

The Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology

A Practical Application

Johan Ligteneigen

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Introduction

Anyone who has ever looked at the night sky during a holiday in a beautiful faraway country, probably did so with great amazement. The different colours of stars, their size, their number and perhaps the sighting of the galaxy will have taken many people into their memories and may have given a feeling of insignificance when looking at this powerful cosmic spectacle.

In our present time with increasing air and light pollution it is no longer possible to see this star beauty with your own eyes. Anyone who really wants to see all these phenomena - with or without binoculars or a telescope - will be forced to go to a country where this pollution has not yet struck as much as in our densely populated and over-industrialized regions.

The Ancients, however, from the Babylonian, Egyptian or Greek periods were not at all hindered by the aforementioned pollution and had a wonderful view of the sky as it showed itself to them, either at night or during the day. The Ancients recorded the influences of many hundreds, if not thousands, of years when certain stars were at a certain place in the sky and when the planets known to them were near certain stars. Of the many thousands of stars that were observed by the Ancients with the clear sky of that time, only a "limited" number have been invented, described and catalogued by Eudoxus, Aratus, Timocharis, Hipparchus and Ptolemy, among others, to name but a few.

Many of the stars and constellations described at the time and their influences have been lost in the long period of thousands of years. Only certain works have been preserved in their entirety and fragments of other writings have only been preserved on papyrus or on clay tablets. Some ancient writers have written comments on earlier works, which have now been lost. The comments, however, have been preserved or translated into Persian or Arabic and these have proved particularly valuable.

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In this way there is a lot of information which is handed over and many generations of astrologers from the Middle Ages and the 17th century as well as modern astrologers still use this ancient information about the application of the Fixed Stars in astrology.

This book consists of two parts: an astronomical part and the by far largest part is devoted to the application of the Fixed Stars in astrology. The astronomical part is divided into three chapters.

Astronomical part

Chapter 1 contains general information about stars, their origin, classification, brightness, spectral class, binary stars and the end of stars. This information is mainly encyclopaedic in nature.

Chapter 2 deals with the formation of the first constellations and the role of astronomy in the observations of more recently discovered stars and constellations and the production of star charts.

Chapter 3 goes into more detail about some of the key concepts in the first chapter. These concepts play an important role in the astrological chapters of this book. For example, brightness is a concept which is very often mentioned in several astrological texts. It is equally important to know how the positions of the most important Fixed Stars are calculated, but it is also important to know when the stars rise or descend. For this purpose several formulas are given with some examples. Attention is also given to the position of the stars and the shape of the constellations throughout the centuries. Finally, the table with the ecliptic Longitude and Latitude, Right Ascension and Declination of all stars mentioned in the astrological section is shown. Most of the book is (of course) astrological and consists of 7 chapters.

Astrological part

Chapter 4 elaborates on the constellations, but from a mythological point of view. The individual stars within the constellations also receive attention here. This chapter forms the core of the knowledge about the constellations and the associated fixed stars. With many examples and figures the purpose of this chapter is clarified.

Chapter 5 sheds new light on the Via Combusta, an area in the zodiac between 15° Libra and 15° Scorpio. At least that was believed to be the case. The current analysis sketches another picture of this "burnt road" which is mainly used in hourly astrology.

The operation of the individual fixed stars is explained in detail in **chapter 6**.

The stars have an initial effect of their own, but also work according to the classical planets in the horoscope. With the help of the many examples it finally will become clear how to deal with the individual stars in a horoscope. The practical examples of the theory from chapter 6 are given in **chapter 7**.

Some stars have a fixed connection with several other stars. In this way even clusters of stars and constellations are permanently in an astrological square aspect with each other. **Chapter 8** gives attention to this phenomenon.

Chapter 9 emphasizes the importance of a good astrology computer program. The author's own designed computer program Newcomb is explained in detail about how to use the fixed stars for any chart.

Chapter-10 discusses the interesting application of the fixed stars to mundane astrology. Several examples explain its practical use.

A large **chapter 11** gives for each fixed star the supposed influence and effect according to Ptolemy and other great astrologers from the 19th and 20th century, also a lot of astronomical information is given about the stars concerned.

