



## William Lilly and Evangeline Adams: Two Great Astrologers

*From a presentation by Bonnie Wilson to ASA on Saturday, April 19, 2003*

### **William Lilly**

William Lilly is the undisputed master of horary astrology. His magnum opus, *Christian Astrology*, is the definitive book on the subject in English. Born in 1602 in Leicestershire, England, Lilly wanted to study medicine but had to leave the university at the age of 17, when his father was thrown into debtor's prison. Lilly walked to London, arriving on Palm Sunday, and found employment with Gilbert Wright, a salt merchant. Two years later, when Wright's wife was dying of cancer, Lilly helped nurse her. She died in 1625. Wright remarried but died in 1627. Six months later, Lilly married the widow and became a freeman of the Salter's Company.

In 1633, Lilly's wife died, leaving him a legacy of nearly 1,000 pounds, which he used to buy real estate. Meanwhile he had begun studying occultism and astrology, and in 1641, "seeing there was money to be made," set up as a professional astrologer. In 1647, he published *Christian Astrology*, and in 1666, he predicted the Great Fire of London, which prompted the city authorities to throw him into prison under suspicion of having caused the fire. His well-connected friends, knowing how good an astrologer Lilly was, obtained his release. He died in 1681 a wealthy man, happily married to his third wife.

William Lilly was one of the best astrologers of the 17th century. He was also a man who followed his dream, however long delayed. Once he became rich and successful, he completed his medical studies and ministered to the poor. He didn't always charge for doctoring, but he always charged for his astrological services—a practice Bonnie says we all should follow.

### **Evangeline Adams**

Like William Lilly, Evangeline Adams achieved fame and fortune through her practice of astrology. She became the best-known astrologer of her day and did a great deal to make astrology respectable.

Although it is not widely known, she used William Lilly's ideas in her astrology. Since people in his day generally knew their birth date but not the time, he would erect a chart for the time they came through his door and put their planets around that chart. Being a gifted astrologer, he could read their question, and the answer, from that chart. Evangeline Adams used a similar technique when she predicted the destruction of the Windsor Hotel—her first big "case" and the one which established her astrological credentials.

Evangeline Adams' birth data is verified as Feb. 8, 1868, at 8:30 am in Jersey City, New Jersey, making her an Aquarian with Pisces rising. She was born into the upper class, but when she was 15 months old, her father died, having lost most of his money. There was just enough to educate the boys in the family. Adams was not healthy as a young woman; and between illnesses and accidents she saw a great deal of her doctor, J. Heber Smith, who was also an astrologer. He became her mentor. Once she reached adulthood, she went to work as a secretary in a flour mill in order to support her mother and became engaged to be married. When her mother died, Adams did the unthinkable by breaking the engagement and moving to New York. The date, which she picked from her own chart, was March 16, 1899, and she was 31 years old.

There she took a suite for at the Windsor Hotel—the only hotel that would allow her to set up an astrology practice on its premises. She warned the proprietor, Warren Leland, that he was in imminent danger and that “a disaster” might happen the very next day. Leland, thinking of the stock market, airily dismissed her prediction since March 17 was a holiday. The next day, the hotel burned to the ground. Leland died 17 days later. The fire—and Adams’ prediction—made all the headlines.

Adams was a relentless self-promoter. She often dressed up as a gypsy to read palms at clubs and parties. Little did the patrons know that the “gold dust” she sprinkled on their palms was actually a type of cleaning powder. Her career soon took off, and she numbered among her clients the rich and famous, including J. Paul Getty Sr., Wallis Simpson, and J.P. Morgan. She charged \$50 for a 30-minute reading, and employed a number of secretaries who typed her mail order readings for clients outside of New York City.

She was arrested several times for fortune-telling. The last time this happened, she became determined to make astrology legal in New York. She appeared in court with her books and challenged the judge to give her the data of anyone he chose. When he did, she erected the chart and read it in open court. At the conclusion of the reading, the judge was so impressed that he dropped all charges, saying “the defendant raises astrology to the dignity of an exact science.” That chart had been that of his son. The story was picked up by magazines throughout the country, and requests poured in for readings. One of the people clamoring for a reading was a young woman in Panguitch, Utah, “Client A,” whose reading survives and was given to Bonnie by the woman’s granddaughter.

