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**THE MOUNTAIN ASTROLOGER • JUNE/JULY 2018 • ISSUE 199**

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About the Cover:
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Getting TMA back to 1997!
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If you are relatively new to The Mountain Astrologer, you have missed many years of great astrological articles. Although we have printed copies of most back issues going back to 2002 (which can be perused and ordered online using the “Back Issues” tab on our website), we have now made available digital back issues going back to early 1997.

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Bloomberg Features Astrology and Finance
Ross Kenneth Urken’s article, “The Top Astrologer in Asia Will Forecast Your Finance Future,” appeared on Bloomberg.com (January 21, 2018). Urken described his travel to Dwarika’s Resort in Nepal to meet with famed astrologer Santosh Vashistha and discuss his life, with a focus on finance. He shares his experience with Vashistha, noting that he would normally be fairly skeptical about consulting with an astrologer, but the resort setting in Nepal encouraged him to be more open-minded. Urken provides a brief history of astrology and investment, writing about the work of astrologers like W. D. Gann and Evangeline Adams. He even quotes J. P. Morgan, who supposedly said, “Millionaires don’t need astrology — billionaires do.” Urken then describes what he has learned from the accurate forecasts (and a few “misses”) of several well-known American financial astrologers, including Bill Meridian, Ray Merriman, and Grace Morris. Essentially, this was a positive review of his experience; the author notes that, despite what appears to be a positive financial future, his success will depend upon his own actions.

In Brief
It seems that a number of skeptics are taking issue with the recent media about Millennials and astrology (see TMA’s “Astrology News,” April/May 2018). Dean Burnett writes in The Guardian (March 14, 2018) that there is no evidence that astrology is valid or useful. He also comments that “attributing dubious behaviours to [Millenials] is a tired journalistic cliché.” Another article on ScienceAlert.com (March 14, 2018), by Carly Cassella, insists that astrology is not legitimate science. In these instances and others, the references to astrology involve Sun-sign horoscopes and other narrow uses of astrology. In short, the same old same old.

Margaret Abrams’s piece, “Astrologer Explains Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s Relationship,” appeared in The Observer (March 5, 2018). The source for the article was her interview with astrologer and life coach Linda Joyce, who briefly describes the couple’s astrological makeup and how these factors work for them. However, Joyce primarily focuses on the cycles that were most prominent when Harry and Meghan met and the potential success of their relationship.

Perhaps it’s the influence of Uranus’s cycle in Aries, but the use of astrology and zodiac signs as marketing tools seems to be mushrooming. In early March alone, several major brands used astrology. From Elle magazine’s notice that Bite Beauty has released its latest astrology-inspired lipstick shades (fiery red Aries is now available) to Nordstrom’s spring 2018 catalog, the zodiac provides the personalization that everyone seeks.

But we know that there’s much more to the language of astrology than Sun signs, and thanks in part to the Internet, there is more in-depth information available. As noted by Gayle MacDonald in her Globe and Mail article (March 15, 2018): “Phrases such as ‘Mercury in retrograde’ are part of the hip vernacular.” Many readers are ready for more. Enter Allure magazine (March 12, 2018), with the feature, “Birth Charts 101: An Astrology Beginner’s Guide to Understanding the Planets,” by Aliza Kelly Faragher, Allure’s resident astrologer. This lengthy article offers an excellent intro to all the basics of astrology, including a brief history of the subject. Faragher provides substantial information about the basic makeup of an astrological chart and how the Sun, Moon, and planets work in an individual’s natal horoscope. Delineation of the meanings of these chart factors was comprehensive and nicely written. The February 2, 2018 issue of Allure featured Part One of this series, focusing on descriptions of the zodiac signs.

In Memoriam
Two prominent American Vedic astrologers passed away in early 2018. Jessica Sayles, Vice President of ACVA (American College of Vedic Astrology), was instrumental in the development of ACVA courses and certification exams, and worked in the field of education for more than 20 years. I received notice of her death in mid January 2018.

William R. Levacy, ACVA President, dedicated most of the last decade of his life in service to that organization. As one of the founding members of ACVA in the mid 1990s, he was a Jyotish astrologer, serving as a teacher and mentor to countless grateful students. Two of his best-known books are Beneath the Vedic Sky and Beneath the Vedic Sun. Levacy died on February 23, 2018.

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Gloria Star is a professional astrologer, author, and teacher. You can learn more about her and her services through her website, http://www.GloriaStar.com
Here are the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that I receive:

Q: Can this program run on my Android/Mac/Kindle/Fire?

