

AS ABOVE, SO BELOW¹

by Swami Abhayananda

An experienced astrologer, familiar with the language of astrological symbolism, can look at the natal horoscopic chart of Isaac Newton and easily discern the primary features of the soul who bore that name, and recognize in these features the historical man; or he may look at the chart of Ralph W. Emerson and discern the soul tendencies impelling that kindly figure, and recognize, as by an interior photograph, the very blueprint of the man's soul. And likewise with every notable character with whom we are familiar: to those conversant with the language, each birth chart is a faultless portrait of the man or woman thus represented. The charts are faultlessly accurate portraits because they represent the cosmic factors involved in the makeup of those souls in the space-time moment of their embodiment. They stand, indeed, as illustrative proof of the interconnection of the soul's qualities and the heavenly environment which accompanies its incarnation.

We are able to see the concentration of genius in the chart of Einstein; we can see the concentration of harmony in the chart of Beethoven; the concentration of madness in the chart of Manson, the concentration of artistry in the chart of Sinatra, the concentration of poetry in the chart of Swinburne, the concentration of Spirit in the chart of the contemporary saint, Amma Mata Amritanandamayi. And we must ask, 'Were all these manifestations of God's life brought to light instantaneously *solely* by the happenstance of the architecture of the heavens at the moment of their birth?' If we answer "yes" to this question, we have rejected the evolution (reincarnation) of the soul, self-effort, karma, and the efficacy of the individual will, and relegated our personhood to the fiat of the stars. No; that cannot be. We must recognize that all souls pass through lengthy preparations and development in previous incarnations, and bear in their present incarnation the results of that development, and are called to take their place upon the world's stage in correspondence with the mirroring spectacle of the heaven's design.

Those souls whose purpose sets them apart, whose aims are strong and focused upon the accomplishment of their destined role, are brought to birth in concert with the starry pattern that portrays their gathered wealth of wit or wisdom or vision or art. All come into life at the intended moment, in concert with the perfect unfolding of the universal array in the Divine Mind and at the behest of the one all-encompassing Soul, which is its manifest

activity. “All things move together of one accord; assent is given throughout the universe to every falling grain.” The positions and angular relationships of the planets, the necessity of the times, and the appearance of the souls of the great and small, all live and move and exist, entwined together, by that one assent, and of that one accord.

Here, then, let me present to you the planetary pictures at the birth of some well-known historical figures in chronological order. I believe the cumulative effect of these examples will enable you to perceive and comprehend some of the wonders of the incomprehensible Soul and its creative diversity: ²

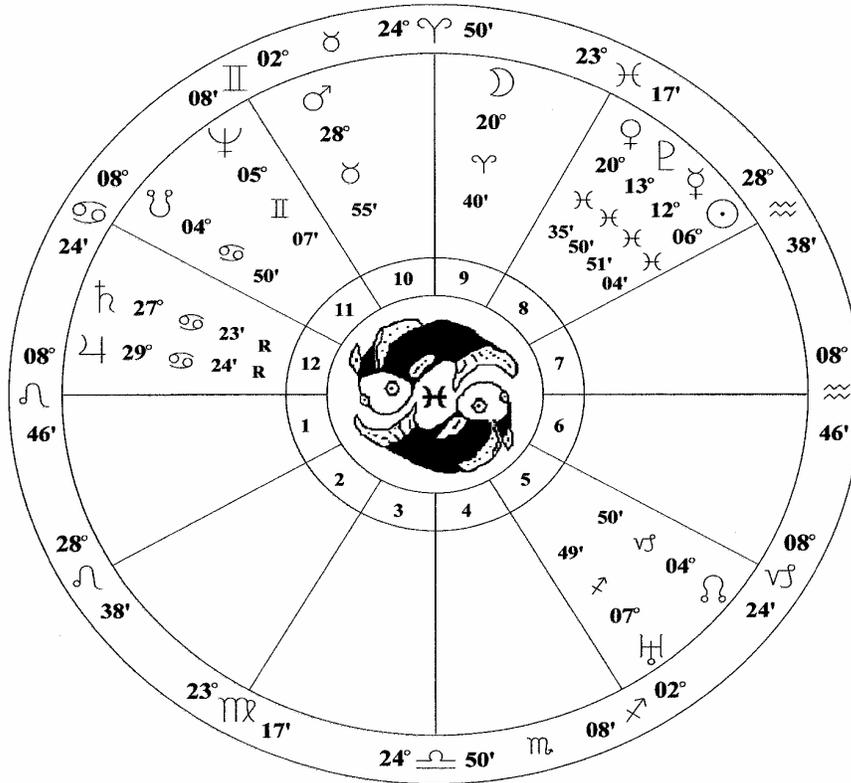
First, the soul of one of our early great scientists, **Galileo Galilei**. Here, on the opposite page, is the planetary chart of his birth.

If you are new to astrological symbolism, you will need to become familiar with the basic symbols; I will not be presenting a beginner's course in astrological interpretation. Those who are already proficient will recognize at a glance the following major planetary aspects:

The Sun, Mercury, Pluto, and Venus conjunct,
The Sun in T-square to the Uranus-Neptune opposition, Jupiter conjunct Saturn sextile Mars, Uranus conjunct the North Node, and Neptune conjunct the South Node.