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This book was first published in 2011 in the Dutch language for the astrological reader in the Netherlands and Belgium. The astrological part is based upon 40 years of astrological experience by means of many thousands of horoscopes which the author had in his hands. Most of these horoscopes are rectified horoscopes with an accurate birth time, so that the degrees of the Ascendant, the MC and the other houses are accurate. This largely determines whether a fixed star is conjunct with one or more of the horoscope houses. A rectification of a birth chart takes a lot of time, but it is worth the process and it has provided a lot of valuable data about the influence of the fixed stars on the lives of these people, because in the end the degrees on the house cusps are exact to the minute of arc.

The influence of the mythological stories belonging to the constellations and the individual stars is immense. These stories constitute the archetypes of human action, reaction and thinking. The conjunction of a planet or a house cusp with a fixed star within a narrow orb emphasizes the archetype of the mythological representation in this particular case, as a kind of meaningful coincidence, belonging to the particular event of the birth of a human being.

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The application of the fixed stars does not only apply to birth charts according to the classic scheme of setup (Hellenistic astrology applications) which work with the seven classical planets. Also modern horoscopes, including the planets Uranus, Neptune and Pluto react very accurately to a conjunction with a fixed star, provided that these planets are close to a cusp or in a cardinal house, preferably close to the cusp or closely aspected by the Sun or Moon, in order to give these slow moving planets a more “personal” touch. Orbs applied should be very strict for these modern planets, up to a maximum of one degree, but they will work as is exemplified many times in this book.

The techniques for the correct application of this doctrine are described in detail in the astrological section and the many images will explain many things for you. Almost all images are made with my own designed astrological computer program in which it is possible to visualize the constellations and project the radical planets or the progressed planets into these, thus creating a greater understanding of how the interaction between planet and fixed star and between planet and constellation is taking place.

The astronomical part was included to give a full understanding of what stars are and what constellations are, how stars are born, how they die and how constellations evolve in the course of long time periods. Here and there this part is getting quite detailed and technical or even too technical for some of the readers. In these cases it is no problem to skip these sections and go to the astrological part right away. The astronomical section is quite informative in a general sense, but in no way mandatory to study, although it will augment the total knowledge of an astrologer, as he used to be in former centuries.

As this book is written and published by myself without further assistance, it might happen that certain passages in the book are not completely in accordance with English or American grammar or syntax, for which I must apologize here in advance. In any case I hope this book will contribute to your astrological knowledge and may it stir up the interests and fascination that this topic always had in the remote past.

Yours Sincerely,

Johan Ligteneigen
The Netherlands, 2019.

Astronomical part – Chapter 2. Constellations and star catalogues - 36

Tycho carefully studied the work of the Arabs and came to the conclusion that the erroneous precession of the Arabs was due to the fact that they always revert to the erroneous positions in the Almagest. He even suggested that Ptolemy had "copied" the data of Hipparchus instead of observed and then simply applied the (erroneous) Hipparchus' precession of 36" per year. Tycho Brahe's remarks were the beginning of the doubt about Ptolemy's honesty with regard to his star catalogue and many investigations into Ptolemy's work succeeded each other in the following 400 years.

Tycho Brahe's Star Catalogue was published posthumously in 1602 and contained 46 constellations and 777 star positions, a peculiar (and also a mystical) number since his predecessors were usually able to publish around a thousand stars.

2.08 Johann Bayer

Johann Bayer was a German astronomer and also a lawyer. He was born in Rain am Lech in 1572 and died in Augsburg in 1625. From 1592 he studied philosophy and law at the University of Ingolstadt. After this study he became a lawyer in law in Augsburg. He also worked intensively on mathematics, archaeology and astronomy. Most likely the basis of his astronomical work, were precise observations of Tycho Brahe. In the same period the sea routes to the East and to South America were discovered and the observations by the various sailors of that time of the southern starry sky were increasingly revealed.

Bayer produced its own Star Catalogue, the "Uranometria", in 1603. It contained the 48 constellations from antiquity plus a dozen new constellations of the southern celestial sky which had been introduced a short time earlier by the Dutch men Pieter Keyser and Hendrick Houtman. In total over 1700 star positions were represented in a total of 51 star charts, provided with beautiful drawings by Albrecht Dürer. This made the "Uranometria" the first catalogue to contain the stars of the entire celestial sphere.

