

## **Housecleaning Astrological Tenets**

Astrology is all about mathematics. If you don't like doing math, stay away from astrology. Astrology only indicates relative ease or difficulty (much like the Chinese divination technique of IChing). Probability predictions can be gleaned from astrology only because humans tend to follow the path of least resistance, NOT because of any pre-ordination.

Before I begin, I will address a question that invariably always seems to come up whenever anyone discusses astrology; namely: "Why does astrology work"? My answer is: "Although I have some personal speculations, the fact is, nobody yet fully knows the mechanism"!

Now just because we don't have an explanation, does not mean that it doesn't work. Did everyone float up into the air before Newton explained gravity? And just because you don't know why something works, doesn't mean you can't use it effectively. A child might not know why a telephone works, but she can sure run up your phone bill.

Astrology holds that certain astronomical elements and associations can consistently predict eventualities. For the moment, let's just accept this at face value. However, personal experience leads me to believe that some of the astrological tenets being used are invalid predictors, either because they are too broad in scope, because they are perpetuated errors, or because they are being wrongly applied. I believe therefore that astrology is currently in need of a good housecleaning.

### **What elements can we be certain of?**

Astrologers claim that astrology fits the broad definition of a science, i.e.: "A prescriptive practice that is capable of resulting in a correct prediction, or a reliably-predictable type of outcome". In this regard then, the predictions of astrologers should be held in equal esteem as the predictions of other scientific forecasters, such as meteorologists.

What astrologers have lacked however, was a large body of experimental proofs to back the declaration of predictive reliability. There are several reasons for this lack of experimental evidence. First and foremost, the vast majority of practicing astrologers are just users, with little interest in performing experiments. Secondly, due to various prejudices and acquiescing reasons that I am not going to go into detail about here, most of the people who enjoy conducting experiments have had little interest in examining the field of astrology.

Nonetheless, thanks in no small part to the personal computer which makes chart erection no longer difficult or time consuming, some recent reproducible experimentation has taken place, which has revealed the following astrological elements to be valid:

### Confirmed astrological elements that may always be used:

<u>ELEMENT</u>	<u>CONFIRMATION</u>
Celestial Objects:	
Earth's Moon	#1
Jupiter	#1
Mars	#1
Saturn	#1
Venus	#1
Angles:	
Ascendant	#6
Midheaven	#6
Aspects:	
Conjunction	#5
Opposition	#5
Square	#5
Trine	#5
Keywords:	
Nature	#4,#2
Traditional Associations	#2

### Extrapolated astrological elements that may also be used:

<u>ELEMENT</u>	<u>CONFIRMATION</u>
Celestial Objects:	
Mercury	#3
Angles:	
Descendant	#6
Nadir	#6
Aspects:	
Biquintile	#5
Decile	#5
Quincunx	#5
Quintile	#5
Semisextile	#5
Semisquare	#5
Sesquiquadrate	#5
Sesquiquintile	#5
Sextile	#5
Events:	
Retrogrades	#3

While you can perform useful astrological interpretations using only these elements, notice that many other elements commonly used by modern astrologers (other celestial objects, signs, houses, etc.) have yet to be experimentally confirmed or disproved.

### **What specifically are the experimental results?**

Confirmation #1:

**The five solar system bodies of Earth's Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Saturn and Venus, directly influence the career performance of people in eleven differing professions.**

This was confirmed through exhaustive statistical studies by Michel Gauquelin. The astrological importance of these objects also correlates with tradition (these objects are five of the seven classic astrological bodies), an answer from Edgar Cayce (take that as you will), and with the independent findings of researchers Margaret Hone and others. Please note that some other celestial bodies commonly used in astrology, such as Neptune and Uranus, were also tested, but that they did not render a statistically significant influence on career performance.

Confirmation #2:

**Earth's Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Saturn, and Venus each exhibit a different character of astrological influence.**

Again, this was shown through Gauquelin research, and is backed with empirical observations from both modern and ancient astrologers in support of this claim. A cursory examination of astrological keyword references, will quickly reveal that few keywords are correlated to more than one of these five objects. Furthermore, there is almost no dissension by astrologers in regards to traditional keywords assigned to these five objects.

