



NEWSLETTER

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from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

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Theory and Practice, Debbi and Me

To the left, the elusive **Debbi Kempton Smith**, author of the classic **Secrets from a Stargazer's Notebook**, one of the best-selling astrology books of all time. To the right, your humble weekly hack. We're both very good at what we do, and what we do differs in important ways.



DEBBI is practical. She has 40 years experience figuring out people like you and me. She wrote her famous book in a white heat after years of talking to people and sorting through what they told her. That's what makes her book so unique and precious. Most astrologers write theory. Which is to say, the same stuff they read in books. Which they then apply, willy-nilly, to all that come to their door.

Not Debbi. She gets you to talk to her, and from that she figures out who you are

and how astrology can help. Over the years she has become an expert at strategic timing (**electional astrology**), which is to say, the best time to go for a job, ask for a raise, go on a date, get hitched, launch a website, you name it. I am in fact constrained in writing this blurb as Debbi is on the phone telling me the best way to do it, and she should know.

Debbi is analytical. She solves problems. With Mercury in Taurus (like **Bill Lilly**), she is *practical*. Feet on the ground. She will stay with you until you get it. I have worked with her for ten years now. Debbi is fabulous.

IAM a theorist. I like structure. Once I have that I expect details to fall into place all by themselves. It's a rare talent and when you see it, it looks like magic, but as an astrologer my technique resembles an endless game of Clue: *Miss Brown in the kitchen with an ax? Mr. Jones in the living room with a rope?* Just as Debbi did not publish her raw interviews, I don't tell you about the

(continued, pg. 5)

ASTRO A to Z MED

Worry is produced by an ill-placed Neptune or by bad influences involving Pisces or the 12th. These configurations often cause worries over things that never come to pass, but if the afflictions are very marked there is usually good cause for anxiety, owing to some form of muddle, deceit, or even treachery. The mutable signs feel and show worry most easily, the fixed least so, while of the elements Water and Air worry soonest. The Moon tends greatly to fearfulness and anxiety.

Youthfulness. Gemini and Sagittarius may both be called the "Peter Pans" of the Zodiac, the former perhaps chiefly mentally, the latter physically. Sagittarius often retains its bodily freshness and its zest in life to a remarkable degree, the body sometimes outlasting the mind. Venus preserves youth through equanimity and placidity; Saturn is often "never young" and is generally seen to most advantage in later years.

— **Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology**, by C.E. O. Carter. **Buy.**

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A L M A N A C K

for the week (all times GMT)

10	06:42	☽	♄	♀	Void
	13:06	☽	♃		
	17:05	♀	♈	♄	
11	04:45	☽	♂	♄	
12	02:14	☽	♈	☉	
	11:19	♀	♄	♃	
	13:31	♀	♂	♀	
	15:38	☽	♁	♀	Void
	16:27	♀	♄	♃	
	20:41	☽	♃		
13	00:01	♃	♈	♄	
	22:09	☽	♄	♄	
14	08:26	☽	♂	♄	
15	02:55	☽	♈	♀	Void
	06:41	☽	♂		
16	03:58	♀	♂	☉	

Extracted from **AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-2020**. **Buy.**

Vivian Robson's STAR OF THE WEEK

RASALHAGUE alpha Ophiuchi 22 ♁ 38

Notes: A sapphire star situated on the head of Ophiuchus. From Ras al Hawwa, the Head of the Serpent Charmer

Influence: According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Saturn and Venus. It gives misfortune through women, perverted tastes and mental depravity.

With Sun: Reserved, thoughtful, studious, suspicious, solitary, reputation for athletics, little wealth, careless of public opinion.

With Moon: Public prominence in religious matters, favourable for gain.

With Mercury: Unpopular attitude and criticism through religion, philosophy or science; difficulties in marriage and quarrels fostered by others; trouble through opposite sex, not very good for gain.

With Venus: Quick mind, well educated . . . — *From Fixed Stars*, by Vivian Robson **Buy**



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Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990



IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

Lilith in the Houses

FUNDAMENTALLY, Lilith goes after human beings & is intent on injuring them PERSONALLY—which will be physically, materially or functionally according to whether she is in an angular, succedent or cadent house in the natal chart. By & large, we group the houses in sets of four this way, and all of them employ as their first keyword that of the angular-1st, succedent-

2nd or cadent-3rd house in the First Quadrant of the wheel & always personal.

