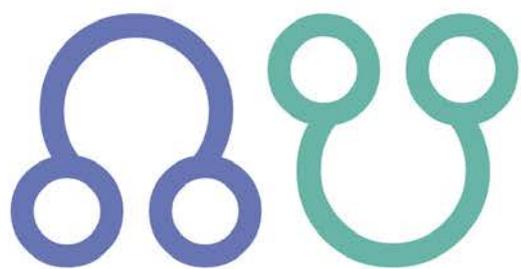
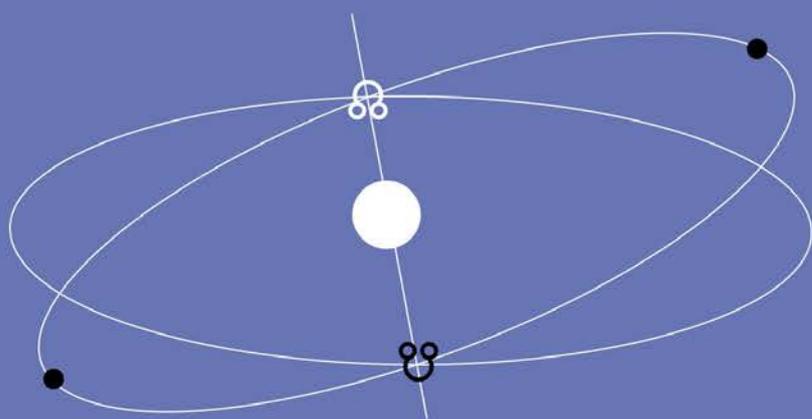


THE MOON'S NODES



in action



Anne Whitaker

The Moon's Nodes in Action

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Introduction to the 2015 edition

THE MOON'S NODES IN ACTION

“Never say never!” How true this is. I thought I’d never be able to resurrect the whole text of ‘The Moon’s Nodes in Action’ from its cyber-grave of apparently un-openable files going back to the 1990s. As we all know, that decade is literally prehistoric in Internet terms.

However, I reckoned without the ingenuity of my colleague, Willie Miller of co-occurrence, whose company has thus far published three elegant e-versions of my books. It has just done the same for the e-book you are about to read: a research study I wrote to complete my three-year Diploma from the Centre for Psychological Astrology in London, awarded in November 1998.

At that time, the Centre’s Director Dr Liz Greene described ‘The Moon’s Nodes in Action’ as “...a superb thesis...” I was of course, delighted to have my work described in those terms. But life moved on, other projects beckoned. The thesis gathered dust, the files slowly became antiquated. But I never lost my interest in the Moon’s Nodes...

Many people – myself included – find the Moon’s Nodes fascinating. What you will shortly read is a comprehensive, original piece of research, born from my curiosity and interest over many years. As fellow writer and astrologer Paul F Newman says in his generous preface:

“... this book is about.... Nodal Returns, Nodal synastries, Nodal ‘trawls’ and Nodal moments. A knowledge-gathering journey through the lives and charts of the famous and not so famous – yet with the excitement of a personal quest and the inestimable benefit of coming through the pen of a gifted writer. Herein are facts – not theories – that you can use to enrich your own astrological interpretations and personal understanding of the Moon’s Nodes in Action....”

I have decided to offer out this research as a free gift to any student or teacher of astrology who wishes to add to their existing knowledge of the Moon’s Nodes, not from a theoretical basis, but as they actually operate in the lives of people both famous and ‘ordinary’.

Please note that the study was written in 1998 and I have chosen not to update it, but simply to present the research as it was completed at the time. Being aware that other astrologers have published their own research since then, I am happy to make my small contribution, albeit somewhat retrospectively!

The Nodal Return cycle is 18.6 years. When I wrote the study, the North Node was in the sign of Virgo. I have just realised that it returns there in November 2015, the year my research is finally published in its entirety, eighteen years after I first began to write it in the autumn of 1997

Preface

THE MOON'S NODES IN ACTION

Introduction

By Paul F. Newman

The Moon's Nodes, so we are taught, are an essential component of any horoscope. Flip through any astrological magazine and you will be hard-pressed to find a chart without them. Traditional, experiential, psychological, mundane - you name it - the Nodes are always there. But what exactly do they mean?

In Vedic astrology this is quite clear cut. The Moon's Nodes refer to karma, and their importance is immense. But then every Vedic astrologer believes in karma and reincarnation as a cultural doctrine anyway, which is not necessarily the case with all Western astrologers and their clients. Astrology - pure astrology - does not operate through belief alone. That is, you do not have to 'believe' in anything you can not prove because astrology works anyway. As Anne found when researching the powerful effect of the Nodes for her Diploma in Psychological Astrology which has later become this book, there was a dearth of text-book certainty about the meaning of the Nodes - once you removed the reincarnation angle. Her dissatisfaction sprang from the fact that the available literature was mostly theoretical. People knew about Nodal returns and Nodal transits but had little idea of what to expect in the real world when they loomed. Few studies, if any, had employed a 'Charles Carter' type approach of dispassionately observing and tabulating what

actually happened to people when the Lunar Nodes were activated or were natally strong. Astrologers generally agreed that the Nodal axis was some kind of developmental path but would usually shy away from interpreting it in the more concrete terms afforded to the planets. The Nodes, after all, were only abstract things. You couldn't see them in the sky. You couldn't even visualise the mechanics of how these invisible circles were crossing each other above our heads in their regular cosmic sweeps unless you were an unusually scientifically minded astrologer (or astronomer). Yet, other abstract points in astrology (even the Part of Fortune) did not command the same universal respect as the Moon's Nodes, so wasn't it about time we gave their effects more study?

And that is what this book is about. Nodal Returns, Nodal synastries, Nodal 'trawls' and Nodal moments. A knowledge-gathering journey through the lives and charts of the famous and not so famous - yet with the excitement of a personal quest and the inestimable benefit of coming through the pen of a gifted writer. Herein are facts - not theories - that you can use to enrich your own astrological interpretations and personal understanding of the Moon's Nodes in Action.

Paul F. Newman
Dorset, England. August 2001

Introduction

It's an important antidote to the potential inflation of astrologers to realise that 99.9% of the population manages to get through life without the help of astrology.

Similarly, large numbers of astrologers no doubt do good sound work without paying too much attention to the Moon's Nodes. As far as I can gather, the attribution of significance ranges widely: from astrologers who start their readings with the Nodes, and who see the axis as powerfully illustrative of the developmental path of the individual's soul through successive lifetimes, to those who are aware of what the axis means in general terms but don't actually bring it into their work much.

So - how significant is the Nodal axis? Are astrologers missing something really important by not delineating it in their readings, both natively and in terms of its transiting cycle? Does it say something specific? Or does it act as a reinforcer for information about a person's life pattern which can be derived from other chart factors? These were the key questions I had in mind as I began writing.

This book is called *The Moon's Nodes in Action*. Why?

Because I find myself unsatisfied with a lot of the material I have read on the Nodes, interesting though some of it is. The main reason for my dissatisfaction is that the literature is mostly theoretical. There is very little specific examination of the 'Nodal effect' at work in people's actual

lives, with the exception of Pamela Crane's book¹ which is thoroughly rooted in case material. However, its value is limited for me by my own scepticism (in the open minded sense of the word) regarding the question of reincarnation.²

I realise that what I want to do in the book is not to spend a lot of time regurgitating theory already available. Summarising its core is sufficient for my main purpose, which is to test out the theory in the actual practice of real people's lives and see whether it holds up. This is something I can do which hasn't been done to a detailed degree to date.³ In the research process I may even come up with some new angles on the Nodes! These are my aims and aspirations as I settle down to the task in hand.

In framing the case material I decided that it would be more

1 Draconic Astrology by Pamela A. F. Crane, Aquarian Press, 1987

2 Note: I am interested in the approach to the Nodes which involves belief in reincarnation, being attracted to the idea that we live successive lives; it has certain logic to it. The notion that the great cycles of birth, growth, decay, death and endless return should not apply to the human spirit and its development, that we should get only one crack at the slow, complex business of realising our potential, seems inconsistent. I have had a few very peculiar and striking experiences in my own life, for which the hypothesis that I have had other lives is the only one that makes any kind of sense. Being a Romantic in spirit, I like the idea of this life being just one stage in an "awfully big adventure". However, I am also a pragmatist, taking the view that I can only effectively write about things which are within the knowledge and experience I have had to date, limited though I am happy to admit that certainly is. It may be true that the Nodes have profound symbolic clarification to offer re previous lives, and our connections with key other people in those lives - but I cannot offer any empirical observations on this topic.

3 Note : as yet I haven't read either Melanie Reinhardt's Incarnation, the Four Angles and the Moon's Nodes (Volume 8, CPA Press, 1997), or Direction and Destiny in the Birth Chart by Howard Sasportas (Volume 10, CPA Press, 1998) for what I think are fairly obvious reasons! I don't want to be intimidated by their work, and at present it's too close to home since I'm a CPA student. If I discover later that Melanie and Howard, too, have done detailed work on Nodal case material, at least mine will be different, and I will have added something more to the testing out of Nodal theory in practice.

effective from a research point of view to offer different ‘takes’ on the Nodes in each case study, than simply to use the same ‘take’ for each one. I was intrigued by a comment made by Robin Heath in the letters pages of a recent issue of **The Mountain Astrologer**:

“..... astrology appears more and more to behave like a hologram. You can perform almost any technique with the data, turn the chart inside out or slice it up, and still the symbolic pictures remain.”⁴

Since a large part of the impact of his statement lay in its confirming in cold print a suspicion which has been swirling around in my own mind for some time now, I was particularly interested to see whether any ‘hologram’ effect relating to each subject’s natal Nodal pattern might be detectable at the core of all the case studies, on completing them.

In Case Study One, I have written about Mary Shelley from the perspective of her authorship of *Frankenstein*, and set the boundary of her first Nodal Return. She conceived the book in 1816, the summer of her 19th year and her first Nodal Return; wrote it over the following autumn, winter and spring; saw it published on the first day of 1818 - just after her 20th birthday. I have looked at the Nodal synastries between her chart and those of five key people whom I consider to have been potent catalysts for her authorship. I have analysed the Nodal relationship between her natal chart and several key events germane to the writing of *Frankenstein*. I have also tracked some resonances from

4 *The Mountain Astrologer*, Issue 78, April/May 1998, Letters p 11

the modern myth Mary Shelley created in Frankenstein, over nearly two centuries to its undoubted current relevance as contemporary science moves faster and faster into the realms of science fiction. This case study therefore contains the first ever synastry between a dead person and a live sheep!

In Case Study Two, I have adopted a different approach, doing a Nodal 'trawl' first of all through my subject Marc's whole life to the age of 50. Secondly, I have analysed the key turning points of his life - identified by Marc, not by me - and examined how they link in with his natal Nodal pattern.

In Case Study Three, I thought it would be interesting to analyse four Nodal Moments from the lives of two famous people, and two 'ordinary' ones. These are moments which the two people known to me, Anna and Andrew, knew without doubts at the time were major and life-changing. I decided that two famous people's moments also fell into the same category; the first, the announcement in January 1998 that former astronaut John Glenn was due to return to space at the age of 76. And the second, the car crash which ended the life of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Note on confidentiality:

Marc, Anne and Andrew are not the real names of my subjects. All three read and approved the final version of their life stories prior to my submitting the thesis for assessment. They also gave full permission for their stories to be included in any subsequent publication.

Chapter one

Astronomy and Symbolism

The aim here is to summarise and provide some discussion of the core astronomical and theoretical basis from which the case studies are written. The information provided is derived from reading, and from impressions gained from observation of the Nodes in action in my personal and professional life before testing it out in practice through the research done for the case material. I have left out observations on all kinds of interesting facets of the Nodal picture, eg the Saros eclipse cycles, which were not directly relevant. General sources will be found in the Bibliography; specific quotes are footnoted.

The Moon's Nodes

The Moon's north and south Nodes "...are not planets but are the two points at which the Moon's monthly path crosses the Sun's annual path (ecliptic) around the Earth. These are abstract points, but astrology accords them the power and effective status of planets..." (definition from The Practical Astrologer by Nicholas Campion,Times Mirror Books 1987, p12.)

The eclipses

There are thirteen lunations or New Moons each year, in which the Sun and Moon share the same zodiacal longitude. At least two of them are solar eclipses, and occur during the twice yearly eclipse seasons, each being a period

of 37 days when the Sun in its orbit crosses the Nodes, applying for 18.5 days/degrees then separating for the same measure.

At solar eclipse times the Sun, Moon, Earth and Nodes are aligned in the same plane, so that the Moon blocks the Sun totally or partially from the Earth's view. A total solar eclipse occurs when the Node and luminaries occupy the same zodiacal longitude up to an orb of +/- 9 degrees 55 minutes. A partial eclipse occurs from an orb of +/-11 degrees 15 minutes up to an orb of +/-18 degrees 31 minutes. (Annular, partial or total solar eclipses can occur from an orb of +/- 9 degrees 55 minutes to +/-11 degrees 15 minutes.)

Lunar eclipses occur in the same eclipse seasons - again a minimum of twice a year. At these times the Sun, Moon, Earth and Nodes are aligned differently, with the Moon opposite the Sun in zodiacal longitude. In this case, the Moon moves opposite the Sun through the shadow of the Earth often taking on a reddish/coppery tone which is very dramatic to watch. A total lunar eclipse occurs when the Node and luminaries have an orb of up to +/- 3 degrees 34 minutes. A partial lunar eclipse occurs from an orb of +/- 6 degrees.

There is a regular rhythm to the alternation of solar and lunar eclipses first with one Node, then the opposite one, six months apart. The Nodes themselves regress at 1.5 degrees a year through the zodiac, following the regular pattern of the eclipses as they thread their way through time and space. The North Node returns to its own place, having completed a 360 degree cycle through the entire

zodiac, every 18.6 years. The eclipses, like the New Moons, also have their return cycles, the most striking being the Metonic returns in which an eclipse recurs on the same day and the same degree as it did 19 years previously.

Nodal symbolism - summary

In symbolic terms, the Nodes offer insights not so much into an individual's personality as into their life pattern, and with this the developing and unfolding of their relationship with issues of direction and of meaning.

Thus the natal Nodes, their location by signs and houses, and their links with planets and angles, sketch out a map of what the person's route may be, some of the conditions which might be encountered, and the main paths s/he is likely to be inclined to explore.

As life unfolds, the transiting Nodal axis, transiting planets to the natal Nodes, and progressed planets/Angles triggering off the natal Nodes, show important points of challenge and the potential to take a step further along the road of actualising full potential. The eclipses are of critical importance in highlighting transitional points which have an especially powerful feel to them. Alexander Ruperti puts this really well:

“Eclipses simply measure intense confrontations with all those things in human nature which hinder spiritual progress by keeping one in a rut, albeit a comfortable and happy rut. They are opportunities to use the past and the present - all that one has previously acquired, as well as where he stands at a given moment - in order to build a more creative future. Since they always

challenge an individual to discard all limiting influences and to start something new, they may be stressful times.”
(my emphasis)¹

The soli/lunar relationship

The Nodal axis is a reflection of the soli/lunar relationship. The Sun moves very slowly indeed compared to the Moon - one degree a day, when the Moon moves thirteen to fourteen degrees. If we transpose this astronomical fact into the symbolism of the unfolding of the progressed horoscope throughout a lifetime, we can see that by the age of 60, the Sun in an individual's life will have progressed around only one sixth of the zodiac. The Moon, however, will have completed two whole journeys round the entire zodiac, and the first quarter of a third one.

Thus we have two very different types of energy, and relationship with time. The Moon seems much busier and more active than the Sun, much more driven towards ranging over a spectrum of different types of experience, and experiencing faster change. Despite all this activity, it nevertheless goes through the same cyclic routine month after month, year after year, century after century, millennium after millennium, albeit changing its starting and ending points very gradually as it moves through the heavens. The Sun seems much more inclined to take its time, to process and make sense out of experience.

Liz Greene in *The Luminaries* clearly illustrates this point:

¹ *Cycles of Becoming* by Alexander Ruperti, (USA) CRCS Publications 1978, p 72

“So the Moon, our antenna for life’s perennially changing drama, goes out and soaks up a little taste of experience, and then comes back to offer its responses to the Sun for processing. Then the Moon ventures forth again, and another chunk of life is absorbed and brought back home. Lunar encounters with life, as the Moon progresses through the twelve houses of the horoscope, eventually build up a reservoir of experience which the Sun can gradually transform into “my” vision of life, “my” worldview, and “my” identityWithout the Moon, there would be no connection with life or other people.”²

In the Sun - Earth - Moon system, the Moon represents the container which makes ordinary life on Earth possible, keeps its rhythms going. But both Earth and Moon are subordinate to the life-giving Sun; must turn towards it, honour it. Without the Sun, neither Moon nor Earth could exist. There could be no life, in the terms in which we understand it.

There is something in us, culturally, nationally, and personally, which is inimical to change of any kind; which is purely instinctive and irrational in response to life, needs to feel connected to the patterns and rhythms of time, nature, local and family custom, and habit. This part of us likes to know and work from what we can do and can comprehend. It seeks safety.

There is nothing wrong with this fundamentally lunar approach. We need it. But stagnation would result if there were nothing in life to present a challenge to this way of

² *The Luminaries* by Liz Greene & Howard Sasportas (USA) Samuel Weiser, Inc 1992, p 206.

being. The contrasting solar impetus is to get out there, risk, learn and grow, expand our vision to encompass more than the purely material - find out why it is that we are alive at all, ask questions regarding what life might mean.

There is a beautiful passage from Genesis, the first chapter of the Christian Old Testament, which runs thus:

“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, ‘Let there be light’: and there was light.”

This Christian imagery vividly conveys the contrasting life principles illustrated in astrological symbolism by the Moon, and the Sun.

The archetypal relationship between fundamentally contrasting and complementary principles is at the heart of existence at every level - without that there could be no collective or individual life at all.

Another way of imaging the Soli/Lunar link is through mythology. In Greek myths, the Sun god Apollo is often seen pitting his solar power against that of the female, lunar goddesses whose realm concerns the limits imposed by time, the body and mortality, and fate - the very limits which Apollo seeks to defy.

The Sun symbolises our drive towards individuation, the pursuit of our personal destiny, shadowy and chimeric though it may often seem, if indeed it is ever even glimpsed. The Moon symbolises our rooting in the Earth

plane which gave us our life, to which we are subject through our physicality, where we must live out our span as dictated by the limits imposed by our mortality.

