

# NEWSLETTER

**NOW WEEKLY!** With art by Vera !  
from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

March 4, 2014

ARCHIVE — [Subscribe](#) / [Unsubscribe](#)

Email [Dave@astroamerica.com](mailto:Dave@astroamerica.com)

Support the Newsletter: Become a Sponsor! [Donate](#), or make a monthly contribution: \$10.00 / \$20.00 / \$50.00 [Click to help!](#)

## The man of the week Vladimir Putin

**L**AST fall I predicted war with Syria; I was mistaken. At the last moment the Russians used a gaff from US Secretary of State John Kerry to ram home a quickly improvised chemical weapons treaty that defused the war.

As a result, the US, Europe and Turkey encouraged dissidents in the Ukraine to revolt. Why the Ukraine? Aside from centuries old western efforts to weaken and dismember Russia, Russian support of Syria was made possible by its naval base in Tartus. Which itself was possible only because of the Russian navy's home bases in the Crimea. Which, since the 1950's, have been part of the Ukraine. Crimea and what is now eastern Ukraine were ceded to it by Khrushchev in an effort to dilute pro-Nazi sentiments in western Ukraine. When the Ukraine left Russia in 1991 it took this nominally Russian territory with it.

So, if you can get rid of the Russians in the Crimea, you can replace the Syrian Assad government with US-backed puppets. Now that the Syrians are clearly winning – which I foresaw – this has become all the more urgent.

Which brings us to **Vladimir Putin**, the man who has brushed aside both Europe and America and taken firm control of the situation. What does his chart say?

His official birthdate is October 7, 1952, at 9:30 am in Leningrad, now St. Petersburg, but I regret that Putin's chart is an obvious mess. **AstroDataBank** itself unwittingly gives the game away in the following words, from the third paragraph of its biography: *Although it was officially prohibited by Communist law, Putin was baptized in the Russian Orthodox faith.*

I have it on good authority that the Orthodox Church found the Gregorian calendar a Bolshevik imposition and rejected its use. That the early Communists destroyed a great deal of Church property did not help matters.

Then, like addicts everywhere, when the Russians were deprived of their religious opiate, the result was a massive rejection of Communist-based atheism in favor of continued adherence to underground worship. A large part of that was forcing the Soviet state to accept Orthodox, which is to say, *Julian*, birth dates for their children.

As a result, the *only* Soviet citizens with *Gregorian* birth dates were the **children of Party officials**. (It's likely that since the demise of the Soviet Union even this has ended, and that all births in Russia are now recorded in the Julian calendar.) That Mr. *(continued, pg. 7)*



**Amativeness.** The sign Leo is the most loving of the signs, both in the higher and lower senses. Evolved specimens are often lavish of their affections and unselfishly devoted, displaying, in such ways, the outgoing tendency of Fire. A strong attraction towards the opposite sex, however, is rather a matter of the 5th and 7th houses, though the radical nature of the attraction is, of course, by no means the same in the two cases. Amativeness, in so far as the term implies the desire to procreate, is essentially concerned with the 5th house, and the 7th is only introduced because physical procreation necessitates a union of opposites, introducing the Libra principle.

Mars in the 5th is usually highly sexed, especially if Venus be in aspect, and among the signs, Taurus, Libra and Capricorn are generally markedly sex-conscious.

Sun with Mars in women, and Moon with Mars in men, usually denotes a high degree of sexuality.

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

## 2014 MAYNARD CALENDARS

### ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

04	17:32	☽ □ ♀	Void
	19:13	☽ ☿	
05	21:04	♀ ♁ LENT ("slow")	
	22:58	☽ ✕ ☉	
06	10:43	♃ ☽	
	13:56	☽ ♂ ♃	Void
07	02:39	☽ ♀	
	09:09	♀ ♀ ♃	
08	13:27	☉ 17II 54	1st Qtr.
09	07:54	☽ △ ♂	Void
	13:34	☽ ☿	
10	23:33	☉ ♃ ♃	

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

## Vivian Robson's STAR OF THE WEEK

**MARKAB** alpha Pegasi 23 ♄ 41

**Notes:** A white star situated on the wing of Pegasus. From Markab, a Saddle, Ship or Vehicle, or, according to Bullinger, Returning from Afar.

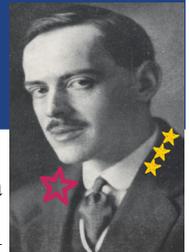
**Influence:** According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Mars and Mercury. It gives honour, riches, fortune, danger from fevers, cuts, blows, stabs and fire and a violent death.

**If culminating:** Disgrace, ruin and often a violent death.

**With Sun:** Energetic, unlucky, impermanent martial honours, disappointed ambitions, accidents, sickness.

**With Moon:** Injuries from enemies, bad for gain and domestic matters, fairly good health but many accidents. If Mars be with Moon, death by wild beasts or soldiers. If a malefic be with Cingula Orionis, death by human hands.

**With Mercury:** Good mind, rash . . . — **From Fixed Stars**, by Vivian Robson **Buy**



[Astrology Home](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

[New Astrology Books](#)

[New Vedic Books](#)

[New Tarot Decks](#)

[Top Ten Books](#)

Copyright © 2014 by David R. Roell. All rights reserved.



Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson  
1893-1990

## IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

### The Ruler of the Ascendant

**I**F Aquarius is on the Ascendant, Uranus is the native's other self, leading him along unusual & difficult paths into unpredictable environments or unexpected turns of events that give a colorful or public life & always contacts with large crowds. From beginning to end, there is a cross to bear in one way or another, usually involving marriage & health problems, some form of crippling, and never knowing when the lightning will strike next. The guide is eccentric or erratic, and the native's life departs from the norm accordingly, usually both at the start & the finish. 11th House matters come to the fore with emphasis on everything that tends to occur because of large-scale circumstances that materialize at the time seemingly out of the blue.

**W**HEN Pisces is on the Ascendant, Neptune is the alter ego or other self, the higher self and guide through life, but apt to miss the way and lead the native astray because of always looking for a better Utopia. He is blind to what is close at hand, thereby sure to either deceive or defraud himself. He has an extremely idealistic & inspirational nature & possesses great extra-sensory perception, sometimes going to extremes and reading into someone else's words or actions something that may not be there, because he reflects his guide's tendency to oversensitivity. This causes bewilderment & confusion in his environment, and usually loneliness. All 12th House matters & persons to the fore; his guide brings him into contact with lawbreakers or those under delusion, obsession or compulsion, or attracted to the exotic. — **All Over The Earth Astrologically**—Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson, 1963. **Buy.**

## Leonardo da Vinci

**I** WAS inspired to Leonardo from Robson's description of someone who looked a lot like him, and from his seeming casual resemblance to Dane Rudhyar. (I am referring to the famous red chalk portrait.) I was then delighted to find his time of birth is known, and that, for once, I have no dispute with it.

Both AstroDataBank and Wiki cite the same source: Leonardo's paternal grandfather, Ser Antonio, who wrote in his diary, *a grandson of mine was born April 15, Saturday [1452], three hours into the night*. Both Wiki and ADB then go on to explain that as sunset in Vinci, Italy, was around 6:40 pm on that day, that Leonardo was born at 9:40 pm. Both ADB and Wiki further note that local custom started the new day at sunset, not midnight as we do now. Which gives the evening of April 14 (not the 15th) as the day of his birth, in the Julian calendar. Add nine days and the Gregorian date becomes April 23, 1452.

When you read a curious phrase, such as, *three hours into the night*, you are warned to not rush past, but to stop and try to discover the reason behind it, for there will be a story. Three hours into the night tells us about time-keeping in Leonardo's day, which should always be of interest to astrologers.

The reason for the curious phrasing is that, before there were mechanical clocks, time was measured by reference to sunrise, sunset, or noon (as "am" and "pm", as shown on the sundial). Before there were clocks, one day ended and the next began, either at sunrise, or at sunset, according to local custom.

What Leonardo's birth time means is that there was a waterclock, or measured candle, in use the night Leonardo was born. The burn rate of a well-made candle is consistent. The hours can be marked off on the side of candle itself, though burning a candle for mere time-keeping is a waste, and will be of no use if it is extinguished by accident.

Waterclocks are better and with a simple mechanism could be made to sound the hour, or so I imagine. Greater precision with time at night was possible, but I suspect rarely needed. To say Leonardo was born *at* the third hour is a misnomer. He was born *during* the third hour, which is to say around 3 hours, 30 minutes after sunset, give or take half an hour. Which is to say that 10 pm on the day is a reasonable guess.

Next, consider the conditions at the mo-

ment of Leonardo's birth. The Moon was waning and below the horizon. The only planet visible in the night sky was Saturn. Whether the skies were clear or cloudy, it was very, very dark that night.

Have you ever been far from the light pollution of modern cities? One night I had to stumble "home" to friends in a cottage near **Tilbrook** in Cambridgeshire. The sky was clear and I was walking on a paved road, but I was thankful for a pair of (stolen) 8 x 40 binoculars, as it was so dark I literally could not see my hand in front of my face. Imagine giving birth in a room lit, at best, by a single oil lamp or candle. Life now is not as it was.

**A** SIMPLE analysis shows the chart to be valid. Sagittarius rises. A seeker. Ruling planet Jupiter is found in Pisces, which it rules, and in the 3rd house, which it does not. The result is a large, expansive mind, either universal in outlook, or simply unfocused. Normally to get the best from Jupiter's placement in the 3rd we would look for choice aspects. Here we find a conjunction to the Moon, with both in sextile to the Sun.

Lacking any other aspects to clutter or distract, Leonardo had a remarkably vast, as well as overall simple mental makeup, based upon the ruler of the chart being in the 3rd with favorable aspects to both Sun and Moon, with none of the three having adverse or challenging aspects from other planets. There is but one other detail, a critical one: The cusp of the third in Aquarius, not Pisces, with Mars in Aquarius just outside of it and wanting to be in it. Mars in the third will literally attack 3rd house problems. Unlike Moon or Jupiter in Pisces, Mars will want to be intellectual and will energize the 3rd, which will fuel the two planets in Pisces.