The 1st, 4th, 7th & 10th Houses are angular and DENY greatest good if Lilith is there. It will be physical (1st) or because of the family and father (4th), the partner or enemy (7th), or the employer or mother (10th), because all of these can afflict the native personally, being in evil aspect to the First House by conjunction, square or opposition. These are mundane aspects (formed by houses only), but if Lilith is in bad aspect to a malefic (or if she is conjunct an evil fixed star) she injures by zodiacal aspect also, both denying AND afflicting.

In the chart on the opposite page we see Lilith in the 1st House denying personal & physical good, and injuring the body by afflictive evil aspect to malefic Pluto — therefore the person is physically afflicted (a dwarf) which is a 1st house effect; & the malefic being in the 10th emphasizes the denial of vocation he would prefer; the 7th may refuse matrimony; the 4th (Mars there) denies home life & so he was rejected at birth & put out of the home.

— **The Dark Moon Lilith In Astrology**, 1961. **Buy**

Preemies, Cesarians, Falling Dreams, Astrology

ON Thursday I got a note from Richard. He wrote,

I was sharing an evening meal with a friend (nurse) who asked me if any of the modern interventions such as cesarean or induced labor or uses of an incubator for prematures affected the time of recorded birth. I was at a loss to answer and mumbled something about a "first breath" marking new life She was unimpressed. Are there any articles or books about this topic?

There have been lots of articles written on the astrology of cesareans and preemies, few of which I thought were very good. I got tired of puzzles like this and so sat down to rethink the matter from the ground up.

What I came up with was the signs of the zodiac as the **twelve basic earth vibrations**, inherent to the earth, produced by the earth each the combination of one of the **four elements** (air, earth, fire, water) and one of the **three energies** (cardinal, fixed, mutable). Which made the earth to be a *vibrating sphere*, and because it vibrates, everything on it must vibrate in sympathy.

In a vibrating environment, whenever anything breaks apart, the smaller part will lose its original vibration and take on the surrounding vibration as of the moment of separation. The larger part will see its vibration modified as a result of the loss of mass. **This is straight physics**. No hocus pocus. No unexplainable energies falling from an empty sky.

Looking at birth purely in terms of physics, weight and mass, if a 120 pound woman suddenly divests herself of 10 pounds of baby and after-birth, she will experience a significant shift in her overall vibration (which we know as her transit at birth), while the child she delivers will lose her vibration and gain that of the surrounding environment as of that moment. When astrology is explained in these terms, it makes strict sense.

Which defines separation as the critical moment, but with a caveat. The child itself will not remember separation, but remembers instead the first breath. "Falling dreams" plague many people up to their early 20's. **Falling dreams are the memory of the first breath**, which literally sucks the soul down

into the waiting body. The key factor to this deduction is that the sleeper invariably awakes, i.e., *changes states of consciousness*. Which is precisely what the newborn baby has done, in suddenly awakening from its prenatal slumber. Its first breath has sucked in its soul, which was waiting nearby. This is a traumatic moment and will be remembered as we always remember trauma. Until, many years later, the individual has worked it through and the dream disappears. Compare to death, where the soul leaves at the last exhalation, a fact which is well-known.

THE complex soup of earth vibrations changes hour by hour, minute by minute due to the earth's ever-changing position among the Moon, Sun and planets. The bodies of the solar system are more than big enough, more than close enough, to have precisely this effect upon each other. Hence the necessity of ephemerides to keep track of things here on earth.

So while it is *not* true that Mars influences me directly, **it is true** that *because* Mars influences the earth, the earth's *reaction* to Martian influence **does** affect me. Just as it can be said that while the President's day to day activities do not affect me, his actions have an impact upon the nation as a whole and upon individuals in particular. If he goes to war, if he neglects the economy, if he devises a health policy, we are all affected.

The individual's birth vibration **ages over time**, which we know as *progressions* and *directions*, etc. When our personal vibrations meet up with unsympathetic earth-based vibrations, unpleasant transitory events can occur.

The weather is an exact analogy. You would no sooner go out of doors in a swimsuit in a howling winter blizzard than you would expect good news with Saturn transiting your natal Mercury.

PREMATURE births, forced births, are just as valid as any other birth. The question then becomes, does the environment impose an irregular birth upon an unwilling soul, or does a soul, seeing itself in distress, impose this upon the mother? What are the consequences? The only definitive answers are by individual clairvoyant investigation. I was once part of a team that could do this, but there was no

This is a serialization of Vivian Robson's *A Student's Text-Book of Astrology*.

