

A SHAMANIC INVESTIGATION OF VENUS AND MARS

Part Two

Mars and The Venus/Mars Saga

by

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Part one of this investigation introduced the principals of Shamanic Astrology and then applied that perspective to the cycles of Venus. Part two will first explore the cycles of Mars, and then describe the characteristics and implications of the relationship *between* Venus and Mars.

In Shamanic Astrology, Mars symbolizes the male principal, not to be confused with the male gender.*¹ By sign, Mars symbolizes a specific archetype of the masculine (see Mars archetypes page nine). The sign position of Mars, for a man, represents his current life intent for his specific version of the masculine that he is developing. Mars, by sign, for a woman, describes her connection to her masculine side, her "animus," or what is projected onto external partners. Ultimately, this is her "sacred marriage" where she takes responsibility for her masculine side. Exploring the actual observable Mars planetary cycle, from an earth centered perspective reveals amazing new (old) realms for understanding the Mars mysteries.

Where To Begin The Mars Cycle

Unlike Venus and Mercury (planets "interior" to Earth's orbit), Mars can attain a full opposition to the Sun, or can create a 180 degree aspect with the Sun. For an Earth-based observer, this means that Mars can be seen at any time during a night, not just near the horizon around sunrise or sunset, as with Mercury and Venus. Also, when Mars rises heliacally in the east in the morning, (or sets in the west in the evening) he is dim and unimpressive, because Mars is on the other side of the Sun farthest from Earth in its orbit. By comparison, when Venus is rising heliacally, she is making her closest approach to Earth and is at her brightest, most dramatic phase of her cycle, in addition to being retrograde at the same time. Also retrograde, Mars is closest, brightest, and most dramatic at its

opposition. From Shamanic Astrology's perspective these are the determining factors when considering the starting point for the Mars cycle.

At opposition, Mars rises in the east exactly as the Sun sets in the west. This is when Mars is noticeably visible *all night*. At midnight, Mars reaches its highest point overhead on the ecliptic, and then sets in the west, just as the Sun rises in the east. Also, in its observable path, Mars is always retrograde at opposition, retracing the area of the sky it has just recently crossed,

MARS SYNODIC CYCLES

1 synodic cycle	779.94 days
15 years	5,478.63 days -19.07 days before birthday
7 synodic cycles	5,459.57 days
47 years	17,166.38 days -7.74 days before birthday
22 synodic cycles	17,158.64 days
79 years	28,854.13 days +3.58 days after birthday
37 synodic cycles	28,857.71 days

visually highlighting that stellar region. This is the only time in the Mars cycle that fulfills the shamanic criterion of brightest, closest, retrograde, and most visibly dramatic. Hence, from this perspective, the Mars cycle begins when it reaches exact opposition to the Sun.

The 26 Month Synodic Cycle

Scientists measure the Mars synodic cycle as an average of 779.94 days (see table above). Unlike Venus, which has a near perfect orbital regularity, producing a beautiful, magical geometry of eight year cycles (described in Part One), the Mars cycle is more erratic, fluctuating between two

years, 34 days and two years, 80 days.*²

When beginning the Mars cycle at opposition to the Sun (Mars rising in the east as the Sun is setting in the west), the roughly 26 month time frame displays a regular, repeating series of phases, which like Venus, is archetypal and unique. Thus, as previously discussed in Part One, neither Mars or Venus cycles are comparable to the Sun/Moon cycle, but rather have their own distinct phases. The phases for Mars are as follows.

1. *Opposition to Eastern Quadrature (90 degree angle with Sun) Three to Three and a half months*

Mars is seen higher and higher at sunset in the east, until at quadrature Mars is directly over head at sunset. Near the beginning of this phase, the retrograde movement ends, and Mars is brightest and closest.

2. *Eastern Quadrature to Heliacal Setting—Six to Seven Months*

Mars slowly sinks lower and lower in the west, as seen after sunset, until it disappears at dusk. The brightness of Mars gradually fades as it recedes from Earth.

3. *Heliacal setting to Heliacal Rising—Five to Six Months*

Mars is invisible at this time, too close to the Sun to be seen. This is when Mars is "in the underworld."

4. *Heliacal Rising to Western Quadrature—Six to Seven Months*

Mars, while quite dim, appears before sunrise about 15 degrees elevation, and slowly gains altitude and brightness, until it is seen rising in the east at midnight (or directly overhead at dawn).

5. *Western Quadrature to Opposition—Three to Three and a Half Months.*

Gaining in magnitude and dominance, Mars rises earlier and earlier in the evening before midnight, until again reaching the start of another cycle, at opposition. Near the end of this phase retrograde begins.

6. The Retrograde Phase

On average, the length of the retrograde loop phase is 74 days or two and a half months. This can actually vary from 60 days to 82 days. There is a qualitative difference between the retrograde before and after opposition that I'll explain later.

Tracking a Mars Cycle Shamanically on page 19 details the current unfolding Mars cycle beginning with the March 17, 1997 Mars opposition with Sun. The retrogrades are included to show the transitions between cycles.

Mythic Applications

The visible movements of Mars, unlike Venus, are always from east to west (not including the retrograde), steadily moving from the eastern horizon at sunrise to the western horizon at sunset. Also, unlike Venus, relative to our earth-centered observation, Mars escapes the influence of the Sun and the horizon, spending many weeks commanding the entire night. These qualities coincide with the themes of warrior and hero's quest.