Galileo Galilei
 15 February 1564 03:14:25 PM
 Astronomer, physicist
 Pisa, Italy
 Time Zone: -00:41:32 (LT)
 Longitude: 010° E 23'
 Latitude: 43° N 43'

Placidus Houses
 Tropical Zodiac
 Mean Nodes

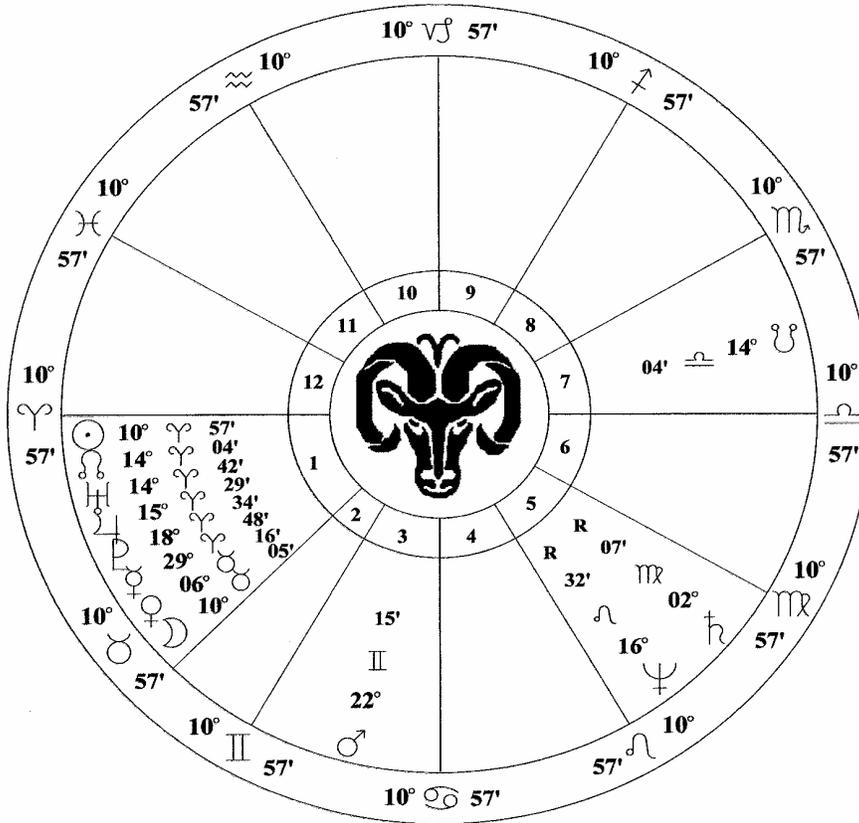


The next chart is that of the brilliant French philosopher, **René Descartes**:

One cannot help noticing at first glance that this is an extraordinary chart. Firstly, The Sun, North Node, Uranus, Jupiter, and Pluto are conjunct in Aries; followed by Mercury, Venus, and the Moon conjunct in Taurus. The first multi-conjunction is in trine aspect to Neptune, and the second multi-conjunction is trine to Saturn; and the Jupiter-Pluto conjunction is sextile to Mars. How appropriate that the man responsible for *Cogito ergo sum*, “I think, therefore I am”, was born with many of his soul-characteristics in the astrological “I am” sign of Aries.

Rene Descartes
 Sunday, March 31, 1596 12:00:00 PM
 Philosopher, Mathematician
 Descartes, France
 Time Zone: -00:02:48 (LT)
 Longitude: 000° E 42'
 Latitude: 46° N 58'

Noon Solar Chart Houses
 Tropical Zodiac
 Mean Nodes

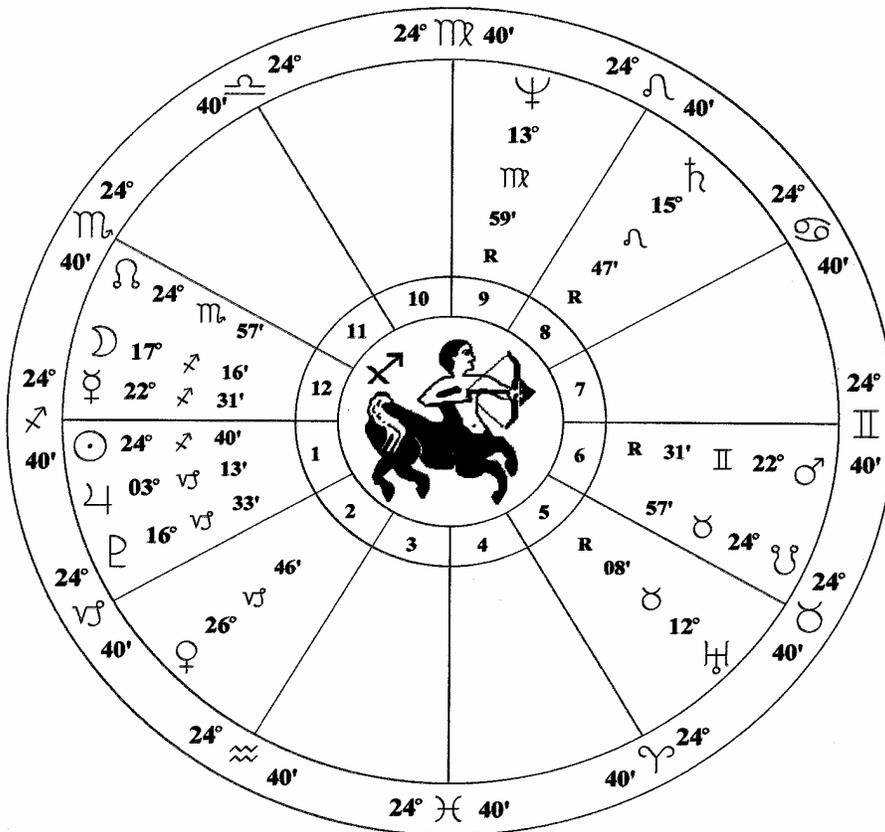


Next, another famed musician, **Ludwig van Beethoven**:

Beethoven's chart is equally grand, containing the following major aspects: The Sun, Moon, and Mercury conjunct in Sagittarius; The Moon and Mercury are trining Saturn, and squaring Neptune; Mars is conjunct the South Node; but most spectacular is the Grand Trine between Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, only one of which was discovered during his lifetime: Uranus was discovered by Herschel in 1781, but of Neptune and Pluto Beethoven knew nothing. Neptune was not discovered until 1846, and Pluto in 1930.