North and south - spirit and matter

If the dialectic as just imaged and described is held at the core of the soli / lunar relationship, what 'take', slant, or angle on that dialectic is provided by the North and South Nodes as distinct, for example, from what is provided by contemplation of either the New or the Full Moon? As Alexander Ruperti eloquently puts it:

*".....as the Ecliptic (geocentrically considered) reveals the relationship of the Earth to the Sun, and the Moon's orbit reveals the relationship of the Earth to the Moon, and since the nodal axis is the link between the planes of these two orbits, the nodes may be said to symbolise the relationship of the Earth to the two 'Lights' - the Sun and Moon."*³

Thus the Nodes can be interpreted as revealing particular points of dynamic tension between the contrasting drives of Sun and Moon, points where the product of the struggle between the two must be earthed, and take some definite form in a way which has a profound influence on the life pattern of the person (event, organisation, nation) concerned.

As the Moon moves in its monthly orbit, its checkpoint for crossing the Ecliptic is the North Node, latitude zero,

³ Cycles of Becoming by Alexander Ruperti, (USA) CRCS Publications 1978, P55

the beginning of two weeks' travel in Northern latitude. At the end of this phase, the checkpoint of the South Node is reached, also latitude zero - the start of two weeks' travel in Southern latitude.

At the North Node gateway, the Moon can be viewed as orienting itself toward the pull of the Sun, an orientation lasting for the whole period in which it is travelling in Northern latitude. Traditionally, as Ruperti puts it, the North Node connotes "*.....a point of divine protection or providence or of success through the use of the spiritual will.....*"⁴ In the natal chart, a planet or planets closely square the Nodal axis on the northern side falls on the northern bendings⁵, emphasising that planet's role in driving the future development of the individual concerned. The transiting Nodal axis with a transiting planet squaring it at the northern bendings, eg the recent transit of the Nodes/Pluto which arrived at exactitude in mid-May 1998 at 7 degrees Virgo/Pisces/Sagittarius, challenges the individual/nation/collective concerned to face and take on the challenges of the future in relation to the radix planets/axes picked up by the transiting pattern.

On arriving at the South Node gate, the Moon symbolically turns its back on the challenge to grow, become all it can be, through exercise of maximum awareness aided by the strength of spiritual will, and moves into the fiefdom of matter and the concerns of the material world. This period lasts for the duration of the journey in Southern latitude, and represents a time of taking whatever perspective has

4 Cycles of Becoming by Alexander Ruperti, (USA) CRCS Publication 1978, P55

5 The Structure of Cycles by Joseph Crane, pp 73-4 from The Mountain Astrologer Issue 77 Feb/March 1998

been gained in the Northern journey, and perhaps, at best, integrating it with that part of life which will always have to be lived in the material and physical dimensions. Transiting planets at the southern bendings⁶ partake of this tone. Natal ones at that point emphasise inherited challenges which tend to hold the person back, and really need to be grappled with if he/she is to move on.

Again, as Rupertus puts it, “...*this alternating orientation first toward spirit and then toward matter is the key to the meaning of the nodal cycle...*”⁷ I think that it also offers us Earthlings a very profound piece of cosmic advice, especially to those inclined to think that the spiritual dimensions are innately superior to merely earthbound concerns. For the last two thousand years, the Christian West has had great trouble with the relationship between spirit and matter. The summits of our achievements and the nadirs of our destructiveness are connected to the imbalance which exists within our culture between those two great poles. The tension between them has been the fuel which has driven us, for good and for ill.

But the body is the carrier of the soul. We should strive to value them both equally. There are many metaphors to be derived from this essence. One is that the quest for meaning and significance, represented by the Sun, has to have a home base, represented by the Moon, from which to start the journey, to which to return at the end of it. The Odyssey could never have been written without Ithaca.....

6 The Structure of Cycles by Joseph Crane, pp 73-4 from The Mountain Astrologer Issue 77 Feb/March 1998

7 Cycles of Becoming by Alexander Rupertus, (USA) CRCS Publications 1978, p 55

So it is important not to forget, whilst contemplating the different emphases given by the North Node and its Southern opposite that the whole axis needs to be taken into account if one is to appreciate the full depth of symbolism on offer. At core, the challenge is that of finding a way to reconcile spirit with matter in finding as effective a way as possible to live on the Earth to which we are bound. The Nodal axis speaks not only about the thrust to reach as full as possible actualisation, but also about valuing and appreciating, and if possible integrating, the gifts which were ours as we embarked from the starting point. Both individually and collectively, the more prominently placed the Nodal axis in the Horoscope, the more vivid the dialectic as described above within the life of that individual, nation, and event.

Both North and South points have their own seductions. The challenge to move on, explore, become all you can be offered by the North, is exhilarating, exciting - but also frightening, and hard work! It's easier to stay in bed than get yourself sitting in front of the word processor, excited at what you may achieve.... but fearful of where you may fail.

Staying South is very tempting - it's the comfort zone, it's the family base and its past history, the place of safety where we know who and where we are, what our talents are, and what we can comfortably cope with - but staying there cannot reveal " *...what we may be...*"⁸

8 The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark by William Shakespeare, Act iv, Scene v, " Lord, we know what we are, but know not what we may be " from The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Oxford University Press, 1955

Thus the natal Nodal Axis symbolises a lifelong struggle.

Identifying with the South Node position too strongly means leading a life which depends on using the abilities we already have to keep us safe from risk, challenge and therefore growth; whose main priority is comfort; whose mode is a habitual and largely automatic response to life.

Taking up the challenge of the North Node, on the other hand, brings with it a life which feels meaningful and open to new experience; which takes opportunities to develop innate talents and new insights and skills through responding positively to the impetus for change; whose mode is of acceptance of conflict and discomfort as a necessary part of developing as a person.

At the heart of the fullest, most creative expression of the struggle both collectively and individually lays a deep paradox - to move on as human beings we must individuate, follow the path of the North Node, and leave the South Node behind. But we must also make the return journey, to honour that which we ideally do not leave behind at all, but incorporate in our movement towards our own destiny.

The unfolding picture

When I refer to nodal moments in the case material, I mean points where the transiting Nodal axis is triggering the natal chart; and/or when Jupiter, Saturn, Chiron, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto are transiting the radix Nodes; and/or when there are significant progressions to the Nodal axis.

My own favourite indicator is the transiting Nodal axis itself, which has a return cycle of 18.6 years. I think it is useful to see challenges towards growth occurring with transits and progressions as being enfolded within the developmental pattern shown through this cycle.

I have found (as one might expect!) that the more emphasised the radix Nodal axis is, the more important are the milestones that the Nodal returns, and transits/progressions to the natal Nodes, bring.

It is possible in the natal chart to describe both ends of the Nodal polarity and make a clear distinction between them, as has already been demonstrated. But the whole axis and its planetary links need to be taken into account in assessing the key features of what the life pattern demands of its owner. You miss half the picture if you only focus on one end.

This point becomes clearer, for example, when attempting to assess the impact of the transiting Nodal cycle on an individual's chart. The first step is to identify which pair of houses the axis is emphasising; this reveals those dimensions of life which are up for challenge and change. Between mid-March 1997 and mid-March 1998 the Nodes regressed from 29 degrees to 10.5 degrees Virgo. During this time period there were three eclipse seasons in March, September, and February/March. The eclipses ran thus:
9.3.97 Solar eclipse to South Node, 24.3.97 Lunar eclipse to North Node, 1.9.97 Solar eclipse to North Node, 16.9.97 Lunar eclipse to South Node, 26.2.98 Solar eclipse to South Node, 13.3.98 Lunar eclipse to North Node.

It can be seen that during the year in question both ends of the Nodal axis were triggered in an alternating pattern by both Solar and Lunar eclipses, strongly potentiating the relevant spheres of life. The outcome would depend on what natal planets/angles were also being triggered. I doubt if it's possible, even by spending an enormous amount of time tracking very subtle factors, to show the specific internal and external manifestations, from month to month or year to year, of the alternating movement from focus on spirit (North) to focus on matter (South) and back again as life unfolds.

It is the overall impact which activity by conjunction to North and South Nodes, or square to the whole axis, has on the unfolding life pattern that matters during a particular period of time.

Levels of manifestation

I have noted over the years both from my own life, the lives of friends and family, students and clients with whom I have worked, how often the Nodes are prominent at births, deaths and marriages - the three major defining points in anyone's life, regardless of their levels of awareness or how assiduously they either pursue or avoid questions of what life's deeper significance may be.

The Nodes have been persistently linked with the workings of Fate since the very beginning of Astrology as a body of knowledge: many modern astrologers tend to gloss over this issue, perhaps because we have culturally subscribed to a world view since the Age of Reason which is deeply offended by the notion that there is anything on Earth

that human beings can't control. However it is becoming all too clear as we approach the end of the century, the millennium, and the Piscean world age, that even our ability to comprehend, much less control, the sheer complexity of life is much less than we thought.

Life by its very nature is always changing; but the changes mirrored in patterns involving the Nodes, particularly when the axis or related planets or angles are being activated by eclipses, seem to have a particular quality about them where the struggle towards individuation from the grip of the personal - and often the family - past is powerfully highlighted.

The interface between Fate (*literally, "it has been written"*) and Free Will appears, to our very limited knowledge, to be indeterminate, shifting. At Nodal times it is as though the atmosphere of that interface thickens, becomes highly charged with significance: events occurring and paths chosen seem to have a particularly potent feel to them. These can be viewed as times of crisis when, in Robert Hand's vivid phrase, "the past has minimum hold upon the present, but the present has a maximum hold on the future."⁹ There can also be a profound sense in the moment that something 'other' is at work, impelling one's actions, one's choices.

⁹ Saturn, Action & Career Crises by Robert Hand, p 116, from *The Astrology of Crisis*, edited by Noel Tyl, (USA) Llewellyn Publications, 1993

Retrograde/direct nodes by transit

In contemplating the symbolism attached to the frequent movement of the Nodal points between direct and retrograde motion, it appears to me to mirror a generally recognised truism about how life proceeds, ie three steps forward, two steps back or (very occasionally!) five steps forward, one step back, or one step forward, four steps back. The preceding assessments are made by most of us, either on the forward or the backward scale depending on how good, bad, indifferent or traumatised we feel about any given day, week, month, or year.

I think this accurately reflects the long, slow process of reaching out, assimilating, developing insight, and moving on we all go through with varying degrees of success and failure throughout our lives - with all the mistakes, stupidities, unconscious compulsive reactions, poor judgements, and retreats woven into the process along the way.

The alternating retro/direct movement of the Nodes is contained within the larger movement of the axis as it moves backwards through the Zodiac, returning to its starting point in an individual's life every 18.6 years. What could this mean? Isn't evolution meant to be a forward moving process according to conventional wisdom?

There is much truth in the adage that life has to be lived forwards, but understood backwards. There is a quality of mystery about the Nodes in action. My feeling is that, similarly to those great milestones in life symbolised by progressed New and Full Moons, what is offered in terms

of more effective defining of the level on which life can be lived, simply cannot be grasped clearly at the time. Perhaps one of the meanings which can be derived from contemplating the retrograde motion of the Nodal axis, is that only by looking back when some time has passed, can the true nature of the opportunity which was on offer at a critical Nodal point be understood.....

There is also a deeper perspective from which the retrograde Nodal motion can be viewed. It occurs to me that it could be a metaphor for the process of entropy, i.e. the progressive running down of all systems towards decay and dissolution, which as far as we know scientifically, governs the entire cosmos. In relative terms to Earth and Moon, the Sun is immortal - the body lives out its span, decays and dies - but the soul goes on in its everlasting journey, perhaps through successive lifetimes, purifying its essence as it goes. But even the Sun, we now know, will one day die, as will our solar system and the galaxy to which it belongs.

Like anyone else with any imagination and sense of wonder, I have been stunned by the magnificent images brought back in the last couple of years from the depths of space by the Hubble telescope. One image in particular stands out - it looks like a huge eye staring out from space. It is, in fact, an image of a black hole, circling round the outer fringes of our galaxy, fuelling its journey by consuming the exploded matter of decayed stars. It's the most powerful image of entropy that I can envisage..... ¹⁰

¹⁰ The Sunday Times, 31.12.1995

And where does everything go at the end of time and space?
As far as we can envisage, all journeys end with the trip
home..... back to the Source. We cannot know with our
limited intelligence who, what or where that may be. But
all religious traditions carry at their core the notion that all
things emanate from the One, or the Source, and are bound
to return there in due season.

Perhaps the retrograde motion of the Nodal axis, acting as it
does as a focus for the Sun - Earth - Moon system on which
our lives primarily depend, is a potent reminder of that.

Chapter 2: case study 1

Mary Shelley, “Frankenstein” and a sheep called Dolly

Introduction

Mary Shelley was born on 30 August 1797 as aberrant storms swept Europe, the tides of political passion generated by the French and American Revolutions still ran high, and the Romantic¹ movement in literature was at its height. Her life profoundly, dazzlingly and poignantly reflected her time.

I have chosen her for several reasons. The first is purely subjective. From the moment I first set eyes on her horoscope it has compelled and fascinated me. As an astrology teacher, I have used it in most of my interpretation classes since the late Eighties. The second reason also arose some years ago, when I realised that she had conceived the plot of **Frankenstein** the summer before her 19th birthday, and finished writing it before she was twenty. For me, this highlighted the 18.6 year Nodal return cycle, the significance of which I had by then begun to observe.

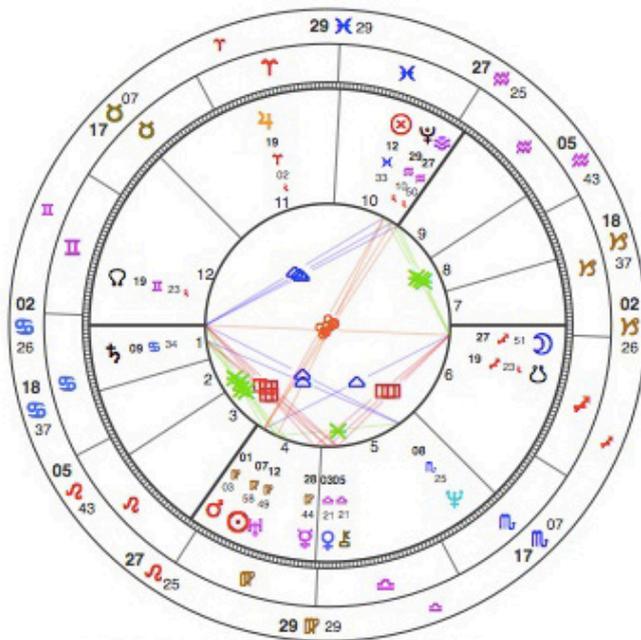
Then looking more closely at the 12th house placement of the North Node in her chart, and how it linked so strongly with Jupiter, Uranus and Pluto, set me reflecting upon how and why she as such a young woman had been chosen to offer us a warning via **Frankenstein**, her masterpiece, of what the consequences of humans stepping over

¹ Romanticism (the Romantic Movement) - c/f “The Oxford Companion to English Literature” Editor M. Drabble, Oxford University Press 1995, pp 853-4.

Fig 1
Mary Shelley

Natal Chart
30 August 1797
23:20:00 LMT
London, England
51N30 / 0W10
Tropical Placidus True Node

- Sun
- Moon
- Mercury
- Venus
- Mars
- Jupiter
- Saturn
- Uranus
- Neptune
- Pluto
- Chiron
- Vesta
- North Node
- South Node
- Ascendant
- Midheaven
- Part of Fortune



Planets by Sign

- 2 Fire
- 4 Earth
- 2 Air
- 2 Water
- 3 Cardinal
- 2 Fixed
- 5 Mutable

Planets by House

- 3 Life
- 2 Substance
- 1 Relationships
- 4 Endings
- 6 Angular
- 3 Succedent
- 1 Cadent

	Long.	Lat.	Decl.	R.A.
	07 57:31	00 N 00	08 N 38	159 38
	27 51	00 S 45	24 S 12	267 38
	28 44	00 S 12	00 N 19	178 48
	03 21	00 N 58	00 S 28	183 27
	01 03	01 N 09	12 N 11	153 31
	19 02	01 S 34	05 N 01	018 09
	09 34	00 S 44	22 N 24	100 21
	12 49	00 N 44	07 N 26	164 27
	06 25	01 N 48	12 S 40	216 37
	29 10	11 S 55	22 S 54	335 47
	05 21	02 S 06	04 S 04	184 05
	02 26	00 N 00	23 N 27	092 39
	27 25	00 N 00	12 S 23	329 37



360° Midpoint Sort

	19 02		08 46		23 05		02 41		23 N 13
	29 55		11 42		28 44		03 08		24 N 06
	00 48		15 43		00 08		03 34		
	03 29		17 43		01 02		05 07		
	04 22		19 40		03 21		05 59		
	25 04		21 42		03 42		13 04		
	29 18		01 03		04 44		13 57		
	26 02		04 30		08 11		15 23		
	28 30		05 25		10 37		16 15		
	00 56		06 56		18 35		27 51		
	02 26		07 58		20 53		02 15 55		
	06 00		09 00		25 27		03 15 47		
	08 53		10 23		02 54		27 15 38		
	09 34		12 49		05 20		28 15 30		
	11 11		14 54		08 25		28 15 43		
	01 44		17 12		13 17		28 26		
	05 42		18 21		15 36		27 25		
	05 48		20 39		25 14		26 17		
	07 43		20 47		00 06		29 10		

moral limits in the pursuit of scientific discovery might be. This warning has resonated down the decades since **Frankenstein** was published in 1818; it is more relevant than ever as we approach the millennium, and the pace of technology-led progress leads us fast into dangerously uncharted physical, emotional, ethical and spiritual territory.

I was watching a TV programme on the development of the horror movie genre not long ago², in which there was a dramatic re-enactment of the famous night of the 16 June 1816 in Geneva in which the poet Byron proposed that he, their friend Polidori, Mary's husband Shelley, and Mary all write a ghost story. The TV programme followed with an enactment of the early hours of 22 June 1816 - Europe was being ravaged by terrible storms, repeating the theme present at Mary's birth, when Mary had a ghastly waking dream in which the core plot of **Frankenstein** came to her. I thought that the chart of this dream **should** have powerful Nodal links with Mary's chart. It did - even more so than I could have hoped. Thus my case study began to come into focus.

