

Esoteric Saturn: The Third Synthesizing Planet

By Lawson Bracewell

This paper will explore the concept of esoteric Saturn in two sections. The first will present the literature concerning esoteric Saturn, its relationship to Saturn, and its relationship to etheric centers. The second section will present research on the effects of esoteric Saturn transits in client charts.

Section 1:

There is in both *A Treatise On Cosmic Fire* and *Esoteric Astrology* passing references to esoteric Saturn. The most explicit reference is on pg. 777 of TCF: "Those who are working in the Uranus, the Neptune, and the Saturn scheme work somewhat differently to those functioning in the Venus, the Vulcan, the Mars, the Mercury, the Jupiter, the Earth, and the exoteric Saturn scheme, and so do the Manasadevas of the inner round". The Tibetan is here explicitly stating that there is an esoteric and an exoteric Saturn scheme.

The diagrams on pg. 369, 370, and 373 of TCF also suggest two Saturns. First, a list is presented of seven sacred and non-sacred planets and a list of three synthesizing planets. Saturn is shown in both lists. Second, in the following diagrams of these lists, Saturn is also shown in both patterns.

Since we have no visual evidence, esoteric Saturn is probably a non-physical etheric body. The Tibetan assures us that there are many such bodies in our solar system. He states on pg. 793 of TCF: "There are more than 115 of such bodies to be reckoned with, and all are at varying stages of vibratory impulse." In other words, each of these bodies is an evolving being and is therefore a scheme.

Each planetary scheme occupies a major or minor center in the body of the solar Logos. Therefore, exoteric and esoteric Saturn probably govern two separate centers. We know that exoteric Saturn governs the throat

center. I feel there is evidence to suggest that esoteric Saturn governs the Alta Major center . The Tibetan on pg. 1163-1164 of TCF gives information as to the centers governed by each planetary Logos. He assigns Saturn to the throat center. As to the Alta Major center, he says (referring also to the pineal and pituitary body) that: "Certain of the planetoids have their place here, and one scheme which has passed out of activity, and is in a condition of quiescence and non-activity." He goes on to suggest that the scheme ruling the Alta Major center is etheric and that: "These centers, with no dense physical globe, constitute what has sometimes been called 'the inner round' and transmit their force through those greater centers which have been spoken of in occult books as having a connection with the inner round".

There are strong links between the throat and Alta Major centers. The throat center is a synthesizing center for the lower center. On page 1160 of TCF, the Tibetan states that these centers become synthesized in the head when a triangle of centers becomes vitalized. This triangle is composed of the center at the base of the spine, the throat center and the Alta major center.

Saturn rules the throat center and seems also to describe the function of the Alta Major center. Both are associated with karma. The throat center is the creator of karma since it is through this center that the word is articulated or the form is created. The Alta Major center has to do with the resolution of karma or a reaping process. This center is referred to on pg. 1160 of TCF as: "corresponding interestingly to the triple form constructed by the ego in the three worlds." Saturn is regarded as ruling the three worlds.

What seems necessary in understanding exoteric and esoteric Saturn is to separate the

functions and characteristics of Saturn in the literature into two lists. As an example, on pg. 105 of *Esoteric Astrology*: "Saturn's power is completely ended and his work accomplished when man (spiritual man) has freed himself from Karma and from the power of the two Crosses: the Common and the Fixed. Esoterically, Saturn cannot follow man on to the Cardinal Cross." This must refer to exoteric Saturn. Then, on pg. 71: "At the fourth initiation, Mercury and Saturn again bring about great changes and unique revelations, but their effect is very different to the earlier experience." This, I suggest, refers to esoteric Saturn. Further, the Tibetan gives Saturn as the hierarchical ruler of Libra. I think we can assume this to be esoteric Saturn, since the hierarchical rulers only become fully operative when the man is on the Cardinal cross.

