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avantgarde

## Cargo Cult Astrology

As of summer 2022, nothing I ever did in astrology really “landed” there in the sense that it would continue to spur interest without my direct involvement, even after almost 20 years and many articles and a book, while just one article about the I Ching created more response. In the following some thoughts “in spirals” as they unfolded since January 2022, slightly *polemic* here and there, maybe; preserved here as **Zeitzeugnis** of how things seemed in the world then. . .



Astrologers have remained 100% faithful to their multitude of views on the world, not favoring any one of them more than individually their own personal view, usually embedded into various currents in astrology and usually including most of the mainstream, and essentially immune to any arguments or “proof”, if only that some simplifications regarding how things are connected would be of any worth, rather preferring to dream on, of a connection with the “stars” or whatever they would fancy.

Since late August 2021, astro.com has a new slogan, “The Art of Astrology”. This mirrors the approach to the world at astro.com and in much of the self-proclaimed “cargo cult” life science astrology it supports, as well as of many of astro.com’s customers, quite well: There are no criteria regarding what gets attention in astrology except what astrologers like!

In June 2002, I had not expected everybody to grasp and like what I published, but I expected at least some to do so, including also Alois Treindl, physicist and founder / CEO of Astrodienst AG (the company that owns astro.com), and Liz Greene, psychologist / astrologer and then chief astrologer at Astrodienst AG. I was thinking that, especially since my model was directly derived from how Liz Greene described the star signs (signs of the zodiac) and the two together had created the computer-generated psychological horoscope, that they would see the unique value in my simpler model, as a key to better and more analytically understand the signs, and also that this would be a door-opener for proving astrology, reaching out beyond the “ghetto” of astrology.

It turned out differently.

In early 2005, AT told me that he had shown my original document to LG at the time (2002) and that she had then deemed it “too theoretical” while AT himself apparently even more underwhelmingly superficially told me it was nothing new anyways, referring to a relatively old Swiss book that, after I had ordered an antiquarian copy for about 100 \$, turned out to simply describe the traditional attribution of elements to seasons, in Aristotle’s circle, and later on AT also had the nerve to call me eccentric and my choice of domain name “exact-philosophy.net” exaggerated, which I guess means that he would be the center of it all and that “astro.com” – covering both “astrology” and “astronomy” and more by name – would reflect ultimate modesty. What Astrodienst / astro.com is doing for the immediate needs and desires of contemporary astrologers is not a problem, that is usually of good to very good quality; the problem is what they evade and escape, along with practically all astrologers.

But back to why astrologers love this and not that: In my general model this would mainly be due to unconscious collective feedback that manifests in feelings, in other words the Fates would apparently simply not want people to look at my discoveries openly and more closely, at least not yet, and there would be nothing in my power that could change that as long as the Fates do not want it to happen, while, whenever they would want to in the future, they could presumably do it in two shakes of a lamb’s tail. . .



If you maybe think I exaggerated above with regards to how contemporary astrologers view astrology, read the following quotes from the forum at astro.com in January 2022:

**Waybread:** Astrology is basically a subjective art, anyway. I think a good analogy is with painting as a fine art. There are specific rules of perspective, color, and composition. But after that, the painter makes many subjective choices and the viewer subsequently decides whether s/he thinks it is a good painting or not.

**Linda Harris:** Meanwhile, USE your system. And if it works, what do you care who else uses it? I don’t think the job of an astrologer is to change the way other astrologers do their work or the way they are comfortable doing that work. It’s my point of view that we are here to be of help to those who don’t speak the language of “human behavior” in the way that we do. . . to be part of their “solution” and not part of their “problem”.

**zed234** (after reading my article “Elementary Star Signs”): It’s an interesting discussion about the origins of the signs and how they relate to each other. But as a counseling astrologer, it’s simply too simplistic for me to use in any way as a tool to assist a client. I have a several books on the history and development of astrology, and I’ve seen this discussion or in several related to it several times. Very interesting. But not very useful to a practicing astrologer. But maybe I’M NOT GETTING THAT. If so, perhaps you could show me how it would work in analysis.

