

## Decoding the Oracular Messages of the Planetary Emissaries

### Mercury Guiding Star Natal Report for July 13, 1954

by Gary P. Caton (copyright 2009)

**Behold, Magi came to Jerusalem, saying, *Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His Star in the East [or at its rising] and have come to worship Him.* -Matthew 2:1-4**

The wise men of biblical lore are known by scholars to have been Zoroastrian priest/astrologers who held and practiced the secret knowledge of astrology before it was divorced from astronomy. Scholars assert they were following the heavenly birth of the wandering star Jupiter to the birth of Christ on earth. As above, so below.

In contrast with most astrologers today, I practice an ancient form of Visual Astrology deeply connected to astronomy and the cyclical appearance of the Wandering Stars -or visible planets (the word *planere* meaning: “wanderer”). These wanderers move to and fro against the backdrop of the fixed stars or constellations.

Just as the Magi followed a particular Star to the birth of Jesus, at each person's birth there is a particular Star announcing its presence most prominently in the Heavens. This is your personal Guiding Star.

Your personal Guiding Star is the speediest of these wanderers, the fleet-footed Mercury. You were born near one of the the most important moments for Mercury when he was nearing a place where he will stop and stand still in the sky before turning and moving forward and finally re-appearing to visibility (and to be re-born in the East). This is very much like those fleeting moments when the dancing Tinkerbell stands still or when the elusive Golden Snitch hovers in place, begging Harry Potter to capture it!