Extreme intelligence in a chart interests me. There is the Sun-Moon polarization, of Newton, **Goethe** and myself, there is the 3rd house-5th house interplay of **Albert Einstein**, there are squares here and there (**Carl Sagan**) that make the world a challenge and a delight, there is the outright fear of Moon opposite Mars/Neptune of **Bill Nye**, there is the simple 3rd house smarts of **Jon Stewart**, etc. There are certain to be many other methods by which intelligence is conferred.

Einstein, in my rectification that added 12 hours to his birth, is the closest to Le-

*continued, pg. 4*

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

**Part 58**

**Personal Appearance**

continued:—

7. The following positions have some effect in causing blindness or defective sight. (i) Sun conjunct Mars in the 8th & Moon opposite Saturn from Gemini, Virgo, Libra, Sagittarius or Aquarius; (ii) Moon conjunct Saturn in Cancer or Capricorn in square or opposition to Mars; (iii) Moon in 4th square Saturn Mars and Sun in 8th; (iv) Moon in M.C., Sun in Asc, and Saturn in 9th.

**EARS**

Defective hearing is usually caused by afflictions to Mercury. The following positions denote a tendency to deafness:—

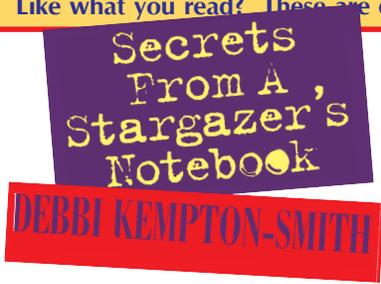
1. Mercury afflicted by Saturn, and especially when Mercury rules the 6th.
2. Mercury ruling 12th or 6th & afflicted in one of these houses or conjunct Sun.
3. Mercury conjunct Sun afflicted by a malefic ruling 6th.
4. Mercury in Capricorn afflicted by the malefics.

**SPEECH**

Defective speech is usually denoted by afflictions to Mercury, and generally involves the mute signs Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces.

1. Mercury in one of the mute signs & afflicted by a malefic causes an impediment in the speech, especially when Mercury rules, or is in, the 6th.
2. Mercury conjunct Sun and Saturn in an angle hinder speech, and the same effect is caused by Mercury in the first six degrees of Scorpio opposed Moon, and also by Mercury conjunct the south node in the 6th, 8th, or 12th.
3. Saturn rising in a mute sign or in Aries, Taurus, Leo or Capricorn often causes an impediment. — **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**, by Vivian Robson. **Buy**

Like what you read? These are excerpts. Get the complete books from:



[www.AstroAmerica.com](http://www.AstroAmerica.com)

Order toll-free: 1-800-475-2272

**DOG OF THE MONTH**



The Pisces dog is an adorable pet, and big or small needs absolutely loads of affection. He will go to anyone who will pat him on the head or stroke him. Never leaves your side, even when walking, so he is a joy to be with. Also he gives you an excuse to take that much needed stroll.

Left alone at home, while you go shopping or whatever, he will hang his head and look mournfully at you as you leave.

They are real people dogs and you can easily relate to this one. Definitely will blubber all over you, so be prepared for undying affection.

Sometimes they seem to see and react to things that are not readily apparent to your sight. Could be disconcerting or amusing, depending on your frame of mind.

© Marian Futterman, 1976, **Your Dog and Astrology**. Some of the best sun-sign writing I ever came across.

**The New Newsletter**

Most people, most astrologers, even, have no idea how rich, how varied, astrology really is. I'm lucky. For the last twenty years, I've lived in what amounts to a world-class astrological library, which I've been passing off as **AstroAmerica**. Every week I will serve up a slice for your amusement. 'Til next week — **Dave**

- March 9:**  
 632—Mohammed's last sermon.  
 1796—Napoleon marries Josephine.  
 1842—Gold discovered in San Francisco  
 1862—Monitor and Merrimack fight.  
 1916—Pancho Villa attacks New Mexico.  
 1959—Barbie doll debuted.

**Saturn in Pisces**

**W**E all have skeletons in our closets. What makes these people different is that they think their skeletons are worse than anybody else's—no bones about it, sometimes they *are*. But you don't solve anything by jumping down into the bottle of Scotch or taking "blue boys" every night to get to sleep and avoid those lonely, crazy feelings you fear. Nevertheless, that's what these folks often do. Their parents made them feel it was taboo to explore their fears. "Don't be afraid" or even more destabilizing, "You're not really afraid" invalidates the child's feelings. They grow up fearing the irrational. This fear can include analysis, astrology, hypnosis, meditation, counseling and any form of personal introspection. No one taught them how. Often this fear of reality testing starts young. The parents talk about you as if you're not there, and you're standing in the middle of the room. The result: these folks sometimes feel so cut off from other people they wonder if they really exist.

Karma-watchers say this position denotes a fear of prison, hospitals, and any kind of confinement. These children are often pinned down or forced against their will. They don't like closed doors or playpens. It calms them down to know they can escape.

If they're restricted too much in their youth, they'll find normal responsibilities crushing in adulthood; hence the escapist behavior. At its most extreme, they may experience mild feelings of claustrophobia.

They are lonely, lonely souls. Often their faith is shot . . .