You might think that the last two sentences would be an opportunity, but note that what I had written in the article, in the thread and in what is publicly readable of my book of the same name (to which I had also posted a link) did not ring any bells, and it even appears that he completely misunderstood even basic things, like “about the origins of the signs” or that he would have “seen this discussion or in several related to it several times”, plus he commented on Linda Harris’ post with “nice post, Lainie!”. At some point you simply have seen enough to still sustain hope, even in the more and more unlikely case that anything I could do would make any difference in my lifetime, except maybe if I used the most powerful weapon in the world, the mirror, namely that I just let things rest, then astrologers would be only faced with themselves...



To be fair, three of the six reviews of my book “Elementary Star Signs” in 2018 did in fact grasp the basic idea (Christoph Schubert-Weller, Victor Olliver and Jutta Stemmer), even though almost certainly nobody grasped the potential, while at least Jutta Stemmer told me by email in early 2019 that she does recommend the book as lecture to her pupils at her astrology school in Munich. But coming back to the beginning: My core idea is not centered on astrology, so if I simply go by doing that where my heart is, there will at most be (if at all) one more book about astrology that briefly teases with many ideas I have about astrology, but without interest and sustained support by astrologers, unlikely further attempts to promote my “elemental zodiac signs”.

One important reason behind that decision is also that what I wrote about elemental star signs may not be perfect, not yet Hollywood-style accessible to everybody – but I expect some basic abilities and knowledge from astrologers, and those were overall clearly lacking—short, I do not see it as my fate/destiny to fight Idiocracy, obstacles that are **purely imagined** by contemporary astrologers, where in fact there are practically none at all, even if it was me who might have unknowingly created those obstacles by the way I write.

I just realized something via a post to the same thread as quoted twice above, namely that psychological astrology would be mainly water/fire, while scientific theories are mainly air/earth, going back to an idea from the 2002 discoveries document, which would, of course mirror, quite a bit of my past experiences and I probably underestimated how much energy would be needed to bring such things together, and I might have done better than I imagined.

For example, regarding Astrodienst / astro.com it would thus make sense that the company was founded by and lead by a physicist (AT) and would have “service”/“serving” in its name, as it would be air/earth in a serving role to astrology, providing the tools for doing astrology (water/fire), collective watery streams and individual fiery sparks of pet theories, and it would also explain why AT delegated judgement of my discoveries document of 2002 practically exclusively to LG who judged it “too theoretical”, in other words too much of the element air in it, hence does not fit into astrology. I am finally relieved.

As of the evening of 20 January 2022, still some interesting things have evolved at the astro.com forum and maybe I will still present my posts or a selection from them at some point in time, maybe even already by the time you are reading this. A bit later tonight there will be an exact opposition of Saturn in transit to my natal Sun in Leo (the only one for this Saturn cycle), and one of the results of that might be a broader view by me of the element Air, in a nutshell that maybe I will see it (besides much logic) also as something social, inspired by Robert Pirsig, not unlikely also because I myself have no Air in my chart, so this seemingly tiny bit of information might be helpful in the future and maybe also shortly worth a lead in the core content of my web site.

Ah, at least something, always beautiful to find out new things for a researcher in physics.