Evangelina Adams called the Ascendant ruler your “star of destiny.” Client A’s ruler was Mars. Since her birth time wasn’t mentioned in the typed reading, Bonnie’s astrology group in Utah painstakingly rectified it to the early degrees of Scorpio. The client was a beautiful woman, musical and artistic, but she was married to a banker who bored her (Taurus on the 7th. She turned to drink and eventually became involved with a man who promised to take her to Paris and marry her. When she left her husband to join her lover in Heber City, she learned that he had been lying to her all along and she killed herself.

The granddaughter feels herself to be the

reincarnation of “Client A,” and there are links between their charts. She works in the medical field and counsels drug and alcohol abusers. The charts for the client and the granddaughter are reproduced on the website, along with Evangelina Adams’ own chart.

Evangelina Adams published four books: her autobiography, *The Bowl of Heaven* (1926); *Astrology, Your Place in the Sun* (1927); *Astrology, Your Place Among the Stars* (1930); and *Astrology for Everyone* (1931). In 1932, she cancelled a lecture tour because her own chart told her she might die, and she was right. She died of heart disease in November after being seriously ill for three days.

A biography of Evangelina Adams, entitled *Foreseeing the Future: Evangelina Adams and Astrology in America*, has recently been published by Karen Christino.

### **1920’S READING BY EVANGELINE ADAMS FOR “CLIENT A”**

The Sun being unfriendly to Neptune, intensifies the whole being, giving you a high-strung nervous system and most acute sensibilities. You hear, see and feel things which are not registered by those less sensitively organized. Neptune is the planet of the fourth dimension, which not only gives you an elusive magnetism and a peculiar influence over people, but the ability to broadcast so far and with so great a vision that you are willing to attempt what, to the ordinary person seems most impractical and visionary. For this reason you interest men who will bring to your attention tricky schemes and who will try to deceive you, so you must confine your efforts to legitimate lines and live up to the SPIRIT as well as the LETTER of the law. Otherwise your reputation will suffer and you will meet with heavy losses. Because of your keen observation, intuitive perception and mental and physical agility, you are likely to be very impatient over trifles and infuriated over what appears to you to be stupidity in others.

All aspects of the Sun with Neptune intensify the emotional nature and quicken the psychic powers. Neptune gives a radiance to the personality, a joyousness tempered by divine sadness, a melancholy sweetened by a wellspring of joy. It forms a grand harmonious harp which the artist can thrill with the “music of the spheres.” Whether the music will be accompanied by progress in material

prosperity, or merely solace the soul in the midst of adversities and apparent shipwreck, will depend upon the degree of spirituality attained by the individual. The Neptunian influences on the physical plane is strangely disorganizing, often manifesting itself particularly in obscure nervous troubles and heart complications which appear to be valvular, but which in reality, are purely psychic. Its diseases are always of an unusual kind, sometimes of a slow wasting nature, and sometimes just the opposite. Cultivate self-control and respond to your spiritual side and then the influence of Neptune can be constructive.

In addition to the Sun being unfriendly to Neptune, it was fortunately, in a friendly aspect to the other planets, which indicates that instead of allowing this force to be disorganizing, you should be able to make practical use of it. While you are none the less temperamental, you have a better balance, which considerably improves the chance of carrying your plans to successful completion. This combination modifies your tendency to be too abstract and to live too much in your imagination. While you are attracted by unreliable and irresponsible men, you will also be influenced by those of a more constructive character, and you should have the opportunity of one fortunate marriage. On first meeting a man, be sure that his hereditary influence is good and that he is not addicted to drugs or any secret habits. You will have a full life and be able to carry out your wishes, unless you allow the irresponsible side to dominate.

Uranus, causing nervous or psychic diseases, difficult to diagnose, was in Scorpio, ruling the organs of generation, the lower bowels, bladder and rectum. When run down, or in case of any great shock, you may suffer from spasmodic action of the bladder and have a queer sensation in the abdominal regions.