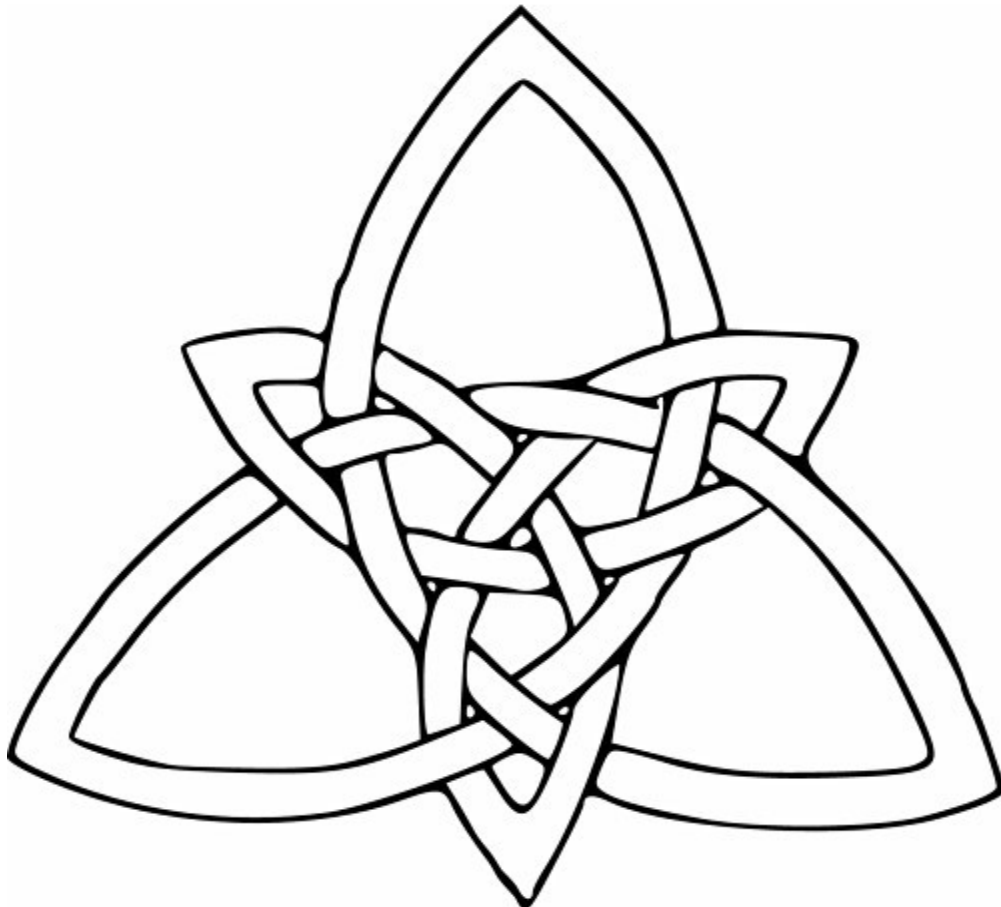


The Greeks called the planet Mercury, Hermes. Hermes was God of highways, thieves, and also trade, profit and commerce. The word *mercurial* is commonly used to refer to something or someone erratic, volatile or unstable. Why is this? Well, because of his speediness, it appears visually that Mercury dies and is reborn 3 times each year! Compared to the 12, 19 and 26 month cycles of the other visible planets, Mercury is in virtually a constant state of Transformation.

This state of constant transformation is why Hermes/Mercury became associated with Alchemy. The Hermetic maxims: “As above, so below. As within, so without” also form the foundation of Astrology. The very name of this mythic figure Hermes Trismegistus (thrice great) -suggests a connection with Trinitarian principles.

Mercury’s synodic period (his relationship with the Sun) is very interesting. Every 7 years he completes 22 orbits. This (22/7) is the ratio of Pi –the ratio of any circles circumference to its diameter. Pi is perhaps the most notorious irrational number –and this suggests to me that Mercury has more to do with abstract thought than pure logic. Ptolemy needed a more complex formula for Mercury than for any other planet. Even Newtonian physics was unable to give a complete explanation of its orbit. Eventually Einstein's general relativity theory explained the phenomenon in terms of a distortion of the fabric of time/space by the Sun's gravity. Mercury synodic returns occur at ages 7, 13, 26, 33, 46, 52, 59, 66, 79, and 92. So if you are in any of these years it will carry a extra distinctive Mercurial flavor.

There are in fact three complete Mercury cycles (of about 116 days) each year. This of course again suggests a connection with trinitarian principles.



### **Mercury in Cancer: Your personal Mercury energy**

At the moment of your birth your Guiding Star Mercury, was traveling through the Zodiac sign Cancer. Cancer is a Cardinal Water sign. What this means is that Cancer carries the energy of initiating activity of a watery nature. The Water element is about emotion, compassion and spiritual depth. So, your Guiding Star being in this sign means that you will very much need people or causes to empathize with and outlets to express your abundant emotional energy. The Cardinal form of Water is a torrent, such as rain, a river, or the tidal flow of the ocean. You will need to experience the Mercurial activities of walking, riding or cruising through the local neighborhoods to stimulate your imagination. You also have a very restless mind which will always want to be exploring new ways of connecting things and ideas. You have an intuitive mind and your survival instincts are powerful. In the moment you may instinctively respond to any of life's challenges defensively. This often takes the form of protective behavior or words which makes other people uncomfortable because of their raw emotion. You cannot afford to be worried about censoring yourself, but a moment of objectivity can go a long way to ease tensions. This may take the form of calmly stating the emotional truth of the situation and your concerns about where it is going. Your intuition is so strong that you will know people's emotions before you are supposed to be able to. I suggest you learn how to play your cards somewhat close to your vest because your direct manner of emotional expression can take on some appearance of moodiness. Your keen instincts for feeling what is around the bend can make you like an emotional watchdog, raising a fuss at each passing stranger. This position seems to be seeking emotional discernment and leadership.

### **Mercury in Cancer: Your collective Mercury energy**

Just after your birth, your Guiding Star had a birth of its own. Your Star arose from invisibility within the realm of the Underworld and announced its presence back in the realm of the Sky. Like any other birth, this event is very worthy of our attention. Babylonian records show that the ancient Babylonian Astrologers watched the heliacal rising of Mercury with fanatical attention.