There is a great deal to say about Mary Shelley. But I will be exploring her life only until the start of her second Nodal cycle, keeping my focus on relationships and events which led to her authorship of **Frankenstein**.

² The series was entitled "Nightmare - the Birth of Horror" (BBC2) presented by Christopher Frayling. This particular episode - **Frankenstein** - was transmitted on 17.12.1996.

Mary Shelley's Horoscope: the Nodes and their natal links

The North Node falls in Gemini, the South in Sagittarius. To me this denotes a life path centred round the conceptualising and disseminating of information and ideas. Sagittarius on the South Node shows philosophy, education and learning, and the developing of an ethical base for life as well as a desire to proselytise from that base, as a fundament to Mary's life. Love of learning, a restless, questing, travel-oriented spirit, and an appreciation of the perspective which comes from exposure to different languages, cultures, and a broad knowledge base, all characterised her inherited gifts and the cultured context from which her journey through life began.

It also suggests, taking the wide conjunction to the Moon to back this up, a longing from the beginning for a "grand", adventurous life - for a life infused with vision and the possessing of a big canvas upon which to paint a vivid picture. Her political and artistic context was the aftermath of the French and American revolutions and the impact they would have on the fabric of her time - and the Romantic movement in art and literature into which her nature fitted so well.

Also indicated in this linking of South Node and Moon is a distaste for the restrictions of the ordinary and mundane, and the potential for arrogance through conviction of one's own rightness. Blake's famous line "the road of excess leads

to the palace of wisdom”³ also comes to mind. Playing Big Momma Benefactress to a bunch of gifted but feckless, frequently penurious fellow writers seemed to take up an extraordinary amount of her time and resources throughout her life - one can see her penchant for this role in South Node in Sagittarius conjunct the Moon in the 6th House!

The North Node in Gemini conjures up the image of a thrust towards taking the gifts she was given and putting the inspiration provided therefrom into words, getting her ideas out into the world. It also denotes frequent changes of environment whilst attending to this core task - and sibling issues playing an important part in the whole scenario, as indeed they did with her step-sister Jane/Clare/Claire Clairmont (who liked changing her name!) dogging Mary’s footsteps for much of her life. Restless movement and frequent change were very much part of Mary’s and Shelley’s life - perhaps the North Node in Gemini demanded this as a way of shaking free her ideas.

When contemplating the location of the North Node, in the 12th house in one of the Gauquelin plus zones⁴, the image of the big picture comes in again, from a different perspective. Here is someone the thrust of whose life path demands an offering of her ideas in such a way as to reflect the hidden, unconscious currents running beneath the surface of her time - and perhaps a sending out of images which would be borne on those currents to provide insights to generations as yet unborn.

³ from “The Marriage of Heaven and Hell” by William Blake. “Proverbs of Hell” - Plate 7, from Collins Dictionary of Quotations, editors N. Jeffares & M. Gray, HarperCollins 1995.

⁴ Gauquelin Plus zones re the 12th house - c/f Written in the Stars by Michel Gauquelin, Aquarian Press 1988 p120.

The location of the South Node and Moon in Sagittarius in the 6th House, opposite the North Node in Gemini in the 12th, conjures up a picture of the visionary writer, in touch with the currents of the collective unconscious of her time through the 12th house Node, having to struggle to extract her vision from the mire of the mundane which was forever besetting her, as the contradictory 6th house location of the glamorous South Node conjunct Moon in Sagittarius shows all too clearly.

The nuts and bolts of ordinariness - of the body, of routines, of maintenance tasks which keep the main thrust of life running smoothly, strike me as a major provenance of the 6th House. Mary had trouble with ordinariness all her days - until he died Shelley protected her from the sharpest edges of their constant financial troubles. She regularly moved her goods and chattels, relatives, friends and children around. Her health was always delicate, childbirth drained her, and the deaths of three of her children made it impossible for periods of time to dredge up any inspiration to offer through the 12th house North Node.

Looking at the planets aspecting the Nodal axis offers further sharp images of the nature of her life's path and her struggle to actualise it. Mary had a strong masculine side which her horoscope clearly portrays. Jupiter is retrograde in Aries in the 11th House, exactly trine the South Node, sextile North Node. A quote from E.W. Sunstein sums this up:

“Aspiration, enthusiasm, challenge, active mind and spirit, and optimism were among her cardinal qualities..... it was her

incapacity for resignation to cold reality that eventually wore her down."⁵

The location of Jupiter, ruler of the Moon and South Node, in Aries in 11th shows how group associations, frequently involving famous men, usually encountered at home, shaped her life's path. Jupiter's falling on the **southern** side of the Nodal axis, trining/sextiling the Nodes, indicates gifts from the past which could be used productively by Mary in actualising her full potential - as indeed they were. There was her father the renowned social philosopher Godwin and his salon, which brought Mary in contact in her youth with eg Coleridge. Hearing him reading from **The Rime of the Ancient Mariner** had a profound impact on her which came out much later in some of the imagery in **Frankenstein**⁶. She met her husband Shelley through Godwin when Shelley was a young acolyte. She met Byron through Shelley. It was in the company of Byron and others that she was challenged to write the ghost story which became **Frankenstein**.

Perhaps Jupiter in Aries - retrograde - shows an early leap to fame (with transiting Jupiter conjunct her Moon when **Frankenstein** was published) which was never to be replicated, although she remained in the public eye as a writer, editor and critic. I think it also shows the arrogant and unrealistic side of her optimism. For example, by eloping with the still-married Shelley in her teens in the early 19th century, and having an illegitimate child, she flouted convention to such a shocking degree that she was

⁵ Emily W. Sunstein MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality p 402.

⁶ Muriel Spark Mary Shelley, p159.

never ever accepted back into the mainstream of society, despite her expectation that this would eventually happen. This social ostracism caused her great pain all her life although she eventually learned to live with it.

Uranus (ruling MC and dispositing Pluto) in the fourth house in Virgo, squaring the Nodal axis, is the most vivid signifier for her unorthodox inheritance, her own defiance of convention, her connection with Shelley, and her authorship of **Frankenstein** which assured her place in literary history. The signifier is strengthened if we extend it to include the Uranus /Mercury midpoint, Sun/Venus midpoint, and Mercury/Sun midpoint - all square the Nodes between 18 and 20 degrees of Virgo. This major T-square, as we will see as the case study unfolds, is powerfully linked with key individuals in her life who challenged her to grow, and with events critical to the unfolding of her destiny.

Frankenstein: Or, The Modern Prometheus is the full title of Mary Shelley's first and most famous book. In the myth of Prometheus lie core images of Mary's own origins; the times in which she lived; the essential nature of Percy Bysshe Shelley born like her with Sun conjunct Uranus; the way in which she defied convention; the price she paid - and, most of all, in the central theme of her masterpiece.

Like a number of modern astrologers I am inclined to associate the planet Uranus, mythologically, with Prometheus. I am particularly in debt to Richard Tarnas for his fine essay "Prometheus the Awakener"⁷ which argues a persuasive case for this association.

⁷ Richard Tarnas "Prometheus the Awakener" - Auriel Press, Oxford, 1993

In essence, Prometheus in Greek mythology was a Titan who stole some of the fire of knowledge from the gods and gave it to humanity to help them in their development. For this hubristic act the gods punished Prometheus savagely. He was chained to a rock, and during the day an eagle came and pecked out his liver, which grew again during the night so that he could be subjected to the same pain the next day, ad infinitum.

The myth of Prometheus speaks most vividly, dynamically and poignantly of the human condition. We seem driven by an unceasing restless quest to push back the frontiers of knowledge, thereby defying our limits as mortal human beings chained to the programmed lifespan of the body and the inexorable cycle of birth, growth, flowering, decline and death which governs everything in existence.

I perceive the struggle to be what we can most fully be, through being forced to confront our limits, or choosing consciously to wrestle with them, to be at the heart of the soli/lunar dialectic which the Nodal axis seems to focus. Combining Uranus with the Nodal axis conjures up a particular dynamic:

“It was as if each Uranus aspect reflected the ‘liberation’ of a specific archetypal impulse - Prometheus liberating the Mercury impulse of ideas and language and communication, for example, or liberating the Venus impulse of art and beauty and love..... Each natal aspect between Uranus and another planet seemed to represent a distinct mutual activation of the corresponding archetypes.”⁸

8 Richard Tarnas “Prometheus the Awakener” - p39.

This quote applies very clearly to Mary Shelley's horoscope, with its powerful Nodal/ Uranian/ Mercurial / Venusian emphasis through the dominant T-square and corresponding midpoints.

To appreciate the full challenging, mould-breaking power of Mary Shelley's vision and its expression in her writing, imaged symbolically in the above T-square, it is important to look at the overall context in which the planetary/Nodal pattern is set.

The T-square's mutability shows the ceaseless reaching out into the realm of ideas and their expression which so characterised Mary Shelley's life, and the state of restlessness and dissatisfaction which was typical of much of it. The Gemini/Sagittarius combination has already been discussed - Gemini, Sagittarius and dominant mutability, without anything to ground them and give them substance, could have produced a life with a lot of hot air being generated with no great end result.

But Virgo in the fourth house demands of mutability, of Gemini and Sagittarius, that they earth, take shape, serve in some way - that they base themselves somewhere, take root. Planting in carefully tilled soil, tending and growing, then harvesting, are all images conjured up by Virgo. Mary Shelley had to produce something unusual, something startling, from the carefully prepared and planted intellectual and political soil of her early nurturing. That something, shown by the Sun conjunct Uranus in Virgo and its attendant pattern would need to break through the bounds of convention regarding the social mores of her time.

We can see through her biography (C/F **Appendix i**) how fully she lived out the Promethean imperative symbolised in her horoscope, in her personal life - and the price she paid for that.

In the story of **Frankenstein**, the issue of the rupturing of the integrity of the body is central to the whole plot. **Frankenstein** creates a unique and uniquely repugnant body, from the stolen parts of corpses. In this he is striving for a form of physical perfection which is unique - he is going where no man has gone before, and creating life itself, thus taking on the role of the Creator. The punishment of the gods for Frankenstein's spectacular piece of hubris which goes horribly wrong makes for reading which still chills one to the bone.

Nature brings its rhythms, its cycles, its seasons - and we are firmly rooted in the physical. Virgo tells us this clearly. So the body itself, and the seasons and cycles of human life, and what happens when that is artificially ruptured in the name of progress and change, are centrally important factors in the themes of Mary Shelley's writing.

Uranus in Virgo and the attendant midpoints closely square the Nodal axis from the **northern** side. To me this speaks of Mary Shelley's path involving an invocation, through her presentation of **Frankenstein** to the world, of the **future** impact of scientific advance on the very smallest, most intricately detailed threads weaving the tapestry of physical life - our DNA and our genes.

It is useful to contemplate the wider symbolic influence of the Uranus/Pluto cycle, in trying to create a context for

Mary Shelley's vision which stretches from just before her birth to our own time. She was born five years after the Uranus/Pluto opposition in Leo/Aquarius. This opposition was exact at 21 degrees Leo/Aquarius - closely sextile and trine her Nodal axis, close to her MC/IC axis - in 1792, the year of the foundation of the first French Republic, three years after the French Revolution. Revolution was in the air of these times - political, social and scientific as befits Pluto in Aquarius. The old order was inexorably being challenged, breaking down, changing.

When Uranus and Pluto then met in Virgo during the 1960s, we had a unique decade of social, political and scientific revolution: the French student riots of 1968, protests in USA which led to the end of the Vietnam War, and the micro-technology revolution leading to our current computer dominated, internet facilitated global village.

With Pluto's entry into Sagittarius in 1995 and Uranus's entry into Aquarius the same year, we had the first sextile from the 1960s conjunction, and the fruiting of the micro-technology revolution accelerated. Amongst many stunning developments since then of a scientific and technological nature, we have had the rise and spread of the internet, and a major acceleration in the pace of the human genome project to map all our genes, which has led to increasing knowledge of how to manipulate the fundamental structures of both human and animal life.

The presentation to the world of Dolly the Sheep on 26 February 1997 was a major event in the boldly going juggernaut of contemporary science. It has also generated

tremendous public unease and disquiet as we see nature being manipulated, often grotesquely, on a regular basis. “Frankenstein” as an adjective is often to be heard these days – “Frankenstein food” for example. Furthermore, the initial choice of name for the famous sheep was Mary - after Mary Shelley, the author of **Frankenstein**.⁹

Examination of the symbolism of Uranus’ dynamic placement in Mary Shelley’s horoscope, then tracking the Uranus/Pluto cycle to the present day, shows the powerful thrust to use her inherited gifts not just to create an image of the Promethean changes which were occurring in the pursuit of scientific progress in her own time. The 12th house location of the Gemini North Node, and the northern location of Uranus, powerfully evokes the capacity that visionary artists - painters, musicians, writers - have always had : to offer up images of the far future. The myth which Mary Shelley created in writing **Frankenstein** is still full of vibrant life nearly two hundred years later. I will be discussing the striking links between Mary’s and Dolly’s charts later in this case study, as well as offering some comments on the reasons for the myth’s continuing potency.

The pre-natal eclipses and Mary Shelley’s horoscope

As discussed in Chapter One, the role of the eclipses, as galvanisers for the energy shifts that push individuals to become what they can most fully be, is central to the Nodal story. Mary Shelley’s pre-natal total solar eclipse at 3.5 degrees Cancer (9.6.1797) runs through her whole life

⁹ from Peter Clarke’s Diary, Sunday Times, 30.11.97.

as a key point of significance, in terms of connections to the most important people and events in her life which shaped her destiny. It appears in the first house of her natal chart, within one degree of exact conjunction with her 2.5 degrees Cancer Ascendant conjunct Saturn (Descendant ruler). It exactly squares Venus (12th House ruler), which conjuncts Chiron in the 5th House. It also squares Mercury (12th House Node ruler) in the 4th House, and opposes the Sagittarian Moon (Chart ruler) in the sixth House.

This solar eclipse is therefore an extraordinarily potent force, driving Mary **forward** to give creative form and meaning, through her writing and her powerful links with the collective unconscious, to very painful experiences of separation and loss in relationships, involving children, partner and mother. The driving power of her own painful, bleak feelings of emotional insecurity and woundedness can be felt almost palpably from the planetary symbols.

The pre-natal total lunar eclipse at 19 degrees Sagittarius (24.6.1797) is just as clear in the thread it runs through the weave of her whole life, key people, and significant events. It appears as the exact South Node degree in her natal chart, widely conjunct the Sagittarian Moon chart ruler, exactly trine Jupiter her South Node ruler in the eleventh House. This pattern, and the powerful Nodal T Square involving Uranus the MC ruler and its links, has already been discussed. I think the lunar eclipse casts a bright light on her inherited gifts from the past, but the strongly northern emphasis which the Uranus/Mercury midpoint brings to the Nodal axis means that the lunar eclipse's energy is also enlisted in the service of the future. There is a strong pull

towards the past and a retreat from her destiny indicated by the South Node conjunct Moon potentised by a lunar eclipse - but Uranus won't allow it, nor will Sagittarius which is a future-oriented energy. What this strong conflict evokes for me is a poignant sense of Mary's *"having to struggle to extract her vision from the mire of the mundane which was forever besetting her, as the contradictory 6th house location of the glamorous South Node conjunct Moon in Sagittarius shows all too clearly.....Her health was always delicate, childbirth drained her, and the deaths of three of her children made it impossible for periods of time to dredge up any inspiration to offer through the 12th house North Node."*

I will track some of the most obvious pre-natal eclipse links with key people and events at the end of each following section. There are also other striking eclipse links, apart from the pre-natal ones, which I think are worth mentioning.

Key relationships and Nodal Links

It is rather difficult, perhaps presumptuous, to attempt to state who have been the most important people in anyone's life. But from the perspective I am offering on the Nodes, I would assess her parents William Godwin, Mary Wollstonecroft, and her husband Shelley as the key enablers over time in the expression of Mary Shelley's gifts. I would also add two others, as vital catalysts in Mary's capacity to conceive of and give birth to **Frankenstein**. Firstly her baby daughter Mary, her first, illegitimate child: born on 22 February 1815, died 5 March 1815. And secondly, Byron.

