

On the Outer Planets

By David Pond

by Ken Hopkins, ASA *Scribe*

The ASA was fortunate indeed to have a wonderfully spiritual overview of life interwoven with astrological illustrations that June's guest speaker David Pond had for all who attended. Golden indeed were the astro-spiritual utterings that David had for us.

The main thrust of David's presentation was the outer planets. It's his assessment that Uranus, Neptune and Pluto cannot show the spiritual level of a person by themselves but can contribute to a person's abnormal behavior, creativity, and/or spirituality. The outer planets are the "trans-personal" planets. The other seven lights, Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, go a long way in delineating the personality of the individual but the outer planets furnish many theme variations in the symphony of life.

URANUS

With the discovery of Uranus, there was a movement toward individual freedom in the middle 1700's with the French Revolution and the emergence of the United States through the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. The industrial revolution also began about the time of its discovery. "Was Uranus always there or did the collective consciousness of the human race call for a new energy so evolution could make a new leap for mankind?" was an interesting and thought-provoking question posed by our guest. Uranus has an orbit of 84 years and remains in a sign approximately seven years at a time giving large numbers of people a common energy to manifest in countless avenues of expression.

NEPTUNE

In the mid-1800s Neptune was officially discovered which coincided with mesmerism, the fathering influence of what we call hypnosis today (Also the rage in art was impressionism--where the placements of various dabs of color create an illusion of an image, whether it be human or nature.) Neptune is an energy that coincides with illusion or disillusions. Neptune is planet that symbolizes the dissolving of ego that can be bliss or a "meltdown." Neptune takes 166 years to go around and transits a sign an average of about 14 years.

PLUTO

Pluto was discovered in 1930. Atomic energy was making itself known. (So was organized crime--the underworld). Pluto symbolizes the energy to renew or destroy. (Pluto is almost generational in that the average stay in a sign is 20 years because of its 240-year orbit around the sun. Because Pluto has the most elliptical orbit, actually coming inside the orbit of Neptune, its stay in some signs is about 15 years and almost 30 in others.) David summarized the energies of the outer planets this way. "Whenever the personal ego gets involved

identifying with energies of the outer planets, you'll get a distortion of what that energy is all about. Perversions occur when the ego claims outer planet energies in ways it is not meant to. The more a person can align with the energies, the more positive the expression will be."

SATURN VS THE OUTER PLANETS

"Saturn's job in the chart is to maintain structure. The outer planetary energy is aimed at breaking down structure. Uranus is revolutionary energy. Its job is to force us to evolve. Uranus is the planet of individuality, yet it is a transpersonal planet." David summarized the "Triad" this way: "Uranus breaks down the old. Neptune, which dissolves, is symbolized by fear or fate, a vision or image." A person not incorporating Neptune energy positively may scurrv back to the structure of Saturn out of fear.

Our guest speaker also stated, "the Pluto vibration causes us to deal with issues of control but the energy can totally transform. (In relationships) Pluto people don't form relationships, they take hostages." The challenge is to harness the Plutoman energy with the "right use of collective power." People can use the energy for healing on one side but misuse the power for manipulation and even war on the other side.

David might have caught some of the audience off guard when he said "Sometimes I don't believe in astrology." He was using a Uranian ploy to emphasize that even traditionally "bad" or negative aspects can be transformed into spiritual blessings. "I have not found one aspect in astrology that invariably leads to trouble. I have always found at least one person that can take the energy of a 'bad aspect' to a higher manifestation. If one person can transform that energy for the good, others can too!"

Evolved people can transform difficult aspects.

David also talked about those having strong aspects from the outer planets to the Sun, Moon and Ascendant feeling like "we're not from here." David went on to list personality challenges and spiritual transformations for each of the outer planets. It was a very "confirming" presentation for this observer. To hear someone speaking about we as humans having some free choice in the mix to make even the most traditionally challenging aspects work for the good of all chimed with thoughts that many of us have had but David was able to express brilliantly.

One of the best lines of the night was that we can make astrology work better for us if we realize its limits as a tool. What I got from that statement was that when we feel we are being limited by traditionally astrological interpretations it's time to break through with the new ways of Uranus and the spiritual energy of Neptune, and transform it all to the next level with Pluto.

Thank you, David Pond for your golden insights into your world of astrology. It was a philosophical feast loaded with spiritual calories!