Last night, most likely already today in the early morning, I had the following dream:

I was at Astrodienst, but it was a different place in the dream, sort of a large loft, just one large room, maybe 20 m × 25 m, and there was a woman, a bit like Dolly Parton, even if I did not see her precisely, in other words very intelligent and also funny [she was like Dolly Parton because of that, there was no defined hair color nor a specific body shape besides clearly female in the dream], and we walked to one end of the room, or rather almost a corner, and there was also the founder / CEO of Astrodienst, in some rather comfortable office chair, leaning back, almost lying already, and the woman gave me a present, an envelope that was maybe 2 × the size of US letter, brown, and inside there was a yellow pullover, with a v-neck and squares of about 2" or a bit less stitched onto it, both not really my kind of pullover, and behind that about 3 yellow shirts, with buttons and so, all not really my kind of clothes (that would rather be round necks and t-shirts), but I was very happy about the present in the dream, and AT in the chair "mumbled" something like that giving me the present would be exaggerated, and that was I think because I am not working at Astrodienst, but then he said nothing any more, and then the woman was again walking across the room, astonishingly in the same direction as before, and this time clearly in a yellow dress [all yellow clothes in the dream were sunny and warm, not like citrus], quite a special, beautiful one, with stitched ornaments. . .

In the West, yellow is Fire, in China Earth (Saturn), the middle (hence also China itself), and the color of emperors, and it also reminds of the sun, Psyche's second task and the golden fleece (clothes, reminding also of Vesta), and presiding over white-red-black it is also the elusive color chlōrós of the Great Goddess (of many names) herself, this time in a hue that evokes honey, and maybe since the dream played at Astrodienst also alluding to something more Greene. . . in any case, there seems to be recognition by the Fates. (And, of course, this mirrored the transit of Saturn in opposition to my natal sun.)

(In retrospect, seen from June 2022 almost exactly at the summer solstice, see the maturity initiation ritual to Artemis as a she-bear at Bauron where young

girls (and apparently sometimes also boys) wore saffron-yellow short skirts (that had replaced bear skins earlier in history) that were possibly dropped at the end of the ritual. Saffron-yellow was quite exactly the color in the dream, and I even think to remember that I accidentally first wrote 'skirt' instead of 'shirt' in the post with the dream at the astro.com forum, which in retrospect may have been an Artemisian Slip. . . And 'V' in v-neck might stand for Vesta/Hestia. . .)

Possibly it was my Saturn return of 1996 in Montréal (late in the 5th house, trine late Cancer MC and trine Pluto in early Sagittarius in the 2nd) that created lots of ideas (and was lots of work since close to the cusp of the 6th) but also apparently does make them seem not relevant to the public (10th) – maybe(!) also because the south node then was where my moon was at birth, in the 10th house about 5° ahead of my MC? At least the first return of three in 2025/2026 would have Saturn in the 10th house (with Ceres, n.node and Neptune), assuming I would then still be at home “on my island of Ithaca” in Adliswil, Switzerland. The book *ELEMENTAL* I am preparing on and off since early January 2019 would indicate that the first of these three returns might be most relevant for the 29 years after that regarding things of eventually public interest in my findings — maybe?

(In retrospect, seen from June 2022, it seems much more like a return influences quite strictly the period to the next return, so the third of three would be the one to look at for the about 29 years that might maximally follow, and that one would have interestingly houses almost as at my birth, which had then only lasted until then next return in February 1967, which had then placed my Saturn in the 11th house, likely fitting well with my studies and work integrated into mainstream physics at the time.)

But how about then just leaning back instead, and have faith that people will come, both attributes of Pisces, and maybe even more so if at the end of Pisces, plus Saturn likes minimalism, and then simply wait. . . until people come who would then finally be able to “see Saturn in the 10th house”, augmented by Ceres with gentle growth, with a refreshing Hollywood-style early Aries cardinal halo of Neptune to dream of, and boosted by the n.node? Might my dream of being able to just watch things grow simply come true by waiting, having faith and helping out here and there? Wish me luck, since my discoveries are very beautiful, rich and useful/helpful, for almost anybody, at least in the future.

(Seen again from June 2022, maybe a Saturn in the 9th might mirror mainly just waiting, while maybe also dropping a few things here and there, quite well, and even for that return, Neptune would be just a little bit ahead in early Aries, so there might be Hollywood, also since the 9th house would fit, too, in several ways. Maybe what is already public would just do and perception change?)