The Synastries - 1

Fig 2

Mary Shelley

Natal Chart
 Wednesday, 30 August 1797
 23:20:00 LMT
 London, England
 51N30 / 0W10
 Tropical Placidus True Node

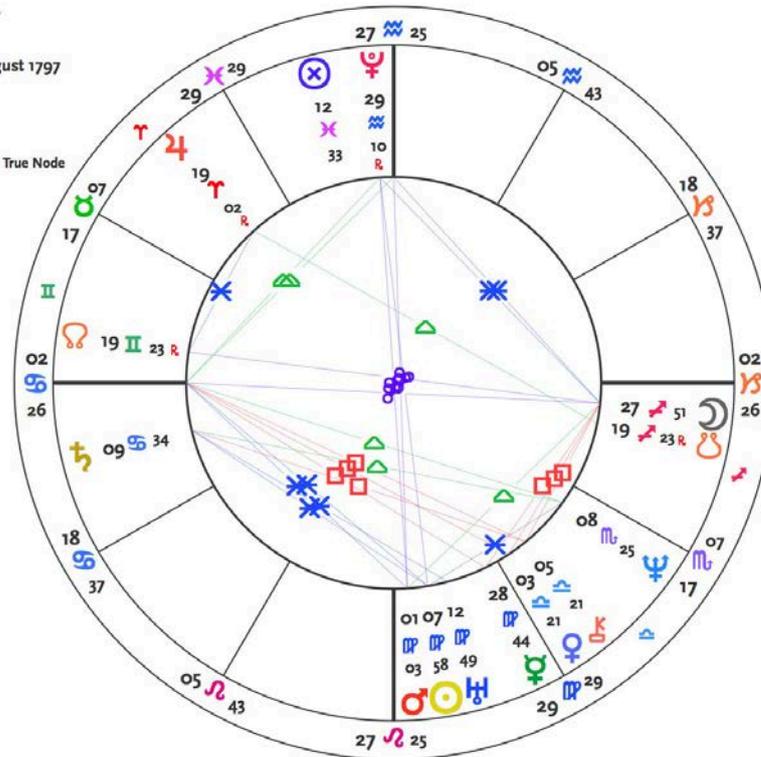


Fig 3

William Godwin

Natal Chart
 Wednesday, 3 March 1756
 12:00:00 LMT
 Wisbech, England
 52N40 / 0E10
 Tropical Placidus True Node

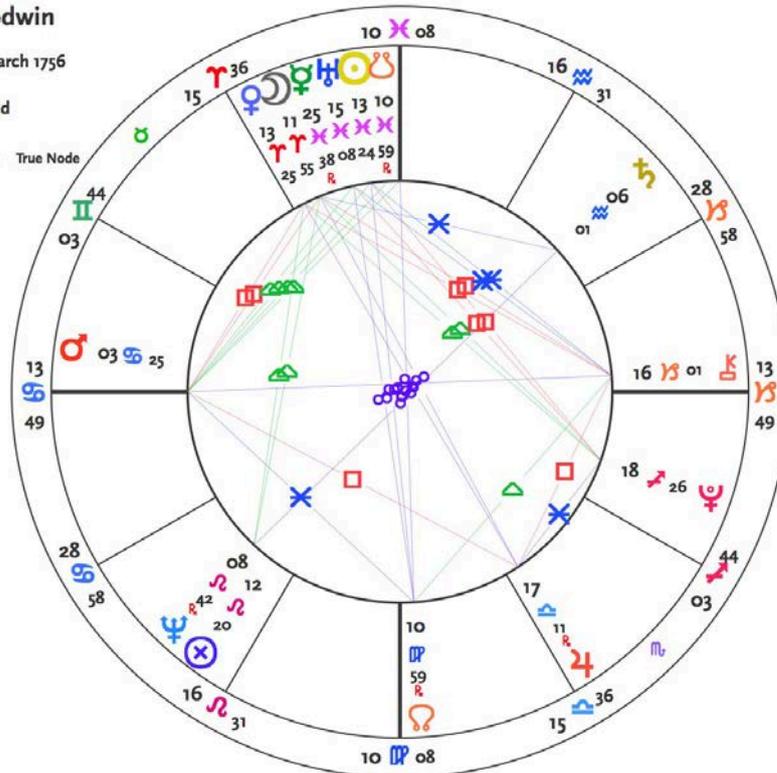
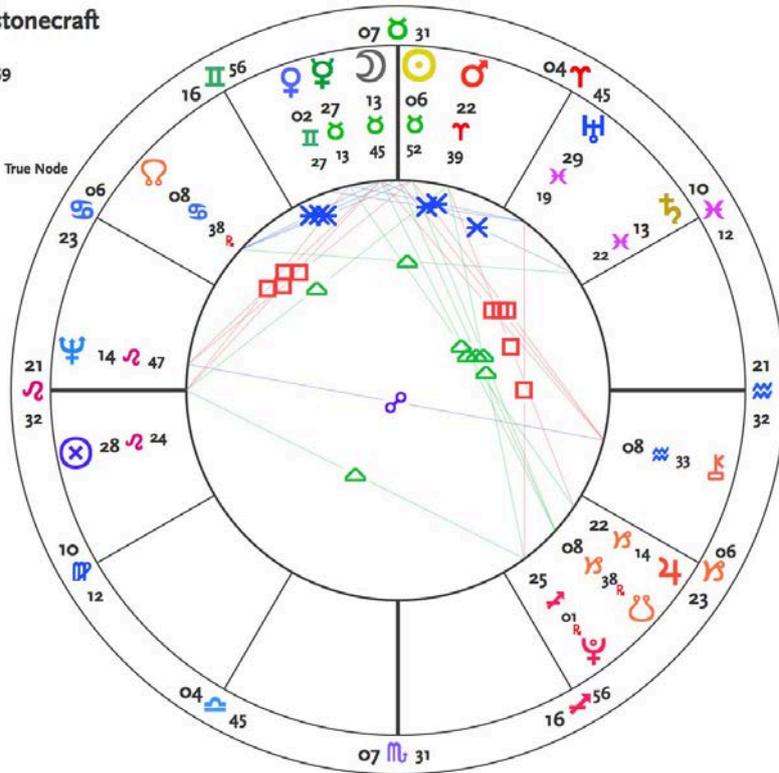


Fig 4

Mary Wollstonecraft

Natal Chart
Friday, 27 April 1759
12:00:00 LMT
London, England
51N30 / 0W10
Tropical Placidus True Node



Despite her child's very short life and tragic death, I believe that without such brutal experience so young she would have lacked the emotional depth, plumbed by experience, to portray with such a moving sense of desolation and loneliness the plight of the abandoned Monster in **Frankenstein**. By the time she conceived **Frankenstein** on 22 June 1816, whilst still only eighteen, and sat down to write it on 7 October that year, she had experienced one child's birth and death, and her second child's birth on 24 Jan 1816. Two days after starting to write **Frankenstein**, her half-sister Fanny committed suicide. Shelley's wife took her own life on 15 December. She and Shelley married on 30th December - and some time in December she must have conceived Clara Everina. By the 13 May 1817, the day

she finished **Frankenstein**, she was five months pregnant with her third child. I cannot recall any writer having such a devastating personal context, so young, within which a classic of world literature was conceived and came to birth. Mary had very mixed feelings about Byron, as had everyone who ever met him. His combination of beauty, charisma, predatory, powerful and amoral sexuality, linguistic and artistic brilliance, moral equivocation, aristocratic origins and the wealth and power which went with it, all repelled and drew her in equal measure. There is no doubt that his presence in her and Shelley's lives acted as a major catalyst on the conception of **Frankenstein**. Indeed, it was Byron's glamour which drew the Shelleys and their family to join him in Geneva in the summer of 1816.

It was in Byron's residence at Villa Diodati, where Milton had once stayed, after a night of reading chilling tales, that he issued the famous challenge to Mary, Shelley, their friend and physician Polidori and himself that each should write a ghost story. Less than a week later, in the middle of a violent storm, the sleepless Mary had a waking nightmare or hallucination in which she saw the scientist she would later call Victor Frankenstein overseeing "*the hideous phantasm of a man*"¹⁰ which he had created from corpses.

Given the significance of all those mentioned to the fashioning of Mary's destiny, one would expect to see powerful Nodal links between her chart and theirs.

¹⁰ from the Author's Introduction to the Standard Novels Edition, 1831, p 9.

Mary and Wollestonecraft, Godwin, Shelley, baby Mary, and Byron: the Charts.

There are many powerful and moving links between Mary's overall chart and the charts of each person appearing in this section, and indeed in the various synastries. But apart from the occasional other link which is too striking to resist mentioning, I am confining my comments to Nodal links. Primarily, how the charts tie in with Mary's Nodal axis; secondarily, how individual's Nodes link in with Mary's own Horoscope. So immediately visually striking are these Nodal links that a commentary is scarcely required!

Mary and her mother, Mary Wollestonecraft

In Mary Wollestonecraft's chart, Pluto at 25 Sagittarius in the 5th house squares Uranus in Pisces in the 8th - the waxing square of the Uranus Pluto conjunction which charged up the industrial revolution. This links with Mary's South Node conjunct Moon at 19 and 27 Sagittarius in the 6th house and squares her North Node ruler Mercury at 28 Virgo in the 4th. The midpoint of her mother's Saturn conjunct Uranus, 21 Pisces, squares Mary's Nodal axis and opposes her 20 degrees Virgo Mercury/Uranus and Sun/Venus midpoints.

What an inheritance for her daughter! The overall feel of this is of Wollestonecraft handing on the baton of her creative power of expression as fuel for her daughter's need to propel her ideas and concepts out into the wider world. Saturn, Uranus and Pluto in the mother's chart are picked up by the Nodes in her daughter's. These disruptive

The Synastries - 2

Fig 5

Percy B Shelley

Natal Chart
 Saturday, 4 August 1792
 04:36:02 LMT
 Horsham, England
 51No4 / oW21
 Tropical Placidus True Node

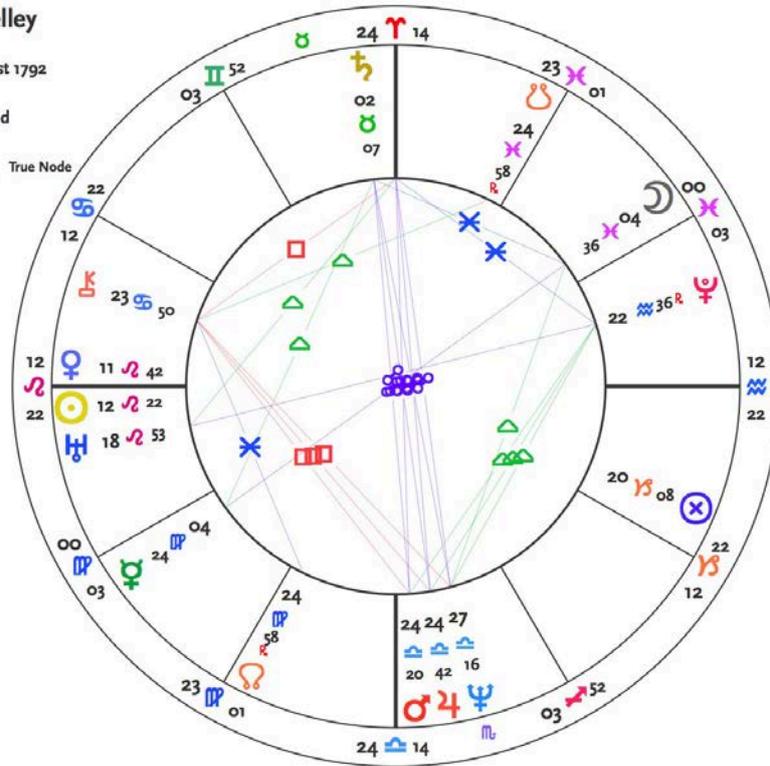


Fig 6

Lord Byron

Natal Chart
 Tuesday, 22 January 1788
 14:00:00 LMT
 London, England
 51N30 / oW10
 Tropical Placidus True Node

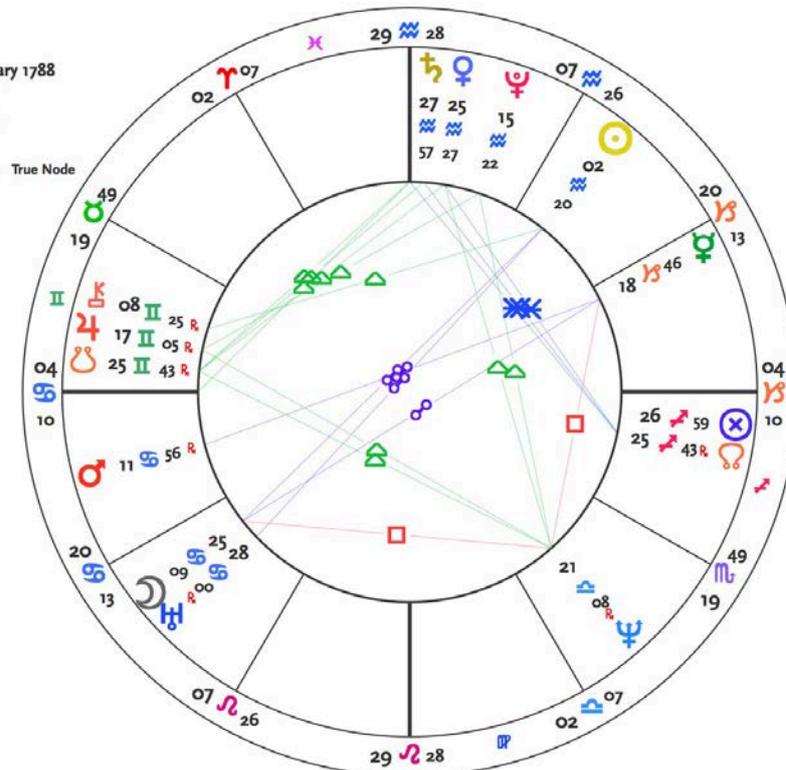


Fig 7

Mary Shelley

Natal Chart

Wednesday, 30 August 1797

23:20:00 LMT

London, England

51N30 / 0W10

Tropical Placidus True Node

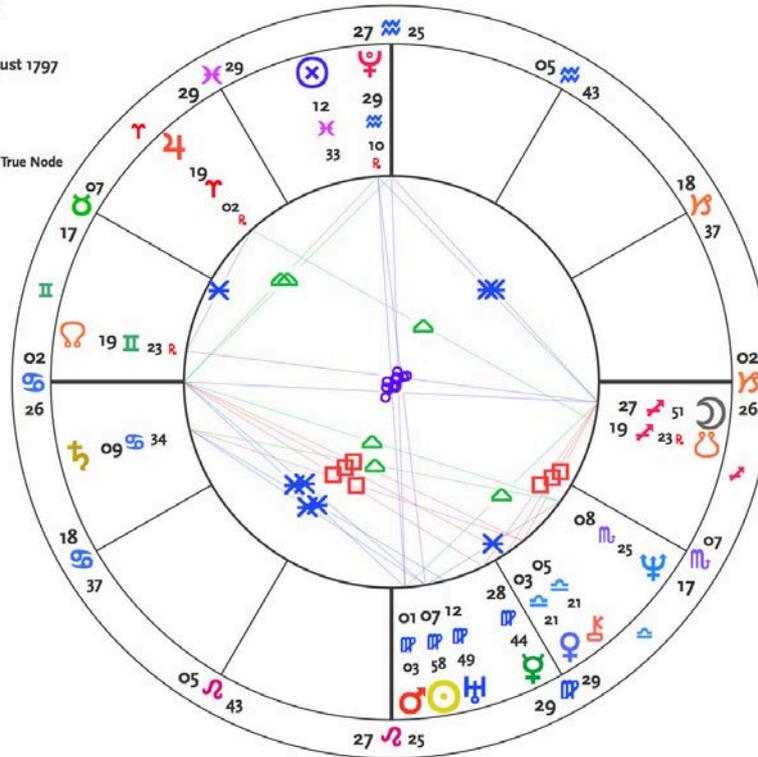


Fig 8

Baby Mary - d.5.3.1815

Sunrise Chart

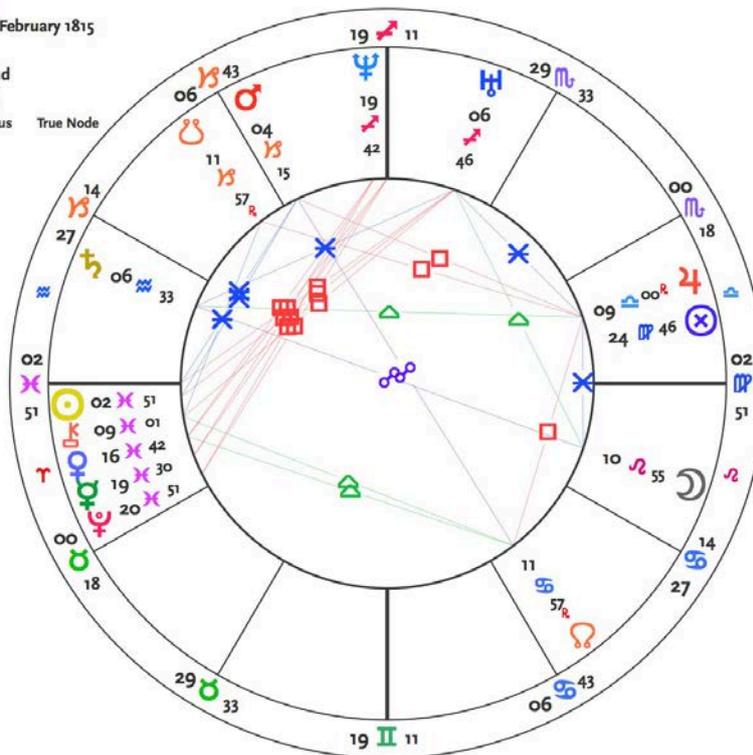
Wednesday, 22 February 1815

07:07:39 LMT

London, England

51N30 / 0W10

Tropical Placidus True Node



energies would emerge and be given worldly form in her daughter's scandalous, defiant, unconventional life, expressed through her 10th house as her writing and her all-too-public life with Shelley.

This inheritance also gives Mary the task of giving form to images of the turbulent and powerful disruption which modern science was to bring to the very core values of life itself. Through **Frankenstein**, Mary warned us of the dangers to which the hubris of modern science, with its disregard for the ancient rhythms and patterns governing all levels of earthly existence, would expose us all. As I write this (17 November 1997) there have just been recent reports in the papers that, in the move towards human cloning, one eventual outcome - of growing headless human bodies for use as spare parts for surgery - is being thought of as a possibility.....

At a more personal level, there is such poignancy in seeing Wollestonecraft's South Node at 8 Capricorn/North Node at 8 Cancer being picked up by Mary's Saturn rising in the first house at 9 Cancer. The legacy of maternal deprivation and the loneliness welling up from it which was to colour Mary's whole personal life with its dreadful losses, and play an important part in shaping her writing, is starkly pictured here. The Moon-ruled North Node in Cancer in the 11th house also speaks of Wollestonecraft's commitment to her fellow women - an example which her daughter would live out in her own life in her defiance of traditional restrictions on the role of women in society, and pay for by social isolation.

Mary and her father, William Godwin

Godwin's chart and Mary's Nodes have equally powerful links. Godwin's Nodal axis widely crosses Mary's at 11 Virgo/Pisces to her 19 Gemini/Sagittarius. What Mary and her father did NOT share was emotional intimacy; what they **did** share was a restless and questing intellectuality and need to study, learn, share ideas, and work to bring their ideas to fruition. The most striking link is shown in Godwin's Mercury/Uranus midpoint in Pisces in the 10th house, exactly opposite Mary's Mercury/Uranus and Sun/Venus midpoints at 20 Virgo, forming a close Grand Cross with Mary's Nodal axis.

In this one can see clearly how Godwin's revolutionary ideas sparked a bright fire in Mary's developing political and intellectual life from an early age. He was her main teacher (she was never formally educated) and she was an eager, avid, and very hard-working pupil. This habit of study and learning continued in the company of Shelley. No matter what turbulence they were going through, reading, writing and discussion of serious literature took up hours daily for all their years together.

One can also see through the Sun/Venus/Uranus/Mercury links between their charts what a catalyst Godwin was for linking her with unconventional, revolutionary male writers who would play such an important part in the unfolding of her life's path. Growing up, her home had some of the most famous men of the age come visiting. She heard Coleridge read from "*The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*" when she was

still a child.¹¹ She met Shelley through her father. And she met Byron through Shelley.