The astrologer, Charles Jayne, in his Arcane Series, *The Unknown Planets*, has proposed that esoteric Saturn is an etheric planet named Sigma. Jayne has drawn upon the work of the astrologer, Dane Rudhyar, who, in *The Astrology of Personality*, postulated three "higher moons". One of these, the one Jayne suggests is Sigma, is between the orbit of Jupiter and Saturn. This body was predicted by astronomer Dr. William Pickering who measured the perturbation of other planets, suggesting that it was not dense, but also not without physical substance. He assigned Sigma a period of 13.93 years.

This orbit suggests a strong relationship between Sigma and Saturn. It is very close to the 14-year half cycle of Saturn. It is composed of two seven-year periods, and we usually think of Saturn as generating the seven-year cycle with its four seven-year periods equaling 28.

I would suggest, however, that it is Sigma and not Saturn that generates the seven-year cycle. It is the half and not the quarter period of a planet that generates rhythms. The half cycle of Sigma is just days short of seven years, while the quarter cycle of Saturn's 29.5 year cycle is 7.36 years. Seven years is the point of completion for many cycles. Most marriages

end at a multiple of seven years; the median for marriages in the United States is seven years. Investigation into inspiration in the arts has shown a rhythm of seven years. And the statute of limitations on various legal actions is seven years.

Various esoteric traditions also suggest a fourteen-year cycle. It is composed of a breathing out and a breathing in. Or, it is described as seven years below the horizon and seven above.

All of these associations with the seven-year cycle relate it and Sigma to endings and accomplishments. Jayne's Teacher also stated that it was "the planet closely linked with Karma, Karma being not of the flesh but of the Spirit, and that at its highest it referred to Solar Beings and those who have been of use to the Lords of Karma." Jayne suggests that Sigma is the third synthesizing planet with Neptune and Uranus. Since Uranus transmits the 7th Ray and Neptune the 6th Ray, Sigma would logically transmit the 5th Ray. As a synthesizing triangle, we could see Uranus transmitting the 1st Ray, Neptune the 2nd Ray, and Sigma the 3rd Ray.

Section 2

The research study that I have completed on Sigma is based on an ephemeris developed by Michael Erlewine. It is derived from the work of astronomer Dr. William Pickering. I chose a sample of my clients who I intuitively felt had taken or were soon to take the first initiation. I sought to verify the effects of significant Sigma transits to their natal charts.

What I requested the research respondents to do was describe the significant events and their learning from the events in the period of the transit of Sigma. I gave them beginning and ending dates, but I gave them no information on the nature of the transiting planet or the purpose of my research.

The characteristics of my research group were: They were all clients whom I had done several readings for; there were 10 men and 13 women for a total of 23; and the median age was 47. For the majority of them, the transits I

requested information about occurred within the last three years (to encourage their memory of the events). All Sun signs (minus Cancer) were represented with six Leos, four Capricorns, and three Aries.

The responses had a similar theme. All of them mentioned endings, culmination, and death. One response was as extreme as: "I felt I was staring Death in the face." (She also had transiting Saturn in the first house). Each described a shift from one state of reality or attachment to another. Those who were having Sigma/Sun transits reported learning the following.

1. Appearance and reality are not the same thing.
2. I/we struggle to align with power.
3. I have to take hold of my own life.
4. I cannot take life for granted.
5. I learned not to trust.
6. I am capable of dealing with challenges.
7. I appear to have everything but have nothing.
8. I can stick to a vision.
9. I learned to have courage.
10. I can die and be reborn.
11. I learned independence.
12. Things that seem permanent are not necessarily permanent.
13. Trying to force things does not work.
14. I understood the value of having a relationship.
15. I learned to work in a group and see self as part of a group.
16. I learned to let go of fears.
17. I learned to see myself as a spiritual being.
18. I learned to value myself.
19. I learned that I am a soul.
20. I awoke to a new sense of myself.
21. I learned to have a stronger sense of purpose.
22. I learned to let go of mother.
23. I learned to act when challenged.
24. In the shattering of my innocence, I saw a spiritual me.
25. I became more sensitive.
26. I can stand for myself.
27. I can create and work in my own

environment.