Mars as warrior/hero begins his quest at sunset, rising in the east, blood red, brilliant, flushed with strength.*³ For nearly a year, the warrior/hero traverses the evening sky, moving through as many as eight signs. Then over the next six months, or so, the quest continues into the underworld, where the hero "dies" or is "blinded" or some other similar experience. Then, the rebirth of the warrior occurs when a visible, but dim Mars rises heliacally. Over the next nine months, the warrior/hero, having acquired greater wisdom through his trials in the underworld, gains strength. Also, Mars continues to integrate the wisdom gained from his previous experiences while traversing four or five more signs before beginning a new quest, signaled by the next opposition with the Sun.

Although there are numerous, beyond count, examples from every continent depicting Mars as the symbol for a warrior or hero, the Skidi Pawnee of Oklahoma and Kansas*⁴ are the best known example of a culture that connected with the Mars cycle using the warrior imagery with a direct, precise *As Above, So Below* correspondence. They perceived Mars as "Morning Star" and "Great Star," a celestial warrior. Part of

Great Star's quest was to capture "White Star Woman" (Venus). Later we will examine this combined Venus/Mars mythos.

Meanwhile, relevant to the theme of the warrior/hero's journey is Great Star's task to conquer ten specific "hard things" placed in his path by White Star Woman, including a huge serpent, and subduing the four commanding stars of the four quadrants, identified with Sirius, Antares, Capella, and Vega. This journey through the signs and constellations is a perfect mythic expression of the warrior's journey, or hero's quest, portraying *As Above, So Below*. This journey is archetypally masculine, although certainly not restricted to the male gender.

Link To Modern Psychological Archetypes

The use of ancient myth has a significant, though limited part to play, due to the danger of cultural projection and stereotyping that limits the full spectrum knowledge of the masculine principle. The main value of these myths is to reanimate the ability to think and imagine mythically and archetypally. The awakening and invigoration of that faculty, together with the direct experience of the cycle of the planets and constellations, creates conditions for producing a global, spiritual psychology that honors and stimulates freedom and individuality. To that end, the following applications are offered.

Finding The Overtone Mars

As with Venus, the natal Mars position, by sign and elongation from the Sun, exits within the larger context of the 26 month Martian synodic cycle. The overtone archetype for the entire 26 month cycle is the sign of Mars at opposition. The Mars table on page 10 lists all the overtones from 1901-2010.

Each 26 month period represents, on a collective level, the warrior's journey. This is the "world Mars", or collective masculine archetype seeking expression in that time frame. During each journey, the cultural and collective intent is to work with that specific archetype of masculinity and then integrate it at a deeper level. In this approach, all twelve versions of the warrior/hero are equally valid versions of the masculine and are appropriate to the archetype (see page 9). Of course, depending on the culture, certain archetypes are more favored and understood than others.

On a personal level, the overtone archetype is compared to the natal Mars. While the natal Mars is a subset of the overtone, or a phase of its development; the overtone is not dominant or more important. The individual intent is *primarily described by the natal position*, and then knowledge of the wider context provides further insights and clues.

For example, compare a natal Mars in Aquarius with a Cancer overtone, to natal Mars in Aquarius, with an Aquarian overtone. The personal intent to create avant-garde, progressive, spiritual or intellectual detachment, is easier and more straightforward with the Aquarian overtone. With the Cancerian overtone, the development of detachment comes out of a matrix of the feeling function and organic experience, while the Aquarian overtone may have no connection to a feeling function at all. One path is truly "heroic," the other, possibly, just an extreme development of its own nature.

A further note is required on finding the overtone with regard to retrogrades. If the natal Mars is retrograde before the opposition (phase five), then the overtone is the sign of the previous opposition. This unique placement represents the most comprehensive development of the previous archetype, or its most mature stage, since it has essentially completed its quest and is preparing to begin another one. If the natal Mars is retrograde after the opposition (phase one), it symbolizes the youthful, impetuous, reckless, and vigorous first flush of the new warrior/hero/god emerging at the beginning of a quest.

The Mars Return

The original inspiration for these articles included the discovery of the ancient use of a 15 year Mars cycle. This is the closest approximation to a Mars return, roughly analogous to the eight year Venus return cycle. Due to the aforementioned eccentric nature of the Mars orbit, the perfect geometry that exist with Venus does not exist with Mars. (The table on page 11 details the mathematics.) Every 15 years, or every seven synodic cycles, brings Mars relatively close to any given starting point. Unlike, Venus, which is only two days off every eight years, Mars is more than 19 days

off at its return. In my opinion, it's useless to run a Mars return chart, until the seventh synodic (or 15 year junction point) is reached, when the original intent of Mars is renewed at a higher octave. There also exists a larger context of greater precision, or extraordinary Mars return years. Age 47 recapitulates the original intent within seven days, and age 79 is even more exact, recapitulating within less than four days. When doing counseling work, I now have high on my list of priorities the synodic return cycles, especially the Mars returns at age 47 and 79. Ancient records reveal that the Babylonians, Greeks, and medieval astrologers were well aware of these cycles.*⁵ I highly recommend using them now.

Suggested Ceremonial Uses and Cultural Applications

Unlike Venus, the movement of Mars from one archetype to the next, at the shift from one synodic cycle to another, generally runs consecutively through the signs. Although, one sign is occasionally skipped (for example, March 17, 1997 begins Virgo followed by Scorpio April 25, 1999), Mars has no similarity to the idiosyncratic pattern of Venus precessing different points of the pentacle through a limited number of signs in any given generation.

The overtone archetype of Mars does lend itself for use in several ways. In "Men's Work", likened to a spiritual and cultural undertaking similar to the women's movement, the knowledge and application of the overtone archetype in relationship to Mars, has implications beyond its significance to a personal horoscope. For example, as of March 17, 1997, a new heroic quest or warrior's journey began for the "world animus" or the global masculine principle; in Virgo. In fact, with the exception of a temporary ingress into Libra, January 4 to March 8, 1997, Mars transited Virgo from October 31, 1996 until June 20, 1997! Meaning that the intended, general, cultural theme for men, is the discovery of the "sacred work," where the career, the job, and right livelihood issues converge into a concentrated desire to experience right livelihood aligned with life purpose, while making a meaningful contribution.

