

## **VULCAN – ASTRONOMY AND ASTROLOGY**

by Virginia Reyer, ASA member

Vulcan, the intra-Mercurial planet, is also known as the ghost planet.

This Vulcan has nothing to do with the Uranian planet Vulcanus. Do not confuse the two. The name “Vulcan” first came into general use about 1857, after astronomers observed what was supposed to have been the transit of an intra-Mercurial planet. The selection of the name Vulcan from mythology gives an almost exact description of the inner planet. It is presumed to be hot, like a blacksmith’s iron, because it is close to the Sun. Vulcan of mythology, or Tubal-Cain of the Bible, was a blacksmith who forged hot iron.

Vulcan’s mean distance from the Sun at elongation is  $8^{\circ} 17'$ . When any planet is within a few degrees of the Sun, about  $8^{\circ} 30'$ , it is in a state of combustia, that is burnt up, and its virtues are destroyed by that position. Mercury and the Sun are never “via combustia,” but every other planet, and particularly the Moon, are powerfully affected in some strange manner, though irregularly, when within a few degrees of the Sun. Planets often exhibit some strange and unaccountable detriment when within 8 degrees of the Sun. This is only to be explained by the presence of an intra-Mercurial planet operative about half the time, as it moves on one side of the Sun, and half the time on the other.

Modern observations, especially in the last two centuries: Vulcan has been observed March 27, 1720, again on Mar 15, 1721. More than a century and a half later the same recurrence, separated by 353 days, was noted by other observers. There is no doubt that an intra-Mercurial planet exists. In 1907, Captain Isbester was on the British ship Dalgonar about 250 miles of the Northern Ca coast. He noticed a very large spot on the disk of the Sun that looked like an inverted balloon. It moved with easily noticeable speed and passed off the Sun’s disk late in the afternoon. The Captain had ‘witnessed the transit of an intra-Mercurial planet. Isbester concluded that the spot was on the Sun from noon for a full four hours. Upon comparing previously recorded observations, it was found to have a synodic time of 19.5804 days. This became the basis of the tables, as others also timed the transit. Solar Fire computes the position of Vulcan. Vulcan moves about one degree per year.

Astrological nature and effect of Vulcan:

- 1- Interior of the Sun governs the Earth’s temperature.
- 2- Solar photosphere governs the Earth’s electro-magnetism.
- 3- Vulcan governs the atmospheric air and gases, the aerial currents on the earth’s surface and barometric pressures.
- 4- The Moon governs the Earth’s waters.
- 5- Mercury, a crystalizing force, synthetic and analytic.
- 6- Venus, an ozone, or element of preservation.
- 7- Mars, a force that minutely subdivides every element.
- 8- The Asteroids produce fogs, clouds, rains, meteors.
- 9- Jupiter, a coagulating, synthetic force of supreme power.
- 10- Saturn, inharmony, disintegration, decay, cold, inertia.
- 11- Uranus, like Mercury, but of massive reaction.
- 12- Neptune, like Venus, but of a more permanent nature.

Vulcan has separating veiling forces, veiling of the intuition, veiling cosmic love and wisdom, veiling the true name of the planetary logos, thus producing coordination eventually. In the natal chart, Vulcan appears to nullify the effect of any planet with which he is in bodily conjunction, excepting the Sun and Mercury, but in any other aspect whatsoever, square, trine, opposition etc, he gives a kind of vehement eccentricity of character according with the nature of the planet he aspects. Strange freaks are produced in human nature, mentally and physically, usually in malevolent form.

Why it is that Vulcan has so rarely been seen at transits? This intra-mercurial planet is a thin disk of matter, about the density and the toughness of the best vanadium steel. Since the axial rotation would throw his poles nearly at right angles with the ecliptic, we can never see the planet at any time on account of the thin edge being always presented to our view. But occasionally Vulcan captures masses of matter in the form of comets that rush in near the Sun and this material, generally in a cloudy form, appears as a globe surrounding the planet. The clouds are thrown off in a few days. Vulcan can never be more than 8 degrees from the Sun, and technically is always in conjunction with the Sun, between 8 and 22 degrees of a sign. Both Sun and Vulcan are in the same sign unless the Sun between 0 and 8 degrees of a sign, or between 22 and 30 degrees of a sign; then there is a possibility that Vulcan is in the adjacent sign. Its orbit is entirely within the orbit of Mercury.