Ludwig van Beethoven
 Sunday, December 16, 1770 12:00:00 PM
 Musician; Composer
 Bonn, Germany
 Time Zone: -00:28:20 (LT)
 Longitude: 007° E 05'
 Latitude: 50° N 44'

Noon Solar Chart Houses
 Tropical Zodiac
 Mean Nodes

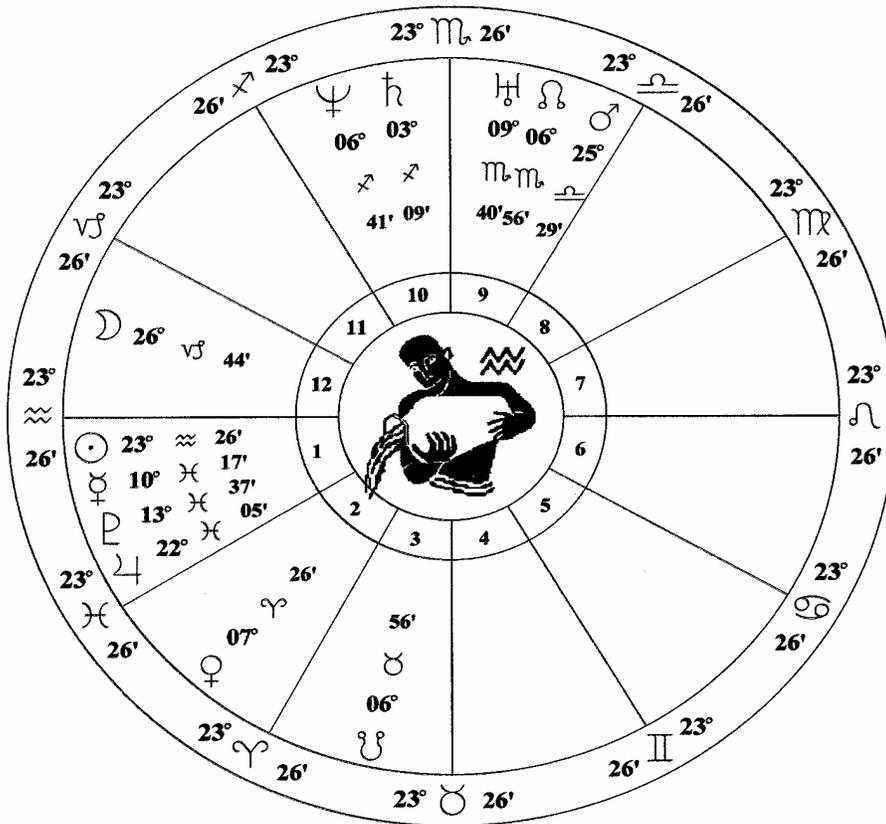


Next, we have the father of the theory of biological evolution, **Charles Darwin**:

Charles Darwin was obviously destined for great accomplishments; among the planetary aspects in his chart are: The Sun in trine aspect to Mars; The Moon in square aspect to Mars and sextile Jupiter; Mercury conjunct Pluto in trine to Uranus; Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune conjunct, and trining Venus; And Uranus conjunct the North Node.

Charles Darwin
 Sunday, February 12, 1809 12:00:00 PM
 Naturalist
 Shrewsbury, England
 Time Zone: 00:11 (LT)
 Longitude: 002° W 45'
 Latitude: 52° N 43'

Noon Solar Chart Houses
 Tropical Zodiac
 Mean Nodes

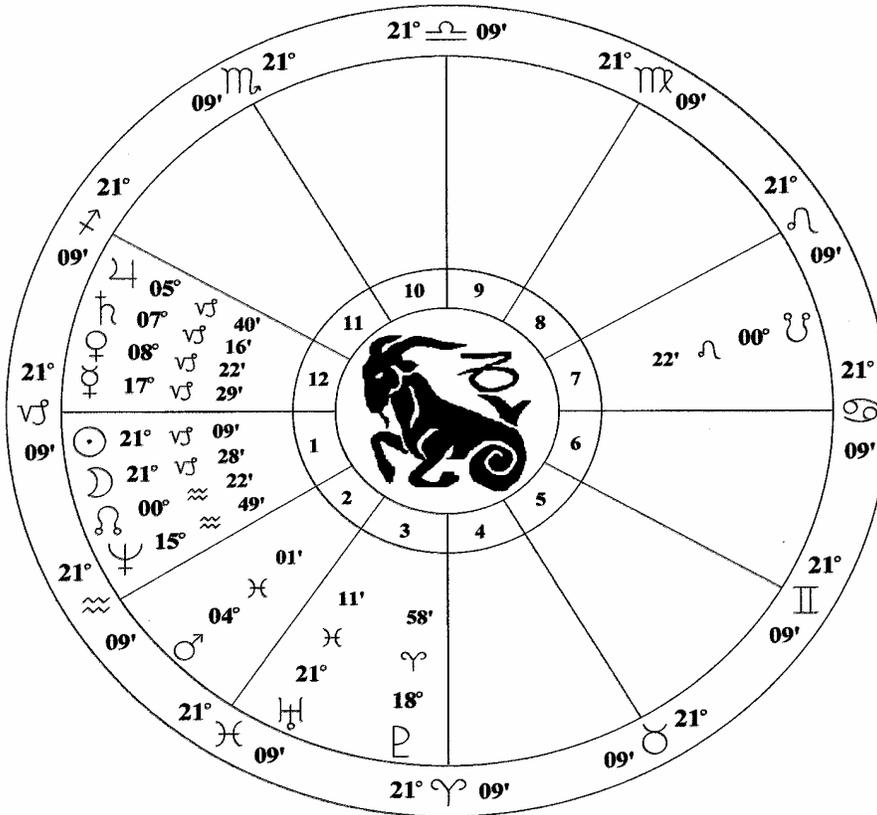


Next, we have the chart of the eminent American psychologist, **William James**:

James' chart contains the following major planetary aspects: The Sun, Moon, and Mercury are conjunct, sextiling Uranus, and squaring Pluto; Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn are conjunct; and all three form a sextile to Mars.