— © **Debbi Kempton-Smith**, 1999. **Buy.**



onardo. With Einstein, as with Leonardo, we find the ruling planet well-placed in the 3rd. Einstein had Scorpio rising, with ruler Mars in Capricorn, where it is exalted. We then found Mars ruling a triple conjunction (Mercury, Saturn and Venus) in Aries in the 5th. The result was a scientist with artistic leanings, in Einstein's case, to music.

In Leonardo's nativity, Moon-Jupiter conjunct in Pisces gave him a fabulous sense of color, in addition to a broad, instinctive knowledge. When the Moon is in the third there is strong instinct, which is an emotion-based knowing of the *immediate*, the *practical*, and the *mundane*. Many people profit by an innate instinct, which we share with animals. "Women's intuition," a phrase often used to dismiss a woman's intelligence, is in fact a matter of instinct.

**Intuition**, by contrast, is *solar* and *9th house* and gives *abstract concepts* which must be laboriously "*translated*" into useful material. Many people have instinct, but without an ability to translate and make use of it, it is largely wasted. It is for this reason that I like the 3rd/9th polarity of Moon and Sun, fighting it out, even though, in the majority of cases, the eternal combat leaves the native exhausted, producing little for his great efforts. But I digress.

**LEONARDO early on put his** intelligence to use with military matters. Why? We need look no further than Mars in Aquarius, breathing hard upon the 3rd house cusp. Mars is of course the planet that rules warfare, Aquarius is the sign of groups, such as armies, Mars is disposed, in Leonardo's chart, by Saturn in Libra in the 10th. The 10th being the house of prominence, Leonardo's ability with engines of war was something he could sell in order to make a living. And so he did.

Meanwhile, Sun in Taurus in the 5th, he doodles, he sketches, he paints. Sun in Taurus is lazy. He does not expect to make his income this way, he does not solicit customers, he rarely bothers to finish his works. His Sun, as mentioned, is sextile to the Moon and Jupiter, but has no other significant aspects, and here I am discounting the square to Pluto as there seems to be no outer planet influences in his life, so far as I can tell.

There is not the muddle of a Mercury-Neptune opposition, or the violence of a Mars-Pluto opposition, or the stress of a Sun-Pluto square, so far as I can tell. Leonardo seems blissfully unaware of the ramifications of Uranus-Pluto in the 8th. These planets were not known in his day. Their energies, while present, were dormant. This was not true of all early people,

## Leonardo da Vinci

April 14, 1452 (O.S.)

10:00 pm

Vinci, Italy

Placidus houses  
mean node

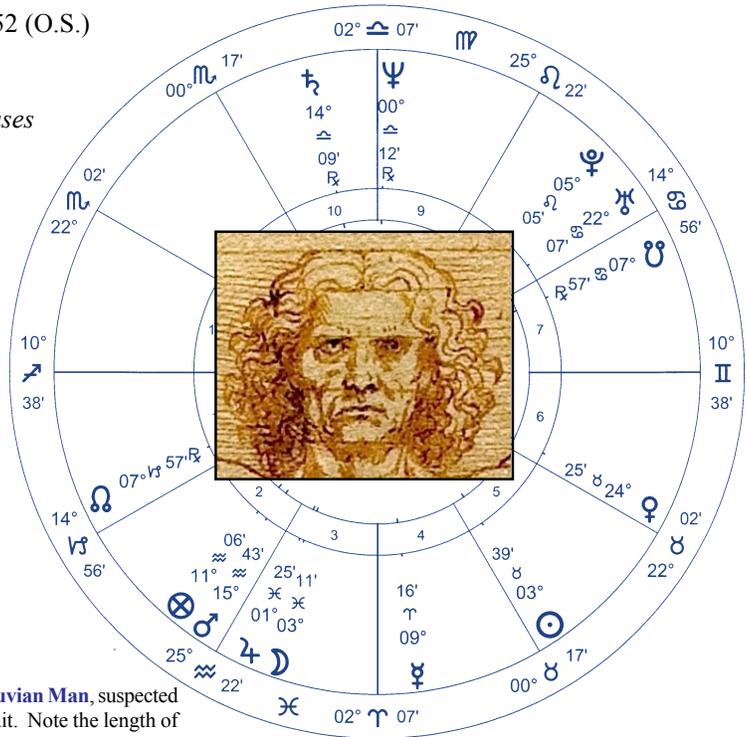


Image of the **Vitruvian Man**, suspected to be a self-portrait. Note the length of hair and lack of a beard, both typical of men of his era.

but it seems true of Leonardo.

So far as the great breadth of his knowledge and interests, it seems we have his apprenticeship in **Verrocchio's studio** to thank, where he learned, among other things, drafting, chemistry, metallurgy, metal working, plaster casting, leather working, mechanics and carpentry as well as the artistic skills of drawing, painting, sculpting and modelling. Which is virtually the "Renaissance man" all by itself. Even given that he was hugely talented, it was Verrocchio who enabled him to develop these talents at full bore. Leonardo was apprenticed with Verrocchio from the age of 14 to 20, and thereafter continued to associate with him even after his father set him up in his own studio.

**ASTROLOGICALLY you will note** that around the age of 14, Saturn conjuncted Mercury and then opposed itself. Transiting Saturn in this case representing the older teacher, Verrocchio, coming to claim his pupil, represented by Mercury. Note that Mercury, which I have here postulated as ruling Leonardo as a student, is in Aries and in fact rules, not his ascendant (which would be Leonardo himself), but his descendant (Gemini), which by definition is *not* Leonardo.