As Mars moves through different phases and shifts into different signs during its

journey (for example Mars moves into Scorpio in August 1997 during phase 2) additional layers of meaning emerge relative to the Virgo overtone. (See Tracking a Mars Cycle on page 19.) In this case, the quest for the sacred work (Virgo) is empowered by the desire for passion, eros, and intensity (Scorpio). In other words, the sacred work must be something that turns you on. This inspires the creation of a modern era mythos, using the Mars cycle by phase and archetype, comparable to the ancient Inanna/Erishkegal telling, which used the Venus cycle as its foundation.

For women, the Mars mysteries have direct relationship to the concept of the sacred marriage. Knowledge of the Mars cycle, and its archetypes, deliver important clues, not only in understanding what men are going through, but in the important work of taking responsibility for one's own masculine side. This creates an experience far beyond the culturally driven boundaries of the popular definitions of male and female (for example, the gender stereotyping found in such works as *Men are From Mars, Women are From Venus* etc.) which result in limited freedom for men and women to actualize the entire spectrum of possibilities. Here, the applications are limitless, and the main intent is to seed all the possibilities. Obviously, further research is needed using the synodic cycle of Venus and Mars as a foundation.

The Venus/Mars Saga

Once the knowledge and experience of the synodic cycles of Venus and Mars has been regained, the next logical question relates to their interaction. I am using the phrase "Venus/Mars Saga" to describe the archetypal relationship between the 584 day Venus cycle and the 26 month Mars cycle. The relationship is quite complex with two major expressions. One is The Great Saga and the other is The Invisible/Underworld Saga.

The Great Saga

Late in phase one, or early in phase two, Mars is high in the sky near the zenith at dusk. About this time, Venus emerges in the west, after her 60 day underworld initiation, beginning her 260 day evening star appearance. Now both Mars and Venus are visible in the evening sky. Mars sinks toward the west and Venus appears to rise up to

meet him. At some point within the 260 days of Venus visibility in the evening sky and before Mars sinks below the horizon, they conjoin. One of three possibilities takes place.

Great Saga A *One Conjunction/Two Conjunctions*

Great Saga B *Two Conjunctions/One Conjunction*

Great Saga Variation *They come within ten degrees but never exactly conjoin*

After Venus and Mars complete their dance together one of two things occurs. One, is Mars continues to set, eventually dropping below the horizon and Venus continue to rise to her maximum elongation in the evening sky. Or, two, Venus sets below the horizon first, on her way towards interior conjunction and heliacal rise, followed later by a much slower Mars. Then, Venus, completes her eight days in the underworld prior to changing archetypes, and rises dramatically with the Sun to begin a 260 day morning star phase.

During phase four, in Great Saga A, Mars slowly rises in the east and conjoins twice with Venus. In Great Saga B, Mars conjoins with Venus just once in the east. An occasional variation has no exact conjunction, but they do spend a long period close together, within ten degrees. Venus then completes her 260 day morning star phase and sinks into the underworld. Mars is now gaining in brightness, rising higher and higher in the morning sky on the way to begin a new quest. It is fascinating to note how each version of the Great Saga has a natural rhythm of its own. (See page 19 Saga Synopsis to gain familiarity.)

The Invisible/Underworld Saga

After two consecutive Great Sagas, the synodic cycles get out of synch. What happens, is that once Mars begins his quest, he never catches sight of Venus in the evening sky. Venus never appears during Mars' journey to the western horizon. This is because Venus is fully involved with her 260 day morning star appearance on the eastern horizon. However, once Mars sinks below the western horizon he does pass by Venus in the underworld as Venus is moving towards rising in the west as an evening star and Mars is moving to rising in the east as a morning star. These conjunctions are totally

unseen by the earth-based observer, even though Mars and Venus may conjoin as many as three times in the underworld. (Astronomically, this is an exterior conjunction of Venus and the Sun at the same time as Mars conjuncts the Sun.) Then, Mars rises in the east before sunrise to begin phase four, while Venus moves towards her appearance in the western sky. Thus, no conjunction occurs in the morning sky, either. During this the Invisible/Underworld Saga, an entire Mars overtone journey and two Venus archetypes are skipped as participants in Great Sagas, before Venus and Mars resynchronize to again enact a Great Saga.

Mythic Inspirations

Three mythic tales offer insight into the interplay of Venus and Mars from a mythoshamanistic perspective: including the already mentioned Pawnee Mars/Warrior story and the Inanna myth. The third is the ancient fairy tale of Rapunzel. One of the great inspirations for the research on these articles came from an amazing article by William Irwin Thompson: *Rapunzel: Of Plants, Women, And Lost Cosmologies*,⁶ first brought to my attention by friend and colleague Caroline Casey. Similar to what Clyde Hostetter has done with the Inanna story and Venus,⁷ Thompson sites numerous astronomical clues connected to the story of Rapunzel relating to the cycles of Venus, Mars and the Moon, among others. Space constraints prevent analyzing more than the most essential details of this story. Here is a brief synopsis of the fairy tale.