Constellation	Right Ascension	South Declination
Apus	13h45m – 18h17m	67 – 83
Chamaeleon	07h32m – 13h48m	75 – 83
Dorado	03h53m – 06h36m	49 – 70
Grus	21h25m – 23h25m	37 – 57
Hydrus	00h02m – 04h33m	58 – 82
Indus	20h25m – 23h25m	45 – 75
Musca	11h17m – 13h46m	64 – 75
Pavo	17h37m – 21h30m	57 – 75
Phoenix	23h24m – 02h24m	40 – 58
Triangulum Australe	14h50m – 17h09m	60 – 70
Tucana	22h05m – 01h22m	57 – 76
Volans	06h35m – 09h02m	64 – 75

Fig. 6. The twelve new constellations from Bayer's catalogue.

Astronomical part – Chapter 2. Constellations and star catalogues - 37

Completely new since the Uranometria was the introduction of a naming system with Greek letters and Latin constellation names. This system was actually only introduced many decades later, but it quickly became popular and can still be found in various star catalogues and star charts today. Some examples of these are:

Betelgeuse, or Alfa-Orionis, written as α -Orionis, **Zosma**, or Delta-Leonis, written as δ -Leonis, **Vega**, or Alfa-Lyrae, written as α -Lyrae and **Albireo**, or Beta-Cygni, written as β -Cygni.

In this case, the constellation name is changed to the 2nd form (genitive). Male constellation names include Cygnus (Swan). The form "us" then passes into "i", so one gets "the beta star of Cygnus" or beta-Cygni. Female names include Lyra (Winch). The form "a" then passes into "ae", so one gets "the alpha star of Lyra" or alpha-Lyrae. Other names do not end in "us" or "a", like Leo or Orion. These then get the form "nis", like alpha-Leonis.

You can find this notation frequently in the tables and the description of the special meaning of the fixed stars in this book. The idea of this name was that the Greek letter Alpha was assigned to the brightest star of the constellation concerned, the letter Beta to the next star in terms of brightness and so on with the rest of the Greek letters.

For the sake of completeness, you'll find a table with the Greek letters below.

α	alfa	ι	iota	ρ	rho
β	beta	κ	kappa	σ	sigma
γ	gamma	λ	lambda	τ	tau
δ	delta	μ	mu	υ	ypsilon
ϵ	epsilon	ν	nu	ϕ	phi
ζ	zeta	ξ	ksi	χ	chi
η	eta	\omicron	omicron	ψ	psi
θ	theta	π	pi	ω	omega

Fig. 7. The Greek alphabet.

In the years that followed, more and more new stars were discovered and Bayer's system soon became insufficient to give all the stars a unique name. The sequence from Alpha to Omega was not the problem in itself, but there are very many stars within the same constellation that have almost the same brightness. In the long run, Bayer's designation could no longer meet this "demand".

Astrological part

Chapter 4. Constellations

4.01 Introduction

Most of this book is devoted to the practical application of the fixed stars in the analysis of a horoscope. The individual stars cannot be seen in isolation from the constellations of which they are part. That is why this chapter really starts with a discussion of the various constellations and the relation to the zodiacal signs is also discussed, because the precession of the Earth's axis causes a mixture of constellations and zodiacal signs, as you have been able to read extensively in section 3.04.

In chapter 5 the "unveiling" of the "secret" of the Via Combusta follows, a certain area in the zodiac that plays an important role especially in the application of horary astrology. Chapter 6 is especially dedicated to the individual stars and their influence according to Ptolemy and their practical application in the horoscope in question.

Apart from the fact that individual stars are part of constellations and thus have a relation with other stars from the same constellation, there are also other relationships to be observed between stars. Relationships that one hardly notices, but which are of great importance. This does not apply to all stars, but only to a limited group of stars about which you will be further informed in chapter 7.

Astrological part – Chapter 4. Constellations - 102

The horoscope chart must contain a lot of other information besides the horoscope wheel, among which a decent aspect overview, including a list with the main fixed stars that are within 1 degree orb of a planet or an important house. Besides this, the progressed horoscope must also be able to detect the transitions over the fixed stars. These are the topics of chapter 8, after which we will look again at the role of an astrology computer program, but then focused on the interpretation side.

All chapters are amply provided with working examples, so you can convince yourself of the importance of the role of the fixed stars in the horoscope.

Finally a very large chapter follows, in which the intrinsic working of all 110+ fixed stars is given according to the vision of several astrological authors. The mention 110+ refers to the fact that in addition to the classic 110 stars, some other stars are grouped that are often forgotten.