In observing that Saturn's transit of Leonardo's Mercury coincided with his apprenticeship to Verrocchio, I have shifted Mercury's rulership from his *descendant*, to

his *ascendant*, from *Gemini*, to *Sagittarius*, a sign in which Mercury is *debilitated*. Which is a form of rulership and which tells me what kind of student Leonardo was. Which was a blend of Aries, Mercury's sign, with Sagittarius. As a student, Leonardo was *eager* (Aries), *seeking* (Sagittarius), and *needy* (debilitated).

We then note that Mercury is more or less trine to the ascendant (the exact time of birth is critical). When Saturn conjuncted Leonardo's Mercury it also generated a parallel trine to his ascendant, which brought Mercury's debilitated rulership of Sagittarius *forward* and *temporarily* marked Leonardo (the Mercury/student) as *needing* (debility) to be *taught* (Sagittarius). Teachers (Saturn) will often pass by proud smart-assed know-it-alls like me in favor of genuine seekers, which it seems the young Leonardo was.

Whereupon after he had said tearful farewells to his father and his early childhood (Saturn's subsequent opposition to itself) Leonardo's innate talents quickly took over, to become the best student Verrocchio ever had. Transiting Saturn's conjunction to the young man's natal Mercury brought matters into focus and then to a head. Transits often do exactly this.

(This discussion of how Leonardo came to Verrocchio is an example of *intuition*. Not instinct. It came easily, as intuition always does, but it then took some two hours to ren-

der into five paragraphs of legible English. Intuition is *hard*. That's why it's rare.)

**B**UT there is more hidden in this, and it brings us to the question of Leonardo and homosexuality. In 1476, at the age of 24, Leonardo and three other men were charged with sodomy, a charge which was eventually dropped, some say from pressure by the Florentine court, as one of the men was said to be of royal birth and scandal was to be avoided. Can astrology tell us more?

Yes it can, and easily, as well. The seventh house shows the partner, the other, the object of love or hate. In Leonardo's chart the sign on the cusp is Gemini. Which represents youthful boys, but this is not definitive of itself.

We then look for the ruler of the 7th, Mercury. Which we find in Aries, one of the most masculine signs. We look for its ruler, which we find to be Mars, the king of maleness, and itself in Aquarius, another male sign. Whose ruler we find as Saturn in Libra, yet another male-male pairing.

By contrast we find Sun, Moon, Venus and Jupiter, ruler of the chart, all in female signs. We would probably be on safe grounds declaring Leonardo to have consorted with boys and to have played female roles, as we can easily see a pronounced male-female polarization, between a male 7th house of partners and what comes from them, in contrast to his female Sun (essence), female Moon (emotions), female chart ruler (Jupiter) and female Venus (love).

Indeed, half a century after his death, Leonardo was **described** as,

*a single person . . . marvelously endowed by Heaven with beauty, grace and talent in such abundance that he leaves other men far behind . . .*

These are, in fact, female traits, here applied to a male.

Homosexuality becomes all the more compelling as Leonardo had an outrageously fertile chart. He should have had several children but seems to have had none. Recast him as a female, and *Leona* da Vinci takes after young boys (the modern term is **cougar**), and has half a dozen children.

Leonardo is so strongly female that we must check our basic arithmetic. If he were a **garçon manqué** then his children, the unavoidable product of *Leona*'s fertility, would have given her disguise away. That Leonardo seems to have been genuinely childless proves he was male. Men can and often do walk away from the children they have fathered. Women cannot.

(continued)

## THE SALES

There are two. Take your pick:

### THE FIRST SALE:

**BUY A BOOK - GET ANOTHER AT HALF PRICE.**

**The rules:** Buy any book or tarot deck at regular price, get an Astrology Classics book of equal or lesser value at **HALF PRICE**.

**Minimum order:** Two books. There is no maximum.

**Astrology Classics books are the 50 which we publish.** Find the complete list **HERE**. Any **book** (including **Vedic**), any **tarot deck**, paired with one of the books we publish, will work. You can even get two Astrology Classics books, one at full price, one at half price. Any combination.

➔ On the second page of the shopping cart, in the space for **Promo Codes**, write, "**HALF PRICE**" and we will make the changes, as I regret the cart is not smart enough. (Credit cards are not charged on-line. We do that manually.)

OR,

### SALE NUMBER 2:

**BUY \$100 OR MORE OF ASTROLOGY CLASSICS BOOKS, GET THEM ALL AT 40% OFF.**

**Rules:** You can *only* buy Astrology Classics, which are the 50 books we publish. See the complete list **here**. *No other books qualify.* **Your order must total at least \$100**, (shipping extra).

➔ On the second page of the shopping cart, in the space for **Promo Codes**, write, "**40%**" and we will make the changes, as I regret the cart is not smart enough. (Credit cards are not charged on-line. We do that manually.)