Rapunzel is a beautiful young maiden, raised by a sorceress named Frau Gothel. When Rapunzel reaches young womanhood, the sorceress isolates Rapunzel from the rest of the world by keeping her in a tower that can only be accessed through a high window. The sorceress calls to Rapunzel to let down her hair and she climbs up the tower. One day, a young Prince hears Rapunzel singing, and hides in nearby bushes to hear more. The sorceress soon arrives to pay Rapunzel a visit and the Prince learns the way into the tower. Thus, Rapunzel and the Prince meet and fall in love. When the sorceress discovers their relationship, she casts Rapunzel into the wasteland to wander alone and throws the Prince out the tower window. He falls into the bushes below,

where the thorns pierce his eyes, blinding him. He wanders alone in the darkness for many months, until finally one day he hears Rapunzel's voice. Rapunzel recognizes her long lost Prince, and rushes to embrace him. She is crying tears of love and compassion that fall on his blind eyes, restoring his vision. The Prince leads Rapunzel to his kingdom and they live happily ever after.

Thompson has this to say:^{*}

*"As Above, So Below". That is to say the apparent movement of the planet in the pre-Copernican world view, for in all this ancient lore, we have indeed moved back in time before modern, renaissance astronomy....If Rapunzel is Venus, then Frau Gothel must be the Moon and the conjunction of the two is a story, ...and of the other major heavenly bodies as well. And if Rapunzel is Venus, could it be that the prince is Mars, and that what is being documented is what the ancients called the 'courtship of Mars and Venus'?...Mars is by himself for awhile, and then his circuit intersects with Venus, and he lays with her...they stay in conjunction for awhile, then the Moon returns, he is driven out and wanders far into the wilderness, or the vast dark regions of the solar system, away from her and the earth... it tells us again that for the mythopoetic imagination of the ancients, knowledge, and complex knowledge was stored in images and hieroglyphs. We moderns, with our prosaic ratiocinative minds addicted to statistics and linear quantification, but not to pattern recognition, took many of these images literally in a stupid fundamentalist way, so that we could debunk the primitive, prescientific mentality and feel confident in the triumphs of industrial society. But this is as stupid as someone in a future culture making fun of us because we spoke of solar winds and magnetic fields, as if space were some sort of park."^{**8}*

Thompson goes on to relate many more cosmological details in the myth, including references to Mercury cycles. There is also enough information in the fairy tale to

describe the historical time frame corresponding to the purpose and agenda of the story. According to Thompson's interpretation, the Prince and Rapunzel reunite in the springtime when Venus rose out of the underworld as the morning star in the constellation of Gemini with the twin stars of Castor and Pollux. This occurred during the period of 6000-4000 BCE as the age of Gemini shifted to the age of Taurus. Thompson further believes that this fairy tale, inspired by the actual movement of Venus, Mars, and Moon etc. served a definite cultural purpose of telling the story of the shift from a matriarchal family unit to the prototypical patriarchal one. We see here a further example (like Inanna for Venus in Part One) of how myth, symbol and archetype change over time. And why new mythic renderings need to be dreamed and then draped onto the directly perceivable synodic cycles.

The most recent joining of Venus and Mars representing the climax of the Venus/Mars Saga of 1995-1996 occurred in the morning sky near summer solstice aligned with Aldebaran, the red star in the Bull (Taurus) constellation. While taking into account the warning against projecting ancient myth, along with the possible cultural and historical biases of the past, onto the present; never the less certain features of the Rapunzel tale do apply to the Great Saga, unfolding within a modern context.

The warrior/hero/Mars begins his quest (one of twelve archetypal expressions of masculinity, without reference to the female principle) while Venus is not yet visible. Mars experiences several weeks or months of solo questing with many adventures. Then Venus, representing a specific archetypal version of the feminine, rises in the west, after undergoing her 60 days of initiation in the underworld. Depending on the individual characteristics of the specific archetype, either Mars sets out in pursuit of Venus to capture or seduce her, or Venus attempts to attract Mars and get his attention. Any number of possibilities arise, including, indeed, the desire for conscious equal partnership.

Venus and Mars come together and have their first experiences of relationship, with either exact conjunctions or at least close

proximity together in the western sky. Each month, the crescent moon rises up and either successfully breaks them up or not. Eventually they do separate, usually with Mars disappearing for five to six months below the horizon (blinded in the wilderness) while Venus drifts up from the horizon looping alone in the evening sky (wasteland?). Venus, once again sinks into the underworld finishing her previous archetypal journey, and then rises heliacally, beginning a new expression of the goddess. Venus, then, encounters Mars again, who by now has successfully completed his five to six month underworld initiation, and is slowly rising in the morning sky. One or two exact conjunctions, or at least a close encounter, within ten degrees, takes place symbolizing another stage of relationship. The new Venus archetype compassionately greets the newly reborn warrior from the underworld, her tears curing his blindness.

It's difficult to know how much of the Rapunzel story is applicable today. For example, is the implication that true bonding (happily ever after) or successful relationship can only happen during the morning conjunction and that the evening conjunctions always result in separation? I think not. A new mythos is definitely needed to apply to the structure of a Great Saga. However, one element of the story has made a definite contribution to my understanding in relationship counseling.

When a Great Saga unfolds, from the time that Venus and Mars separate in the evening sky until they reunite in the morning, I have found this to be the least useful time to *work* on a relationship, regardless of whether the two individuals are intended to be together or not, i.e. it's a great relationship or totally dysfunctional. During this particular Venus/Mars separation, working on relationship problems tends to only make them worse. Instead, it's a wonderful time for working on the sacred marriage internally, or simply to develop the intended masculine or feminine archetype, solo, in autonomy and sovereignty. Check the appropriate images (chart one) to see how to proceed.

Once the reunion of Venus and Mars has occurred, working on the relationship bears fruit, even if that fruit is a successful break-up performed in love. Knowledge of

the overall Venus/Mars Saga's larger context is essential to the deeper understanding of relationship issues, personally and culturally. (The Venus/Mars Saga on page 17 and 18 describes in detail the currently unfolding saga.)