Part 46:

Personal Appearance

continued:—

GEMINI. *Body.* Tall, upright, thin and slender; long arms and legs; narrow chest; often sloping shoulders; usually long, slender and artistic fingers, but sometimes hands and feet are short and fleshy; neck long and thin; women often short. *Head* long and narrow. *Face* long; wide and intellectual forehead; long chin; wide thin lips; small ears. *Hair* usually straight, soft and brown, sometimes black. *Eyes* hazel, usually bright, fine and expressive; quick sight; cruel glint in eyes when angry. *Nose* either long and straight, or resembles a bird's beak, being thin, aquiline, and cut straight across at the end. *Complexion* clear and pale, skin rather yellowish. *Peculiarities:* often like a bird or a monkey; often perky and hopping about like a sparrow; voice high pitched, and speech quick, sometimes cackling; walk quick and energetic; long strides, swinging arms, and head projecting; often fanciful in clothes; restless, hands and feet never still; women fond of changing furniture.

CANCER. A very variable sign, much modified by the sign containing the Moon. *Body.* Two types, one tall and slim, and the other short, squat and fleshy. Latter is more typical. Body is usually rounded and often has a top-heavy appearance and a watery or puffy look; wide and full chest and bust; slender arms; short, fleshy and small hands and feet. *Head* round with low broad forehead. *Face* long and narrow or round; often double chin and pendulous cheeks; large mouth. *Hair* brown, light, golden brown or colourless; men usually dark. *Eyes* grey, light blue or colourless, usually large and watery; eyelids often baggy, eyebrows sometimes meet over nose. — *A Student's Text-Book of Astrology*, by Vivian Robson. **Buy.**

From *The Manual of Astrology*

by Sepharial

The Bodily Form

THE rising sign, the ruler of the ascendant & that of the sign intercepted in the first house (if any), and the planets closely aspecting the ascendant, considered with the signs they are in, will determine much concerning the bodily form to which the native will arrive at maturity.

Primarily, the ruling sign, or that which holds the eastern horizon, is the basis of the physical temperament, as set forth in the chapter on the "Signatures of the Zodiac". The modifying factors are the lord or ruler of the rising sign, and the planets in close aspect to the ascending degree, considered according to the signs they severally occupy. The peculiarities conferred by these signs will be found more or less reproduced in the body of the native. . . .

Venus rising confers greater elegance on face & figure. When closely aspecting the ascendant or its ruler, it gives some claim to good looks.

Venus & Jupiter in conjunction or opposition from any part of the figure gives blue eyes. It has been frequently noticed that when this position or aspect occurs, the native has very deep blue and almost violet eyes.

Leo, Sagittarius, Gemini & Aquarius produce tall persons.

Aries, Libra, Virgo, and Scorpio give medium stature.

Taurus, Capricorn, Cancer & Pisces produce small persons.

The Sun rules the first half of the male signs, and the second half of female signs; while the Moon takes the remaining halves of these signs. The Sun renders the complexion fairer, the Moon makes it darker, when ruling the half sign rising at birth. —

The Manual of Astrology, by Sepharial. **Buy**

Horary Astrology

by Derek Appleby

A PART from the writings of Lilly and the work of some Hindu astrologers, there are very few books on the subject, and most of these draw heavily on Lilly. As I have mentioned elsewhere, the book I found most valuable when I began to study horary astrology is *Simplified Horary Astrology*, by Ivy Goldstein-Jacobson.

It was an article by Joan Rodgers in *Prediction* many years ago which first drew my attention to horary astrology, and I was immediately captivated by the idea, and it was Goldstein-Jacobson's book that gave me the grounding I required in the art. Lilly recorded what was known at the time in which he lived, and he drew from the ancients, but his own rich and colourful experience has been passed down to us over 300 years. Goldstein-Jacobson took the essence of the ancient rules and enlarged upon them with her own experience. I hope this book follows in that tradition, because it represents my own experience honestly and frankly presented.