4.02 The constellation of Andromeda

King Cepheus and his wife Cassiopeia of a kingdom in Ethiopia from bygone times are both gloomy about the disaster that their kingdom is experiencing. For months on end, the country has been plagued by heavy flooding, and large parts of the kingdom are constantly disappearing into the waves of the sea. Cassiopeia tells her husband how all this came about.

"It was on the same day that Fineus, through his faithfulness to Andromeda, would unite to my child. The peoples delighted about that commitment established spectacles and competitions on the beach. My daughter never seemed so enchanting in my eyes, I was delighted to see that she had turned her eyes away from the spectacle to the humid element, to watch the water battle on the currents. There they saw Venus emerge first, mirroring himself in the blue and saline crystal, promising himself victory. The joy was great and everyone cheered upon which the sea goddesses put their heads out of the water, but they slammed their eyes down because of the light that Andromeda radiated from her face.

The Nerides among themselves always chose the most beautiful one to try to outdo Andromeda in beauty, but each time they returned in vain in the water, so that I was tempted to say: 'O nymphs, where are all your attractions now? Can you in no way deny that we are favoured with more charms than you are?'

I confess, my lord, it was a little too conceited, for I saw them diving to the ground with regret. For this reason the sea seemed so grim and came furiously to the shore bubbling with an irresistible tide. A terrible sea dragon came to the beach, the people transported in terror, fled and the mountains resounded with the sad and miserable sigh ...".⁴

Astrological part – Chapter 4. Constellations - 103

Cassiopeia's arrogant words now had to be paid dearly, for they had aroused the wrath of the sea god Neptune, which made the seas rise high and the hostile sea pound against all the coasts of the once mighty empire of King Cepheus. The land was flooded in many places and the once vast land was now nothing more than an ocean.

The many dozens of sacrifices made were to no avail. Every month a virgin girl was sacrificed to the sea monster Cetus, but the anger of Neptune and of all sea creatures was unsaturated. Soon nothing would remain of the kingdom of Cepheus. The oracles had mentioned the name of Andromeda several times. They had to be sacrificed to the lusts of the sea monster. This would satisfy Neptune and then the peace in the kingdom could return. With great sorrow, but obedient to the laws of the oracle and the laws of the gods, Cepheus and Cassiopeia chose to sacrifice their daughter in favor of all those people of the kingdom whose lives were in great danger.

Andromeda, who was engaged to Prince Fineus, was soon to marry him. Her beauty was truly blinding. Her appearance was of a very pure white and her character was just as pure and honest. This was now her dowry: chained to the rocks she hung waiting for her ultimate fate: to be swallowed up by the hungry sea monster to save the people of the kingdom of Cepheus from certain ruin.

The monster Cetus is already on his way, Andromeda's bodyless funeral will soon be a fact. Prince Fineus is powerless to watch, he cannot cope with the violence of this monster. Andromeda would have liked to die to save the fate of the people. If Fineus had thrown himself before the monster in an ultimate attempt to save Andromeda, she would have loved to die for her love. But Fineus does nothing. Meanwhile, the monster is approaching.

There Andromeda hangs between the rocks, her arms and legs chained to each rock. Even in this hour of sacrifice she has a modest expression. With her snow-white neck slightly bent, she seems completely at peace with her freedom, which lasts only a few minutes. Her garment falls from her shoulders and slides down through her arms. Her extremely long undulating strands cover her body. "It is Your Princess who was lamented by the seabirds in their circling flight and in their lamentation connected their wings and thus forming an enormous shadow.

Even the ocean stopped for a moment with its waves to look at you, the waves that were kept from hitting the rocks. The Nerides, too, raised their heads above the surface of the water and wept for your devotion to duty, humidifying the same waves. Even the wind that refreshed your chained limbs with a calm, friendly breath, echoed tearfully against the rocks ...".⁵

Astrological part – Chapter 4. Constellations - 104

It is precisely on that day that Perseus returns with the head of Medusa that he cut off earlier. This terrible head from which every hair appears a hissing snake, the head with the tusks of a wild boar and a horrible grimace makes everyone who looks at this turn to stone at once. Perseus could only cut off this head by just looking into his own reflective shield, so that he did not have to look at this terrible head. With his winged sandals and Hermes' helmet, with which he became invisible, he could escape the revenge of the other two Gorgonians, of which Medusa was the only mortal. Even to the sea wherein he flew now, he was pursued by these Gorgons. With Medusa's head stuck in a large bag, he flies over the area where Andromeda hangs chained. Trapped by her beauty he is determined to free her from her terrible fate. Quickly he cleaves a path through the air in which he floats and thus gives Andromeda's tearful parents, Cassiopeia and Cepheus a glimmer of hope again. With the prospect of a future bride he hurries to the coast where Andromeda hangs chained between the rocks.