The sign of your Guiding Star's birth represents a collective expression for the group of souls born within this 4 month cycle. Think of it as the energy that your personal Mercury energy is growing into as it evolves from self knowledge toward its path of service to the collective social group.

Because Cancer, as the cardinal form of water, represents a torrent -this is inherently an energy which seems to stir things up into a kind of soup or stew. Imagine also a flood or a tidal zone where all sorts of things are swept up and washed downstream or ashore. Obviously this is at once a sort of destructive and yet also very fertile energy. This is already a very collective energy wherein the identity of any of the ingredients may be hidden or intermittent depending on how vigorously the stew is being stirred. Obviously this sounds very much like how a team ideally operates, where any of the individual egos come into play only as the cosmic spoon is dipped into the stew and something is picked out.

Here again we can see that this energy is serving those with the discernment and initiative to sort through the detritus and find nourishment. This is how you will know those whom you are to serve. Your offering is a sort of buffet from which each will pick what it is they need. It is important that you not take their selections personally. A jaguar eats the big chunks of stew while the plover picks up the tiniest tidbits. Even some of the feast you have prepared will go untouched. This is of no concern for you. Yours is only to wash along what you find and deposit it in the lowest place. Like the Nile who brings the rich fertile silt to farmers, others may identify you with your gifts but you should always understand yourself as only a medium. You are not the message but instead the deliverer.

### **Mercury Station Direct: Your Guiding Star Phase**

You were born just before Mercury stood still in the sky before turning direct and beginning his journey up from the Underworld to be re-born. Mercury retrograde is the time that the "seed message" is impressed upon Mercury at the beginning of its cycle. You carry within you this seed message which is a collective message of direct emotional expressions.



You were born while your Guiding Star was still invisible within the Womb of the Earth. Your personal birth within the sign of your Guiding Star's birth seems to indicate that it will be very hard for you to distinguish the personal from the collective. You will probably feel the energies of the environment as if they are your own. Because your personal mode of expression is very much in tune with the collective energies of this entire Soul group, you may feel as if you are destined to be a spokesperson for something larger than yourself. In fact, you may be drawn to very collective situations such as living in a commune, monastery or ashram. It is important for you to understand, however, that in order to surrender your personal ego -you must first have one to give! Only by fully developing and individuating your own personal emotional expressive capabilities can you then surrender these into service to the collective. It is not about giving up having a personal energy, but whether this is eventually employed not in service to the personal ego but rather the greater collective.

What is happening at Mercury's station direct is that he goes from invisibility and draws farther from the Sun until he re-appears into the visible realm. So, visually your Mercury stands at the Gate leading from the UnderWorld. This marks you as an explorer who carries the gifts or seed from unknown realms. This also signifies an enormous potential which you may never in fact fully or perfectly realize. Nevertheless, it does seem to portend your visible arrival on the scene at some point. You may have some reluctance at becoming noticed because you seem to understand that once your seed begins to sprout it's enormous potential is then limited by the quality of soil upon which it falls. "The one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the one who hears the word and understands it."

We can see the life cycle of your Guiding Star has 4 phases. This can be seen like a compressed version of the 4 seasons (with Mercury turning direct representing late winter just before the sprouting of the seeds). Because Mercury has two visible and two invisible phases, we can also view this cycle as metaphorical to the life cycle of the Butterfly.



Mercury turning direct marks the approaching time when the Caterpillar hatches from the egg for the next cycle to begin seeking experiences. So in many ways both your personal and collective Mercury energies are seeking to obtain the ability to devour and digest experiences and ideas and to grow through destruction of the material bonds (both of the eggshell and the leaf material).

Despite the enormous vulnerability involved, eventually you will feel called to personally arise into visibility on the social scene of your choosing. There you will seek to chew the rough material of experience and convert this into personal growth. From this growth you will come to understand your nature better and eventually you will be called to put this nature to service not for more personal growth but in order to serve the collective and the growth of your social unit and those in them.