Confirmation #3:

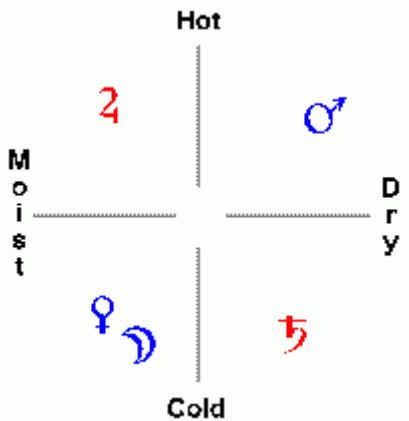
**Periods when Mercury appears to move Retrograde relative to observers on Earth, marks a period of increased disruption to normal electronic communications.**

This was confirmed through statistical studies by Frank Piechoski, and it corresponds with empirical data gathered by others (including myself) over the last half century. Mercury is one of the seven classic astrological bodies, and a prominent traditional keyword for the planet is "communications". Note that Retrogrades have traditionally been noted for all planets, not just Mercury, and are an especially important element in horary astrology.

Confirmation #4:

**Earth's Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Saturn, and Venus can each be grouped into two of four Natures, which when plotted, relate to a location within a quadrant of a circle.**

This Nature grouping was revealed after plotting which planets had to have prominence or absence for superior career performance in eleven differing professions. Horary astrologers had for centuries been using the following grouping: Earth's Moon = moist & cold, Jupiter = moist & hot, Mars = dry & hot, Saturn = dry & cold, and Venus = moist & cold.



Gauquelin discovered that Jupiter and Saturn are always polar opposites. Mars was also discovered to always be a polar opposite to Earth's Moon and Venus. On the other hand, Jupiter could be with either Earth's Moon, Mars or Venus; and the same was true for Saturn. If plotted into quadrants of a circle, the planets could be placed in a way that exactly matched the quadrants traditionally assigned as planetary "Natures". It is also interesting to note that the keyword associations of moist, dry, hot, and cold do indeed resonate with the keywords of the planets associated with these quadrants.

Astrologers have only assigned Nature to seven celestial objects. The others two which have not yet been tested for confirmation are Mercury (dry & cold) and Sun (dry & hot).

Confirmation #5:

**The proximity of influential planets in relation to each other, will affect the resulting perceived astrological strength of their influence.**

Gauquelin research determined that the influence of a planet that affects career performance of people could be reduced if a nullifying planet was within a certain proximity. In other words, the Aspect between planets can modify the effect of planetary influence. This correlates with empirical observations by both natal and horary astrologers, who's practitioners hold that planetary aspects are necessary to consider in chart interpretation.

Confirmation #6:

**Planetary influence on a person is noticeably enhanced when the Angle of Incidence to the local direction of a planet from the person, lies just past (in regards to the Earth's rotation) the Angle of Incidence to either the persons local Ascendant point or the persons local Midheaven point.**

Another Gauquelin research result, which also corresponds with empirical observations from other researchers such as Margaret Hone and Cyril Fagan. It must be stressed that this correlation was to the "Angles" themselves, and that research never suggested a correlation to an astrological "House" system. Placing significance on planets near the Angles is an ancient astrological (and religious) tradition.

It is interesting to note that in traditional astrology there is an equal sized buffer zone before and after the Angle, where the aspect is considered to be conjunct with the Angle. This buffer size varies depending on whichever astrological discipline you examine, but in some disciplines it roughly corresponds with the same size allotted to the so called "Gauquelin Sectors". The Gauquelin Sectors however, are not centered around the Angle like they are in astrological tradition, but are instead skewed in the direction of diurnal motion. This diurnal skewing is similar to that of such diurnally linked systems as daily atmospheric heating and the daily Ionospheric layer creation, where the object being influenced must take time before it fully manifests the absorbed influencing factor. If Earth didn't rotate, then the Gauquelin Sectors might conceivably fall equally on each side of the Angles.

### **Creating a conceptual model**

Scientists create models to describe observed phenomenon, and they regularly update them as new information becomes available (just as all the information stated in this paper is also subject to future revision). In a majority of cases, these models have nothing to do with reality, but are only conceptual models that help the scientist predict events. You can readily see such models being used when you look at predicted hurricane tracks generated by meteorologists.