But now a heavy tide begins to rise and long, huge waves move in front of the massive sea monster. As the monster cuts through the water, it sticks out its big head and emits an immense amount of water. The water breaks out through its teeth with a lot of noise and the swirling sea flows through both jaws. Behind the monster gigantic whirlpools arise like rings of a huge necklace and the back of this monster covers the entire sea. The ocean makes a terrible noise, wherever one would look, and shake the mountains and rocks at the arrival of this sea creature. "... What expression, unfortunate lady, was there on your face, although you would be defended by such a hero! How must all your breath in the air have disappeared! How must all your blood have flowed out of your limbs when, chained to the rocks with your own eyes, you had to accept your fate, swimming the vengeful monster towards you and banishing the waves in front of you. How helpless you were a victim of the sea! ...".

Now Perseus starts flying high into the sky with the clapping of his sandals and from that height he dives towards the monster with his weapon to which Medusa's blood is still stuck. The monster lifts up to meet him, moves his head upwards from the water, jumps up from the vortexes it produces and towers high above the water with all its weight. But every time the monster jumps up from the depths, Perseus flies a lot higher and challenges the monster further as he attacks it with his weapon. Still the monster doesn't give up and bites furiously at the air movements without hurting our hero. The sea water is now spraying towards the sky and it is soaking our winged friend with a torrent of blood flowing out of the monster's wounds.



Fig. 40. The fight between Perseus and the sea monster Cetus.

The princess watches this duel, a duel of which she is the first prize, now no longer thinking of herself, but completely committed to fearing her gallant champion. Now her feelings hang more in chains than her body does. Eventually, the beast sinks into the sea, cleaved with stab wounds. One more time the beast floats up and fills the mighty ocean with its enormous body, still a terrifying sight and not suitable for a young lady to look at. After this victory Perseus washes his body in clear seawater and then flies to the high rocky outcrops and frees Andromeda from her chains. Andromeda accepts Perseus as her savior and future husband, but first Fineus has to be dealt with.

Fineus comes to the royal court to talk to Andromeda about his so-called love for her, but he has lost all chances with her by taking no action at all when she was lifelessly tied to the chains. But Fineus is a bad loser, he wants to take revenge on Perseus in order to earn his place with Andromeda again. He is initially supported by the Nerides and Neptune and Juno also offers her help for the (usually) shameful (and immoral) behaviour of her husband Jupiter. The Nerides once again felt hurt by the fact that a human being (Andromeda) had been saved again and therefore her feelings of love were only strengthened. They complained to Neptune, who in turn would complain to his brother Jupiter about the disgraceful state of affairs and the loss of the sea monster.

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However, Cassiopeia and Cepheus also appealed to the gods for their ultimate sacrifice in the form of Andromeda. Eventually Jupiter gave them compensation for all the suffering and with this judgment of the Supreme God, all the gods had to take satisfaction, so also Neptune and with him the Nerides and eventually Juno could agree with this. Unaware of the reversal of his fate, Fineus goes to Perseus with a large group of followers. A big battle ensued, in which many lost their lives. Fineus still thinks the gods are with him and relies on the deadly lightning bolt that Jupiter has to send to Perseus to kill him. Fineus now comes to Perseus himself and wants to attack him, when our hero shows him the terrible head of Medusa. Many people flee, including Fineus, but Perseus overtakes him and now shows him the head of Medusa. The challengers still make the last cries and each one of them changes from flesh and blood to hard stone. This also brings Fineus to his deserved end.

Of course this story has a happy ending and before the holy altar Andromeda and Perseus are married by Jupiter in the presence of Neptune, Juno, Cassiopeia, Cepheus and the many loyal followers of the royal family. Thus Perseus has earned a place in heaven for Andromeda as a prize for that glorious battle in which a monster, no less terrible than the Gorgon Medusa itself, went down and, while dying, saved the sea from a curse.