28. I can be me and not just a role.
20. I can set clearer self-boundaries.
30. I love being whole and self-sufficient.
31. I have an enormous capacity for self-wounding.
32. I have a clearer sense of the self and the non-self.

Each of these clients did, of course, also have many other significant transits occurring at the same time as the Sigma transit. For most of them, I could look at the other transits and immediately see how both the events that they described and the learning that they had could have been triggered by these other transits alone. While this does not negate the possible validity of the Sigma transits, it does weaken a strong causative link.

I have chosen, therefore, three charts that seem to make the strongest case for the Sigma transit to be the causative factor. In discussing them, I will look at the Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto transits that they were having at that time. I will refer to them as Charts 1, 2, and 3 and they are presented at the end of this article.

Chart 1: This client at the age of 41 was experiencing an eight-month transit of Sigma to her natal Sun/Sigma conjunction in the 7th house. She was also having Saturn transiting her first house and Pluto squaring her Saturn. Her primary event was the starting of her own business. She gave as her learning: "I am capable of dealing with challenges, I can stick to a vision, I learned courage, I learned to feel the fear and do it anyway, I experienced death and rebirth."

This woman went into business with a partner. The sun is the ruler of the 8th house as well as being in the 7th house. The event does seem related to the Sigma transit. Of her learning, the ability to stick to a vision, the development of courage and the ability to act despite fear, all seem to be Sun related.

Currently, she is a student in the University of the Seven Rays MSE program. In her community, she is part of a healing center and teaches esoteric astrology. Her long-term

goal is to teach in the preparatory occult school in New Zealand.

Chart 2: At 41, this client had transiting Sigma conjunct his natal Sun/Sigma conjunction in the 6th house for 10 months. In this period, Saturn was transiting the 9th and 10th houses and was squaring natal Venus, Uranus was squaring natal Saturn conjunct Neptune, and Neptune was squaring Saturn.

This client keeps a diary and so reported many events: major work changes, a burglary with no personal loss, he made a will, he traveled to a spiritual retreat, he experimented with gay sexuality and got a sexually transmitted disease, one of his students was murdered, he had a knee injury, and he attended many personal growth workshops. He reported learning that he could effect change in his work situation, he could feel and express anger, he could see the dark side of himself, he could be himself and not just a role, he could stop blaming himself, he could set boundaries in his relationships, he loved being self-sufficient, he wanted to take risks and change, he could distinguish between the self and the not-self, and he had an enormous capacity for self-wounding.

With Sigma in the 6th house, the events related to illnesses are most likely related to this transit. The transit to the Sun seems clearly related to clearer self-boundaries, learning about the dark side of the self, and learning what is self and not self.

Client 3: At 59, this client experienced transiting Sigma conjunct her Moon in the 2nd house for nine months. During this period, she experienced her Saturn return in the 6th house and transiting Uranus conjunct with her Mercury. This client also kept a diary and reported the following events: she sorted out the estates of her father and her husband, the wills were challenged, she was burglarized twice and lost her jewelry, work was stressful, and she had nightmares involving money, greed and hate. She reported learning to be a spiritual guide for her husband in the last months of his life and experienced him as her guide, that she could survive great emotional

trauma, that she could let go and experience forgiveness, that she could trust her higher self, and that she could leave the past.

Some other Sigma experiences in the 2nd house are probably also related to the Uranus/Mercury transit, since Mercury is the ruler of the 2nd house. However, the emotional trauma and the ability to let go of the past do seem strongly linked to the Sigma transit.

This woman is currently a student in the University of the Seven Rays MSE program. She is retired and volunteers her time to various service organizations such as Trade Aid. She is an artist.

In Conclusion:

In the first section of this article, I explored the possibility suggested by the Tibetan Master D.K. that there are two planets in our solar system producing effects usually attributed to only one of them: Saturn. I presented evidence that the second planet is an etheric body with an orbit of 14 years. I further presented a justification for assigning it as the ruler of the Alta Major center.

