with Serpens, instead of just holding him. There I used Kepler's Ophiuchus as a model. The Scales of Libra are shown with ghostly Scorpion's claws behind them, because that's what they were, earlier. Sagittarius has a wing in the place of the usual flowing cloak, because the earliest depictions of him are winged. Aquarius was described as a naked youth, so that's what I made him. And so forth.

EH: Diana, Thank you so much for your many years of research, and for your many insights – which will add immeasurably to the unfolding of knowledge for astrologers everywhere.

DKR: It has been my great pleasure!

Endnotes:

1 In Vedic astrology, for that full malefic effect we would also include the other Vedic classical malefic planets (Sun, Mars, and Saturn) together with the nodes (Rahu or Ketu) at the angles. For instance, Mars was closely contacting Ketu at 8 degrees Sagittarius at the time the first plane hit the World Trade Center Tower in Manhattan, NY on Sept. 11, 2001. Mercury in Virgo was exactly rising, with Moon, Jupiter and Rahu in Gemini (all

sideral positions). Mars-Jupiter can bring the religious zealot influence, especially in opposition, and even more so on the Sagittarius-Gemini axis. Jupiter is regarded as a “temporal malefic” for Virgo Ascendant. (EH)

2 Manilius was a contemporary of Christ and of Emperor Augustus. We don't know anything about him except that he was Roman, and he wrote an astrology textbook in verse form, the *Astronomica*, in the beginning of the 1st century, roughly 9 to 14 AD. (DKR)

3 Winter Solstice data: Dec. 21, 2004, 12:41:40 PM GMT, Banda Aceh, Indonesia, 5N34, 95 E20. Banda Aceh was the closest point of land to the epicenter of the earthquake that produced the tsunami. Earthquake magnitude was 9.1 to 9.3, with epicenter at 3N19, 95E51 (0:59 GMT). (EH)

4 IAU stands for the International Astronomers' Union. (DKR)

5 In Vedic astrology, the trigger for illness is very often considered as psychological. Moon is the mind, and is considered central to where and how you focus your thoughts and emotions. For instance, an afflicted Moon is often regarded as more challenging than an afflicted Sun or Ascendant lord, as the Moon's state determines peace of mind and happiness. (EH)

6 Birth data is: April 9, 1933, 10:13 AM EST, New Rochelle, NY. For more, incl. Edith's analysis of her Vedic chart, please see article on Diana at: <http://www.saptarishisastrology.com/> (EH)

7 Using climate, agriculture, and genetics to study earliest civilizations, it becomes clearer that the coastal regions of peninsular India and coastal regions from the east preceded the settling of the Near East - long designated the “Cradle of Civilization.” Genetic research shows Indian culture to be over 50,000 years old, with no input other than from SE Asia & Indonesia. Some 10,000 years ago, SE Asia was a large landmass, not a series of islands, and this was most likely the center of civilization. Latest scholarship also indicates there is no proof that India ever borrowed the main aspects of its civilization, such as agriculture, writing, or urban planning. This can be extended to some key components of their astrology, such as the Vedic *nakshatras*, which appear in the *Rig Veda*, along with other sophisticated references to the 360 degree zodiac. Other numbers often repeated in the ancient *Vedas* are: 12, 30, 60, 180, and 360. Among Indo-European languages, Sanskrit is the oldest and most highly developed. It is at the core of India's astrology, which has the largest and most continuous study of astrology, along with continuity of usage. (EH)

8 Scholars have identified one particular bull in the Lascaux caves with Taurus. This is why he is on the cover of my book, as he is the earliest known depiction of a constellation. They can tell by the black dots, representing stars. There is the Pleiades Cluster over his shoulder, the tilted “V” of stars in his head, and the line of Orion's belt beneath and in front of him. I tend to favor a date close to 17,000 B.C.E., when the Bull marked the

Autumn Equinox. For more information, see: <http://www.infis.org/downloads/mr1997cenglpdf.pdf> (DKR)

9 The Chinese saw the stars of Auriga as five chariots, while the Greeks saw Auriga as a charioteer: a human being sitting in a chariot. (DKR)

10 Lewis Burwell Puller, Jr. was son of the most decorated Marine in the history of the U.S. Marine Corps, Gen. Chesty Puller. He was born Aug. 18, 1945, and died May 11, 1994. Birthplace may have been Hampton, VA. Lewis Puller, Jr. became an attorney and a Pulitzer prize-winning author, after he was wounded as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. (EH)

11 Concert pianist Paul Wittgenstein has two reported birth dates: Nov. 5, 1887 and May 11, 1887 in Vienna, Austria. He died March 3, 1961. He lost his right arm during World War I, and commissioned several pieces for the left hand from prominent composers, including Richard Strauss, Erich Korngold, Paul Hindemith, Sergei Prokofiev, Maurice Ravel, and Benjamin Britten. Among the most famous of these is Ravel's *Piano Concerto for the Left Hand in D major*. (EH)

A more extensive version of this interview can be found at *Saptarishi Magazine*, an international On-line magazine on astrology of the East and West based in Mumbai, India. See <http://www.saptarishisastrology.com/> The article above focuses on Fixed Stars, while the larger interview covers not only much more material from Diana on stars, but segues at times into a dialogue between us about her life and birth chart (including my commentary on her Vedic chart – at her request), and various aspects of astrology, including use of tropical and sidereal zodiacs.



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