In all star charts we see the main characters from this myth and each main character has his or her own constellation. Below you see Andromeda depicted as a constellation and also as the more visualized mythological figure.



Fig. 41. Constellation Andromeda, on the right: mythological image. © Public domain.

If we look at this constellation astrologically, then there are a number of fixed stars from antiquity that are part of the constellation. In chapter 10 of Book 1 of the Tetrabiblos, Ptolemy summarizes the influence of the constellations north and south of the zodiac. The overall constellation Andromeda gets the influence of Venus, Cepheus gets Saturn and Jupiter, Perseus gets Jupiter and Saturn, but the nebula in his sword is like Mars and Mercury and Cassiopeia gets Saturn and Venus.

But also the individual stars within the constellation get an intrinsic influence. There is the star Alpheratz or alpha-Andromedae with an already given influence of Jupiter-Venus by Ptolemy, then the star Mirach or beta-Andromedae with the influence of Venus and finally the star Almach or gamma-Andromedae with an influence of Venus. Apart from the stars, there is also a nebula, indicated by M31, or Messier-31 named Vertex, which is located at the knee of Andromeda's right leg. The Vertex nebula has the influence of Mars and the Moon and is the sole object in this constellation that has an unfavorable initial effect. For astronomers, however, this nebula, the so-called Andromeda Nebula, is one of the most beautiful objects in the sky. This galaxy, which is by the way the only one visible to the naked eye, it has beautiful colours and its angled position makes it one of the most sought-after photographic objects in the universe.



Fig. 42. The galaxy M31 in the constellation of Andromeda. © Public domain.

The three stars mentioned in the constellation Andromeda all have a beautiful influence of Venus and/or Jupiter, which of course is representative for the beauty, purity and honesty of the figure Andromeda. The stars have a positive influence when good planets within 1 degree orb are present, especially when Venus or Jupiter are close to them. When less good planets are present, especially Mars or Saturn, then the effect turns into vanity, boast and even violence in order to strengthen one's own vain and often dishonest goals.

The constellation of Hydra (the water snake)

You may wonder why the constellations Leo and Hydra are mentioned together in this paragraph. They are very different constellations that do not "touch" each other anywhere, yet they have something in common. That "something" is the almost equal longitude in the zodiac of several stars. The constellations are almost on top of each other. The constellation Leo is situated above the ecliptic while Hydra is below the path of the Sun. I will give the example of the politician Mr. Pim Fortuyn here again, but with the emphasis on the constellation Hydra. I will start again with the radix situation of the planets. The white circle with "m" is Mars, "S" is Saturn and "N" is Neptune. Mars is totally in conjunction with the star Al-Jabha of the constellation Leo.