Other Mythic Themes From the Past

The Pawnee story, mentioned before, is a comprehensive cosmological epic, featuring the regular encounter between Mars (The Great Star) and Venus (White Star Woman). In this telling, Venus has no interest in Mars and throws up many "hard things" in his way, forcing him to accomplish many tasks. Finally, after passing all the tests, she consents to lie with him, giving birth to a daughter and producing fecundity on the land. In latter days, the Pawnee, ceremonially, enacted this with typical patriarchal overkill. Exactly replicating the stellar positions, a maiden was captured when Venus and Mars conjoined in the evening. She was held captive until the morning visibility of Venus and Mars and then ritually killed with an arrow through the heart, her blood symbolically fertilizing the land. This example strengthens the idea of refraining from projecting old cultural beliefs onto the present!

Still another example, is the story of Inanna, invariably told from her perspective, and since the myth survives from a matriarchal age, it has its own bias. There are surviving fragments of Inanna's story that have to do with her consort/lover Dumuzi (who is one of many ancient symbols for the dying and reborn God). Apparently, after Inanna returns from the underworld (the 60 day initiation), she encounters her lover, Dumuzi. It's usually interpreted that Inanna perceives Dumuzi as arrogant, haughty and having lack of concern for her during her absence, and she immediately sends him to the underworld. This scenario may, however, simply describe the natural celestial order of the Great Saga. Soon after Venus (Inanna) rises in west after her 60 days in the underworld, she encounters Mars (Dumuzi) in the evening sky. Then, Mars quickly disappears below the horizon, while Venus continues her evening star dance. It seems time to revision all of the stories of the dying and reborn Gods (i.e. Tammuz, Adonis, Baal, Dionysus, Orpheus, etc.), in

light of the Mars synodic cycle, particularly the Great Saga, A Modern Mythos.

The Emerging Venus/Mars Saga

Note how the currently unfolding Venus/Mars Great Saga (page 17 and 18) exists within the wider context of the pattern of Great and Invisible Sagas detailed in the Saga Synopsis on page 19. I've included many additional details beyond those of the key players for your imagination and research. There is certainly no clear (or dogmatic) mythos to project onto these cycles at this time. We have only just begun to think this way again. Let's start with the implications of the difference between the Great Saga A of 1994-1996, and the currently developing Great Saga B of 1996-1998.

In 1994-1996, Venus and Mars conjoined only once in the evening sky, followed by a quick separation, with Mars disappearing first into the underworld. Venus and Mars then conjoined twice in the morning sky and lingered together within ten degrees for over 100 days. This is reminiscent of the Rapunzel pattern. In Great Saga B, Venus conjoins Mars twice in the evening, linked together for nearly 90 days. The Moon clearly fails to break them up. Then, Venus disappears first into the underworld, instead of Mars. Venus joins with Mars only once in the morning sky, and only for about a month. Clearly, an entirely different mythos is needed to correspond to the different patterns.

Suggested Applications

Discover what type of Saga was occurring when you were born, and where you are personally in the Venus/Mars relationship. Was it one of the Great Sagas or was it an Invisible/Underworld Saga? What overtone archetypes of Venus and Mars were at play in the collective Saga at your birth? (See page 10.) Using myself as an example, I was born with a Leo Mars overtone and a Gemini Venus overtone. At the time of my birth, Mars was in phase two of a new quest, 38 degrees from the Sun in the evening sky. While researching this I discovered, to my shock (I have Libra Sun and Libra Rising), that Venus was fully ensconced in the morning sky and invisible to Mars. My Venus is at a 45 degree angle from the Sun, near its maximum distance of 48

degrees, in the morning phase. Thus, at my birth, no Great Saga was occurring at all. I began to fear the worst...was this an empty and even malefic time analogous, on a grader scale, to old concepts of combust planets?^{2,3}

When examining how this connects to my personal life, I noted how relationship has always been connected to my greatest experience of stress. As a Libra Sun and Libra Rising, I desired very much to experience a bonded committed relationship, but did not have the opportunity to marry until I was 43. As I researched the Saga material, I discovered that I had met, courted, and married my wife, closely within the dates of the 1990-1992 Great Saga, where Leo and Gemini successfully bonded. Could *As Above, So Below*, be this precise? So far, every case I have checked out, confirms there is something to this information.

When doing relationship counseling using this material, I recommend noticing the positions of Venus and Mars relative to the entire Saga. This includes the previously mentioned example of *refraining from working on* relationships during the separations of Venus and Mars, as well as noting the larger context of relationship patterns playing out in the sky. For example, 1994-1996 involved the attempted union of the warrior-king Leo with the sorceress-witch Scorpio! This was a problematic challenge to say the least, until the Scorpio goddess transformed into Gemini in June of 1996 and bonded with the Leo god throughout that entire summer. Mars began a new quest in Virgo, March 17, 1997 and successfully bonds with the goddess Gemini in October, 1997 in the evening sky, until they split up. Then, the Virgo god (Mars) forms a brief union with the newly transformed Capricornian goddess (Venus) in the summer of 1998.

Another remarkable phenomenon to consider is the almost exact recapitulation of the cycles of Venus and Mars at age 32 and 64. The role of Venus is easily understood as these ages fall within the eight year cognate of the Venus return. However, due to the eccentricity of the cycle of Mars, sometimes an eighth synodic cycle, after a given starting point, is even closer than the seventh one. This happens at age 32 and 64

creating a double return of Venus and Mars, closely reenacting the original Saga occurring at birth.