**Get \$100 in books for \$60.**

**Get \$150 for \$90.**

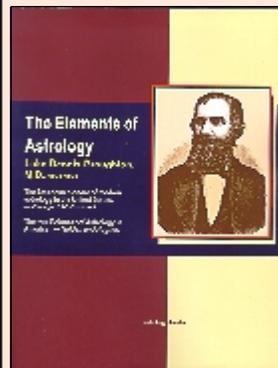
**Get \$200 for \$120, etc.**

➔ Should you forget to write "half price" or "40%", send us an email as soon as you can. We will be happy to adjust, but you must make your claim!

Take this opportunity to build your library with the books you have long wanted.

**Best wishes for a prosperous and happy New Year to our many friends and customers!** — Dave

## Some selected Astrology Classics Books



**The Elements of Astrology**, by Luke Broughton. Like Alan Leo's **big books**, this is big and rambling and not well organized, but, from 1898, is packed with priceless, hard-won info. To make it easier I enlarged the text but the result was a \$50 book. Get this book in our buy-one, get-one at half price offer, as \$25 is a very good final price. \$49.95.

### The Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology

by Charles E.O. Carter. I excerpt this book every week on pg. 1 of the newsletter, and not by accident. This is a book I use almost every day. For those with an interest in astrology and medicine it is perhaps the best astrological reference ever written. Carter started with the fundamentals, which you can find scattered through **Robson**, and then enhanced them with the results of his own study. It is outstanding. \$18.95



### Encyclopedia of Astrology



**Encyclopedia of Astrology**, by Nicholas deVore. Still the best all-round astrological reference as well as the first to not be an horary text in disguise. Outstanding entries on eclipses, houses, degrees, cycles, time, signs, planets and much more. Essential. \$29.95.

Which brings up the famous self-portrait in red chalk. This is a strongly male face which both Robson's description as well as Dane Rudhyar's portrait led me to believe was a Leo rising, rather than Sagittarius. It has been suggested the **red chalk** is a portrait, not of Leonardo, but of his aging father, Messer Piero Fruosino. Given his chart and his mannerisms, Leonardo's portrait should be more effeminate.

With Leonardo we can go further, noting that Gemini (his 7th house cusp), does not rule a single child, but rather, twins, which is to say, children in general. We then project this into Verrocchio's studio and we suddenly understand not only why Leonardo was such a good student, but also why he continued his association with his master, even at the expense of subsequently neglecting his own artistic commissions. He was presumably in love with his fellow students. There is the suspicion that Verrocchio's entire studio, perhaps Verrocchio himself, was gay, but further analysis is impossible as few of these men have known birth data.

The names of Leonardo's two primary partners are known. One was **Salai**, whom Leonardo himself described as *a thief, a liar, stubborn, and a glutton*, the first two adjectives being classic definitions of Gemini. Salai was part of Leonardo's household for 30 years. He was 28 years Leonardo's junior and came to him at the age of 10, in 1490. Salai is believed to have been the model for a number of Leonardo's works, including **St. John the Baptist**.

The other was **Francesco Melzi**, who came to Leonardo in 1506 at the age of 14, remaining in his employ for the rest of Leonardo's life and who Leonardo entrusted to publish his anatomical writings after his death. Remember the onset of puberty was in the late teens or early 20's.

As to how Leonardo escaped public censure for his private life, that, too, can be found in the chart. He passed these men off as his servants/slaves. Note in Leonardo's chart Taurus on the 6th house cusp, with Venus in Taurus in it. It is still not unusual for men to live and travel with servants, and what passes between them is not questioned.

Taurus on the 6th, these servants would

be lazy and self-serving, but, when Venus is there as well, there would be a great love between master and servant. Now read again Leonardo's description of Salai and note the last two adjectives: *stubborn, and a glutton*. Which perfectly describe a Taurus servant. Or slave. If you've got the right chart, if you have a good biography or a knowledge of the native, astrology is invariably literal.

So far as servants, Leonardo was himself the bastard offspring of his father, a wealthy man, and Caterina, a servant girl of unknown origin. His father needed four subsequent marriages to eventually produce legitimate offspring, some seven boys among them.

Which brings me to the faces that Leonardo painted. When I was in Paris I went to the Louvre and saw his great masterpiece, the **Mona Lisa**. Even then (1975) it was protected by glass, but I could still see the woman's expression had been so delicately captured that reproductions have never done it justice. There is something between her smile and the corners of her eyes. She is either about to laugh, or burst out crying, there is no way of knowing which.

Many years later I saw the same expression in early girl cams, circa 1998. I was observing male-female amateurs making love on camera, and then, as they knew no better, leaving the camera on afterwards while staring vacantly into it. (The resolution of the male-female coupling is one of the great sights. If all you can see is bare skin and tangled limbs, you have missed the show and have wasted the participants.) Post-coital faces have the same expression as that of Lisa Gherardini, presuming it was she who sat for the portrait.

If so, Leonardo was her lover, as the expression he captured is fleeting and only seen during that brief period. In his favor, Leonardo was one of the keenest observers who ever lived. To have captured such an expression would be a supreme accomplishment and an extremely great challenge.