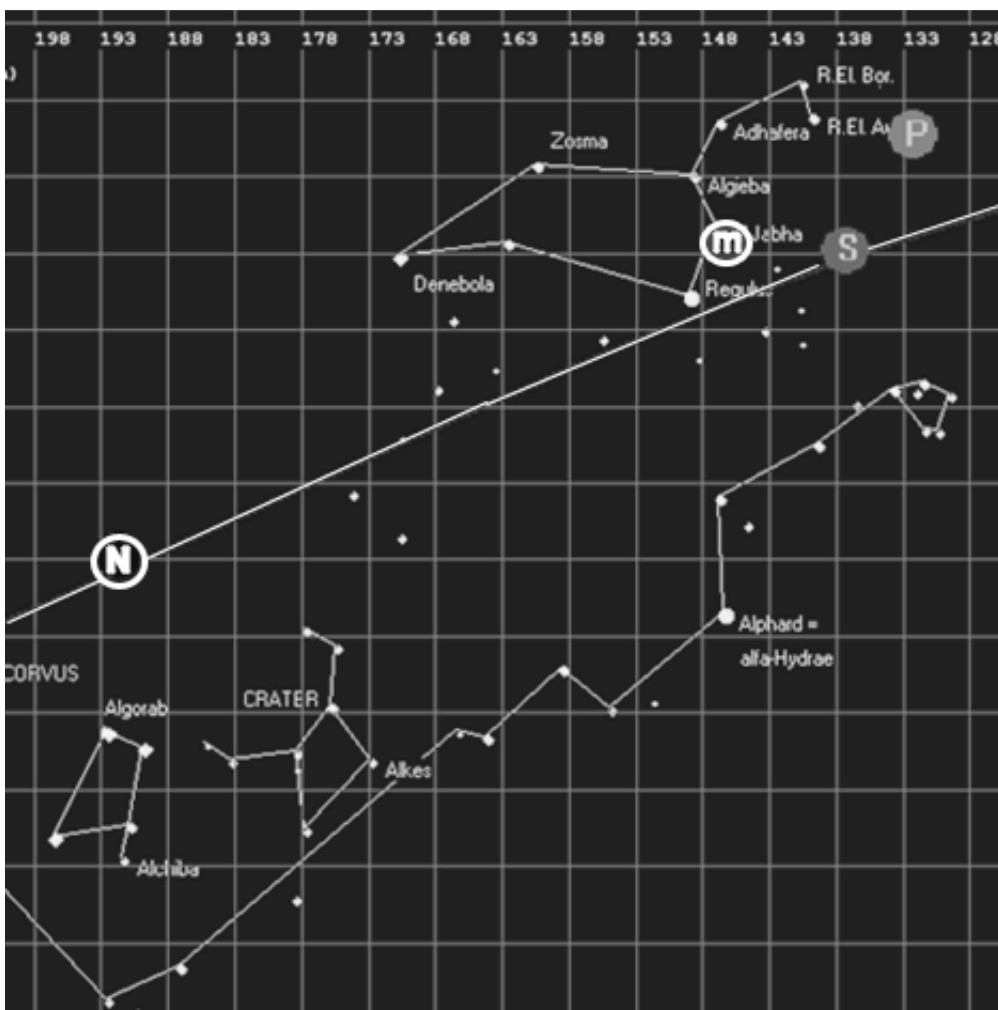


Fig. 53. The constellation Hydra and the planets Mars and Saturn - Mr. Pim Fortuyn.

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In this image you see the planets Mars and Saturn in the same place again, compare this with Figure 67. Mars is in front of the line with 148° and Saturn is almost on the line with 138° , the same radical positions. If you draw a line directly downwards from Mars, then you arrive at the star Alphard. Alphard is the main star of the Hydra constellation, indicated by alpha-Hydrae.

Hydra is the water snake, of which Alphard is the main star, a star with a highly toxic influence, especially indicating a danger of suffocation and poisoning, risk of drowning or smoke poisoning. Pregnancy poisoning can also occur, as shown in a later example. Hydra should not be confused with Serpens, which is also a snake, but much further north and that snake is held by Ophiuchus, the snake bearer. The main star of Serpens is called Unukalhai, or alpha-Serpentis. Hydra is the largest of the 88 modern constellations, measuring 1303 square degrees, and also the longest at over 100 degrees. Its southern end abuts Libra and Centaurus and its northern end borders Cancer. It was included among the 48 constellations listed by the 2nd century astronomer Ptolemy.

Of course there is a nice mythological story behind the constellation Hydra and this story explains a lot of the operation of the accompanying constellations Corvus and Crater that you can also see in the drawing. Legend has it that the god Apollo gave a feast in honour of Jupiter and because water was needed for the feast, the crow Corvus was sent out by Apollo with a large bowl (Crater) to get water somewhere. On his way the crow's eye fell on a beautiful fig tree and he remained there until the figs had ripened. Then he enthusiastically indulged in the delicious figs until he remembered his message. Of course he was afraid of the anger of Apollo. He picked up a snake (Hydra) and when he returned, he gave the excuse that the snake had prevented him from filling the water bowl. Apollo was so angry with this excuse that he ordered the crow never to drink again as long as figs are not ripe and he placed the crow, the bowl and the snake as a token of remembrance in the sky.

According to Ptolemy, **the constellation of Corvus** has the influence of Mars and Saturn. He indicates a cunning behavior, but also eagerness, gluttony, cleverness, patience, resentment, passion, selfishness, it can indicate liars, but also aggressive behavior. The instincts are often focused on matter and sometimes under this influence troublemakers can occur. None of this will come as a surprise to you, given the story above.