I have found the preliminary research provocative and intriguing, although more research is greatly needed. Feedback and help, in this emerging and limitless project dedicated to creating a new (old) foundation that encourages the development of appropriate myths and symbols for the masculine and feminine principles while connecting with their ever-changing and evolving relationship dance, are welcomed.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. An interesting commentary can be made here. The current cultural "wisdom" as to the meaning of male and female includes the belief that women are flexible and changeable (fickle), and men are steadfast (stubborn or dense). This sometimes is justified using *As Above, So Below* by defining the Moon as feminine and the Sun as masculine. After all, the Sun's cycles are exactly the same every year while the Moon's is highly eccentric, taking 19 years for it to repeat itself. As described in Part One, those attributions are rejected in favor of using Venus and Mars as symbols for female and male. In this case, investigating the *As Above, So Below* implications, it's Venus that is more steadfast and predictable than Mars! This serves as a shamanic warning against, cultural stereotyping and projection!
2. That, also, can significantly alter the distance of Mars from Earth.
3. During a particularly close opposition, Mars attains a magnitude only surpassed by Venus. During an extremely close opposition, Mars is nearly twice as close to Earth as at a distant one.
4. See *Living The Sky*, by Ray Williamson, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman Oklahoma, 1984, pp.: 218-235 and *Beyond The Blue Horizon*, By Ed Krupp, Harper/Collins Publishers, New York, 1991, pp. 187-192.
5. Part One (TMA Feb/Mar 1997) included the tables.
6. *Rapunzel: Of Plants, Women, and Lost Cosmologies* by William Irwin Thompson from *Annals Of Earth*, 10 Shanks Pond Rd, Falmouth, MA 02540, Volume V Number 2, 1987

7. See Part One (TMA Feb/Mar 1997).

8. See Note Six, p.10.

9. I have barely begun to formulate an acceptable modern context mythos for the Invisable/Underworld Saga.

Note on Notes-consult Part One (TMA Feb/Mar 1997) for the more complete Bibliography for this investigation.

Biography of Daniel Giamario

Daniel Giamario, creator of the Astrological Vision Quest^(sm) and founder of the Harbingers Of The Turning Of The Ages, has been a professional astrologer for over 26 years. He has created a unique psychological, mythological and spiritual synthesis, that has as the primary intent, a person's discovery of their life purpose. Since 1982, Daniel's specialty has been connecting astrology to the night sky at sacred sites by taking groups to secluded wilderness locations to experience their interrelatedness to the earth and sky.

Currently, Daniel is working on several books about astrology, covering new information and adding to the information covered in his first book, *The Shamanic Astrology Handbook*, with co-author Carolyn Brent, available from JCA Unlimited, PO Box 91498, Tucson, AZ 85752 for \$27.00, which includes priority mail shipping.

He is available for personal consultations and relationship counseling (see back page). Also, as a past host of his own radio show, Daniel is a lively and stimulating radio and television guest.

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Note: This article was designed and edited by Carolyn Brent, co-author of The Shamanic Astrology Handbook. To obtain additional copies of this printing send \$8.00 (postpaid) to:

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Also available from JCA Unlimited are high quality computer charts, The Shamanic Astrology Handbook, and other services. Contact Carolyn at the above address and phone for more information.

THE VENUS AND MARS SAGA

1996-1998 CYCLE

PREPARATION BEFORE VENUS AND MARS MEET

DATE	PLANET/EVENT	TIME*	SIGN	° from ☉	SIGNIFICANCE
Jun 17, 1996	Venus Heliacal Rising		16 ♀		Begin 584 day journey of ♀
Feb 05, 1997	Mars Begins Retrograde	4:24 PM	05 ♄		
Mar 01, 1997	Mars Retrograde ♂☉	11:55 PM	27 ♃	180° from ☉	Begin 765 day journey of masculine ♃ quest
Aug 09, 1997	Jupiter Retrograde ♂☉	5:39 AM	17 ♃	180° from ☉	Integration of ♃ archetype as spiritual theme
Feb 21, 1997	Venus Disappears From Morning Sky Begins 80 Days In The Underworld				
Mar 17, 1997	Mars Rises In East At Sunset, Directly Overhead At Midnight, Begins "Warriors Journey" Or Heroes Quest Of The Masculine Archetype Of Virgo				

VENUS AND MARS COME TOGETHER

May 12, 1997 Venus Rises In The West, Begins 260 Days In Evening Sky, Continues Archetypal Journey Of The Feminine In Gemini. Mars is high in the evening sky, rapidly moving toward the west, first makes visual contact with Venus, who is now rising in the west.

DATE	PLANET/EVENT	TIME*	SIGN	° from ☉	AM OR PM SKY
May 12, 1997	Venus Rises as Evening Star		01 ♀	10° from ☉	Evening Sky
May 12, 1997	Mars is 106° from Venus		18 ♃	116° from ☉	Evening Sky
May 12, 1997	Venus and Mars see each other				
Oct 26, 1997	Venus ♂ Mars #1	03:34 AM	20 ♃	46° from ☉	Evening Sky
Nov 03, 1997	Moon ♂ Mars	09:38PM	26 ♃	44° from ☉	Evening Sky
Nov 04, 1997	Moon ♂ Venus (6th time)	02:48 AM	29 ♃	46° from ☉	Evening Sky
Dec 02, 1997	Moon ♂ Mars	07:12PM	18 ♃	47° from ☉	Evening Sky
Dec 03, 1995	Moon ♂ Venus (7th time)	06:52 AM	24 ♃	43° from ☉	Evening Sky
Dec 22, 1997	Venus ♂ Mars #2	01:43 PM	03 ♃	33° from ☉	Evening Sky
Dec 26, 1997	Venus Stat. Retrograde	01:20 PM	03 ♃56	28° from ☉	Evening Sky
Dec 31, 1997	Moon ♂ Venus (8th time)	04:56 AM	03 ♃30	24° from ☉	Evening Sky
Dec 31, 1997	Moon ♂ Mars	05:25PM	10 ♃22	31° from ☉	Evening Sky
Oct 02, 1997 to Jan 03, 1998	Venus and Mars within 10° of each other				
Jan 10, 1998	Venus Disappears From Evening Sky - Prepares For Rebirth Into New Archetype				