In the second section, I presented the results of a research project involving 23 clients. The data examined concerned their experiences and learning during periods of significant Sigma transits. For most, it was difficult to determine the extent that other transits were influencing what at first seemed to be the effects of Sigma transits.

However, an analysis of the charts does seem to show convincing evidence that the Sigma transits produced events and learning that would be difficult to interpret from the other occurring transits. The dominant themes were: death, loss, re-evaluation, and crisis.

The only factor that seems to distinguish the Sigma transits from Saturn transits is the extent to which the clients described the learning as spiritual. The transits seemed to trigger the individual's awareness of a more essential reality. This would seem to be consistent with the hypothesis that Sigma creates a shift to consciousness in the head centers.

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Chart 1

July 26, 1947

51N30 000W10

Tropical

Placidus

True Node

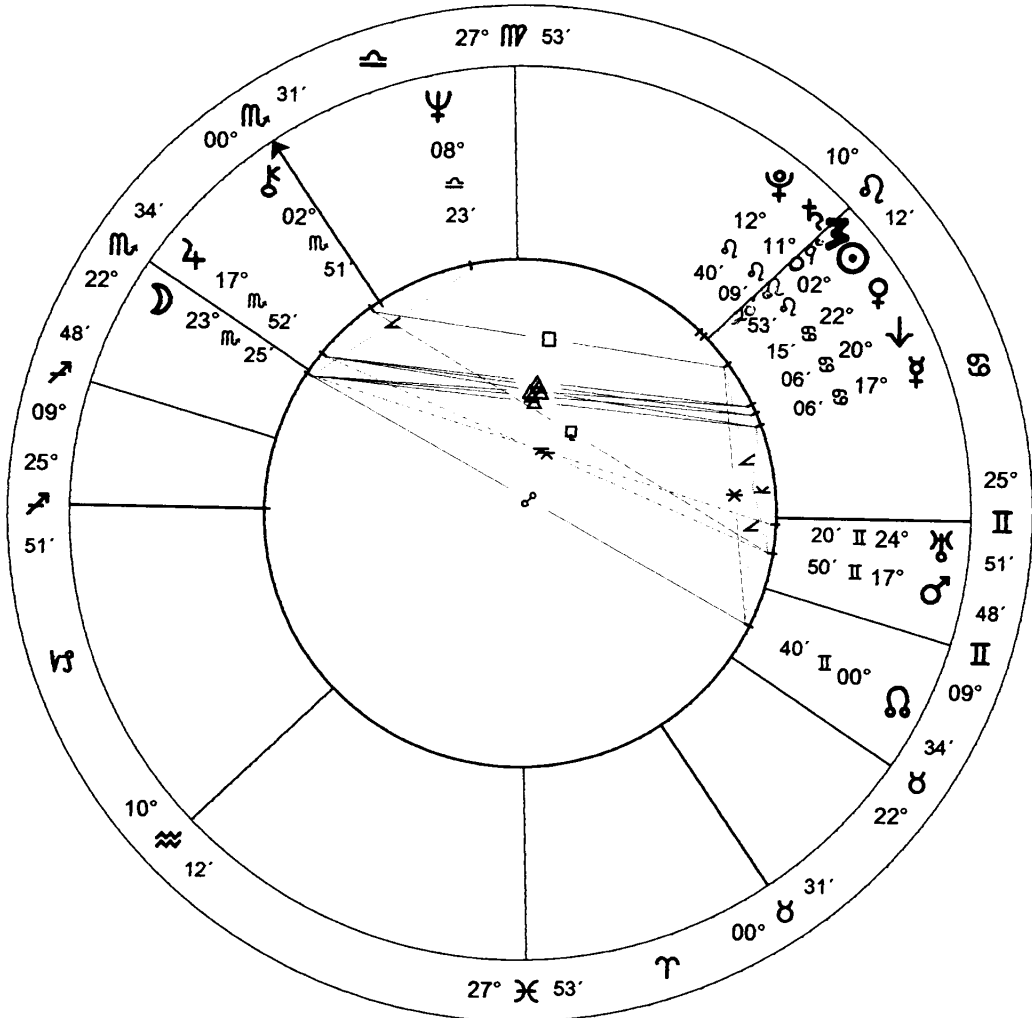


Chart 2

October 26, 1952

43S32 172E38

Tropical

Placidus

True Node

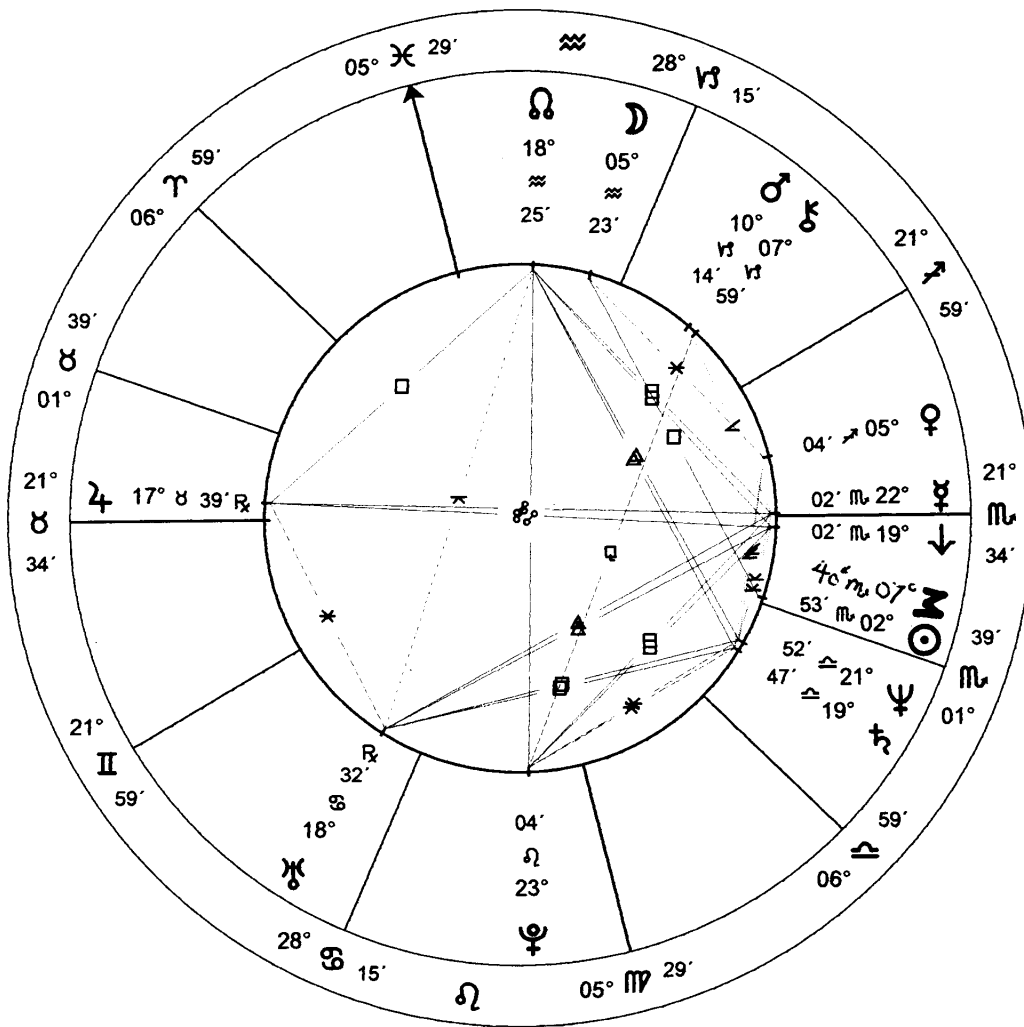


Chart 3

January 16, 1933

46N02 009E22

Tropical

Placidus

True Node