A: Just as a person who only knows English can’t read a book written in Chinese, so each computing device is programmed with a specific operating system, and cannot read or run software written for a different operating system. (PCs use Windows, Macs run OS, iPhones and iPads use iOS, and Android and Amazon Fire devices use the Android OS.) So, if you have a Windows program, you can’t run it on an iPhone, Android tablet, Amazon Fire or Kindle, or any other device that doesn’t run Windows.

Q: I ordered the download — where is it?

A: Large mainstream software companies have turnkey systems whereby an order is automatically processed and the download link is then sent to the buyer very quickly. However, astrology software companies are very small and have to process orders manually, one by one. So, download links are usually sent within a day or two after the program is ordered, unless the power goes out (like during the recent storms in the Northeast) or when the company is closed, e.g., weekends and holidays.

Q: I’m perfectly fine with my current version. Why update?

A: If you want to be able to calculate accurate charts, you have to keep your software up to date. I recently discovered that the continent of Australia changed their Daylight Saving Time policy, and some older versions of programs hadn’t caught up yet.

Q: How do I do such-and-such with my program? Can I get a printed manual?

A: Instead of creating bulky printed manuals that explain your program, companies have become much more “green” and now provide all of the documentation in the program’s Help menu (and sometimes in video tutorials). These Help menus (shown usually at the top right of the program’s main window) have a Search feature so that you can look for any astrological term or program feature and find it. In addition, you can also call or e-mail companies for help, but it is very empowering to discover the answers for yourself by using the built-in Help function.

Q: I don’t understand what [astrological term] means. Help!

A: Only a few top astrology programs have an astrology encyclopedia or glossary built in, but in this online age, if you can’t find a term in the Help menu of your software, you can go to websites like http://theastrologydictionary.com to find the answer.

Q: My PC crashed (or I just purchased a new PC), and I didn’t save a copy of the software I downloaded. Can you please help me?

A: This is a very common issue. Usually, unless the program is out of date, the company can provide you with another download link for you to use. In the future, it will protect you to copy the downloaded program to a flash drive or CD (and attach to it a copy of your unlock codes) and keep it in a safe place.

Relocating Charts

The oldest method of astromapping — using astrology to see the effects of traveling to a new place — is the relocation chart. Essentially, a chart is calculated for a new location. You might think that this feature would be part of every astrology program, but it is such a basic feature that no program has it. The software creators assume that you know how to use your program to create a relocated chart.

Here are the steps: (1) Run (or retrieve from a chart file) the person’s chart that you want to relocate, using your software. (2) Write down the time zone (and, if shown in a separate place, whether it’s Daylight Saving Time or not). (3) Enter the birth data again using the new location (or edit the chart, changing the location), but do not click OK to process the chart. (4) Change the time zone back to the time zone shown for the natal chart, and then click OK.

The Value of Different Aspect Sets

Most professional astrology programs let you view charts, listings, and graphs using different aspect sets. To
the novice, this may seem like overkill, but it is actually a very valuable feature.

Early in my astrology practice, I realized that the strongest aspects are far more influential than weaker ones, so I created an “x-ray chart” where I limited the orb to one degree, and thereby could view the most powerful connections in the chart. This has proven very useful. (In order to see it, I just loaded the aspect set that had 1° orbs.)

When comparing two people’s charts, there are twice as many points, so using wide orbs creates way too many aspects. Having an aspect set just for synastry (chart comparison) with a maximum orb of just a few degrees (three, four, or five degrees) is much better, as you can then see the strongest interactions between the charts.

Similarly, when creating transit hit listings, the orb should be limited to one or two degrees. Otherwise, you might focus on influences that are more in the background, instead of seeing the ones that are currently culminating.

For those who want to explore minor aspects (septiles, noviles, etc.), again, having a different aspect set is worthwhile. You could create a set that has only minor aspects, in order to be able to see them without the clutter of all of the major ones.

Weblog News

Recent articles on my online blog (https://www.soulhealing.com/softstar.htm) include my new Vedic tutorial “When Subcycles really count,” the Delphic Oracle 9, my complete review of Janus 5, and a guide to computer security.

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Hank Friedman is a professional Vedic and Western astrologer, author, and teacher. Visit his http://www.soulhealing.com website for astrology software guidance and his http://www.learnastrologyfree.com website for free in-depth astrology tutorials. You may contact him at stars@soulhealing.com for help in choosing the right astrology software for your needs.
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