DATE	PLANET/EVENT	SIGN	° from ☉	AM OR PM SKY
Jan 23, 1998	Venus Heliacal Rising In Capricorn	24 ♃	10° from ☉	Morning Sky
Feb 05, 1998	Venus Resumes Direct Motion	18 ♃	28° from ☉	Morning Sky
Mar 07, 1998	Mars disappears from Evening Sky	02 ♃	15° from ☉	
Jul 09, 1998	Mars rises in Morning Sky	02 ♃	15° from ☉	Morning Sky
Aug 05, 1998	Venus ♂ Mars #3	19 ♃	23° from ☉	Morning Sky
Jul 18 - Aug 24, 1998	Venus ♂ Mars within 10°			

MERCURY AS PART OF VENUS/MARS SAGA

DATE	PLANET/EVENT	SIGN	° from ☉	AM OR PM SKY
Jan 27, 1998	Venus ♂ Mercury	20 ♃	15° from ☉	Morning Sky
	Just after Venus rises heliacally to begin the Capricorn journey, she meets with Mercury low in the Morning Sky			
Mar 11, 1998	Mercury ♂ Mars invisible, too close to Sun to be seen, just as Mars disappears into underworld			
Apr 01, 1998	Mercury ♂ Mars invisible in the underworld			
Jun 05, 1998	Mercury ♂ Mars invisible in the underworld			

Note: Mercury has much less to do with this saga than the previous one. In this saga there are no visible engagements with Mars at all.

THE VENUS AND MARS SAGA continued

1996-1998 CYCLE

MERCURY AS PART OF THE GEMINI VENUS INTEGRATION CYCLE

DATE	PLANET/EVENT	TIME*	SIGN	°from☉	AM OR PM SKY
Jan 07, 1997	Moon ♂ Venus (7th ♂ in AM)	8:43 AM	26 ♊	20°from ☉	Morning Sky
Jan 27, 1997	Mercury ♂ Venus	6:30 AM	03 ♉	19°from ☉	Morning Sky
Jan 27, 1997	Mercury rises the morning sky to meet a rapidly sinking Venus as she quickly goes into the underworld for 80 days. This occurs just after the seventh meeting of Venus with the Moon when Venus loses the seventh and last of her garments.				

DATE	PLANET/EVENT	TIME*	SIGN	°from☉	AM OR PM SKY
Mar 02, 1997	Mercury ♂ Venus	6:32 AM	03 ♋		Invisible In The Underworld
Apr 22, 1997	Mercury ♂ Venus	10:55	AM	07	♉ Invisible in the underworld

In late July and early August of 1997, Mercury almost catches Venus in the evening, but there is no exact conjunction. This is precisely where precession has changed the orbital patterns enough so that the events of 2000 BC in Sumeria can't happen now. The conjunction did occur then.

OTHER PLAYERS IN THE INVISIBLE DRAMA

DATE	PLANET/EVENT	TIME*	SIGN	°from☉	AM OR PM SKY
Jan 21, 1997	Jupiter enters Aquarius	7:12 AM			
Feb 05, 1997	Jupiter ♂ Venus	5:48 PM	04 ♒	14°from ☉	Just Before Disappearing From Morning Sky
Feb 06, 1997	Moon ♂ Venus	8:16 AM	04 ♒	14°from ☉	
Jan 21, 1998	Jupiter ♂ Mars	12:12 PM	27 ♒	26°from ☉	Evening Sky
	Just as Venus is rising heliacally!				
Feb 04, 1998	Jupiter enters Pisces				
Apr 23, 1998	Jupiter ♂ Venus		18 ♋	45°from ☉	Morning Sky
May 29, 1998	Saturn ♂ Venus		29 ♄	38°from ☉	Morning Sky

MERCURY AS PART OF THE CAPRICORN VENUS INTEGRATION CYCLE

DATE	PLANET/EVENT	SIGN	°from☉	AM OR PM SKY
Aug 20, 1998	Moon ♂ Venus (7th time in AM)	08 ♎	19°from ☉	Morning Sky
Aug 27, 1998	Mercury ♂ Venus	18 ♎	16°from ☉	Morning Sky

Mercury rises in the morning to meet a rapidly sinking Venus as she again goes into the underworld for 80 days, occurring shortly after the seventh Moon, Venus conjunction and the loss of her last garment.

DATE	PLANET/EVENT	SIGN	°from☉	AM OR PM SKY
Sep 11, 1998	Mercury ♂ Venus	06 ♍		Invisible In The Underworld
Nov 29, 1998	Mercury ♂ Venus	13 ♏		Invisible In The Underworld

Venus and Mercury meet again after Venus rises in the evening sky.

*Times for events are given as Pacific Standard Time

Key to symbols: ♈ Aries, ♉ Taurus, ♊ Gemini, ♋ Cancer, ♌ Leo, ♍ Virgo, ♎ Libra, ♏ Scorpio, ♐ Sagittarius, ♑ Capricorn, ♒ Aquarius, ♋ Pisces, ☉ Sun, ♂ Conjunction, ♀ Opposition

SAGA SYNOPSIS

1982-1983 Great Saga A

Mars overtone Libra seeks Venus overtone Capricorn. They join once in evening (western sky). Venus transforms to overtone Leo-Virgo. Mars and Venus join twice in the morning (eastern sky).