**O**R, as is also possible, Leonardo painted gay men, passing them off as women, or, when men were depicted as men, they were transcendently ecstatic, which is to say, living saints. In this regard, his pupil Salai was said to have

painted a **nude** "Mona Lisa." The painting, which survives, shows a male face atop an androgenous body. Well-developed men have boobs, too (especially when Cancer rises), which in some instances can closely resemble those of women. It is an amusing painter's trick to show us a naked torso and then let us *presume* it is female, rather than a well-endowed male.

**L**EONARDO's study of anatomy, an outgrowth of his training in Verrocchio's studio, is shown by Venus in Taurus on the 6th house cusp. In his lifetime Leonardo dissected some 30 corpses. Of all his various works, projects and schemes, his anatomical studies seemed to have been closest to his heart. It might well be that Leonardo found art to be too easy or not compelling or that he was too lazy.

Except if he could somehow make his art useful, such as with his anatomical studies and the very detailed sketches and drawings that came of it. Chief among them the **Vitruvian Man**, his classic study in human proportions. Someone of Leonardo's stature should have practiced medicine on the side, as his knowledge of anatomy, coupled with his tremendous observational skills, would make him an expert in diagnosis, if not treatment.

For this now brings me to my last topic, that of Leonardo's status as the ultimate Renaissance Man.

Yes he was, but only because *we* have made him so. Only because he fits *our image* of what a universal man should be. In reality Leonardo's genius was limited to machines and contraptions. He had no larger knowledge, he had no understanding of philosophy, as he had no formal education. He seems to have known little of Aristotle. Leonardo was trained as an artist, he was trained in artistic things, and in these he excelled.

We, as materialists, know only of things. Of this thing and that thing. We are unable to sense the larger reality around us. We admire Leonardo because he is so much like us. The true universal men, **Aristotle** and **Al Biruni** and **Johann Goethe**, are above and beyond us, unknown and unapproachable. By contrast, Leonardo was a man, a very great man, but still a man, like any of us.

Putin was baptized in the Church removes any doubt.

So far as, the Soviets would never tolerate such birth nonsense, it is in point of fact the prisoners who run the prison. If the people wanted their funny dates, they will have them. A parallel situation existed in 19th century Jewish communities in Austro-Hungary, where Harry Houdini, a Jew born in Budapest, gave his birth date in both calendars and even adjusted one of them for local time in Wisconsin, where his family emigrated and where he grew up. Both Nikola Tesla and Mother Teresa, Serbs by birth, have birthdates in Julian, not Gregorian. This situation may exist to this day in the Balkans.

**R**EMEMBER the reason for Pope Gregory's calendar reform of 1582 had to do with restoring the spring equinox, the starting point for the calculation of Easter, to its original date of March 21, as decreed by the **Council of Nicea** in 325 AD. Rather than March 10, the date of spring equinox in the 16th century. If this calculation is of no importance to your religion, then Gregory's reform will be of no interest, so if your faith is stronger than your government, you will follow faith rather than civil law. Do you begin to understand how complicated birth data can be?

Which means we should add 13 days, the current Old Style to New Style factor, to Mr. Putin's birth and see if that gives us a better chart. His birthday is now proposed to be October 20, 1952, at 9:30 am.

The changes from the two charts are significant. Instead of the Sun applying to Saturn, Neptune and Mercury, instead of a Moon in Gemini in the 8th, we now have the Sun in late Libra, receding from Neptune. We have a Moon-Mercury conjunction in Scorpio in the first. We still have the same ascendant, Scorpio, and we still have Mars as chart ruler in the 2nd, but it has shifted from Sagittarius, where it seeks the bounty of the earth, to Capricorn, where it will tirelessly **work** for it.

We are immediately attracted to the October 20th chart, as Neptune's waning influence on the Sun indicates a man who *repudiates the vague and fuzzy*. Also of interest is the Moon-Mercury conjunction in Scorpio which emphasizes *intensity of thought and emotion*.

We then realize the Moon in Scorpio on the ascendant will produce intense mood swings, which will make the native unreliable. This combines with Jupiter opposed from Taurus in the 7th to give partner issues. Mr. Putin is too tightly controlled for this.

