

When Worlds Collide:

Another Look at the Lunar Nodes

Kathy Allan

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First Edition

First Printing 2012

Cover Design by Mimi Alonso

Typesetting by Jera Publishing

Editing by Mark Springle

Parts of Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 15, and 18 were originally published by *The Mountain Astrologer*, Issue #143 Feb/Mar 2009, in the article: 'Re-Visioning the Lunar Nodes.'

A version of Chapter 24 was originally published by *The Mountain Astrologer* in Issue #153 Oct/Nov 2010, in the article: 'Funny Money and the Fed.'

Portions of Chapter 21 were originally published by *The Mountain Astrologer* in Issue #156 Apr/May 2011, in the article: 'Wikileaks and the Cardinal Cross.'

Portions of Chapters 1–3 were originally published in the *Geocosmic Journal*, Winter 2009, in the article: 'The Lunar Nodes as Timers.'

Published by:

Pollux Press

Fort Pierce, Florida

34981

ISBN: 978-0-9836866-2-0

You have got lost, and are trying to find your way back to your own true self.

- Lao Tzu

Acknowledgments

This book owes its life to the generous assistance and support of many. I am deeply indebted to my teachers and students who have made me a better astrologer. To the many inspiring authors I have read, my sincerest thanks for sharing your methods of chart interpretation and your understanding of astrology. To those living and dead whose charts I have delineated, I hope that my interpretation accurately reflects your thoughts and life experiences, and that your words and deeds are not taken out of context. I apologize in advance for any errors I have made.

In particular, I will be forever grateful to Mark Springle for his editorial insights, his attention to astrological and grammatical detail, and his instructive and entertaining commentary. He made this a better book. Many thanks to Scott Silverman for his encouragement, illuminating observations, and helpful discussions. Heartfelt thanks to Mimi Alonso, a talented artist, for the cover design. I am also grateful to Nan Geary from whom I learned much. A special thanks to Terri McCartney, an amazing astrologer who made it real. I would also like to thank Kimberly Martin and Stephanie Anderson at Jera Publishing for going the extra distance in typesetting the manuscript. I am sincerely thankful to Will, whose computing and technological expertise helped make this book happen. Also, many thanks to the members of the South Florida Astrological Association and the Florida Atlantic Chapter of NCGR for camaraderie and enlightened conversation over the years. I am also thankful to my parents for their interest and their enthusiasm. Finally, my eternal gratitude to Eugene ‘Spiritweaver’ Vidal who introduced me to the astonishing world of astrology.

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Astrology is a language. If you understand this language, the sky speaks to you.

—Dane Rudhyar

Introduction

For accurate chart interpretation, the astrological symbols need to be defined correctly, and express the way they are defined. This has not been the case with the lunar nodes (hereafter referred to as the nodes). They have acquired a multitude of contradictory meanings, none of which seem empirically precise. Currently, the popular nodal paradigm is that the North Node is good and helpful, and the South Node is evil and difficult. Planets benefit through contact with the North Node and are harmed through contact with the South Node. House position is of paramount importance: the North Node house indicates the area of life to embrace, while the South Node house shows activities to avoid. In practice, this delineation does not work consistently. Some people perform well in the house tenanted by their South Node, while for others neither nodal house is dominant. In addition, a planet conjunct the North Node is not always helpful, and a planet conjunct the South Node is not always ruinous. These observations, coupled with a desire to learn how the nodes reliably functioned in a chart, were the impetus for this research.

I began with a literature review, studying where the nodal meaning originated, how it evolved, and how it worked in practice. In the science of astrology, the actions of the symbols are verified through observation. Over time, the nodes taught me their meaning. We have been interpreting them inappropriately. The current delineation rests

upon error, confusion, and omission. In the text, the misconceptions are outlined, solutions are offered, and a new method of delineation is proposed and tested in a multitude of charts. This is not a beginner's text, nor is it a cookbook, but rather a practical examination of how the nodes operate in the horoscope. It is a book primarily dedicated to natal delineation and *ex post facto* prediction, where the information given by the nodes is viewed in the context of the entire chart. International readers should be aware that the majority of charts pertain to U.S. public figures and U.S. news (writers must write what they know).

Some astrologers maintain that the nodes convey information regarding reincarnation and experiences in previous lives. With no way to prove or disprove this, I disregard it. I find that the whole chart is fated, with the nodes no more so than other points.

The text begins with a historical review of the nodes. In Chapter 1, I describe the Eastern (Jyotish) understanding of the lunar nodes, and the eclipse myth that explains the symbolism. Turning to the West where there is no traditional nodal myth, I trace the evolution of meaning over the past hundred years, with an emphasis on the contradictions and how they may be resolved.

Going back to basics, in Chapter 2, I outline the nodes, bendings, and eclipses astronomically. I look at the nodes in reference to both the lunar orbit and the seasons of the sun. I examine the differences in the energy fields of the 'North' and 'South.'

In Chapter 3, I offer a new method of natal delineation of the nodes and describe how to use the nodes in forecasting.

In Chapters 4–25, the method of delineation is applied to the charts of numerous personalities and mundane events (elections, natural disasters, and the stock market). The natal charts are delineated in depth, although the focus is on the expression of the nodal energy. I also examine prominent life events through the lens of the nodes and the most recent solar eclipse.

In Chapter 26, I summarize a Greek myth that does reflect the archetype of the nodes and illustrates the human predicament. When viewed from a perspective of the nodes, the cohesive theme of a chart becomes clear. The nodal energy animates a chart and describes a course of purposeful action that gives life meaning.

Introduction

Trained as a scientist, I initially sought to critically examine the observable action of the nodes and disregard what could not be objectively verified. My intent was to keep the study scientific—but the nodes don’t roll that way! The nodal literature is permeated with a spiritual connotation I wanted to ignore, but which proved impossible. Immersed in the nodes, the enchanted otherworld quickly appeared. This is not the sole purview of the nodes, but of astrology, where planetary events mimic human experiences in a correspondence that inspires wonder and amazement, and conjures the mystery and magic of the universe.