William James
 Tuesday, January 11, 1842 12:00:00 PM
 Philosopher; Psychologist
 New York, New York
 Time Zone: 04:56:02 (LT)
 Longitude: 074° W 00' 23"
 Latitude: 40° N 42' 51"

Noon Solar Chart Houses
 Tropical Zodiac
 Mean Nodes

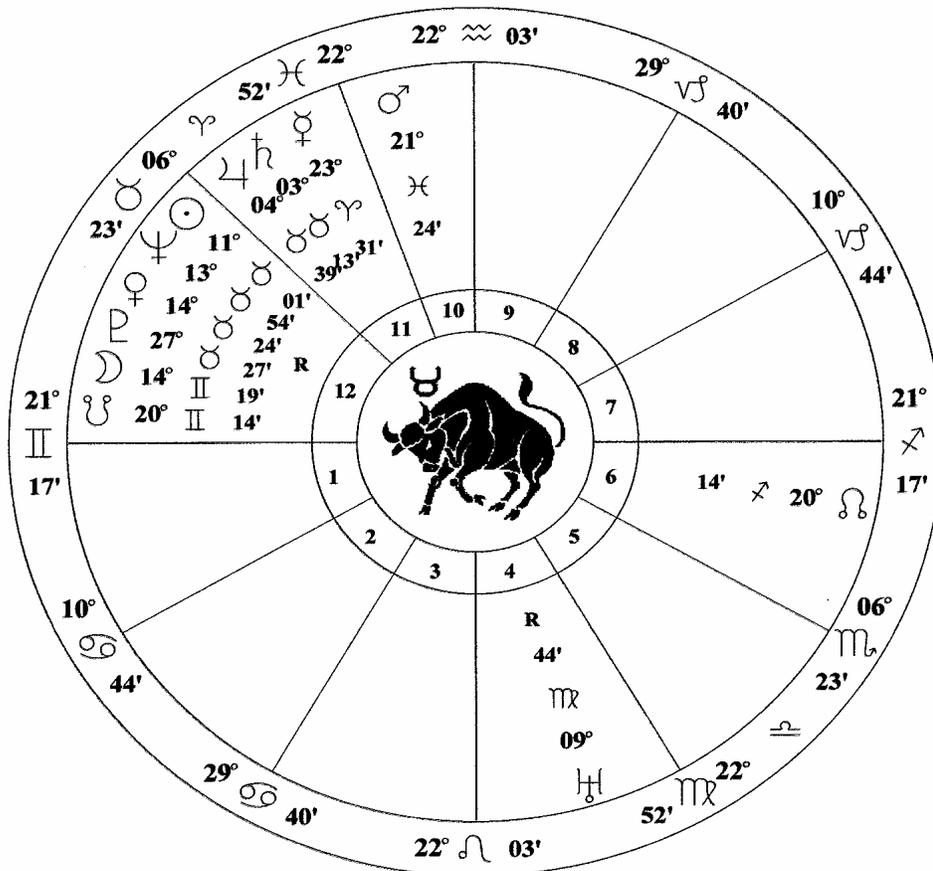


Next, the chart of the priest-paleontologist, **Pierre Teilhard de Chardin**:

Teilhard de Chardin's is an extraordinarily focused chart, with: A conjunction of the Sun, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and Neptune all trining Uranus. Notice, also, that the Moon, Mercury, Mars, and Pluto make no aspects to other planets.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin
 Sunday, May 01, 1881 7:00:00 AM
 Jesuit priest; Author
 Orcines, France
 Time Zone: -00:12 (LT)
 Longitude: 003° E 05'
 Latitude: 45° N 47'

Placidus Houses
 Tropical Zodiac
 Mean Nodes

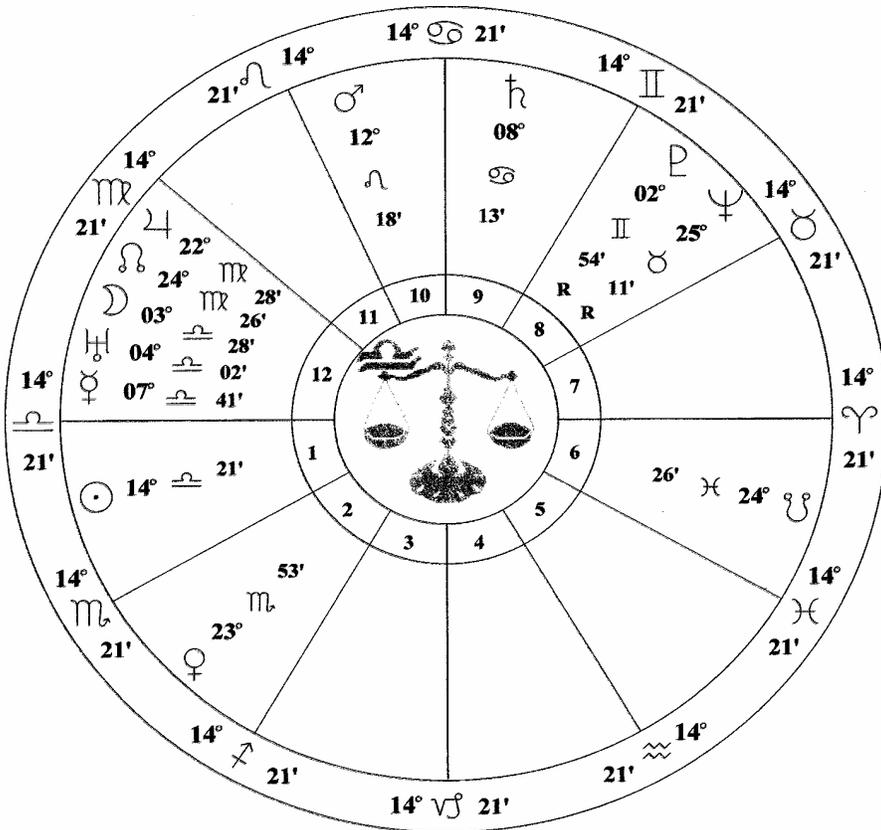


Our next chart is that of legendary physicist, **Neils Bohr**:

Bohr's chart contains the following major planetary aspects: The Sun is conjunct Mercury and sextile to Mars; The Moon is conjunct Mercury and square to Saturn; Jupiter is conjunct the North Node and sextile Venus; and Venus is in opposition to Neptune.