Vulcan is the ruler of Virgo. Vulcan helps people create and fashion all sorts of things. On the esoteric level, (which is the astrology of the soul transmitted by a Tibetan Master to Alice Bailey many years ago), Vulcan is the ruler of Taurus, again another earth sign. A definite orbit cannot be established yet; however for many reasons the orbit given is valid. An English esotericist has proposed that Vulcan is always 3° from Mercury on the side of the Sun. Solar Fire has the option of calculating either method: D. Baker's method or the one most used, which is by L.H.Weston. The only real way is to look at the hard aspect transits (conjunctions, squares or oppositions) of Vulcan. The orbit of Vulcan is about 23 days.

The qualities of the ascending sign describe the future direction of the soul or new qualities that we are developing.

Aries = Mercury  
Taurus = Vulcan  
Gemini = Venus  
Cancer = Neptune  
Leo = Sun  
Virgo = Moon  
Libra = Uranus  
Scorpio = Mars  
Sagittarius = Earth  
Capricorn = Saturn  
Aquarius = Jupiter  
Pisces = Pluto

**Aries** is to inspire others, mind, communication, the Messenger of the Gods.

**Taurus** to release personal desires, growth through change, illumination and enlightenment.

**Gemini** to teach Right Human Relations between self and others, turning knowledge into wisdom.

**Cancer** to build a spiritual home and selflessly nourish others through devotion and self-sacrifice.

**Leo** to express Divine Will through open-heartedness, warmth, creativity, leadership and love.

**Virgo** to heal and serve others, the past, the mother of all forms, nurturing.

**Libra** to harmonize opposites, to choose the middle path, trans-personal relations, perfected love.

**Scorpio** to transform darkness into light, the battle between Soul and Personality, spiritual warrior.

**Sagittarius** to uplift humanity through the revelation of Truth and Wisdom and one pointedness.

**Capricorn** to express one's true spiritual vocation and purpose for the greater good.

**Aquarius** to serve humanity through the dedication of personal energies to the collective.

**Pisces** to sacrifice the self through compassionate service to others.

The highest goal is the integration of the personality, striving to overcome the limitations and problems such as physical excesses, emotional instability and negative thinking. The goal is to unite the body, emotions and mind into a state of harmony. There are various techniques that help us to connect with the soul or the higher-self. Meditation, creative visualization, artistic and musical expression, communicating with nature or the stars, compassionate service and the study of the scriptures.

Esoteric astrology developed out of the Theosophical Society of Blavatsky and Besant. This astrology correlates the theosophical seven rays with the planets and signs. According to this system, each person has certain rays predominant in their personal chart. These rays correspond to the chakras or energy centers. Esoteric astrologers also use the Earth and the planet Vulcan. This type of astrology reached the general public through popular works such as the writings of Alan Oken, spiritual astrologer.

Taurus rules the thyroid gland, the outer expression of the throat center, the zone of creativity for the man on the path. The thyroid controls the metabolism of energy or prana, the speed of living. It is indispensable to life. This center is brought into activity by the soul. The average man, rooted in materiality, cannot be truly creative. If a person has no thyroid for any reason, the pituitary gland takes over. When Taurus is working esoterically, the planet Vulcan becomes the ruler. This necessitates persistence, endurance, and continuity of effort and is one of the characteristics imparted or stimulated by the energies coming from Vulcan. Vulcan is both a catalyst for cathartic change and an electric fire to enlighten our connection with the universe. If we are able to withstand the heat from his forge, Vulcan can present us with soul ornaments of liberation, opportunities for tremendous growth. Vulcan's presence in horoscopes is very evident in the charts of the famous and the notorious. Both Vulcan and Trans-Pluto have frequently shown remarkable appropriate symbolic correspondences in a variety of horoscopes. The closer the aspect, the more violent are the manifestations. Weston implied that Vulcan in any exact aspect is potentially dangerous.

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Virginia offered a number of example charts, which are available in the hardcopy version of the December 2002 newsletter. The astrological fonts cannot be reproduced here. Her conclusion, after studying these charts, is that when Vulcan is applying to the Sun, the effects are more potent than when Vulcan is behind the Sun or moving away from the Sun.