It is quite stunning to note how Node, Sun, Uranus and Mercury are in almost the same alignment, though in different signs, in both father and daughter's chart. How could she do other than marry a Sun/Uranus man?

Mary and Percy Shelley

As indeed she did.....I would urge the reader to read Emily Sunstein's account of Mary and Shelley's life together. The story bowls along at a merry and turbulent pace, leaving the reader exhausted and marvelling. Only the blithe energy and naiveté of youth saved the pair of them from going completely round the bend.....and many of their contemporaries probably thought that they already were!

Their Nodes form a grand cross, with Shelley's North Node in Virgo, just as Godwin's was. Shelley's Nodal axis at 25 Virgo/Pisces thus picks up Mary's 20 Virgo Mercury/Uranus and Sun/Venus midpoints, again bringing a similar tone to the links between Mary and her father. So there is the same atmosphere of sharing "*a restless and questing intellectuality and need to study, learn, share ideas, and work to bring their ideas to fruition*" which I commented on in Mary's relationship with Godwin.

What is strikingly different is brought out in the symbolism of Shelley's Moon/South Node midpoint in Pisces in the 12th house - falling in Mary's 10th house, square her 12th house North Node. I would take from this strong image

¹¹ Emily W. Sunstein MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality p40.

of a deep “soul bond” between the couple, and of Shelley’s powerful empathy for his wife’s links to the collective unconscious, hers for his, and the undercurrents running beneath the times in which they both lived. Shelley was a great supporter and enabler of his wife’s work, as she was of his: he wrote the first preface for **Frankenstein** for her¹² and after his death she edited and put together an acclaimed version of his collected works.¹³ But the feeling I get from looking at those mutual 12th house/Pisces Moon/Nodal links is that they were not really of this world, either of them. They belonged to the realms of the unconscious, of the imagination, of dreams and prescience...the universal sea to which Shelley returned very literally before he was even thirty.

There was an unworldly unrealism about them both, which can be seen in the frequent periods of chaos in their domestic life and their frequent immersion in tides of debts and pursuing creditors - Shelley’s Moon/S Node midpoint opposite Mary’s Mercury/Uranus Midpoint, square her North Node in Gemini in the 12th House/South Node in Sagittarius in the 6th, offers a stark picture of the less rarefied and more worldly manifestations of their mutual Nodal links. They were great writers and visionaries, but pretty hopeless at managing the affairs of ordinary life.

Mary and baby Mary

The strong Nodal links here tell a poignant story. The child’s

¹² Preface to *Frankenstein* written by Shelley 14 May 1817.

¹³ Publishing of Shelley’s complete works by Mary Shelley. Decision to publish in July 1838 - first volume appeared late January 1839. Source: Emily W. Sunstein *MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality* pp 340-346.

MC conjunct Neptune at 19 41 Sagittarius, square Mercury conjunct Pluto at 20 degrees Pisces, plugs in exactly to Mary's nodal axis T- square with the Uranus Mercury midpoint at 20 degrees Virgo. At a human level one can imagine breathing difficulties leading to death (the child was found dead in her cot on the morning of 6 March but may well have died the night before) - and on Mary's side, the shock and horror with which this discovery was greeted.

At a more spiritual level, the two charts' combined pattern of Neptune/Pluto/Uranus/ Mercury with her 12th house Node in Gemini evokes a feeling of darkly visionary capacities of expression being kick-started by such a traumatic and early experience of loss.

We see also that baby Mary's North Node in Cancer square Jupiter square Mars/South Node picks up her mother's Saturn rising in Cancer - a powerful set of signifiers for blocked growth, and reinforcement of Mary's primary wound, ie maternal loss. She lost her mother when she was a baby, and now had given birth to a child who would shortly be lost to her. In this pattern we can also see the motherless, desolate Monster of the book - longing for the expansive potential of human relationship and forever cut off from it, tormented by his own loneliness, grief - and ultimately, anger.

Mary and Byron

The first thing which hits the eye is that Mary and Byron have virtually the same angles, with Byron's Saturn falling with Mary's Pluto on their mutual Aquarian Midheaven.

Surely a relationship fated to send powerful images of the shadow side of scientific progress out into the world.....
The Nodal axes are linked, with Byron's North Node in 25 Sagittarius, Part of Fortune at 27, and conjunct Mary's Moon at 28 Sagittarius and her South Node at 20 Sagittarius. Shelley's North Node is 25 Virgo, and Godwin's Moon/ North Node midpoint is with his Mercury at 25 Pisces. So one has a potent image of all these influences stimulating her restless, questing, writer's spirit to make something on a large and visionary scale come into being - which it did, in 1816 the year of her first Nodal return.

Continuing with Byron and Mary's Nodal links, his 12th house Jupiter/South Node in Gemini falls on her 12th house Gemini North Node; his Venus/Pluto in Aquarius midpoint in the 9th house trines those links, and quincunxes her Mercury/Uranus midpoint in Virgo in her 4th house. The picture conjured up by those combined energies is of the relationship with Byron, and the challenge he threw down that fateful night at Villa Diodati, acting as a potent catalyst for the release of her creative potential as a writer. It also suggests the birth of something dark and fated from their connection, which would ripple out into the collective from their time to the future, via the dark underground currents of the 12th house.

Mary Shelley's pre-natal eclipses and the synastries

As can be seen from the discussion in this section already, the bold threads of Mary's pre-natal solar eclipse at 3.5 Cancer, and pre-natal lunar eclipse at 19 Sagittarius, both weave their way through all the synastries with

unmistakeable colour and impact. The solar picks up Godwin's 12th House rising Mars **exactly**, with his Ascendant - Chiron - Moon conjunct Venus T square. It then draws in Wollestonecraft's Nodal axis, Shelley's MC/IC axis, Byron's Ascendant/Descendant axis and his first House rising Mars. Baby Mary's Mars is exactly opposite her mother's pre-natal solar eclipse, which further weaves in with the child's Nodal axis - Mars - Jupiter T square. Because Mary Shelley's pre-natal lunar eclipse is her South Node degree, one can see its impact running through all the comments made on the links between Mary's Nodal T square and the key people discussed.

Both those eclipses occurring over two months before her birth are powerfully configured in the structure of Mary's horoscope. Contemplating them, their symbolism in Mary's birth chart, and their strong links with the charts of Godwin, Wollestonecraft, Shelley, Byron and baby Mary, leaves me with a real sense of a life whose purpose was already sketched out before her birth: those key people would be catalysts for the unfolding of her destiny.

Key events and Nodal Links

1. Mary and Percy's declaration of love and their elopement

Mary first met Shelley when she was fifteen, on 11th November 1812. In the spring of 1814 she met him again, and their relationship began to develop. At this point he was unhappily married with small children. On Sunday June 26, "*in the evening at sunset*", at the site of her mother's

The Events - 1

Fig 9

Declaration Mary/Percy

Event Chart
 Sunday, 26 June 1814
 21:00:00 LMT
 London, England
 51N30 / 0W10
 Tropical Placidus True Node

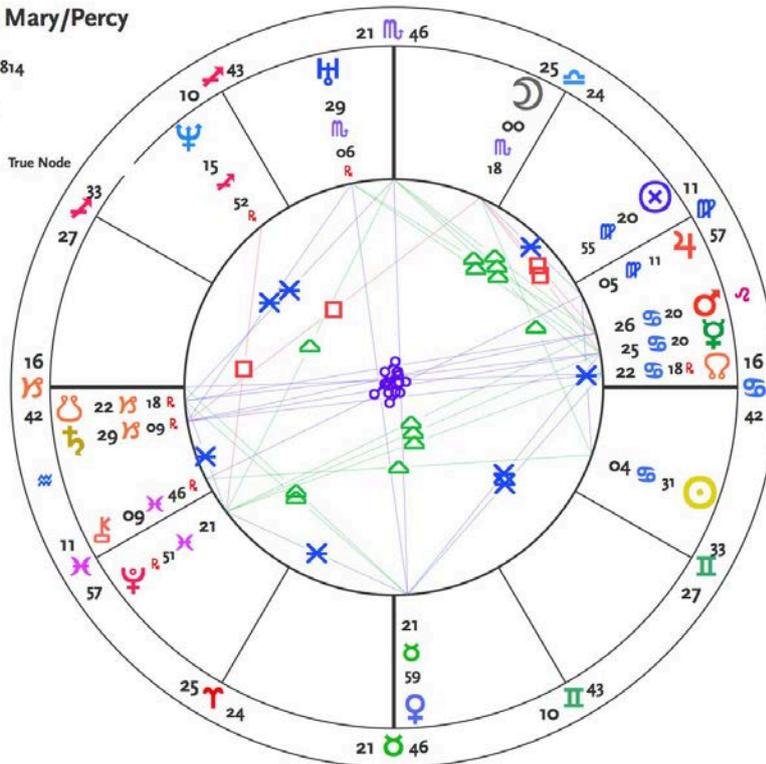


Fig 10

Elopement Mary/Percy

Event Chart
 Thursday, 28 July 1814
 04:00:00 LMT
 London, England
 51N30 / 0W10
 Tropical Placidus True Node

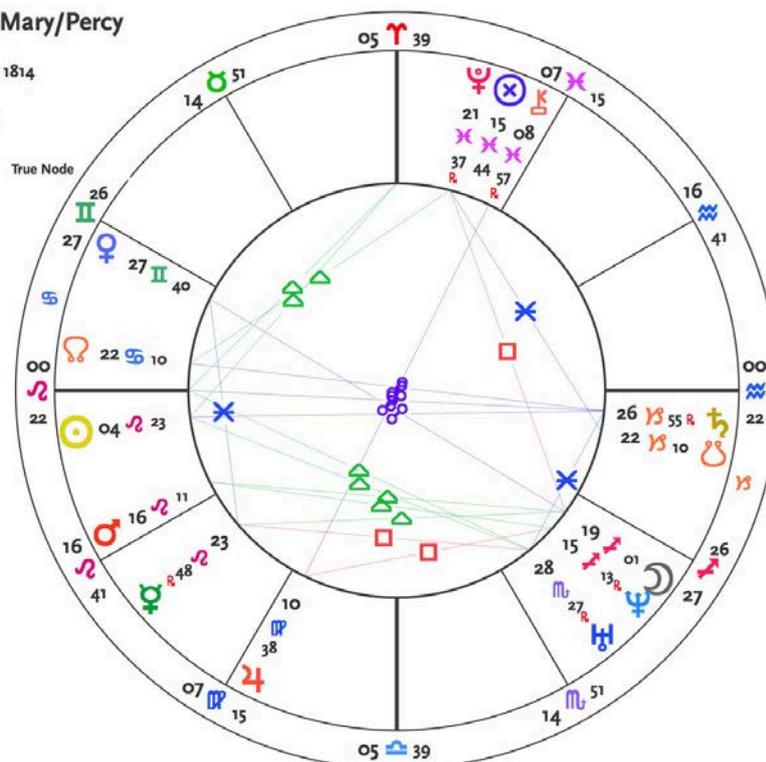
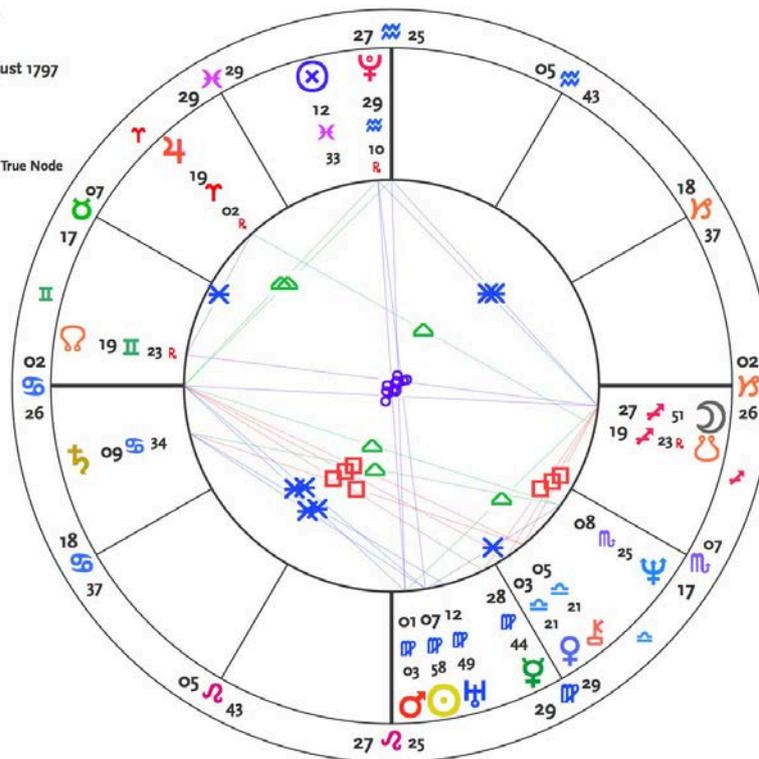


Fig 11

Mary Shelley

Natal Chart
Wednesday, 30 August 1797
23:20:00 LMT
London, England
51N30 / 0W10
Tropical Placidus True Node



grave where Mary often went for solace and reflection, they declared their love for each other Sunstein describes this as “the evening....that decided her destiny.”¹⁴

In this chart the elements we can be sure of are Pluto at 21 Pisces, falling in Mary’s 10th house, opposite her Uranus/Mercury midpoint at 20 Virgo in the 4th house, creating a grand cross with her natal Nodes at 19 degrees Gemini/Sagittarius. This gives a strong feel of an event occurring which was heavily fated, destined to alter profoundly her direction in life thereafter. The restless travelling writers’ life which they were to lead is also evoked. Pluto/Uranus/

¹⁴ Emily W. Sunstein MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality p 74.

Mercury carries a strong charge of defiance of the power of the prevailing social order- and the price.

Neptune in Sagittarius falls in Mary's 6th house, conjunct South Node, square Pluto in Pisces in her 10th. I think this shows how her act of commitment to Shelley opens her up as a channel for the archetypal forces of power and imaginative vision which would result in her creation of **Frankenstein**. It poignantly speaks of a longing for worldly, bodily connection with her soulmate.

If the speculative time is accurate, then we see the Part of Fortune at 20 Virgo completing a T Square with Neptune and Pluto, emphasising the Grand Cross formed by the two charts. The elopement chart has an exact time. This venture involved secret flight to the continent, thereby taking an inexorable step in the eyes of the world, especially Godwin's. He was appalled. To make matters worse they took Mary's step-sister Jane (Clare/Claire) Claremont with them. Godwin didn't speak to Mary for nearly three years until the couple married after Shelley's wife's suicide. (But it didn't stop him continually borrowing money off Shelley who continued to provide it!)

In this chart the Neptune/Pluto square is once again present, with the Moon joining Neptune at 19 Sagittarius conjunct Mary's North Node in the sixth, square the Part of Fortune again, at 15 Pisces conjunct Pluto in Mary's tenth. This pattern shows similar issues to the Declaration chart, but Moon/Neptune in Sagittarius shows action in the world (Mary's 6th house) generated by romantic love and longing, ill-judged and planned and ending in penniless

return on Sept 13th. A flight over water (the English Channel) is also indicated in this chart.

2. Dreaming Frankenstein.....and getting it published.

“... out of that vampire-laden fug of gruesomeness known as the English Gothic Romance, only the forbidding acrid name Frankenstein remains in general usage.....”¹⁵

Muriel Spark's evocative phrase sums up Mary Shelley's singular achievement. Perhaps **Frankenstein** alone survives because it is unique. As Muriel Spark puts it:

*“**Frankenstein** then was a best-seller ; it occurred at the propitious moment when it was necessary for works of fiction to produce, not only repellent if vicarious sensations in the pit of the stomach, but (my emphasis) **speculation in the mind.**”*

Mary Shelley went further than anyone else in her “*speculation in the mind*”. She was writing during the Romantic period in English literature when the “*fusion of the ways of thought of two epochs*” was generating creative conflict in the artistic, scientific, religious and political life of the time. Those two epochs were the era of eighteenth century scientific rationalism represented in her childhood by her father, the social philosopher Godwin, and the nineteenth century's Romantic response, represented as a contrasting childhood influence by the Romantic poet Coleridge. She listened to many conversations between these two men as she grew up.

¹⁵ Muriel Spark Mary Shelley p 153.