Although I have continually stressed the importance of the basic rules—considerations before judgement, the traditional modes of perfection and the conditions which deny perfection—I must say that I do not agree with some of the traditional restrictions. I can find no consistent evidence to justify an old view of the *via combusta*, and I cannot agree that a significator falling between the degrees 15 Libra to 15 Scorpio is ineffective. Nor am I convinced that a New Moon in horary astrology is as malefic an indication as tradition would have us believe. I need much more proof of this, and valuable work is being done on this matter by **Maurice McCann**. I am not so sure that a seventh house Saturn is invariably an indication that the judgement of the astrologer is at fault.

Horary Astrology, by Derek Appleby. **Buy.**



opportunity to make such an investigation, so I frankly do not know.

But there are clues. Things that are known. One, if the soul does not find the offered body acceptable, it can refuse, which results in immediate stillbirth. Which happens.

Second, if the mother is mean and hates her unborn child, there may not be any soul which wants it or her. In which case if the baby she is carrying is healthy, a recently deceased person, usually under 30 years of age and often the victim of a violent or unnatural end, may seize the embryo as its own and at its birth jump into it. Which results in a child with no affinity for its parents, or the parents for it. (A normal rebirth cycle is around a century, sometimes longer.)

Contrasting these two closely, it appears that when a soul refuses at the last moment, no other soul can claim the child.

A working hypothesis is that cesareans and preemies grow up to be mal-adjusted in one fashion or another, since neither got the start it was expecting, but this is NOT something that you can impose on people, merely because they were a preemie or cesarian. Simply because we know their time of birth to be wrong does **not** make a normal birth “right.”

As a child I was a compulsively logical, highly “scientific.” But my logic was flawed. I could argue any proposition, for and against, with equal fervor. Which was taken as brilliant, but which in fact was stalemate.

In my chart, a strong Mercury – logic – was trapped both by oppositions, and by the house it was in, the 9th. I inherently knew how to think, how to be logical, but Mercury’s house position and its oppositions tore my logic apart. I was stranded.

If logic came first, if logic had to be learned, then in my past lives I had *earned* my Mercury in Aquarius. I *was* the sign. If context comes later, then in my most recent past life I *developed* the oppositions, partly by being confrontational, and partly by a life lived abroad, as a foreigner, where I was *in contrast* (opposition) to the locals. Reborn I then had to *adapt* to Mercury’s placement in the 9th house. Here is how I did that:

Frustrated with logic, at age 16 I gave it up and substituted stream-of-consciousness. I would thereafter seize upon the first thing that came into my head and act upon it. No more thinking. No more worrying. If the idea worked, then I had achieved something. If it did not, I would seize the next idea and repeat the process.

Logic would henceforth be restricted to working through my wild ideas. You think I am logical, but you see only the results, not the process itself.

Which is how I came to guess my way through life, as I mention elsewhere this week.

And how I grew into my chart. That is all. I developed abilities that were not previously mine, but which had been imposed on me by birth. Was this my “mission”? If so, it’s a kind of flabby one, don’t you think?

If I had to grow into my chart (I was neither a cesarian nor a preemie) and you think back to your own childhood and the challenges you faced and how you grew into your chart, then what is the difference with a preemie or a cesarian? Do they have to work harder? Don’t we all have to work hard enough?

If the first time a woman gives birth she does so vaginally, then her subsequent children will most likely be delivered vaginally as well. If her first child was cesarian and if her subsequent births get modern medical care, cautious doctors may insist on consecutive cesareans. Which is an awful ordeal for mother and child and leads to the suspicion that mother and child prepare themselves for that outcome. While the first born in such a family may be “mangled,” his brothers and sisters, though cesareans, might not be. The classic indicator of a cesarian birth is said to be Mars on an angle. Look for it, and, if you dare, ask politely.

Astrologically, the broad highway of investigation into these affairs is in the prenatal chart. E.H. Bailey wrote the definitive book on the subject, **The Prenatal Epoch**. This subject was also touched upon by Ivy Goldstein-Jacobson, in **In The Beginning Astrology**. I stock both.

The prenatal epoch starts with the moment of conception, when a spermatozoa fertilizes an egg. Some women are aware of the moment when this happens. Astrologically we find this moment by exchanging your natal ascendant sign with your natal Moon sign. If you have Cancer rising and the Moon in Aries, then your conception was nine months prior when the Moon was in Cancer and Aries was rising. This has been the essential concept as far back as Vettius Valens, who looked at the Moon/Ascendant angle and gave the exact number of days of gestation for each, from 258 days to 288. He also gives rules for seven and eight month children.