In conclusion, the Uranian split of the world into “astrology” and “astronomy” is – in retrospect not astonishingly – deeper than I naively assumed, and

since currently nobody really suffers from this “division of labor”, there is little immediate pressure to change anything in that regard. So, why should I worry all too much? Que sera, sera. . .

Does all not exclude maybe some other book about astrology some day, or at least still archiving my posts, but any of that rather just to preserve some things than to promote them. I guess because I have no Air in my birth chart, there is no Earth as a goal for me (see my model of the elemental changes in the star signs), so no urge to literally manifest things in the world. But a few seeds that start to grow would still be nice, since at least Ceres and 1969 Alain are in Gemini (Air sign), which also hints at written publications. And so on.

Just in case: After almost 20 years, in my feeling the overall response by astrology has been *inexcusable*, and individually also at least by Alois Treindl, Liz Greene and Robert Hand, while at least some others may have simply lacked the ability and context to grasp much of what I present, but overall there is simply no explanation in which all of these people would have been genuinely nice and open towards me, no matter how clumsy my attempts may have been\*. Accordingly, I do not feel like I owe astrology anything, if anything it owes me. (But, of course, a change of mind there would still be welcome. . .)



Going in circles. . . It is just so sad that nothing took on, nothing started to grow among astrologers. In 2002 I really expected that most likely Liz Greene and Alois Treindl would invite me to Astrodienst so that I could show them my model of the star signs and that from then on it would take off, would start to grow, they would tell others about it and many people would start exploring, so that relatively quickly also some attention outside of astrology would emerge. But instead. . . see above.

There comes a point, when people just tell you to do this or that, each time you have invested some work to present something, to invest even more work, that you start to think that they are wrong. And likely they are. Some additional work may really still make sense. But overall, given the fears and discomforts my stuff seems to stir unconsciously in people, less is more. So, again back to maybe one day collecting some of my posts, or maybe not, and maybe still one or two books related to astrology, but maybe more likely not, and rather one or two other things, but maybe hardly more. Or maybe something different. . .

A lot of all the things I did over the years are beautiful. I do not want to become famous, just would have liked to see some of the things I found grow. Maybe the latter is too much to hope for, maybe best to just enjoy the former, things for what they are instead of what people see in them today.



Hey, today, 29 January 2022, someone at the forum, Phoebe, wrote that she is trying to “make headway” with my “Atomic Model of the Zodiac”, but also needs “more time to absorb and digest”, which is more positive feedback than maybe ever regarding the model. (As of late July, I have not heard anything since then, unlikely that anything evolved there, like so many times before.)

Maybe just some more faith that things will just turn out well and a bit more patience, are all that is needed. Liz Greene told me “You have time.” at the brief and only encounter with me in 1998, just after a talk by her about Saturn at which I had handed her my chart for interpretation during a break before. My Saturn is at the end of Pisces, plus retrograde, and rather slowly so. Maybe simply my moon in Aries in the 10th house and still at the MC (5° ahead of it) is too impatient; not always being frustrated because of that might be healthier, also for my digestion, maybe.

Or this could again be something that leads practically nowhere, just another illusion, with a trine between Neptune and my north node currently (and also still with my natal Neptune around there). Then again, Neptune is likely an important planet also regarding public waves, Hollywood, so maybe. . .



Venus, also related I guess a lot to Hollywood, is just about to go forward again today, after having been retrograde since 19 Dec 2021, which is incidentally also quite exactly the period in which I first created the “noindex” part of exactphilosophy.net with old webs, discoveries documents, all my Usenet and I Ching posts, as well as (earlier versions of) this text, without the actual astro.com forum posts, at least not yet for this Venus retrograde phase.