The Events - 2

Fig 12

Mary Shelley - Dream

Event Chart
 Saturday, 22 June 1816
 00:15:24 GMT
 Geneva > Genève, Switzerland
 46N12 / 6E09
 Tropical Placidus True Node

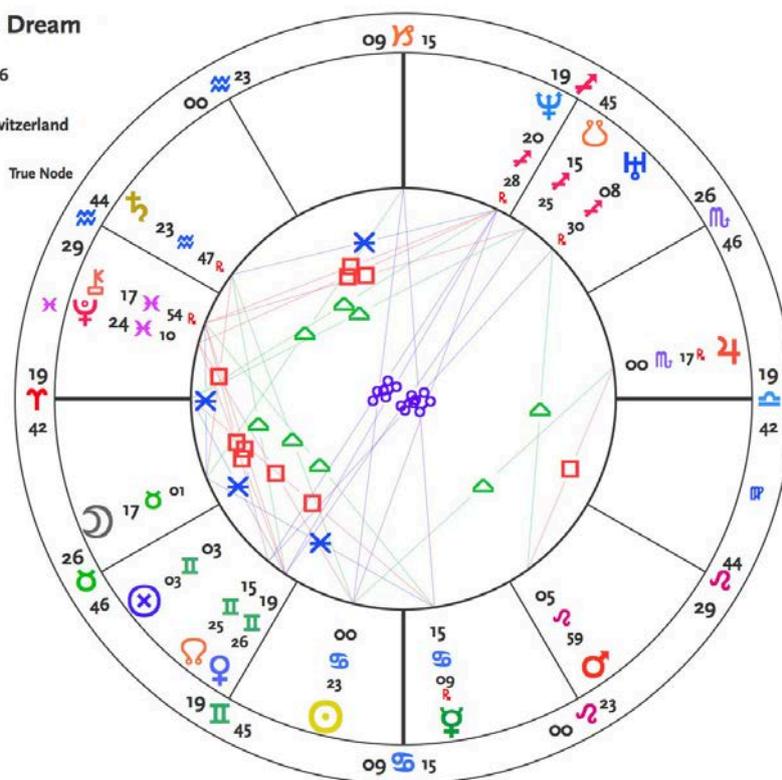
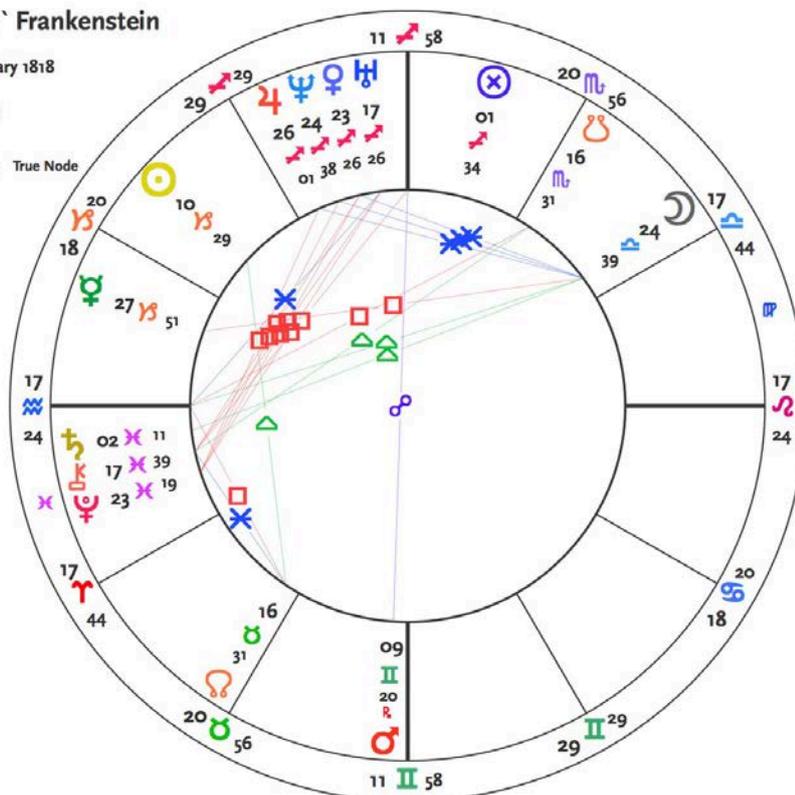


Fig 13

Publication `Frankenstein

Event Chart
 Thursday, 1 January 1818
 10:00:00 LMT
 London, England
 51N30 / 0W10
 Tropical Placidus True Node



Mingling in Mary were two contrasting streams of thought and feeling, the scientific and the Romantic - an appropriate reflection of her own temperament, which was predominantly earth/air on the one hand, and strongly fire/water on the other - **and** of the detached scientist Frankenstein and his turbulently emotional creation, the Monster.

*“This fusion of the ways of thought of two epochs occurred, then, in Frankenstein, and gave rise to the first important example of that fictional genre which was later endorsed by HG Wells.....”*¹⁶

In **Frankenstein** we can see the Promethean march forward of human scientific endeavour which takes the view, largely, that if it can be done, it should be done - in the name of scientific “progress”. This view doesn’t see ceaseless moral and ethical questioning along the way as any part of the scientific project.

*“...Perhaps a corpse could be re-animated; galvanism¹⁷ had given token of such things; perhaps the component parts of a creature might be manufactured, brought together, and endued with vital warmth.”*¹⁸

We can also see throughout the book the horror and revulsion of the Romantic temperament’s response to the notion that the fundamental mystery and grandeur

¹⁶ Muriel Spark Mary Shelley p 159.

¹⁷ Luigi Galvani - for definition of galvanism c/f Encyclopaedia Britannica Micropaedia Ready Reference Book 5 (Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc., 15th Edition 1995) pp 98/9.

¹⁸ from the Author’s Introduction to the Standard Novels Edition, 1831, p4.

of human experience and endeavour could be reduced to a pitifully hubristic attempt at playing God, by cobbling together bits of corpses and attempting to animate the frightful travesty thus engendered.

The backdrop to the night when Mary Shelley dreamed **Frankenstein** was singular. Europe was again being ravaged by terrible storms which had last been seen in the year of her birth in 1797. The cultural cross-currents of scientific rationalism, and the Romantic Movement in art and literature, were creating a turbulent stream in the collective unconscious of the time.

Foreground energies were provided by the alchemy of Byron, Shelley, Mary and their friend Polidori and their reading and discussion, late into the night while storms and rain lashed their villa, of “volumes of ghost stories translated from the German to the French”¹⁹ The latest scientific ideas of the day were also discussed, and taken as far as their imaginations, fuelled by the gruesomeness of their reading material, could stretch.

Within Mary herself, concentrated in a young but passionately, painfully and dramatically lived life, was a deep well of experience, intense feeling, and the drive to express herself. The qualities of the time, and her immediate surroundings, functioned like electrical charges which galvanised her own depths, connected as they were through her 12th house Node to the collective pool.

¹⁹ from the Author's Introduction to the Standard Novels Edition, 1831, p2.

“When I placed my head on my pillow, I did not sleep, nor could I be said to think. My imagination, unbidden, possessed and guided me, gifting the successive images that arose in my mind with vividness far beyond the usual bounds of reverie. I saw - with shut eyes, but acute mental vision - I saw the pale student of unhallowed arts kneeling beside the thing he had put together. I saw the hideous phantasm of a man stretched out, and then, on the working of some powerful engine, show signs of life..... Frightful must it be; for supremely frightful would be the effect of any human endeavour to mock the stupendous mechanism of the Creator of the world.”²⁰

The horoscope for the dream is stunning. Aries rises, conjunct Mary's Jupiter, indicating the fame the book would bring her. The Asc/Desc axis of Aries/Libra is supremely appropriate for a tale which concerns the relationship between Frankenstein, the pioneering creator of life, and his creature the Monster, whose alienation from the warmth of relationship with his master and the rest of the world drives him to vengeful murder. The chart signifiers paint this vividly - Venus, Descendant ruler, trine Saturn square Pluto conjunct Chiron. Venus is 19 Gemini in this chart, closely conjunct Mary's North Node. The first house Taurus Moon, ruling the IC, falls exactly on Mary's 12th House cusp - a potent image of an imaginative response to the currents of the collective unconscious requiring to be given concrete form. Mary's radix Saturn rising falls on the IC of this chart. At the core of the story was her own frustrated longing for maternal nurturing, and the pain of her own motherhood already at nineteen

²⁰ from the Author's Introduction to the Standard Novels Edition, 1831, p5.

deeply scored by the death of her first child. But she gives form and structure to her pain, using her imaginative gifts, by sending the work out as a lesson and a warning to the collective through an inspired work of literature - the Dream chart's IC conjunct Mercury in Cancer, MC Capricorn, ruler Saturn in Aquarius in 11th, sextile Neptune in Sagittarius in the 9th House - all these are highly appropriate signifiers.

The Nodal links are striking. The 3rd/9th House cusps of the Dream chart exactly conjunct Mary's Nodal axis. Both Nodal axes are conjunct - and part of a very powerful T Square involving the outer planets: Neptune conjuncts the South Node in both Horoscopes, falling on the 9th cusp of the Dream Chart. Neptune squares Chiron Pluto which falls in the 12th House of the dream chart, and Mary Shelley's tenth. The Dream chart's T-square falls on Mary's radix T-Square.

The overall "feel" of these potent links is of Mary, through her story, being able to connect to, and give form to, some of the archetypal threads running through the weave of the time in which she lived. With her 12th/6th House North Node falling on the 3rd/9th cusps of the Dream Chart, and Pluto/Chiron in the Dream chart's 12th house, square its own 3rd / 9th cusps and Mary's Nodes, there is a feeling of prescience, of foresight concerning wounds to come in the human collective, generated by the combination of these two charts.

The Publication chart is also graphic, but in a more cerebral way as befits the nature of the occasion. In the Dream

chart Uranus was approaching conjunction with Neptune, which was exactly on Mary's South Node. In this one, 17.5 degrees Aquarius rises, trine Mary's North Node sextile Jupiter. Uranus rules the chart, and is placed in Sagittarius (conjunct MC in Sagittarius) conjunct Venus, Neptune and Jupiter, in the tenth house - this stellium is draped round Mary's South Node conjunct Moon, with the Venus/Uranus midpoint exactly conjunct Mary's South Node. The shocking and scary nature of the book, as well as its visionary message, is well conveyed through these signifiers with the addition of the Chiron/Pluto midpoint exactly square Venus/Uranus - exactly plugging into Mary's Nodal T-square.

I think the indications of the book's enormous success are well conveyed in the chart's Jupiter Neptune conjunction in the 10th House, conjunct Mary's Moon South Node conjunction in her 6th House - as well as Mary's Jupiter sextile the chart's Ascendant.

There is a strongly Promethean tone to the Publication chart, echoing Mary's own. Mary in publishing **Frankenstein** breaks through the bounds of convention again, regarding what was thought fit for a woman to do in the time in which she lived. She also challenged expectations of what a youthful person could produce - it was hard to believe that a nineteen year old woman had written this book - and there were many who erroneously believed for some time that it was the work of her husband, Shelley.²¹

21 Emily W. Sunstein MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality p 156.

In the spring of 1818 the Shelleys and their entourage set off for Europe again. By June, now living Italy up in the Apennines in Bagni di Lucca, Mary had *“learned from letters and reviews that her novel was a sensation. Along with the expected denunciations for impiety and extravagant wildness, critics lauded the book’s “highly terrific” power....”*²²

In the Publication chart and its links with Mary Shelley’s, one can see the striking foreground dominance of the outer planets in relation to Mary’s 12th House North Node in Gemini. She hadn’t just written a book - she had distilled from the collective undercurrents of her time the most powerful dilemma of the age, a Promethean one. Is it right for humankind to strive to transcend the limits of our physical bodies and the cycle of time which demands decay and death as the price of life, just because science gives us the power to do so? Frankenstein’s profound impact on public consciousness, from its own time and down the generations that followed right up until the present day, can be seen especially in the many and varied cinematographic versions of the book from the first American film adaptation of 1910 onwards. As Emily Sunstein puts it:

*“In 1931 Boris Karloff became the monster for millions, and the rest is history.”*²³

3. Enter Dolly....

*“Dr Frankenstein wore a wool sweater and a baggy parka.....
Dr Ian Wilmot, the first man to conceive fully formed life from adult body parts since Mary Shelley’s fictional mad scientist.
Wilmot may not look the part of Frankenstein, or God the*

²² Emily W. Sunstein MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality p 155.

²³ Emily W. Sunstein MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality - p 398.

*Father - **but he played it.***" (my emphasis)

I believe that the reason for the continuing potency of the book's effect is that the dilemma Mary Shelley so graphically portrayed is with us still, and still unresolved, as the above quotation shows. It is absolutely contemporary - from the Science (Biology) Section of Time Magazine's **1997 The Year in Review**.²⁴

On 26 February 1997, shortly after the Jupiter Uranus conjunction and its attendant 5 degree pattern linking Saturn, Mars, Pluto, Jupiter and Uranus in a unique planetary alignment on 15 -16 February 1997, Dolly the Sheep was presented to the world.

Andrew Marr, Editor of the **Independent**, offered the following front page headline:

"In the past few days, we have lived through a change in the human condition as momentous as the Copernican revolution or the splitting of the atom"²⁵

This dramatic statement introduced the news that a team of Scottish scientists had successfully produced a sheep cloned from one cell of her genetically identical mother's udder. President Clinton was so concerned by this development that he asked a national ethics board to review the moral implications, and present their report within ninety days.

For weeks afterwards, the papers were full of intense

²⁴ from the Science (Biology) Section of Time Magazine's Time Annual 1997 The Year in Review (Time Books 1998), p116.

²⁵ The Independent Wednesday 26 February 1997.

The Events - 3

Fig 14

Dolly Cloned Sheep

Natal Chart
 Friday, 5 July 1996
 16:00:00 GMD
 Roslin Inst Edinburgh, Scotland
 55N51 / 03W10
 Tropical Placidus True Node

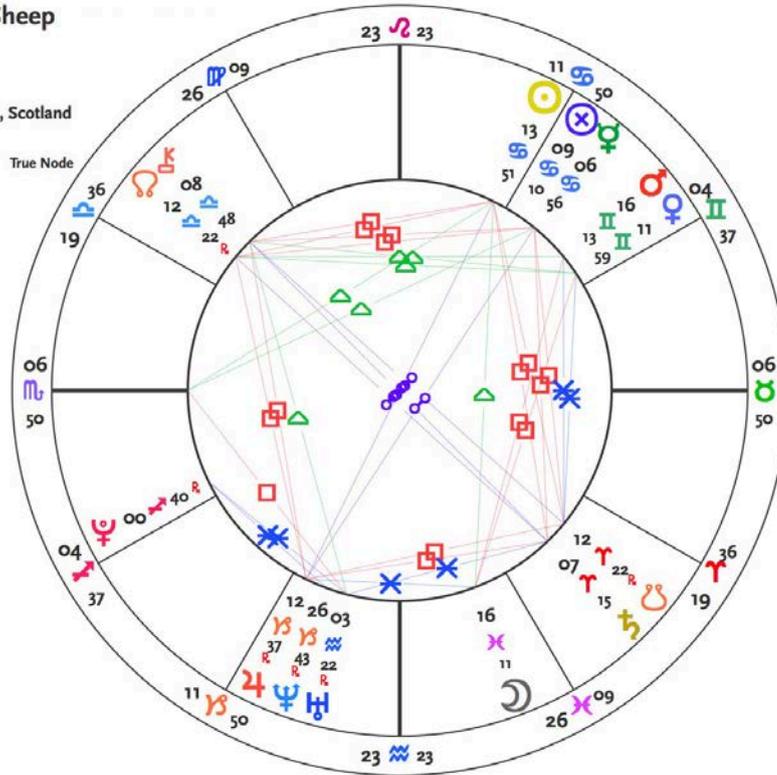
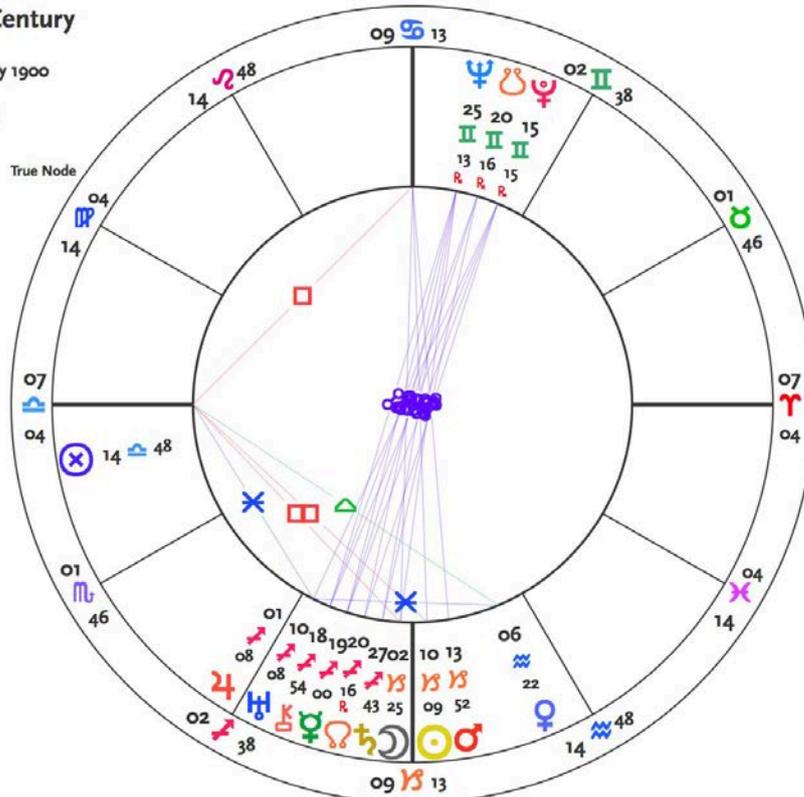


Fig 15

Twentieth Century

Event Chart
 Monday, 1 January 1900
 00:00:00 GMT
 London, England
 51N30 / 0W10
 Tropical Placidus True Node



debate. As the *New Scientist* put it on 1 March 1997, under the headline *.....one giant leap into the unknown....*

“Extraordinary”, “stupendous”, “mind-boggling” and “frightening” were the words on everyone’s lips. They said it couldn’t happen before 2050, but now that an adult sheep has been cloned, there seems to be no technical reason why we should not do the same with people...”

President Clinton’s ethics committee reported back on 7 June 1997. The conclusion was that cloning of human beings is morally wrong, and should be banned...

When I first read about how Dolly the sheep had been cloned, ie that an electrical charge was run through the genetically altered egg to vitiate the cloning process, I recall being rooted to my chair, feeling chilled, as a vivid cinema image of Frankenstein’s Monster vitiated by the lightning bolt came to me. What had Mary Shelley foreseen? Her biography shows clearly that she had a streak of prescience with regard to upcoming events in her personal life. The Node position in Gemini in the 12th, square Uranus, sextile Jupiter, suggests sensitivity to collective events as yet unformed.....

In my monthly Study Group which I run for ongoing students as a forum to present charts, I sometimes introduce world event charts, and certainly could not resist producing Scotland’s chart in March 1997. Scotland’s Asc/Desc axis is 6.5 degrees Leo Asc /Aquarius Desc, and there is 7 degrees Aries/Libra MC/IC - so it is strongly “plugged in” to the unique planetary line-up just mentioned. During the tutorial I told the students about my powerful “flash”

of Mary Shelley/Frankenstein when reading about how Dolly had been created. Having just that week obtained Dolly's chart, I had the idea of putting Mary Shelley's chart positions round the acetate of Dolly's chart, in red pen. I put this very hurried piece of work up on the OHP. I won't forget the quality of the silence which fell in the room as the students looked at the synastry.

One could write a whole case study on this synastry alone. But the first comments the students made **were on the powerful Nodal links.**

Once again there is a significant tie-up with Mary's Nodal T-Square: Dolly's Venus Mars conjunction in Gemini in the eighth, square her Pisces Moon in the fifth, falls on Mary's twelfth House North Node, with the Moon placed in her tenth house. Dolly's square provides a striking image of the artificial separation of the growth and incarnation process shown by the Moon, life's container, from the sexual meeting of male and female shown by the eighth House Venus Mars conjunction. Mary's first House rising Saturn in Cancer squares Dolly's Saturn/Nodes Chiron/Sun/Fortuna/Mercury opposite Jupiter grand cross.