Neils Bohr
 Wednesday, October 07, 1885 12:00:00 PM
 Physicist
 Copenhagen, Denmark
 Time Zone: -00:50:20 (LT)
 Longitude: 012° E 35'
 Latitude: 55° N 40'

Noon Solar Chart Houses
 Tropical Zodiac
 Mean Nodes

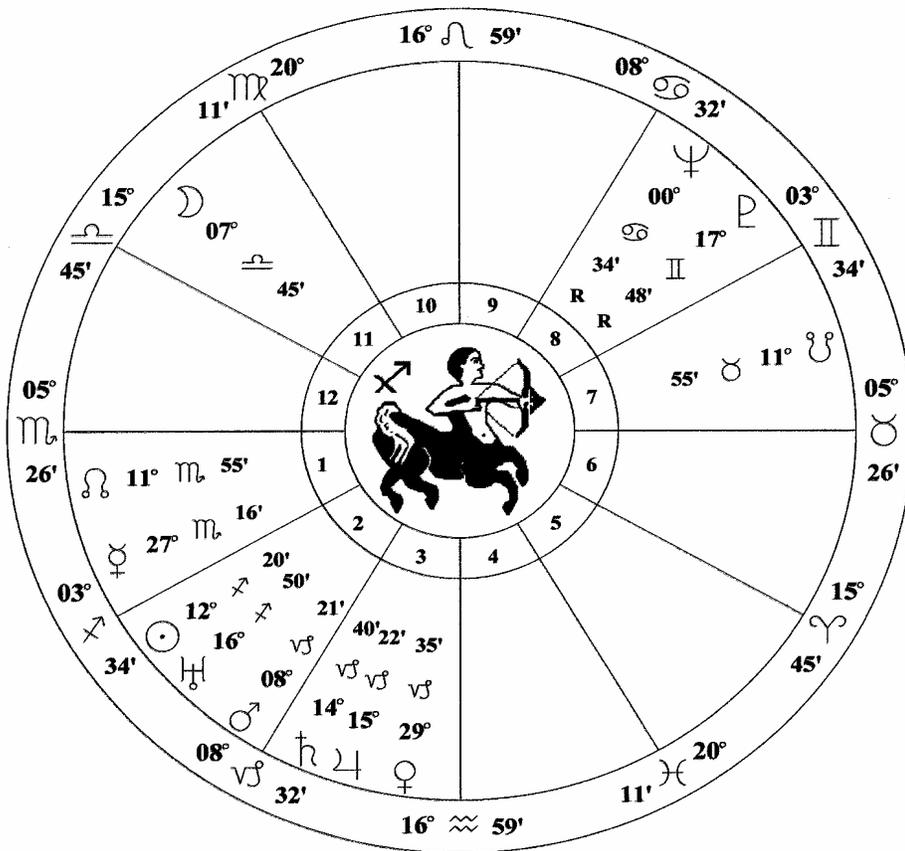


Next, we'll look at the chart of Bohr's co-revolutionary in physics, **Werner Heisenberg**:

Heisenberg's chart contains these major planetary aspects: The Sun is conjunct Uranus, both of which are opposed by Pluto; The Moon is in square aspect to Mars; Mercury is sextile Venus; and Jupiter is conjunct Saturn.

Werner Heisenberg
 Thursday, December 05, 1901 4:45:00 AM
 Physicist
 Wurzburg, Germany
 Time Zone: -01:00 (CET)
 Longitude: 009° E 56'
 Latitude: 49° N 48'