This sign is predisposed to neoplastic growths and neurotic disturbances in the genital-urinary organs, also danger of suffering from functional perversions. Scorpio is strongly sexed and gives an unusual amount of animal force, which can either give you much power over people through an appeal to their emotions, or make you very determined, even headstrong, but easily moved through the love nature. You will have very trying temptations which, if not conquered, will cause you to have life-long regrets. This combination also gives originality on the mechanical plane and many illustrators, or those who are quick with their hands have Uranus so placed.

Mars, which aggravates fevers and feverish complaints was in the sign Taurus, ruling the throat, base of brain and pleasures of the palate. As a child, you may have been susceptible to sore throat, enlarged tonsils, adenoids, croup or even diphtheria. Throat affections, goitre, thyroiditis, or other troubles of a sympathetic character can be easily aggravated. When over-tired or excited, you may suffer from an irritation in your throat or a tension at the base of the brain. This sign often indicates an inherited pre-disposition to dipsomania. You are inclined to be an extremist in all directions, so cultivate moderation in all things and avoid being contrary or stubborn. Taurus is one of the most practical and constructive signs, but if the force is not wisely utilized, it tends to make one dissipate in some direction. Practice self-control, but have plenty of normal outlet for the emotions.

Mars being unfriendly to Uranus indicates you have much force at your disposal which, if properly utilized, will make it possible for you to accomplish great things, otherwise, because of your impatience and tendency to be fault finding you are likely to say or do that which may result most disastrously. You are in danger of having sudden bursts of anger without due consideration to consequences, so when you find yourself growing more and more furious, you should guard against short-circuiting your forces through loss of self control. Whenever this happens, you generate a psychic poison which has a most upsetting influence on your nervous system. Cultivate self-mastery, for by so doing you not only save yourself a great deal of discomfort, but find it less difficult to co-operate with others. Do not place yourself in hazardous situations unless forced to do so, as you are inclined to not only attract accidents, but to suffer through misunderstandings and to be blamed for situations for which you are not responsible.

Saturn, which causes diseases resulting from chills, inhibition of the functions and lack of proper elimination, was in the sign Libra, ruling the kidneys (and ovaries as well, in the case of a woman.) It is very necessary that you eliminate as much as possible through the skin and intestines in order that the kidneys, which serve as a filter and refiner for the purification of the blood, be not over taxed. Your system is more likely to suffer from surfeit than from lack of nourishment. If you feel depressed, without due cause, you may be sure that your mental condition is caused by sluggishness, and you should encourage freer elimination. Drink large quantities of

water, take more exercise in the fresh air and if necessary take some simple laxative. Nephritis, suppression of urine, corrupted blood, Bright's disease and gout are some of the troubles which might be induced by this position of Saturn. Psychologically, it places one in danger of having an "inferiority complex."

It must not be supposed that, of necessity, one must suffer from any of the diseases mentioned in connection with these planets. The state of health is but a condition of unstable equilibrium, and when the balance is not maintained, it produces disease.

It takes very little to upset the balance, either physically or mentally. Through the vibration of Saturn, the balance is thrown out more especially through the physical, and because of colds, poor elimination and mental depression. Through Mars, by violence, either accidental or mental anger, and by Uranus, through the psychic, which is affected by the environment or associates with whom one is thrown. If we keep in harmony with our higher natures and do not abuse natural laws, we need fear no evil results from these planetary positions. The vibrations from all the planets represent forces which can either be utilized wisely, or through misuse, court the potential diseases to which you are susceptible.

Venus, ruling the emotional and artistic side of the nature, was in the humanitarian and impersonal sign Aquarius. While Venus in this position makes you very loyal and unselfish, it also make you very capricious in likes and dislikes and in case you see too much of people, you temporally grow very indifferent and they bore you. While you are very fond of the opposite sex in a "chummy" way, very few will take a serious hold on your love nature, or mean enough to you to make you willing to give up your freedom, and you would find it difficult to hold or make happy a jealous and physically sexed person. You enjoy meeting people who are famous, or those who have accomplished something out of the ordinary. You never pick friends on account of what they are worth materially, but rather because they are interesting and a part of the "great world." Many artists and those connected with uplift work have Venus so placed. It also gives a strong love for and understanding of animals.