If astrology is a science, then conceptual models are also necessary to visualize astrological interactions. Thinking about a model, it occurred to me that the same model I used in the past to visualize Aspect influence, could also be used to describe other astrological influences. I stress that I am NOT saying that this is what actually exists, but let us imagine that the Solar System resides in a sea whose medium can be rippled by large moving bodies.

According to the conceptual model, Earth's Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Saturn and Venus would be expected to have astrological influence. Their differing sizes, orbital speeds, and distances from the Earth would also suggest that these factors would show up in experiments. It is difficult to find exactitudes, as Michael Gauquelin's sudden unexpected death was ruled a suicide, and the 30,000 research records in his office disappeared and were declared destroyed. Yet from his previously published data we can see that experiments were pointing in this direction.

Mars was found to statistically have the strongest influence, followed in order by Jupiter, Saturn, Earth's Moon, and Venus. Based on the conceptual model, we would indeed expect the wakes of Mars (primarily due to proximity) and Jupiter (primarily due to size) to be the strongest. Saturn and Venus we would also be expected to fall somewhat below, which they do.

The Moons rank though doesn't seem to fit. Due to the Moons proximity to the Earth, we might at first assume a far higher influence strength. But is this a correct assumption based on the conceptual model?

Unlike the other mentioned planets, the Moon orbits the Earth rather than the Sun (except, obviously, as a paired body with the Earth). As such, any wake that the Moons movement would produce would strike the Earth differently than wakes from the other planets (most other celestial objects in our solar system orbit the Sun within the plane of the Ecliptic). Using Mars as an example, although distance factors disperse the intensity of the wake of Mars, the wave front from Mars would hit the Earth more squarely than would the wave front produced by the Moon. The influence of the Moon then should be different from that of the other planets (Earth's Moon meets the astronomical size for a planet), and in fact, Earth's Moon *is* treated differently by astrologers from the other planets (although classifying it as a "luminary" was probably due more to observational characteristics). It is also interesting that astrologers have a long history of taking special note of the points where the orbit of the Earth's Moon crosses the Ecliptic (i.e., the Moons Nodes).

So if Earth's Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Saturn and Venus do indeed fit the conceptual model, what about Mercury?

Mercury doesn't appear to influence career performance, at least not in ways that match the other five planets. Mercury instead seems to be more of a disruptive influence, affecting actions, rather than subjects. Mercury orbits the Sun at a very rapid rate, and like a small, but high speed, motorboat will produce a more damaging wake than a large, but slow moving, barge; Mercury would also cause more turbulence than its size and distance would initially suggest. It would also be expected that when Mercury appears Retrograde in regards to Earth observers (i.e. produces a differing wave front) that the effect of Mercury's wake would also manifest differently. It is interesting to note that, although other planetary Retrogrades are also noted, astrologers have a long history of paying particular attention to the Retrograde motion of Mercury.

Finally, both Aspects and the Angles can describe properties in a conceptual model where waves are moving through a medium. Therefore, it seems that all of the confirmations fit this conceptual model, which gives credence to also using this model when looking at other astrological tenets.

### **Other moving solar system bodies**

As of yet there is no experimental data that I am aware of regarding the other astrological tenets. However, we can apply the conceptual model previously discussed to make assumptions about their validity. Let's begin with the other moving bodies.

Neptune, Pluto, Uranus, and all the other bodies in orbit beyond Saturn (including Chiron, and the distant comets) are probably **insignificant**, and *shouldn't* be included in an astrological forecast. This is due to the fact that their extreme orbits would make them too slow for their conceptual model wake to have much effect. This bears out in the fact that preliminary experimental data doesn't seem to show any effect (although borderline Uranus should be examined further). Also, although Neptune and Uranus have been used in astrology for a hundred years, their integration has been mostly at the expense of taking keywords, rulerships, and other associations away from the classic planets. As such, many of the more conservative astrologers, such as horary astrologers, have never adopted these planets.

About one hundred years ago, astronomers discovered an object between Mercury and the Sun which they named Vulcan. This minor planet was much smaller than Mercury, and has since been "lost". The Skylab solar telescope in the 70's photographed remnants in the location where Vulcan should be, and astronomers propose that Vulcan has disintegrated due to its unfortunate location. Although there exist Ephemerii for Vulcan, it should be regarded as no longer existent, and **should not be plotted**.