The constellation Crater, which of course represents the water bowl, works according to Ptolemy as Venus and a bit like Mercury. It has a friendly, generous, cheerful, passionate and inviting nature, with good mental capacities, but one sometimes comes under the influence of indecision and too much understanding for others. Life can be chaotic with sudden and unexpected events, and there is also a certain risk of unhappiness. There is also some importance or distinction to be found when important planets or cardinal houses are conjunct with these stars.

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Facies, 22M Sagittarii, (Sun Mars), 7.37♃;23.57S; 8.18♃;23.55S; 9.00♃;23.53S

Astronomical

A nebular spot in the "face" of the Archer. This nebula is known as Messier-22 in the constellation Sagittarius. Messier-22 is a global cluster at a distance of 10,600 light years from the Earth. In the sky, the cluster occupies a space of 32 minutes of arc. The cluster contains 32 variable stars. M22 is unique, because it is one of the 4 global clusters that contain a planetary nebula. This was discovered in 1986 by the IRAS satellite and this planetary nebula would be about 6000 years old.

Astrological influence

A combined influence of the Sun and Mars, causes blindness, poor visibility, disease, accidents and violent death.

**Fomalhaut, alfa Piscis Australis, (Venus Mercury),
3.09 ♃; 29.53 S; 3.52 ♃; 29.37 S; 4.34 ♃; 29.22 S**

Astronomical

Fomalhaut is a reddish star in the mouth of the southern Fish. The name comes from "Fum al Hut", "the mouth of the fish". It was one of the four royal stars in Persia around 3000 B.C. when this star announced the winter solstice as "guardian of the south". It is an A-class star and is at a distance of about 25 light years from Earth. It is a young star, about 200 to 300 million years old. The surface temperature is about 8500 Kelvin. Compared to With Sun, the mass is about 2.3 times greater and it is 15 times brighter than the Sun.

The star is surrounded by a disc of dust that is about 25 AU wide (1 AU is the distance from Earth to Sun). It is thought that planets can be formed in the disk. There is sufficient infrared radiation coming from the disk.

Astrological influence

According to Ptolemy the nature of Venus and Mercury. According to Alvidas, Jupiter (in Pisces) in square to Saturn (in Sagittarius), the star would be very fortunate and powerful but still may cause malice of a subtle character. In the end, the effect changes from a material to a spiritual effect. Cardanus claimed that when the planets rise at 12 degrees Gemini, they may give an immortal name.

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When rising or culminating: Great and lasting honor.

With Sun: Waste, easily influenced by lower companions, merit by inheritance, but not productive for good, one can suffer by crimes, danger of biting of poisonous creatures.

With Moon: Secret matters that cause many difficulties and enmity, but ultimately benefit after many difficulties. The separation (by the Moon) from the star is more favorable than when it is applying to the star.

With Mercury: Many losses and disappointments, unhappy in business, one may write or receive secret letters, worries by libel, imprisonment or a damaged reputation, domestic difficulties, illness of a Saturnine character.

With Venus: Secret and passionate love affairs, some limitations in life, disappointments, one is easily deceived.

With Mars: Malicious, passionate, vengeful, many secret enemies, prone to scandals and decay, danger of bites from poisonous animals.

With Jupiter: Sympathetic, benevolent, position of honor in the church or in freemasonry or in secret societies, many journeys.

With Saturn: Accidents, diseases that affect the lungs, throat or feet, loss by enemies, friends, Mercury affairs, connections or companies, often wrongly accused, involved in all kinds of matters at the end of life, sudden death and the family is expelled from their rights.

According to Ebertin, the star also has a Neptune side effect. The star has a strong double-sided effect, but the helping side seems to be stronger. Together with Mercury it seems to stimulate the mental functioning and indicates success as a writer or as a scientist. On the Ascendant and with good aspects it seems to give an eternal good name. With Venus it gives artistic skills. With Jupiter or in the MC it gives favors or dignity in religious office.

Examples:

Conjunct Mercury: August Bebel, co-founder and first leader of the German Social Democrats. He was born into a poor family, but became the most successful speaker and troublemaker of his party. When he was 27 years old he had a seat in the German Bundestag.

Conjunct Mars: Karl Spitzweg, a painter.

Georg Trakl also had this conjunction with Mars. He became addicted to morphine and ended his life by suicide.

Conjunct Jupiter: The physician and successful reform food propagandist Dr. Bircher-Benner.

Conjunct MC: Noelle-Neumann, a world-renowned pollster. She built a large research centre from scratch.

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