Venus, being unfriendly to Uranus, but in friendly aspect to other planets, intensifies the love nature, making you very romantic at one time, but capable of being very practical when conditions make it

necessary for you to be so. If you keep your nervous poise, you can accomplish great things, as you have a touch of genius, as well as a most artistic temperament. You have a very luxury loving side and may have to curb a tendency to be unduly extravagant; if you cannot have the best, you prefer to go without. Your love of the dramatic or spectacular may cause you to attract those who may not have an altogether elevating influence on your life, but fortunately you have a well-balanced temperament, and while you are fascinated by people who are Bohemian in the refined way, you will never go to extremes as to shock your more conventional friends. This combination will make you very magnetic to both sexes, but you will seem to be forced to take the bitter with the sweet where your affections are involved.

The Moon largely controls the personality and the early environment. The ancient Persians called it the measurer and it is found to indicate minor incidents, circumstances, changes, and all actions of daily life, but never the great, broad, epoch-making events. It might be considered the guardian of the gateways which we call the senses, through which the external world furnishes food for the mind. The Moon being in the mercurial sign Gemini, gives great alertness and keenness, but makes you lacking in continued and consistent effort. The sensations are swift, but not over deep, and while all forms of science, research, as well as literary and social interest fascinate you, you should strive to be more practical and give more thought to technique and form. Avoid superficiality and cultivate responsiveness. When you find yourself restless and dissatisfied, a journey will do more to bring restored equilibrium than anything else.

The Moon being in aspect to several planets of a different rate of vibration, indicates that through your senses you will make many contacts in life and must guard against being swayed too strongly by your emotions. Women will play a very important part, in some cases, constructive and in others almost devastating. Fortunately you are disinclined to show to the world your feminine weaknesses and rarely, if ever talk about your ill health or misfortunes, as you have a feeling that they are something to be ashamed of. Whenever you find yourself becoming too nervous or high strung, exercise self control and avoid going to extremes in any direction. Try and associate with very normal and conventional people. This combination in addition to making you very temperamental, often indicates that there has been cancer, or other incurable diseases in the family,

particularly on the Mother's side. By making use of this force you can be a power for good in the world, but otherwise a slave to your emotions.

Mercury, having much influence on the workings of the mind, was in the impressionable and adaptable sign Pisces. It will very largely depend upon the people with whom you are associated as to whether you are a good talker, with the ability to fall into a conversation and appear to know more about it than is absolutely the case, or whether you have nothing to say. You either have too much confidence in people, being too frank and too talkative, or if once deceived, you are then suspicious and secretive. You gather knowledge subconsciously and often utter truths or even state facts that you have not reasoned out. At one time you are brilliant, cheerful and witty, at another, mentally inactive, with a tendency to be peevish and even melancholy. While Pisces is a very intuitive and inspirational sign, it also endows one with much common sense. If obliged for any length of time to associate with materialistic or too worldly people, you become very discontented and in time it would affect your health.

Mercury, a variable planet, being in unfriendly aspect to the ever changing, vacillating Moon, tends to give indecision, and allows your interest to be taken from what you are doing by unwarrantable interruptions. In one instance this may come through your having a too great sense of duty, in another, through not wishing to hurt the feelings of those you love and again through loss of interest in your task at hand or you do not realize the importance of keeping things in their proper relation. Remember, if a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing well. Do not procrastinate, feeling that some other time would do just as well. Unless you continually discipline yourself, this tendency will follow you to the end, lessening your efficiency and hence your chance of success. Robert Louis Stevenson, most heroic nobleman, evidently realized this danger in his own character, for he said, "In all my life I never so much as hedged a bet, and always put even a bad business through."