Comets, when passing near the Earth, **may be worth plotting**. Comets might fit the conceptual model, because they may cause wakes from their proximate relative motion. In theory they should also exhibit an unpredictable wave front due to their unusual orbits in comparison to the Earth. This matches historical empirical observation, which gives different interpretations to different comet encounters, and which brings about the ancient claim that comets are significant *only* when they appear (i.e., when close enough to the Earth to be noticeable with the unaided eye).

The dwarf planet Ceres, along with some of the larger asteroids inside the orbit of Jupiter such as Juno, Pallas Athene, and Vesta, could be of significance, again due to their expected effect within the conceptual model. Until recently, little study had been made; but thanks to modern computers and ephemerii, more astrologers have begun studying these objects, with promising results. They are definitely **worth plotting** in charts, in order to glean more data about their effects. However at this time, although their location should be noted, there is of yet not enough empirical data for them to be used as significant predictors when making a forecast.

Other bodies, such as moons orbiting other planets, small asteroids, and the hypothetical uranian planets would, according to the conceptual model, be **insignificant**, and therefore *shouldn't* be included as part of an astrological forecast.

### **The Stars**

The closest star to Earth is the Sun, and it is obviously a very important astronomical object. It dominates our solar system. It is a giant super-magnet, spewing out a pervasive solar wind. It also provides light and heat, which is responsible for making the Earth a livable planet. The Sun is one of the seven traditional celestial objects (the other six, as mentioned, are Earth's Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Saturn and Venus) plotted by astrologers.

Although traditional Earth-centered astrology would suggest that the Sun is moving, this is an illusion, and in fact the recent field of Heliocentric Astrology demonstrates that astrological interpretations can be made in a chart where the Sun is always stationary. So, if you look at the Sun within the confines of our conceptual model, the Sun should not be of much significance, as it will never produce a "wake". Experiments so far have yet to uncover any radiating influence, which is an expected conceptual model result.

If anything, the Sun, acting like a super massive barn door, would block any wake from another celestial object passing behind. Interestingly, ancient astrologers seem to have noticed such an effect. Planets passing across the Sun's path, and therefore "under the Sun's beams", are said to experience the detrimental effect known as being "combust". If true, then the Sun possibly *is* blocking a wake of some sort. This might also explain why when a combust planet reaches "cazimi", it suddenly goes from being weakened to being strengthened. Like a wake squarely striking a rock in a pond, the wake would evenly fold around the blocking object. The Sun also provides a mechanism by which we can test the conceptual model using Venus. If Venus passes behind the Sun, we would expect the same "combust" results as with the planets Mars or Jupiter. If however, Venus is passing in front of the Sun (i.e., between Earth and the Sun), then we should not see any, or at least not as strong, a "combust" result. I suggest that the Sun should be plotted, but only as **a moving zone** for a shifting point in space which would probably reduce a planet's influence.

Fixed stars have fallen from use, but were once held in high regard. Stars shouldn't work within the conceptual model, due to both their fantastic distances and lack of apparent motion. However, when you consider the way stars are interpreted in a chart, you realize that they have more in common with defining a place in space, rather than sharing commonalities with the planets (even though astrologers consider them as celestial objects). Ancient astrologers seem to have given them significance only when they were occulted by a planet. This also makes sense astronomically, as the stars astrologers use have no correlation with each other in regards to brightness, size, distance or spectral class. It is as if these stars were chosen only because they were in close proximity to a place of interest. I recommend therefore that if a star is plotted, it be used only as **a label** for a stationary point in space, through which a moving object may pass. Remember though that there is no experimental evidence to indicate that these label points are really valid, or just doctrine.

### **Keywords**

Traditionally, celestial objects have been associated with keywords describing the characteristics they seem to represent. Why these particular keywords? I don't know. Do the keywords have to be different for each celestial object? Although the assigned keywords mostly are, traditional astrologers have never stated that uniqueness is a requirement.

Experiments have discovered that some of the keyword associations, particularly those for Earth's Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Saturn and Venus, are consistent with the traditionally assigned keywords. I therefore suggest that the keyword associations currently in use with most celestial objects, and particularly those associated with Earth's Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Saturn and Venus, are indeed **valid**.



However, I also recommend that the keywords that were rapidly transferred by modern astrologers onto Neptune, Pluto and Uranus, be returned back to the planets they were eliminated from. Although the outer planets may eventually (after several orbits) be found to resonate with certain keywords, perhaps even identical keywords from some of the classical planets, the classical planets themselves should not have been stripped of their keyword associations in a misguided attempt to make all celestial objects "keyword unique".