Placidus Houses
 Tropical Zodiac
 Mean Nodes

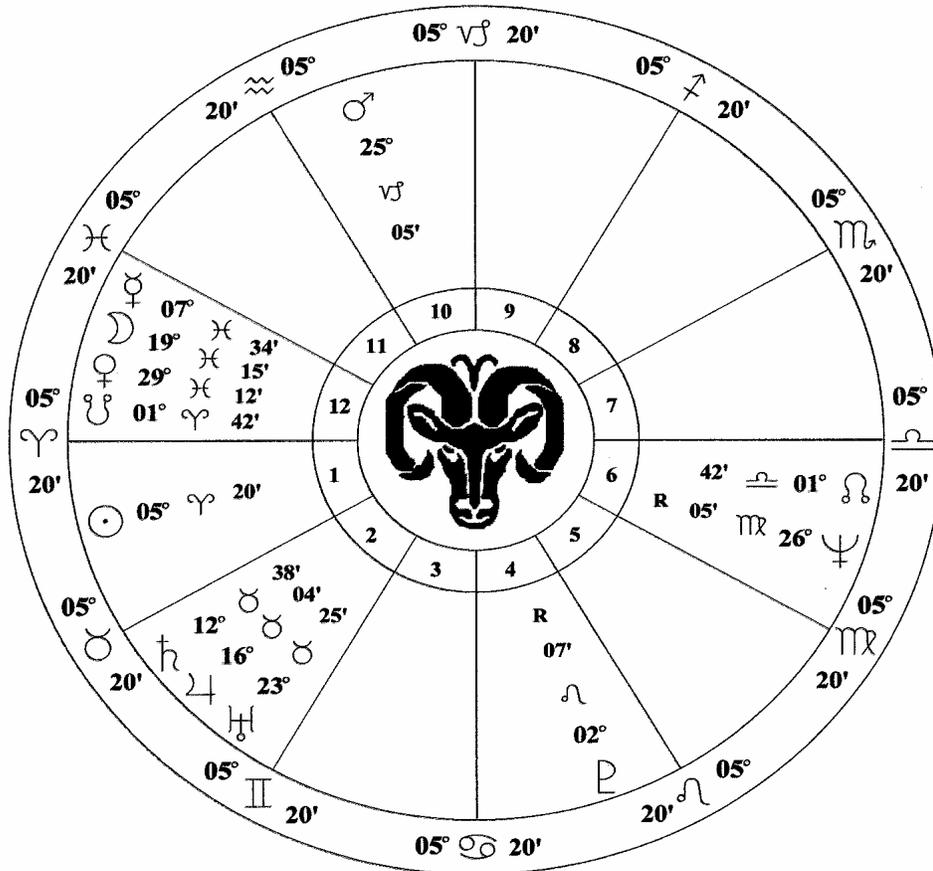


Next, as we reach contemporary times, let us have a look at the chart of evolutionary biologist and atheist theorizer, **Richard Dawkins**:

Richard Dawkins' chart contains the following major planetary aspects: The Sun is trine Pluto; The Moon is sextile Jupiter and Uranus; Jupiter is conjunct Saturn and Uranus; Venus is in opposition to Neptune; Mars is trine Neptune; and Neptune is conjunct the North Node.

Richard Dawkins
 Wednesday, March 26, 1941 12:00:00 PM
 Science author, ethologist
 Nairobi, Kenya
 Time Zone: -02:45 (BEAUT)
 Longitude: 036° E 49'
 Latitude: 01° S 17'

Noon Solar Chart Houses
 Tropical Zodiac
 Mean Nodes



The next chart is that of renowned physicist and author, **Stephen Hawking**:

Hawking's chart shows the following aspects:

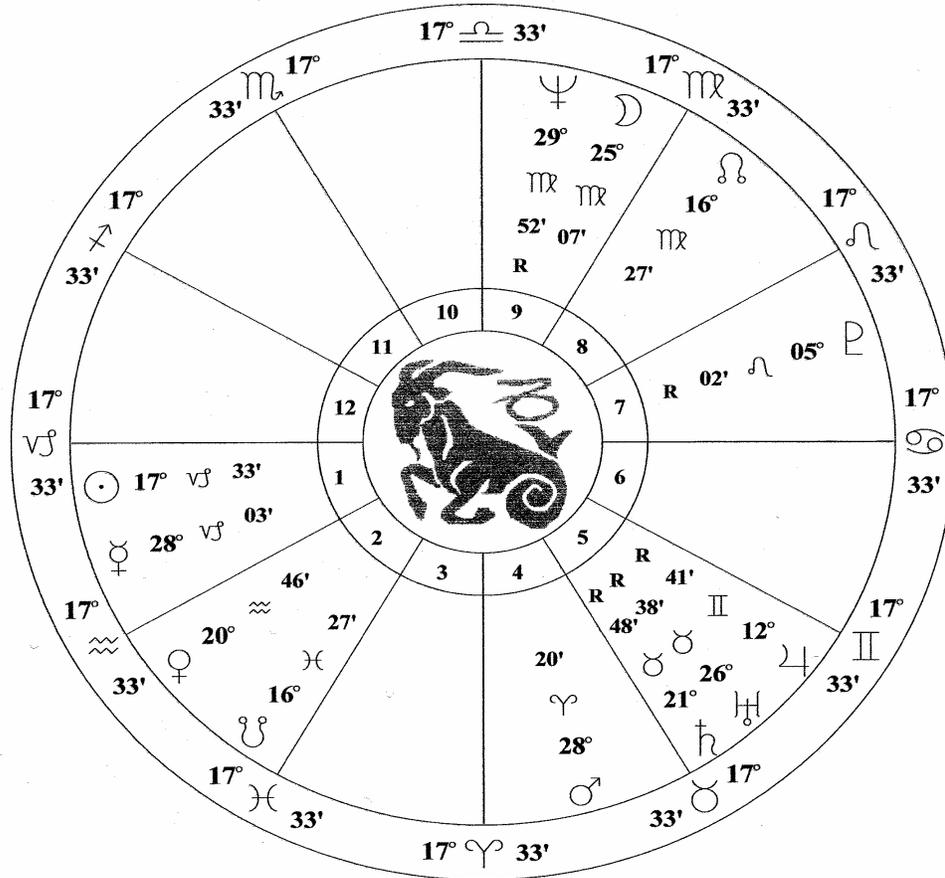
The Sun is trine Saturn, trine the North Node;

The moon is conjunct Neptune, trine Mercury, and trine Saturn and Uranus;

Mercury is square to Mars, and forms a grand trine with the Moon-Neptune conjunction and the Saturn-Uranus conjunction; and Venus is squaring the Saturn-Uranus conjunction.