According to Valens, 8-month children are stillbirths: *If the Moon of the preceding year is square and the Moon of the following year*

is turned away [semi-sextile or inconjunct–Dave], he will have an eight-month gestation period and will be stillborn.

As Valens was unknown to both Bailey and Goldstein-Jacobson, some enterprising person could update their work, as Valens has unique techniques. The prenatal epoch is the study of the sex of the individual, as some moments produce males and some females. Study of the prenatal epoch could explain many of the practical problems children face in adapting to their charts.

ADDENDUM
DID you ever wonder if you could somehow sense your soul, presuming you think you have one? Then remember what it was like, standing there in that dream, and then remember the terror of suddenly falling. That was a cry from a frightened soul. There is nothing else to which to attribute the fear. At the very moment of birth you did not have a brain or a nervous system.

There is a way to use the vacuum produced by the sudden cessation of short, focused, rhythmic breathing to produce a rapid downrush from the soul, a process which can be done in 30 seconds or less. As this energy is a rather pure fire it is not advisable to do it more than once or twice in a lifetime, as it can burn up, damage, or destroy delicate etheric webbing and render you permanently insane. This is one of the most dangerous of all breathing exercises, it is also one of the trickiest to do.

All breathing exercises, without exception, are dangerous. Focused breathing, breathing to achieve a deliberate state of energy, is not by definition an “exercise.” Some of these are dangerous, others, so far as I can tell, are not, provided your physical heart is sound. You must know the difference or you should stay away from this area. I do not know the downrush has any practical use, other than make you aware of the many things that you can do.

My thanks to Richard for inspiring this week’s essay. Next week, **Alice Bailey**, maybe.

wild guesses that were wrong. We sweep these untidy things under the rug.

The difference between Debbi and myself, between *theory* and *practice*, is that I *guess* until I *guess right*. Debbi *investigates* until she *knows*. Mercury in the 9th (me) versus Mercury in Taurus. Two incompatible systems that both work. That's the difference.

MYSELF, if I could pay someone \$300 or \$500 or even \$1000 to get The Answer to my problems, I'd pay it and think it cheap. I've been in search of that answer all my life. Just as you have searched for yours.

And while I cannot tell you that anyone can simply *give* you that answer, it is plainly clear that an *analyst* will do better than a *theorist*. Someone who can sort through the pieces and put them together to make the best sense overall. That's an analyst. It won't be the theorist's hopeful solution but it will put you further along on your path. And that's Debbi.

There is also the matter of follow-up, the second consultation. The theorist, having made his ultimate analysis and provided the ultimate solution, can go no further. He is a one-shot. Having given you the solution, he is puzzled that you have you not used it.

The more modest analyst, with her more realistic suggestions, can be of continuing help as you slowly fight your way through life's obstacles. I suspect Debbi first got good at timing from follow-up consultations. *You said I have a chance. What's the best time to take that chance?* Debbi will know.

IWRITE these notes as I am, again, being asked to give readings. Naive as I am, I have tried. I found giving readings over the phone was nothing like writing essays for the newsletter, nor was it like the give and take with occasional visitors to my shop. Not happy with my work, I tried every solution I could find. I am now admitting that others can do better. Things go better with Debbi.

Debbi Kempton-Smith has the experience, she has the skills to figure out your problems and give you solutions. She is the person you want and need. I urge you to try her. She can be reached at 212 750-0188, or by email at stargazer@debbikemptonsmith.com. Or **email me** and I will be happy to make introductions.

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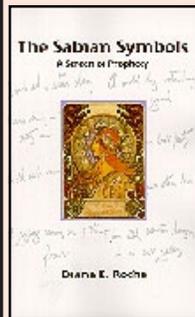
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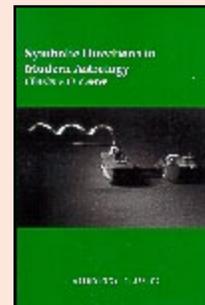
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(Matheseos Libri VIII), by Firmicus Maternus. This is the great 4th century Hellenistic text-book of astrology, in a sparkling translation by Jean Rhys Bram. Aside from Ptolemy,

this is one of the earliest of the modern translations, dating from 1975. Firmicus Maternus is equal in rank to Vettius Valens. They are different from Ptolemy (who we also publish) in that they are both practical and can be used. Ptolemy is theoretical. Firmicus is \$29.95. **Ptolemy**, if you want him, is \$19.95.