### **Aspects and Angles**

Results from experimentation, particularly by Gauquelin, indicate that Aspects between the planets, as well as their relationship to the Angles, have an effect on a planets interpretation. For example, when Jupiter and Saturn are Conjunct, both of these planets influences are diminished. This is also a claim made by traditional astrologers, and it fits with our conceptual model. Aspecting planets will cause interference patterns to be generated when their waves collide, modifying their interpretational meaning. Planets on Angles would describe the direction a wave front is arriving from, and as was mentioned about the motion of Earth's Moon, the angle of incidence appears to have an effect on interpretation.

Gauquelin noted that the **significant** Angles were the Ascendant and the Midheaven. For example, when Mars Conjuncts the Ascendant, it enhances the influence of Mars. This is also a claim by traditional astrologers, and interestingly, the Ascendant was once of religious significance as well. Angles also **worth plotting** are the Descendant and Nadir, as these also were showing results, but of a lesser importance, in experiments.

As I showed in another paper, several traditional Aspects are valid in regards to our conceptual model. The Conjunct Aspect is definitely an **important** Aspect, and any Conjunctions with the Sun (Including Eclipses, "under the Sun's beams" and "combust" events) should certainly be noted. The Opposition, Square, and Trine are also **significant**. For other Aspects, experiments are lacking. There are however many empirical claims, and resonance modeling indicates that there should indeed be more Aspects, although their influences do not appear to be as strong as the Opposition, Square, and Trine. According to both the modeling and modern empirical observation, the Aspects of Biquintile, Decile, Quincunx, Quintile, Semisextile, Semisquare, Sesquiquadrate, Sesquiquintile, and Sextile are **worth plotting**. It should be noted that the traditional Keyword associations for all of these Aspects fit with the Harmonious or Discordant expectations of these Aspects under the resonance model.

Although astrological charts are almost exclusively two dimensional, space is actually three dimensional, and the planets wobble above and below the ecliptic. Parallels are when both Aspecting planets are on the same side of the ecliptic, and contra-parallels are when they are on opposite sides. The position in three dimensional space is a **significant** consideration when checking for Aspects, and therefore **worth plotting**.

Retrogrades are **significant** wave front modifiers, and therefore **worth indicating**. When a celestial object goes Retrograde (it doesn't actually travel backwards, this is only a relativistic perception), the wave front will become more stretched out or more compressed (depending if the relative motion is applying or separating, so this should always be noted). Interestingly, traditional astrology claims Retrogrades affect the speed of event fruition.

### **The fixed points in space**

Here is where the controversy starts, as I am going to suggest that fixed points in space may not be as significant as astrologers have held. I am also going to suggest (as I already have in the case of stars) that many of the tenets regarding astrological objects are false, and that the objects are merely labels for points in space. Labeling sectors of space is not that unusual, as for example, Lunar astrologers have always divided space into "lunar houses".

Should fixed points even be used? In the case of the Sun, YES, as it can theoretically physically block a "wake". As for the other points, I'm not so sure. They have always had high prominence with astrologers (have you ever seen many astrological charts for example that did not include the Zodiac?), but is this just baseless tradition?

The Stars, including our Sun, have already been addressed. Traditionally the only Aspect that mattered with the stars were nearly exact Conjunctions, meaning that only celestial objects in a specific direction from the observer were being affected. Stars are rarely used by modern astrologers, and even horary astrologers only use a small subset (Algol, Cor Leonis, Regulus, Scheat, Spica and Vega). If you do plot the fixed stars, then I suggest only using these six important ones. Otherwise, I suggest that, due to a lack of experimental evidence showing influence, the fixed stars **probably should not** be plotted. The Sun on the other hand, **should** be plotted. However, note that the Sun does not appear to have the influence ascribed to it by most astrologers, and only the Conjunction Aspect to another celestial object seems to matter. Except then for noting if a planet is falling "under the Sun's beams", the Sun should be **ignored**.