These cross link-ups are potent and poignant. They carry all the personal and collective themes I have been presenting throughout this case study. There is even an un-mothered sheep - not carried in a womb, birthed and gently nudged onto her feet and into her life by her own mother - but an artificial creation from, of all parts of the maternal body, the udder.

There are many other Nodal links, too numerous to chart them all in detail. Here are a few examples: Percy Shelley and Dolly have the same Moon to one degree of exactitude, squaring Mary's North Node. Dolly's Nodal grand cross "plugs in" to the Asc/Desc of the Dream chart. Dolly's Asc/Desc axis runs through the Publication chart's Nodal axis - the Sun of the Publication chart links closely with Dolly's Nodal grand cross, the two Suns in fact opposite each other. Furthermore, the Moon/Venus Mars square in Dolly's chart picks up the MC/IC axis and attendant Uranus/Mars/Chiron T square in the Publication chart.

Very significantly too, in terms of the resonance over time, is the fact that Dolly's o Sag Pluto is in waning square to Mary Shelley's Pluto, which is at 29 Aquarius conjunct her MC at 27 Aquarius. (Dolly's IC is 23 Aquarius.....) It is very apt that Dolly should appear under this waning square, as a potent symbol of a major concrete outworking of the revolutionary social, political and scientific ideas current under the Uranus Pluto opposition immediately preceding Mary's birth.²⁶ Furthermore, when Dolly was announced

²⁶ NOTE The Jupiter Uranus year of 1997 is probably the most overtly Promethean year humanity has lived through, the central event of a Promethean nature being the first ever cloning of a mammal, making the cloning of human beings a frightening but not unlikely next step. (cf my own study *From erotic bathing to star gazing - the Jupiter Uranus Year* for a presentation of some of the collective and individual effects of this conjunction).

At the point of exact conjunction in February 1997, Jupiter dispossited the current position of Pluto in Sagittarius, and Uranus dispossited Mary Shelley's Pluto; the conjunction and its attendant pattern "plugged in" exactly to Mary Shelley's ninth house cusp at 5 Aquarius. It is an interesting piece of synchronicity that 1997, the conjunction year, is the bicentenary of her birth, and there has been something of a Mary Shelley revival. There was an exhibition in Rome in August, her birth month. (*The Times*, 28.8.97, p15) The National Portrait Gallery mounted a major exhibition on Mary Shelley and her mother's lives and work, "Hyenas in Petticoats", in London over the winter.....and on November 10th, a front page headline in *The Times* reported that a children's story by Mary Shelley, lost for 170 years, had just turned up in a trunk in a villa in Italy. As already mentioned in ref xiv, Mary, after Mary Shelley, was the first

to the world, Uranus was making its first sextile from the Uranus Pluto conjunction of the 1960s.

Mary Shelley's pre-natal eclipses and the event charts

Once again, one sees the pre-natal eclipses as stunning foreground images in all the event charts. The links between the 19 Sagittarius pre-natal lunar eclipse and Mary's chart have already been covered by the discussion of the Nodal links between Mary's chart and key events, since 19 Sagittarius is her South Node degree.

3.5 degrees of Cancer, the pre-natal solar eclipse, is conjunct the Sun in the 6th House of the Declaration chart, opposite the Neptune/South Node midpoint in the 12th House. This strongly resonates with the nature of the event: the declaration in the world of a longing for profound union of body and spirit. It falls in the 12th House of the elopement chart (very apt for a clandestine event under cover of darkness!); closely square the Aries MC/Libra IC. The Dream chart finds it in the 3rd House, conjunct the Sun and probably the IC. In the Publication chart it falls most appropriately in the 5th House, opposite an 11th House Sun and Sun/Jupiter midpoint, square the Mercury/Mars midpoint in the 1st House. This offers a clear picture of a challenging piece of writing, destined to bring fame to its creator, being offered up to the wider community from a visionary creative source.

I find the links between the pre-natal solar eclipse and

choice of name for the famous sheep, who was in the end named after Dolly Parton.

Dolly's chart particularly striking, plugging in as it does to Dolly's 8th House Mercury/Fortuna/9th House Sun conjunction, completing a grand cross with the Nodes, Chiron, Saturn and Jupiter.

Dreaming and Publishing Frankenstein: eclipse seasons

Mary Shelley dreamed **Frankenstein** on June 22 1816. The transiting North Node had recently returned to its natal position at 19 Gemini, and was still retrograding through the 12th House. On 27 May 1816 there was a solar eclipse which fell in Mary's 12th House, at 5.5 degrees Gemini, triggering her Sun/Mars, Neptune/Ascendant, Uranus/MC, and Uranus/Pluto midpoints. On 10 June there was a total lunar eclipse - on the South Node, at 19 degrees Sagittarius; her pre- natal lunar eclipse. The new moon on June 25, three days after the dream, fell on 3 degrees 47 minutes Cancer - her precise pre-natal solar eclipse degree, **just** out of the 18 degree orb limit required to produce an eclipse.....

The eclipse season within which **Frankenstein** was published on 1 January 1818 saw the North Node retrograding through the middle degrees of Taurus. The total solar eclipse of 9th November 1817 fell on 16 degrees 20 minutes Taurus, almost **exactly** conjunct Mary Shelley's 12th House cusp, triggering her Mercury /Ascendant midpoint in the 3rd House, and Moon/Venus midpoint in the 6th. Furthermore, this eclipse degree appears as the **exact** South Node degree in the Publication chart, the Nodes making a grand cross with its Asc/Desc axis at 17 degrees Aquarius/Leo. This axis falls in Mary's 9th/3rd House, sextile her Jupiter and trine/sextile her Nodal axis - quite

a symbolic recipe for literary success within an innovative field of work!

The lunar eclipse of 23rd November at 1 degree 13 minutes Gemini closely echoed the pre-Dream solar eclipse at 5.5 Gemini, and fell again in Mary's 12th House, squaring her powerful Pluto/MC/Mars/IC line-up, conjunct her Mars/Pluto and Sun/MC midpoints. The eclipse degree becomes the Part of Fortune degree in the 10th House of the Publication chart, opposite a 3rd House Mars in Gemini, square a 1st House Saturn in Pisces.

Enter Dolly: eclipse seasons 1997/8

Dolly was presented to the world on 26 February 1997. The transiting North Node was at 28 degrees 44 minutes Virgo, **exactly** conjunct Mary Shelley's North Node ruler, Mercury, to the minute, and squares her Moon at 28 degrees Sagittarius, on **that day**. The total solar eclipse at 18.5 Pisces on 9 March fell in her 10th House, square the Natal Nodal axis, and Mary's pre-natal lunar eclipse at 19 Sagittarius. The following lunar eclipse on 24 March at 3.5 degrees Libra fell on her Venus Chiron conjunction at 3.5/5.5 degrees Libra, square her Asc/Desc axis at 2.5 Cancer/Capricorn; square her pre-natal solar eclipse at 3.5 Cancer.

In the autumn, as the controversy raised by Dolly raged on, the total solar eclipse of 1st September 1997 at 9.5 Virgo fell on Mary's Sun Uranus conjunction. The following lunar eclipse on 16 September at 24 Pisces squared once again Mary Shelley's Nodal axis / pre-natal lunar eclipse degrees.

The transiting Nodal axis by then was exactly forming a grand cross with Mary's natal Nodes.

The cloning/genetic engineering debate continued. The following spring was notable for an American doctor announcing that he was going to go ahead with attempting to clone a human being, despite the findings of President Clinton's ethics committee the previous June. Suspicions were being voiced in the press that the race towards cloning the first human was probably on, being conducted behind the scenes. The feeling now is that human cloning is just a matter of time.

And the eclipses? The total solar eclipse of 26 February 1998 at 8 degrees Pisces opposed Mary's Sun Uranus conjunction from the 10th House. The following lunar eclipse on 13 March at 22.5 Virgo once again made a grand cross with her natal Nodes. The prevailing pattern in the heavens that spring involved Pluto/Nodes/Jupiter in the first decanate of the mutables, picking up Mary Shelley's Mars/Sun/Uranus conjunction from 1 to 12 degrees of Virgo.

When I made all these correspondences, spanning nearly 200 years of time, I felt awestruck. My overwhelming impression, once again, was of a life moving inexorably towards its destiny, with the Nodes, and their agents the eclipses, providing both the route maps and the galvanising energy. The Nodal and eclipse patterns of Mary Shelley's natal horoscope stand out as symbolic images of the threads weaving the individual herself, the modern myth she created, and this time and place when the myth is powerfully potent in collective consciousness, into the tapestry of history.

4. And finally.....

I had occasion recently to look out the horoscope of the 20th century, set for London. This is an extraordinary horoscope. Images leap out: of the century's restless hunger for challenging the frontiers of knowledge at every level, of its turbulence, violence and revolutionary spirit, of the breakdown of conventional and traditional life patterns - and the price paid for all that change.

I looked at the chart - and looked again. There was something about it which strongly reminded me of another chart. Intuitively I went for Mary Shelley's - and was riveted.

Mary's Nodal axis is exactly conjunct the 20th century one, her 12th House North Node in Gemini falling on the century's South Node. Both land on the century's Neptune Pluto conjunction midpoint, in the ninth house, exactly square Mary's Mercury/Uranus and Sun/Venus midpoints. Her Sagittarian Moon, widely conjunct the South Node, falls on the century's Saturn almost to the minute. Both are conjunct the Galactic Centre. Her Sun/Uranus midpoint falls in the 11th house of the century's chart, exactly square its Uranus in Sagittarius in the 3rd house. The century's exact Chiron Mercury conjunction in the 3rd house falls on Mary's South Node within a degree of exactitude.

Other links are equally stunning. Mary's Saturn rising in Cancer falls **exactly** within 20 minutes of the century's Midheaven, its Sun Mars conjunction on the IC falling opposite Mary's Saturn. The century's Moon on the Capricorn IC is **exactly** conjunct Mary's Desc.

The pain and alienation of people's increasing separation this century from ties of kin, tradition and nation, and the ancient rhythms of Nature itself, in the wake of fast, unprecedented, technology-led global change, and **Mary's prescient capacity to evoke this**, I think lie at the heart of the astounding synastry between the two charts.

This has been a century like no other. There have been huge leaps forward in improvements in standard of living and vastly expanded ranges of potential through which those lucky enough to live in the "developed" world can experience life. There is also a heavy price to be paid - and, increasingly, we are now paying it. In her portrayal of the questing, brilliant, restless, hubristic Dr Frankenstein prepared to take on the role of Creator in his ruthless pursuit of scientific progress unfettered by moral concerns or even self-doubt, and in her portrayal of the intelligent, sensitive, lonely, alienated and ultimately destructive Monster, she is offering through her famous novel a warning for the future - and presenting us with an essential duality of the century in which we live.

"With extraordinary clairvoyance and integrity Mary Shelley recognised that what her father trusted as the promise of mankind..... was also its gravest threat. It is perhaps her greatest and most characteristic accomplishment in Frankenstein that the issue remains unresolved and unresolvable."²⁷

²⁷ Emily W. Sunstein MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality p132.

Appendix i: biography in summary

I am indebted to Emily W Sunstein for her immaculately researched, detailed, scholarly and extraordinarily vivid **MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality**, which brought Mary Shelley's life and times marvellously alive. I also greatly appreciated the tart clarity of Muriel Spark's appraisal of Mary Shelley as a writer and critic.²⁸

Mary Shelley's life, as indeed her husband Percy Shelley's, has been subject to many interpretations over the years. The basic facts are as follows:²⁹

Her mother was the progressive feminist writer Mary Wollestonecraft, her father the equally progressive philosopher and writer William Godwin. Mary was born on 30 August 1797, and her mother died on 10 September, in her late 30s. This early loss left a painful emotional void in Mary. Her father re-married in 1801 when Mary was 4, bringing her a stepmother whom she always hated, and two step-siblings Charles and Jane. She grew up in a highly intellectual household with distinguished literary visitors eg the writers Samuel Coleridge and Leigh Hunt. Her precocious intellectual development was nurtured by her father.

28 *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* - published 1792 – “the feminist social study cum manifesto that first made women's rights into a cause” Emily W. Sunstein *MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality* (John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore 1989) p 13.

29 Emily W. Sunstein *MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality* (John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore 1989). Muriel Spark *Mary Shelley* (Constable & Company, London, 1988) Part ii Critical pp 149 to 235 , especially Chapter 11 on *Frankenstein*. I have taken the facts for the biographical summary from Sunstein's book.

She first glimpsed Lord Byron in 1811, and briefly met Shelley on 11 November 1812. In the spring of 1814 she met Shelley again. On Sunday June 26, at her mother's graveside, they declared their love - an evening that decided her destiny. They eloped to Europe (Shelley was married) on 28 July and returned to London on 13 September to set up home together. On 22 Feb 1815 their daughter Mary was born prematurely. She died on 5th March. On Jan 24 1816 their son William was born.

On May 2 1816, having previously met Byron, they sailed to Italy with Mary's step sister Jane, newly pregnant by Byron, and their son William. On May 27 they had their first meeting with Byron in Geneva. On the night of 16 June Byron proposed that they all write a ghost story. In the early hours of June 22, Mary had the dream/nightmare in which the plot of **Frankenstein** came to her.

On 29 August 1816, the party minus Byron returned to England and settled in Bath. On October 7, Mary began to write **Frankenstein**. On 9 October, Fanny, Mary's elder half-sister, committed suicide. On December 15, Mary and Shelley had news of Shelley's wife Harriet's suicide. Mary and Shelley married on December 30th, witnessed by her stepmother and father William Godwin, who had disowned Mary since her elopement whilst still continuing to borrow money from Shelley.

On the 13 May 1817 Mary finished writing **Frankenstein**, and on the 14th Shelley, who had supported and encouraged her throughout the whole process, wrote the preface. It was eleven months after her dream. In late August the book

was accepted for publication; on the last day of 1817 she received her first bound copy of the 3 volumes. The official publication date was 11 March 1818, in London, although the book was actually published on 1st January 1818.³⁰ On the 12 March 1818 the Shelleys and their entourage left England for Italy, where Mary was to remain until July 1823. By the summer of 1818 she knew from letters and reviews that her novel was a sensation. By the time she returned to England the novel had “soared beyond literary success into the domain of a classic...”³¹

On 2nd September their second daughter, Clara Everina, was born in London. On September 24, she died in Italy, in Venice. Their 3 year old son, William, died in Rome on 7 June 1819. On 12 November 1819 she had Percy, the only child to survive of the four who were born. She never fully recovered her physical health or emotional resilience after these terrible losses. In her depression following William's death she withdrew from everyone, even her beloved Shelley, for long periods.

But her worst loss was yet to come. She and Shelley were sharing Casa Magni, a large converted boathouse on the Gulf of Spezia with various friends in the summer of 1822. In the spring her half-sister Claire's daughter Allegra by Byron, died of typhus in her convent school. On 16 June Mary miscarried at 3.5 months and nearly bled to death. She, Shelley and their friend Jane Williams had bloody nightmares and frightening visions and premonitions that month. On 1st July Shelley left, Mary begging him not to go,

³⁰ from Sally Davis of Data Plus UK. Her source: Times 1 January 1818, p 4.

³¹ Emily W. Sunstein MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality p 252.

to sail to Genoa with Edward Williams to meet other friends there.

On the 19th July, their friend Trelawny told Mary and Jane that he had seen their husbands' bodies washed up on the shore near via Reggio. They had apparently drowned in a storm on July 8th. Over 15/16 August 1822, Trelawney, watched by friends Hunt and Byron, performed the grisly task of exhuming and cremating Shelley's and Edward Williamson's bodies on the beach where they had been washed ashore. Quarantine regulations prevented the bodies from being buried.

In 1823, on 25 July, just before the ninth anniversary of her elopement with Shelley on 28 July 1814, Mary Shelley returned home to England with her half-sister and her one surviving child. She was never to live abroad again.

Since this case study concerns her life up until she wrote **Frankenstein**, I shall be very brief in giving a summary of the rest of her life until she died of a brain tumour at the age of 53 on Feb 1 1851, attended by her devoted son Percy and his equally devoted wife Jane. Emily W Sunstein's conclusion to her book puts forward the essence of Mary Shelley's life very clearly:

“Mary Shelley was an important Romantic who survived into the Victorian age. Her private life, career and works are a rich resource for that historical evolution, a broader mine than those of her great associates, Shelley and Byron, whom kind death saved from erosion. Far from being subjected to romantic turbulence, she chose it.

Aspiration, enthusiasm, challenge, active mind and spirit, and optimism were among her cardinal qualities, contrary to the impression that she was temperamentally cool, quiet and pessimistic.....her creative and scholarly works establish her as a major literary figure of the first half of the nineteenth century. She belongs among the great editors for her editions of Shelley's works.....Perhaps she will be best remembered for her perception in **Frankenstein** and **The Last Man**, that the Promethean drive is at the heart of human progress and yet a bringer of new ills if not focused on ethical means and ends; and even so, if Nature shrugs we perish. In that ambiguity she may be said to have heralded the consciousness that distinguishes the Post-Modern from the Modern Age."³²

³² Emily W. Sunstein MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality pp 402-3.

THE CHARTS: THEIR PROVENANCE

I have used the True Node for all the charts throughout the thesis. This is because the True Node gives the actual position on the day, whereas the Mean Node gives a position based on average motion, which sometimes overlaps with the True position, but can be as much as 2 degrees different depending upon the time of year. I prefer to use the True position.

Page 38 Mary Wollestonecraft Godwin Shelley, 30 Aug 1797, London, England. Time: 23.20 local time. Source: Paul Wright, **Astrology in Action**, Anodyne Publishing 1988, quoted by her father, present at her birth.

Page 38 William Godwin, 03 March 1756, Wisbech, England. Time unknown. Source: Astrological Association Data Bank - from Sally Davis.

Page 39 Mary Wollestonecraft, 27 April 1759, London, England. Time unknown. Source: **Life and Death of Mary Wollestonecraft** by Claire Tomalin, Penguin 1977, p 13.

NB: I do not have times for Wollestonecraft or Godwin, and have used Noon charts for them for two main reasons. They were both public figures, destined to lead a public life, and lived long enough for their contribution to be made and seen, despite in Wollestonecraft's case her premature death.

Page 42 Percy Bysshe Shelley, 04 Aug 1792, Horsham, England. Time: 22.00 local time. Source: **American Book of Charts** by Lois Rodden, Astro Computing Services, 1980, quoting "father's and grandfather's statements in his biography".