1984-1985 Great Saga B

Mars overtone Scorpio seeks Venus overtone Leo/Virgo. Venus transforms to Aries overtone and they join once in eastern morning sky.

1986-1987 Invisible/Underworld Saga

Mars overtone Capricorn fails to visibly conjoin with Venus overtone Aries or Scorpio. Union occurs in the underworld in Leo.

1988-1989 Great Saga A (variation)

Mars overtone Aries seeks Venus overtone Gemini. They join once in the western evening sky. Venus transforms to overtone Capricorn. No exact union occurs in the eastern morning sky

1990-1992 Great Saga B

Mars overtone Gemini seeks Venus overtone Capricorn. They join twice in the western morning sky. Venus transforms into overtone Leo. They join once in the eastern morning sky.

1993-1994 Invisible/Underworld Saga

Mars overtone Cancer fails to visibly conjoin with Venus overtones Leo or Aries. Union occurs in the underworld in Capricorn in early 1994.

1995-1996 Great Saga A

Mars overtone Leo seeks Venus overtone Scorpio. They join together once in the western evening sky. Venus transforms into overtone Gemini. They join twice in the eastern morning sky.

1996-1998 Great Saga B

Mars overtone Virgo seeks Venus overtone Gemini. They join together twice in the western evening sky. Venus transforms into overtone Capricorn. They join once in the eastern morning sky.

1999-2000 Invisible/Underworld

Mars overtone Scorpio fails to visibly conjoin with Venus overtones Capricorn or Leo. Union occurs in the underworld in Cancer in 2000.

2001-2002 Great Saga A (variation)

Mars overtone Sagittarius seeks Venus overtone Aries. They join once in the western evening sky. Venus transforms into overtone Scorpio. No exact union occurs in the eastern morning.

2003-2004 Great Saga B (variation)

Mars overtone Pisces seeks Venus overtone Scorpio. No exact union in the western evening sky. Venus transforms into overtone Gemini. They join once in the eastern morning sky.

2005-2006 Invisible/Underworld Saga

Mars overtone Taurus fails to visibly conjoin with either Venus overtones Gemini or Capricorn. Union occurs in the underworld in Libra in 2006.

2007-2008 Great Saga A (minor variation)

Mars overtone Cancer seeks Venus overtone Leo. Venus transforms into overtone Aries. They join (exactly) once in the eastern morning sky.

2009-2010 Great Saga B

Mars overtone Leo seeks Venus overtone Aries. They join twice in the western evening sky. Venus transforms into overtone Scorpio. They join once in the eastern morning sky.

Great Saga A emphasizes the morning sky conjunctions

Great Saga B emphasizes the evening sky conjunctions

TRACKING A MARS CYCLE SHAMANICALLY 1997-1999 CYCLE MASCULINE ARCHETYPAL INTEGRATION FOR VIRGO

MARS CYCLE	DATE	SIGN	from ☉	SIGNIFICANCE
Retrograde Begins	Feb 5, 97	06 ♋	131° from ☉	Completes ♋ Quest, Prepares for ♋ quest
Mars ☿ Sun	Mar 17, 97	27 ♋	180° from ☉	Mars Begins ♋ Quest
	Apr 1, 97	21 ♋	159° from ☉	PHASE ONE (3 To 3 1/2 Months)
Mars Stationary Direct	Apr 28, 97	16 ♋	129° from ☉	
	Jun 1, 97	23 ♋	92° from ☉	
	Jul 1, 97	05 ♌	86° from ☉	PHASE TWO (6 TO 7 Months)
	Aug 1, 97	22 ♌	73° from ☉	
	Sep 1, 97	11 ♌	62° from ☉	
	Oct 1, 97	02 ♍	53° from ☉	
	Nov 1, 97	24 ♍	45° from ☉	
	Dec 1, 97	17 ♎	35° from ☉	
	Jan 1, 98	11 ♎	30° from ☉	
	Feb 1, 98	05 ♏	24° from ☉	
	Mar 7, 98	01 ♏	15° from ☉	Mars Disappears From Evening Sky
Mars ☿ Sun	May 13, 98	23 ♏	00° from ☉	PHASE THREE (4 TO 6 Months)
	Jul 9, 98	02 ♏	15° from ☉	Mars Rises In Morning Sky
	Aug 1, 98	17 ♏	21° from ☉	
	Sep 1, 98	07 ♏	31° from ☉	PHASE FOUR (6 TO 7 Months)
	Oct 1, 98	26 ♏	41° from ☉	
	Nov 1, 98	15 ♏	54° from ☉	
	Dec 1, 98	26 ♏	41° from ☉	
	Jan 1, 99	18 ♏	82° from ☉	
	Feb 1, 99	18 ♏	82° from ☉	PHASE FIVE (3 TO 3 1/2 Months)
	Mar 1, 99	02 ♏	119° from ☉	
Mars Begins Retrograde	Mar 18, 99	12 ♏	134° from ☉	Completes ♏ Quest, Prepares for ♏ quest
	Apr 1, 99	11 ♏	150° from ☉	
Mars ☿ Sun	Apr 25, 99	04 ♏	180° from ☉	Mars Begins ♏ Quest
				Begins Next PHASE ONE

Key to symbols: ♏ Aries, ♏ Taurus, ♏ Gemini, ♏ Cancer, ♏ Leo, ♏ Virgo, ♏ Libra, ♏ Scorpio, ♏ Sagittarius, ♏ Capricorn, ♏ Aquarius, ♏ Pisces, ☉ Sun, ☿ Conjunction.