The "Via Combusta" ("ignited street") is a zone within the Zodiac that, although rarely used today except by horary astrologers, had held significance for centuries. The exact zone limits have varied over time. Modern astrologers typically use 15 degrees 0 minutes Libra through 14 degrees 59 minutes Scorpio. The ancients however (including apparently the famous horary astrologer Lilly) believed it only ranged from 24 degrees 0 minutes Libra through 5 degrees 59 minutes Scorpio. Why this zone is important is unclear. From a modern astronomy point of view, the only thing that could possibly affect a "wake" in our solar system would be the galaxy core, but the core is outside this zone. The side of our galaxy bar does somewhat fall near the edge of this zone, and this might theoretically be the least obstructed path for any energies leaking from the core to reach us, but this still doesn't make much sense. The astrologer Al Biruni suggests that this zone is merely a place where several malefic influences happen to occur all at once, such as for example, Mars being the "Triplcity" as well as night "Ruler" of Scorpio, and also having its "Terms" from 24 degrees Libra to 6 degrees Scorpio. Therefore, unless checking a horary chart for validity (which takes into account the Via Combusta), the Via Combusta zone should be **ignored**, and only regular planetary influences be weighed.

The Zodiac Signs are merely positions in space, and experiments have yet to show Sign influence. I suggest therefore that if the Signs are plotted (and they **probably should not** be until a reason for the 12 sector sky division is determined), they should only be used as a label for a specific point in space. Note that without Signs, you can't have a "Quadruplicity", "Triplicity", "Sign Ruler", "Exaltation", "Detriment", or "Fall". You also cannot have "Terms" or "Faces" (note that you should never use Face anyway, as Face has been discredited by the research of Robert Hand and others). There also would be no specific interpretation for a planet in a Sign. Do keep in mind though that you *can* successfully plot and interpret an astrological chart without a Zodiac.

Arabian points are pure mathematical locations. The most often calculated arabian point is the "Part of Fortune". I am unaware of any serious studies as to whether these points truly hold any significance, but as they are mathematically related to Aspects, there is a possibility. So, until further studies have been conducted, they **probably should not** be plotted.

## **Houses**

The Houses are only mathematical constructs, built from dividing the sky in to orange-slice like sectors. Currently there are over two dozen competing House systems being used by astrologers. The Placidus House system is the one most commonly used by natal astrologers, and even Vedic astrologers will often use it in preference to their traditional Equal House system. The reason for this is that the Placidus House system is both relatively easy to construct using only simple mathematics, and has an excellent track record for interpretational accuracy in the lower intermediate latitudes.

The problem however is that, like all House systems that use the celestial globe as a reference point, the Placidus system is *undefined* above the Arctic Circle. As people exist above the circle (and below the Antarctic Circle as well) only a House system that can be constructed in these latitudes should be used. This then mostly restricts us to using a House system based on "local space". But this is not a bad thing, as the Gauquelin research seems to indicate that the angles that affect planetary influence are related to local space. Also, if we contend that the angle a wavefront from the sky strikes is significant, then local space sky divisioning is fundamentally important.

Of the few House systems that work in the Arctic, only one, the Topocentric House system, has a good track record for interpretational accuracy (because the Houses closely match those of the Placidus House system). Furthermore, this House system is *not* based on dogma, but was developed around 1960 as a result of experimentation. Why it has not gained more popularity is probably due to the complex mathematics needed to construct the Houses, which was a significant drawback in the days before personal computers. Today however this is a non-issue.

Houses are very important to astrologers, especially to horary astrologers. Gauquelin research indicates that the sky should be divided into Houses, as planetary influence will vary depending on the sector it occupies. Houses **should** therefore be employed, and in lieu of a better methodology (a good subject for future research), the House system that possibly should be used is the Topocentric House system. Note that with Houses you can have a "Rulers House", a "Relevant House" and a "House Depositor".

### **Planetary Hours**

Planetary Hours are often used by horary astrologers. The idea is that each hour between Sunrise and Sunset, and each hour between Sunset and Sunrise is ruled by a planet. These are not mechanical clock hours, but even divisions between Sunrise and Sunset as you might observe using a sundial. As such, the length of each days "hour" will vary depending on the Sun's position in the analemma. Also, each day of the week begins with a different planet ruler (a residual that remains as the names we still give to each weekday). Unfortunately, due to calendar changes, astrologers have not yet given their full endorsement as to which planet was the ruler of the first hour past sunrise on January 1st, 2000 (Gregorian calendar). Until such a consensus is reached, Planetary Hours should **not be used**.