Stephen Hawking
 Thursday, January 08, 1942 12:00:00 PM
 Physicist; Astronomer
 Oxford, United Kingdom
 Time Zone: -01:00 (CET)
 Longitude: 001° W 15'
 Latitude: 51° N 46'

Noon Solar Chart Houses
 Tropical Zodiac
 Mean Nodes

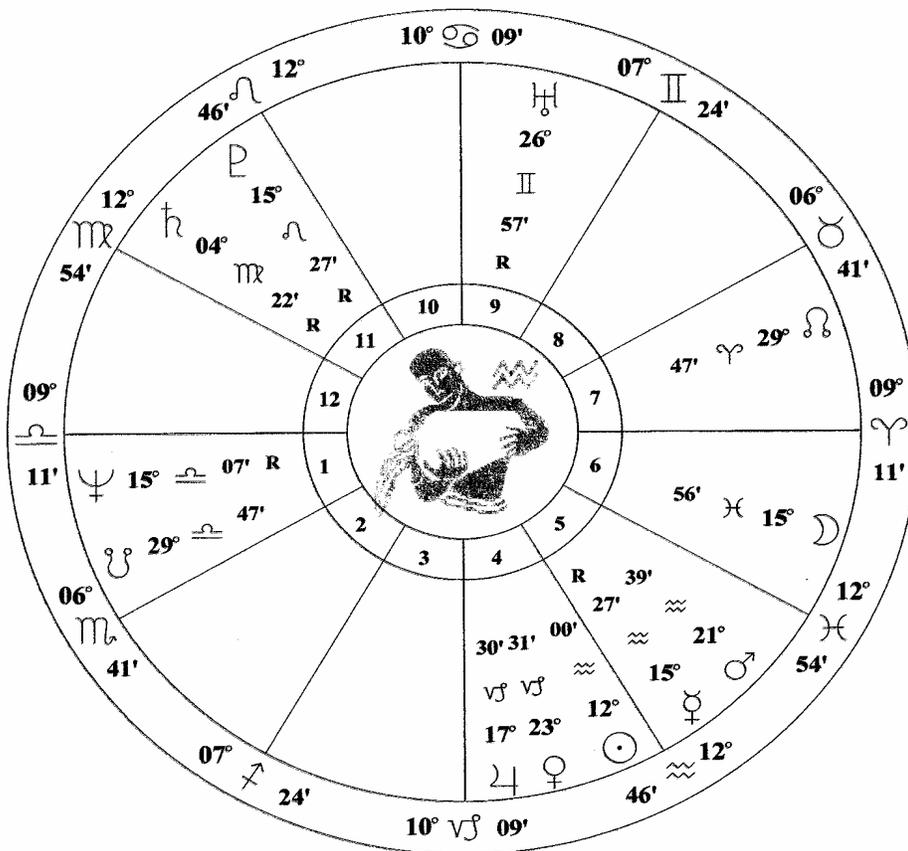


The following chart is that of the mystic-philosopher, **Ken Wilber**:

The following major planetary aspects appear in Wilber's birthchart: The Sun is conjunct Mercury, and the two are trining Neptune and opposing Pluto; The Moon is sextile Jupiter and trine Pluto; Mercury is conjunct Mars; Venus is conjunct Jupiter; and Neptune is sextile Pluto.

Ken Wilber
 Monday, January 31, 1949 10:30:00 PM
 Mystic philosophy psychology
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Time Zone: 06:00 (CST)
 Longitude: 097° W 30' 58"
 Latitude: 35° N 28' 03"

Placidus Houses
 Tropical Zodiac
 Mean Nodes

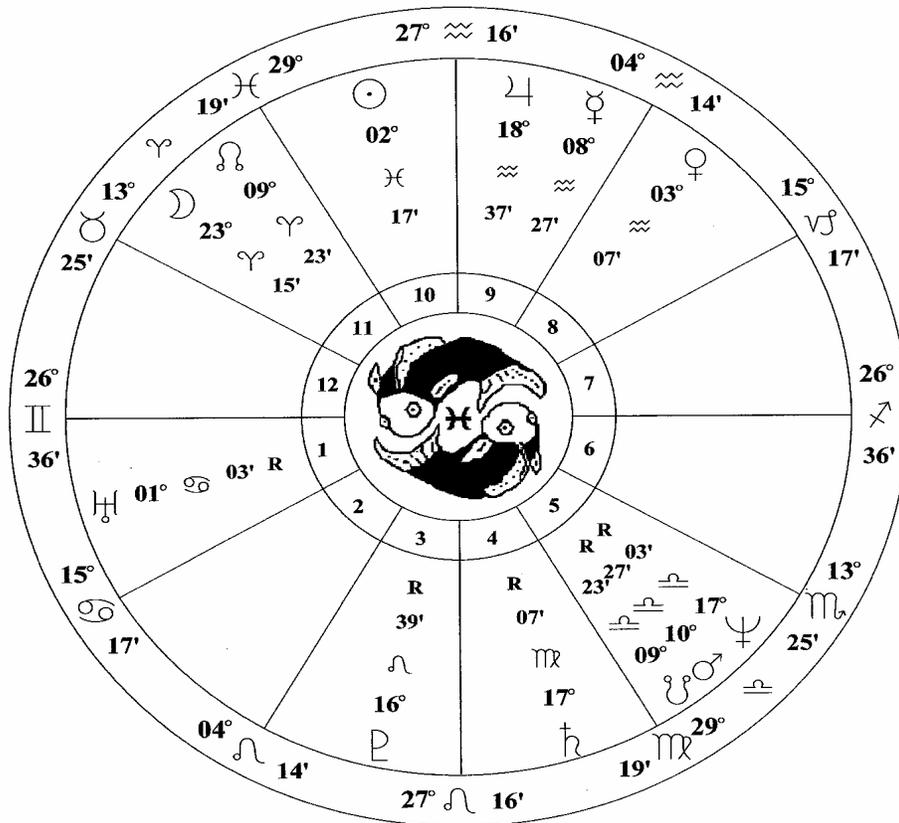


The next chart is that of astrologer and cultural historian, **Richard Tarnas**:

Richard Tarnas' chart contains the following major planetary aspects: The Sun is trine Uranus; The Moon is sextile Jupiter, trine Pluto, and opposing Neptune; Mercury is conjunct Venus in trine aspect to Mars; Mars is conjunct the South Node; Jupiter trines Neptune, and opposes Pluto; and Neptune is sextile Pluto.