Feels like a good moment these past weeks until today, also reminding of the second task of Psyche (“Venus/Pisces”), Water, patience, waiting for the right moment. And also again would seem to fit maybe well with Saturn at its next return for me 14 May 2025 in the 10th house together with Ceres (“gentle growth”) close by, plus north node, too, as well as, already in early Aries Neptune (“Hollywood”). I just hope that things will turn out well regarding these things in the world if they start to grow, that they would grow gently and create more good than bad, both initially and in the medium and long-term future.

(Again in retrospect from June 2022, more likely the third return will matter for a longer time, but who knows what maybe also a short period could change, if maybe I would get the book [ELEMENTAL](#) out then, will see. . .)

I just read that the daughter Nala of famous German-speaking singer Helene Fischer was born two months early (but is perfectly healthy and well now), 18 Dec 2021, hence just before Venus went retrograde (just 1° ahead of Pluto), and this was announced in the media today, when Venus will go direct again.

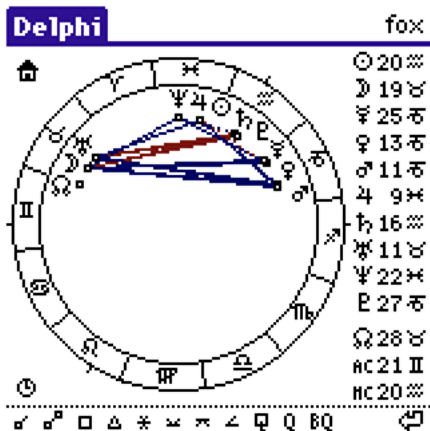
Well, a day later, with Venus direct again, hopes for anything by me “landing” in astrology have once again been delusional dreams; for all that it appears, astrologers are back to their “daily businesses”, just doing what they fancy.

Maybe I will just do “as above, so below; as below, so above”? In the future only say something if there is specific interest into my contributions and otherwise let things mostly rest? Or maybe just do something else, or more of the same? Que sera, sera. . . Just so very sad for me this outcome after almost 20 years, maybe just post for fun and ignore the fate of the “world”? Maybe just do what Odysseus did in Kafka’s parable “Das Schweigen der Sirenen” and once more trust the “Anhang” given there?

*Es wird übrigens noch ein Anhang hierzu überliefert. Odysseus, sagt man, war so listenreich, war ein solcher Fuchs, dass selbst die Schicksalsgöttin nicht in sein Innerstes dringen konnte. Vielleicht hat er, obwohl das mit Menschenverstand nicht mehr zu begreifen ist, wirklich gemerkt, dass die Sirenen schwiegen, und hat ihnen und den Göttern den obigen Scheinvorgang nur gewissermassen als Schild entgegengehalten.*

*By the way, a codicil to the foregoing has also been handed down. Odysseus, it is said, was so full of guile, was such a fox, that not even the goddess of fate could pierce into his innermost core. Perhaps he really noticed, even though this is beyond human understanding, that the Sirens remained silent, and held up to them and to the gods the aforementioned dummy activity merely sort of as a shield.*

Adliswil, 8 February 2022 at around 12:40 noon



(even looks a bit like a shield. . .)

August 2022: A sabian oracle this spring was an old sea captain rocking (13° Leo), reminding also of Odysseus’ choice+lot at the end of Plato’s *Republic*, and maybe, just maybe, I will still tell you some stories about some of the ‘islands’ I discovered on my virtual journeys. . .

To be fair, all I ever wanted is to be with her, just have her around me in everyday life, live together, found a family, the usual, this is why I tried astrology, because she had made a presentation about astrology in school, the rest was not so important, including this here.

\* Epilogue (March 2023): Around the closedown of the forum at astro.com, I realized via some closer contact that the proponents from the generation with Pluto in Leo would really have heavy deficits when it comes to perception, some kind of inability to perceive things outside of the own predator focus. Seemed only fair to point this out for once relatively directly. And still in the end almost infinitely sad, considering also that the people who continue it are younger.

\* December 2023: In the end, they were and are still primarily responsible, not me.