## Vladimir Putin

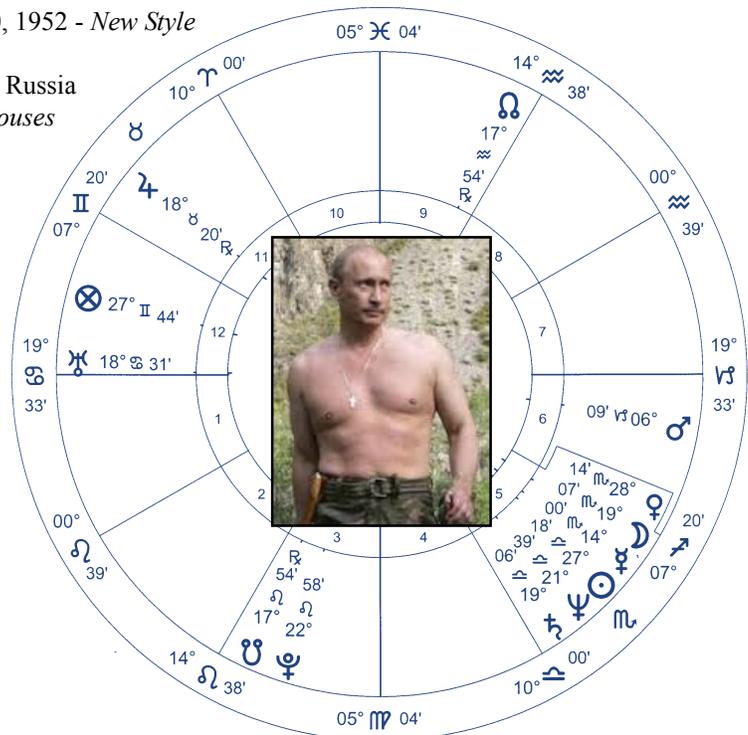
October 20, 1952 - *New Style*

9:30 pm

Leningrad, Russia

*Placidus houses*

*mean node*



Which leads us to consider that, as in Europe, a time of "9:30" might be understood as counted from a noon-based clock. I have heard it said that "the Soviet Union (Russia) did not have birth certificates," or, "the Soviets (Russians) did not record birth times," or that "the Russians (Soviets) kept everything top secret," etc., etc. I am prepared to believe the secret stuff, but only because Russia has traditionally restricted information to those who needed to know. While Czarist Russia was a medieval pit (hence the revolution), the Soviet state was modern and greatly inspired by both the French and Germans. So far as "secrets," the collapse of the Soviet Union unlocked hordes of state archives.

So advancing the time by twelve hours, from 9:30 am to 9:30 pm, is permissible (we are simply trying out ideas, nothing more) and results in a mid-Cancer rising, with a very large stellium, in Libra and Scorpio, in the 5th. Can we find support for this?

Maybe.

The man has been photographed with his shirt off and has a more-or-less "beefcake" Cancer chest. He bears some resemblance to the new moon Cancer as given in **Judith Hill**, as well as some resemblance to the mid-Cancer portrait given by **Anrias**, but neither of these are definitive.

With his pronounced 5th house stellium, we note his strong emphasis on sport and athletic achievement and remember his abilities

at wrestling and samba, a Russian form of Judo, which he has also mastered. Which is 5th house. Combine this, with his position as leader of the country and the result is the cult of Putin as super-hero, which we might typify as a parody of Sun-Saturn in the 5th.

**M**ORE telling still are a growing number of "Putinisms," pity quotes he has uttered. Here are a few, courtesy of his **Wiki page**:

*To bump off in a toilet.* With reference to terrorists.

*She sank.* Answer to what happened to the Russian submarine K-141, Kursk.

*Ploughed like a slave on a galley,* describing his job.

*Ears of a dead ass:* What Latvia would receive in a territorial dispute.

*At the very least, a state leader should have a head.* In response to Hillary Clinton's remark that he had no soul.

*Shearing a pig.* In reference to complaints about sheltering Edward Snowden.

We have two possible explanations for these remarks. In the October 7 chart, we have the Moon early in chatty Gemini, with Mercury conjunct nebulous Neptune in Libra, sextile to Mars in Sagittarius.

Or the chart for October 20, which has Moon conjunct Mercury in Scorpio. If I use my traditional standard, that the chart must be literal, Putin's speech confirms Moon-Mercury in Scorpio and October 20. Not the

7th. The first quote, to *bump off in a toilet*, combines two uniquely Scorpionic themes, excrement and death. As for his overall silence, read again this week's extract from Robson's **Student's Textbook (pg. 3)** where he gives Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces as the mute signs. At 9:30 pm on the 20th, Putin has Cancer for an ascendant, with ruling planet Moon conjunct speaking planet Mercury in mute Scorpio, with mute Pisces on the midheaven. He will be silent.

**P**RESUMING that **October 20, 1952**, at 9:30 pm in St. Petersburg is more or less right, we should give Mr. Putin a brief forecast:

Vladimir Putin has already come through his second Saturn return (October 2011), Saturn conjunct his Sun (winter/spring 2012), Saturn conjunct Mercury (November 2013) and conjunct his Moon (December 2013).

If the Cancer rising chart is correct, the

Moon is his ruler. Saturn's conjunction of it can be life-changing, for better or worse. Saturn will make a retrograde conjunction to his Moon in May, and a final, direct conjunction in September. These may be considered grave times for him.

On the other hand, Jupiter is about to end its retrograde sweep of Cancer and again begin its forward travel. It will be in his first house from May until July, which is highly favorable. It will then enter his second house, which is also favorable.

Mars is currently making a station directly on his Sun, which may make him rash.

Uranus in Aries is not of immediate concern.

Neptune is conjunct his midheaven, which may make him slippery in public.

Pluto in Capricorn will eventually come to his 7th house, and will eventually come to square his placements in Libra, but these do

not concern us for the moment.

This is not a comprehensive look at the man, but I think I have established his true chart. Let us see what this year brings him.

Meanwhile as I end another month of dismal sales (the fifth year now), as I jealously guard my bank account from being seized by the University of Maryland Medical Center for debts I cannot pay, it is clear Mr. Putin has greater concern for his people than our leaders have for us, and that the US President's concern for the peoples of the Ukraine, if genuine, is sadly misplaced. If there is anything I desire that you learn from these weekly demonstrations is how to use astrology to make life real. Reveal our leaders for the craven men and women they too often are. Astrology has no finer use than this.