Richard Tarnas
Tuesday, February 21, 1950 12:30:00 PM
Geneva, Switzerland
Time Zone: -01:00 (CET)
Longitude: 006° E 09'
Latitude: 46° N 12'

Placidus Houses
Tropical Zodiac
Mean Nodes



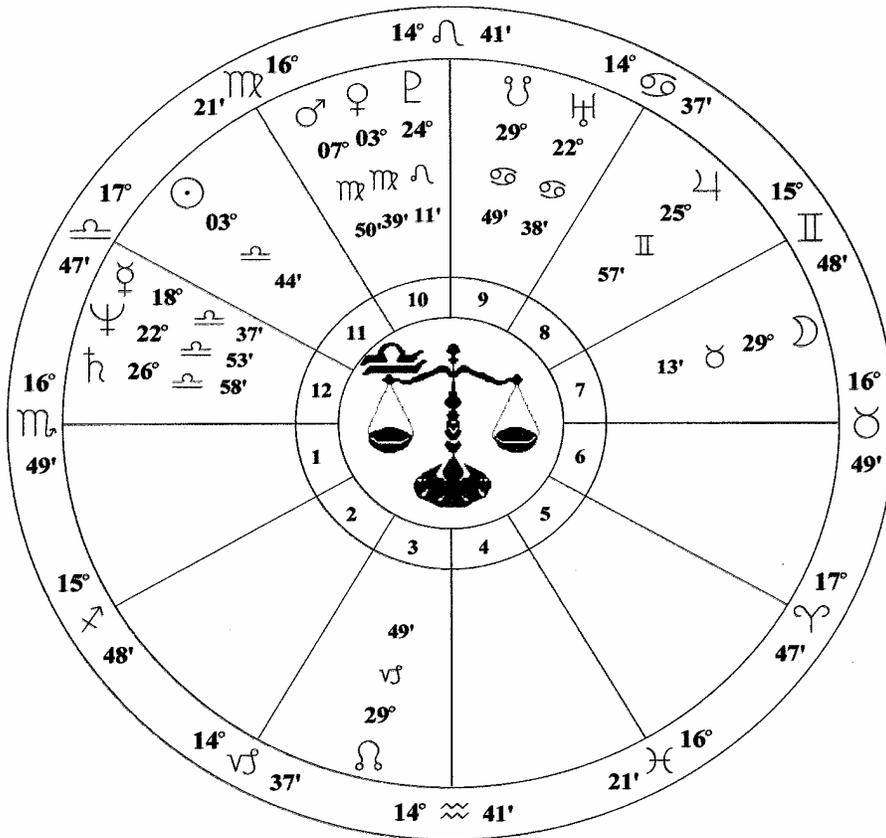
Next, is the chart of the charismatic spiritual leader, **Mata Amritanandamayi**:

The chart of this highly esteemed female saint contains the following major planetary aspects:

The Sun is trining the Moon; The Moon is square to Pluto; Mercury is conjunct Neptune, trine Jupiter, and square Uranus; Venus is conjunct Mars; Saturn is conjunct Neptune, sextile Pluto, trine Jupiter, and square Uranus.

Mata Amritanandamayi
 Sunday, September 27, 1953 9:10:00 AM
 Indian Saint; AKA Ammachi
 Vallickavu, India
 Time Zone: -05:30 (IST)
 Longitude: 076° E 31'
 Latitude: 09° N 10'

Placidus Houses
 Tropical Zodiac
 Mean Nodes



As in all of the other charts, I leave it for the reader to make his or her own in-depth interpretations; but in light of our knowledge of the lives and contributions of these very creative men and women, their charts speak volumes regarding the many harmonious as well as conflicting elements that make up their psyches. Above all, these charts provide abundant evidence of the soul qualities contained at birth in these individuals whose varied talents and proclivities have been revealed in the activities of their lives. The qualities of the soul come first; then come the actions that reveal those soul-qualities. As Heraclitus observed, “character is destiny”.

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NOTES AND REFERENCES:

1. All of the charts reproduced here were generated by the AstrolDeluxe ReportWriter software by John Halloran, at www.halloran.com, and are used by permission.

2. In this article, I have made little use of the Astrological signs; nor do I utilize or seriously regard the House cusps in any way. My primary interest is in the aspects (angular relationships) made by the planets in the natal planetary maps. It should be clear, therefore, that so long as I am consistent in my use of a particular Zodiacal format, the choice of Tropical or Sidereal is totally irrelevant; since one may translate back and forth between the two systems, and the aspects remain the same.

For those unfamiliar with the distinction between the Tropical Zodiac and the Sidereal Zodiac, the following clarification is offered: Both Zodiacs are synonymous with the apparent path of the Sun (remember, it is the Earth that changes position, not the Sun; but the Sun appears from the Earth’s vantage point to move through 360° in the course of one year). The *Tropical* Zodiac begins with 0° Aries at the point of the Vernal Equinox, the beginning of Spring; it is a season-based system. The *Sidereal* Zodiac is based on the Sun’s apparent path through the actual positions of the star-constellations in the heavenly background; so that, 0° Aries is based on the apparent conjunction of the Sun with a Fixed Star in the constellation of the Ram, designated Aries by the Greeks over two thousand years ago.

At the time that it was so designated, around 2600 years ago, the Vernal Equinox coincided with the beginning of the constellation Aries; but since that time, due to the slight wobble in the Earth’s orbit, producing what

is called “the precession of the Equinoxes”, the Vernal Equinox no longer coincides with the constellation of Aries, but has slipped backward into the constellation of Pisces. In fact, today the Tropical Zodiac is about 24° off of the Sidereal (star-based) Zodiac. When it comes to making interpretations based on sign positions, this is a crucial difference; and advocates of the Sidereal system (used in the Jyotish system of Vedic Astrologers in India and elsewhere) often make much of the authenticity of a star-based Astrology as opposed to a solar seasonally based system such as the Tropical Zodiac. But all this, as I mentioned, is quite irrelevant if, like me, you are only considering the effectiveness of the aspects produced by the natal planets and lights, which remain the same regardless of the Zodiac system.

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