Mercury, being unfriendly to the mystical Neptune, can either prove to be the most constructive or baneful influence. It largely depends upon the degree of spiritual development, as to whether this combination gives genius or whether it makes you impractical in your idea of life, with false fears and fancies, and you must guard against being an extremist. If you receive annoying or anonymous letters they should be ignored, as you are in danger

of getting into difficulties through writings, signatures or the law. People who are mediumistic and who (?) the thought and feelings aspect, but unless the force is used for the good of others, it becomes inverted and brings the greatest misfortune, even making one in danger of suffering from insanity or suicide. You must therefore exercise the self-control and wisdom in order to realize any true benefit from your mystical power.

In addition to Mercury being unfriendly to Neptune, fortunately was in aspect to other planets of a more concrete character, which relate to associates and surroundings. While you may still find it necessary to guard against any tendency to even appear to be insincere, or too impractical in your ideas of life, you will have a much better balance. Provided you live up to your best and do not allow yourself to masquerade, you can then benefit by your mystical powers and your ability to know what is in the mind of those with whom you are in conversation, as well as the outcome of any project which may be presented to you.

Make a practice of always finishing one undertaking or line of thought before you start another, otherwise, you may waste a great deal of time, or be looked upon as visionary, impractical and unreliable. On the other hand, if you will harness your forces, make the most of your time and opportunities, there is no limit to what you can accomplish.

Jupiter, having much to do with one's judgment, honor, ambition and finances, was in the idealistic sign Aries, indicating that you have an executive, assertive side, but you must guard against overconfidence in your own options and ability. You enjoy making plans, but dislike details and your enthusiasm often wanes before you have carried out your ideas. If obliged to be self-supporting, you could meet with success in executive work, directing others, in politics, club or organization work, and in any enterprise furnishing an opportunity for your pioneer spirit and originality. You may benefit through men who are at the head of large industries connected with fire, railroads, machinery, and who are promoters or in military life. One of the most fortunate periods of any year is between March 20th and April 20th, and people born at this time are likely to benefit you either in a business or social way. It is also a propitious period for entering into new ventures or extending your business or personal influence.

STARS OF DESTINY; You are strongly under the influence of the practical and materialistic Mars, the universal, original and independent Uranus, but with a friendly vibration from the beneficent Jupiter. This strange combination of force gives you a contradictory nature, one side warring against the other. While you are capable of great spiritual development, unselfishness and understanding of life, you are also more or less a slave to worldly ambition and have too great a sense of self-preservation. You will often struggle too hard and should never try to force fate, for by so doing you will cut yourself off from the more spiritual vibrations, and keep much good from coming to you. Unfortunately, you frequently show the less desirable side, which will cause you to be misunderstood and blamed for having selfish motives when such is not the case. Make the most of each day and opportunity, and try and believe that what is, is best.

If the hour of your birth, as calculated for this manuscript horoscope, is not correct, you will find some discrepancies in this delineation. While the relative positions of the planets to each other do not materially change in twenty four hours, the hour of birth determines their positions in the Heavens. There are some departments in one's life upon which is impossible to touch without knowing the exact time of birth. With the Moon especially, which travels so rapidly, a difference in the hour makes a very material difference in her aspects, as well as in the time when any events which are indicated by the swiftly moving

body will transpire. If in the future you are able to ascertain more closely the time of your birth (provided the one given is not correct,) it would be well to send it to me in order that it may be made a part of your confidential record. By giving another order, you can have your horoscope rectified and the delineation amplified.

Each planet has a separate effect, producing what may seem to be contradictory traits of character, each modifying or accelerating the other. By studying your horoscope, you will better understand yourself and receive results through your opportunities, which are valuable exactly in proportion to the use you make of them. Realize that humanity is composed of men and women not Gods and that all are subject to mistakes and weaknesses, and you will be slower to condemn and more eager to help.

Trusting that by fixity of purpose, a willingness to be guided by Universal Truth and resolute determination to succeed, you will receive the full benefit and inspiration from this astrological presentation of your life, I am

Ever faithfully yours,

Evangeline Adams  
The Adams Studios,  
1008 Carnegie Hall  
New York, N. Y.