Page 42 Lord Byron, 22 Jan 1788, London, England. Time: 14.00 local time. Source: **American Book of Charts** by Lois Rodden, Astro Computing Services, 1980, quoting “family records in British Museum”.

Page 43 Baby Mary Shelley, 22 Feb 1815, London, England. Time unknown. Source: Emily W. Sunstein **MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality** p 97.

NOTE I have no time for baby Mary and have used a Sunrise chart for her. This is because her life dawned, but never came to fruition because she lived for only eleven days; so a sunrise chart seemed more symbolically appropriate.

Page 51 Mary Wollestonecraft Godwin/Percy Shelley: Declaration of love: 26 June 1814, London, England. Time: ‘in the evening at sunset’ I have set the chart for 9 pm - sunset approx. Source: Emily W. Sunstein **MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality** p74.

Page 51 Mary Wollestonecraft Godwin/Percy Shelley: Elopement: 28 July 1814, London, England. Time: 04.00 local time. Source: Emily W. Sunstein **MARY SHELLEY Romance and Reality** p75.

Page 55 Mary Wollestonecraft Godwin: Dreaming “**Frankenstein**”: 22 June 1816, Geneva, Switzerland. Time: “even the witching hour had gone by before we retired to rest. When I placed my head on my pillow, I did not sleep.....My imagination, unbidden, possessed and guided me.....”

Source: Author’s Introduction to the Standard Novels Edition of Frankenstein (1831) pp 8-9.

NB: I decided to set the chart at 12.40 am local time. This would give her time to get upstairs, get ready for bed, and settle down for sleep. The 'dream' came before she went to sleep. So this can only be an approximate time - but I was intrigued to note that the Ascendant of the chart, 19 Aries, is Mary's natal horoscope's Jupiter degree!

Page 55 **Frankenstein**, Publication day: 01 Jan 1818, London (Hatchard's bookshop, Piccadilly), England, Time: 10.00 local time. Source: Times 01 Jan 1818, p4 - from Sally Davis, DataPlus UK who also suggested the time as "a reasonable time when the book would have been available to be bought".

Page 63 Dolly the cloned Sheep: 05 July 1996, Roslyn Institute, nr Edinburgh, Scotland. Time: 16.00 hours local time. Source: Caroline Gerard.

Page 63 Chart of the Twentieth Century: 01 Jan 1900, London, England. Time: midnight local time. Source: Melanie Reinhart, CPA seminar on Psychosynthesis, London 17 September 1995. NOTE: I decided to leave this chart set for London, since in 1900, London was the key city of the British Empire which was still the dominant world force.

Chapter 3: case study 2

Marc: A life through the nodal lens

Introduction

I chose Marc (51) as my second case study for several reasons. Firstly, since the book concerns the soli/lunar relationship it was particularly important that the sexes were balanced, and that I wrote about a man next. Secondly, having written about a famous dead person, I wanted to write about a living person whom I knew personally and with whom I had worked.

I had been wondering who my subject could be - then whilst looking through my 1997 astrology case file, Marc's chart caught my attention. He has almost identical Nodes to Mary Shelley's. His are 20 degrees 44 r Gemini/Sagittarius; hers are 19 degrees 22 r Gemini/Sagittarius. Although located in different houses, Marc's are in the 11th/5th as distinct from Mary's 12th/6th, there is a strong link with Uranus. Marc's Uranus is in the 10th House conjunct an 11th House North Node. Mary's Uranus squares the Nodal axis. There are further links. Mary's r Jupiter at 19 Aries sextiles her North Node: Marc's r Jupiter at 17 Libra trines his North Node! Marc's Sun/Venus midpoint is conjunct his North Node. Mary's Sun/Venus midpoint squares her North Node. His 9th House Aries Moon sextile Node also resonates with Mary's Sagittarian Moon widely conjunct Node.¹

¹ Note: at the time of this selection the transiting North Node was at 19 Virgo, conjunct first house Urania in my chart, squaring Marc's Nodal axis - and Mary Shelley's!

Fig 16

Marc X

Natal Chart

27 May 1946

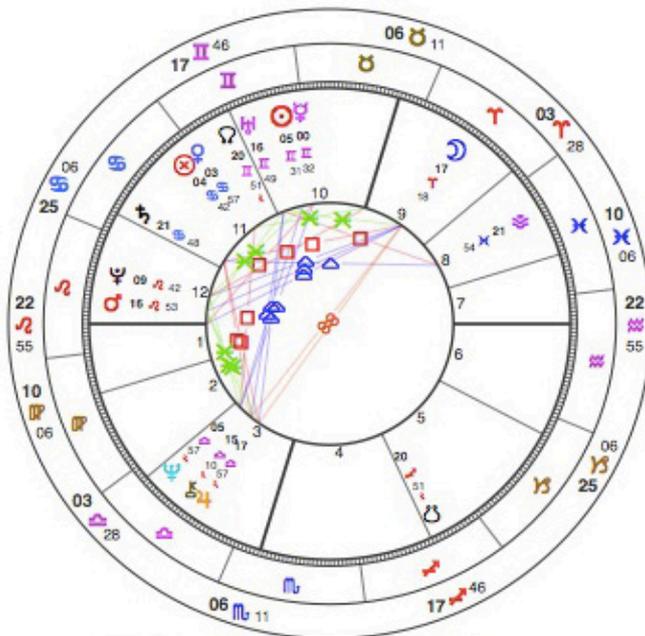
11:15:00 GMD

Glasgow, Scotland

55N53 / 4W15

Tropical Placidus True Node

	Sun		Moon		Mercury
	Venus		Mars		Jupiter
	Saturn		Uranus		Neptune
	Pluto		Chiron		Vesta
	North Node		South Node		Ascendant
	Midheaven		Part of Fortune		



Planets by Sign

3 Fire	5 Cardinal
0 Earth	2 Fixed
5 Air	3 Mutable
2 Water	

Planets by House

1 Life	3 Angular
3 Substance	2 Succedent
4 Relationships	5 Cadent
2 Endings	

	Long.	Lat.	Decl.	R.A.
	05 II 30:42	00 S 00	21 N 14	063 38
	17 T 18	04 S 43	02 N 26	017 45
	00 II 32	00 S 06	20 N 11	058 24
	03 S 57	01 N 29	24 N 52	094 21
	16 A 53	01 N 32	17 N 15	139 49
	17 A 57	01 N 27	05 S 42	197 07
	21 S 48	00 N 08	21 N 49	113 35
	16 II 49	00 N 03	22 N 50	075 41
	05 S 57	01 N 30	00 S 59	186 04
	09 A 42	06 N 23	23 N 58	134 01
	15 A 10	01 S 05	06 S 59	193 32
	22 A 55	00 N 00	13 N 53	145 16
	06 S 11	00 N 00	13 N 55	033 52



360° Midpoint Sort

	17 T 18		16 II 49		12 S 53		11 A 44		17 A 57
	26 T 44		17 II 05		13 S 16		13 A 18		17 S 38
	06 S 11		17 II 15		14 S 13		16 A 19		
	08 S 55		19 II 44		18 S 51		16 A 53		
	11 S 24		20 II 06		19 S 52		17 A 23		
	17 S 03		22 II 57		21 S 04		19 A 54		
	18 S 22		25 II 28		21 S 48		19 A 57		
	20 S 51		26 II 10		21 S 50		22 A 55		
	25 S 37		26 II 32		25 S 25		25 A 57		
	26 S 30		28 II 40		27 S 04		26 A 53		
	00 S 32		29 II 33		28 S 26		24 S 53		
	03 S 02		03 S 57		00 A 45		27 S 50		
	04 S 33		04 S 19		03 A 15		11 S 25		
	05 S 04		05 S 07		04 A 21		13 S 50		
	05 S 31		07 S 37		05 A 44		14 S 26		
	06 S 41		08 S 43		07 A 22		17 S 25		
	11 S 10		11 S 12		09 A 15		20 S 26		
	13 S 30		11 S 38		09 A 42		05 S 57		
	14 S 00		11 S 44		11 A 23		11 S 57		

I thought it would be most apt to choose a male “partner” for Mary Shelley with clear Nodal connections between her chart and his. I leave the Reader to note the strong echoes which I think there are between Mary and what drove her, and Marc and what drives him.....

I have known Marc now for about ten years; initially as a counselling client when his marriage was breaking up, then as an astrology client, then as an astrology student - Marc studied with me for about a year and has maintained an interest in the subject. I now see him every year or two for astrological “taking stock” sessions.

Approach

I have chosen to approach the Nodes from a different perspective in this case study. For Mary Shelley, I took the first Nodal return and used that as my boundary point. For Marc, on the other hand, I have ranged over his life to date. I have been very fortunate in having the assistance of a subject who is so articulate. (See **Appendix ii** for detail re method adopted and questionnaires used.)

Marc’s horoscope: the Nodes and their natal links

The North Node falls in Gemini, the South in Sagittarius. As with Mary Shelley, this denotes a life path centred round the conceptualising and disseminating of information and ideas. Sagittarius on the South Node shows strong roots in philosophical enquiry as a first approach to life, as well as a love of learning. “*What is it for?*” may well have been a

frequent question of his when he was growing up, as well as “*What does it mean?*” A strong emphasis in his home environment on the value of a good education seems very likely. If not directly exposed in his young life to other languages and the ways of other cultures, the South Node in Sagittarius suggests a wandering masculine spirit as part of the family inheritance. Perhaps he had close male relatives who told him stories of their travels when he was a boy, which inspired his adult love of travel - mentally and spiritually, more than actual physical travel, in his case.

It also suggests, taking the strong fire/air emphasis of Marc’s chart to back this up as well as Jupiter sextile South Node in Sagittarius, a longing from the beginning for a “grand”, adventurous life - for a life inspired by his vision, or by values which he could admire and aspire towards. Also indicated in this linking of SNode and a predominantly fire/air chart with no earth is a distaste for the restrictions of the ordinary and mundane, and the potential for arrogance through conviction of one’s own rightness. The Sagittarius/Gemini Nodal axis, backed up with three planets in Gemini, indicate a man inclined to proselytise. This is fine if the soapbox and the audience is big enough, but could be wearying in a narrower, more personal context.....

The North Node in Gemini’s location in the 11th House, South Node in Sagittarius in the 5th, once again brings up the fire/air nature of Marc’s horoscope, and emphasises the restless, creative streak in his nature. In the fifth house one identifies what one’s creative gifts are: in the eleventh they are offered to the human group.

The natural ruler of the eleventh, Uranus, in Gemini in the 10th House conjunct NNode in the 11th, has a strongly political, humanitarian, idealistic “feel” to it. Adding the trine from Jupiter in Libra in the 3rd House to the NNode/Uranus combination in the 10th/11th, one gets a very strong feeling of a man who gains great pleasure and a sense of purpose from sharing ideas with others in a political context - commitment to a political party through NNode/Uranus in the 10th/11th, and beliefs/ideals which influence his career direction, through Uranus’ 10th House location backed up by a Mercury/Sun conjunction also in the 10th.

Ebertin in COSI has this to say with reference to Jupiter/Uranus/Node: the ability to show oneself cheerful, gay and hopeful in the presence of others - the ability to share joy together with others, to strive together with others for a common purpose.²

One gets the feeling from looking at Marc’s chart from a Nodal perspective that his drive to offer his creative gifts to the group focuses more on intellectual, political and idealistic objectives than on, for example, the very physical and personal goal of having children as an expression of his creative drives. He has no earth in his chart as well as its being strongly fire/air. His rising Mars in Leo in the 12th House, sextile both Jupiter in the 3rd and Uranus in the 10th, suggests again energy being directed more to group idealistic and spiritual outlets than physical, personal ones.

² Reinhold Ebertin ‘Combination of Stellar Influences’ (AFA Inc., 1972) p 173.

Marc doesn't have children and from my many discussions with him, it appears clear that he never wanted them - and has chosen two key female partners who felt the same. He has been very much influenced and inspired by close women friends and helpers, more so than one might expect from a man of his generation; the NNode's position on the midpoint of the Asc and a ninth house Aries Moon vividly illustrates the quality of his connection with the feminine principle in general and key women in particular. Forceful, fiery women have had quite an impact on his life!

All this optimistic, fiery, outgoing energy coupled with considerable intellectual gifts, ease and fluency of expression and a wide ranging mind, all linked in with the 11th House N Node, suggest someone who is a doer and an achiever, as indeed Marc is. He has been an urban planner for approaching 30 years. In recent times, his team has gained public recognition for award-winning work.

But the Chiron Jupiter conjunction in the 3rd House, sextile Mars, trine the NNode/Uranus conjunction and opposite the 9th House Aries Moon, suggests not only gifts and achievement. Marc was born on a balsamic Moon; running below the surface of his entire life, there has always been an undertow of world-weariness; of *what does it matter anyway*, of strong potential for painful disillusion as a counterpoint to the brightness of the gifts with which he came into this world.

Thus Chiron linked in to the Node and its attendant planetary pattern speaks powerfully in Marc's life. It tells of a life full of bright gifts underpinned by a powerful, painful, instinctive understanding of the fundamental loneliness

of us all, especially through Saturn in Cancer in the 11th s T-squaring of the Ninth House Aries Moon's opposition to Chiron conjunct Jupiter in the third. Saturn also connects to the North Node by semi-sextile, thereby forming an integral part of the complex Chiron Node pattern.

The wound in Mark stems from his gut awareness, which many people can avoid but he cannot, of the isolation into which we are all born; from which intimacy may temporarily insulate us, but which can never be gainsaid. No amount of love offered is enough to assuage this wound fully - and the pattern challenges Marc to a struggle to make peace with his inner bleakness by journeying within, and to the realisation that no human partner can provide fully the salve that is required.

However, one can also see from the more positive facets of the pattern, flowing from the Chiron Jupiter conjunction in the 3rd house, that Marc's struggle to make sense of the wounds he has received has deepened and enriched him as a person over the last decade. It has also brought him into contact with rich sources of knowledge, and with individual people who have helped him gradually towards a broader and deeper experience of life than would have been possible had he remained identified purely with the strongly political, intellectual and rationalist sides of himself. He is much more aware, and respectful, now of the enormously powerful, sensitive, bleak and easily wounded feminine side of his own nature. He is still striving to bring this side into balance with the restless, endlessly curious, inspiration-seeking, rationalist masculine spirit which has driven him all his life.

I see the North Node as a primary significator for revealing the direction an individual's life **must** follow, if he or she is to arrive at as full an expression of the soul's blueprint as is possible during this particular lifetime. The planetary links to the Nodal axis, I believe, encode symbolically the terms of reference of the struggle towards **entelechy**³, and also convey something of the nature of that struggle. We are all challenged to a greater or lesser extent to integrate the masculine with the feminine dimensions of our own being. Marc's Nodal pattern shows with great vividness how central for him is an honest response to that challenge, in translating his life's considerable potential into positive outcomes of both an outer and an inner nature.

Marc was 49 when Pluto entered Jupiter's sign in 1995, beginning a long opposition to the Mercury Sun conjunction (Mercury rules his North Node, Jupiter his South Node, the Sun rules his Ascendant in 21 Leo which sextiles the North Node). Since then he has been grappling with core issues, the outcome of which will determine the shape of the next phase of his life. As Saturn has been transiting the 9th house, and during 1997 triggering the powerful pattern described in the paragraphs above, the inner struggle has become more focused.

Do I see my career through to its Saturn Return or do I take early retirement? How do I deal with my political disillusion, now that Scotland looks as though it will indeed get its own Parliament, when I don't believe this is anything more than an offering

³ A Classical Greek word, ἐντελέχεια (entelecheia), meaning "that which gives form or perfection to anything" (Shorter Oxford English Dictionary 1978 Edition). I have used it in the sense of that which a person is at best able to become.

of token power? (Marc has been a member of the Scottish Nationalist party for 30 years) What are the core components going to be to the next stage of my life? In what form will I next be offering my creative energy to the human collective? What does my life mean, what are my spiritual values?

But there we must leave Marc's future as it gradually takes shape in its own time, and turn now to surveying his life to date.

Marc's horoscope: the Nodes and the unfolding picture

Introduction

As can be seen from **Appendix ii**, before drafting the case study I did a considerable amount of preparatory groundwork with Marc's assistance. I went through the information related to the various Nodal periods as detailed in **Appendix ii**, finding that for every year of his life (1946 - 1996) except 1949, 1963, 1969 - 1970, and 1975 - 1976 there was significant Nodal activity by both transit and/or progression. I looked up the above "missing" years and in each case found significant Nodal activity. The questionnaires out of necessity had had to be selective - in the apparently "missing" years there was Nodal activity relating to significators I had left out, eg in 1976 the NNode transited over the IC. I had not included Nodal activity involving the Angles in my questionnaires - just planets and the Nodal axis itself via transits and progressions.

I had never done a "Nodal trawl" through an individual's whole life before, and the result gave quite a clear message.

The Nodes are present in one combination or another, bearing witness to the developing process of an individual's life, **every** year.

I did a much quicker "trawl" through my own and a couple of family members' lives via their charts, and found much the same thing. Although more "trawls" of this type need to be done for comparison, it seems pretty likely that one would find the same kind of overall picture in anyone's life, given the fairly rapid movement of the Nodes through the zodiac, although the precise combinations from person to person would of course be unique.

There is such a **literal** quality, also, to the Nodal pictures which emerged in Marc's life. Out of many possible examples, here are one or two. From August 1953 until Spring 54, Jupiter transited back and fore over Marc's NNode in Gemini in the 11th. There were two major biographical points: first, the period described his first year at a new primary school to which he transferred when his parents moved area. Second, the newly crowned Queen visited his town, and "*we were all trooped out to wave to her*". To offer another example, Chiron transiting his North Node in Gemini from September 1986 to June 1987, joined by an opposition from transiting Saturn conjunct South Node in Sagittarius from March to November 1987, earned the following trenchant piece of description from Marc: "*Misery.*" then "*More misery.*"

Having found that Nodal activity was woven into the planetary tapestry of every year, it then became important to find out whether **particular** patterns involving the Nodes stood out at times which were recognised by Marc, either

at the time or in retrospect, as “turning points”. After some reflection on how to approach this stage, it dawned on me that lying in one of my files was just the right material. Last January (1998), a couple of weeks after reading my painstaking first eighteen page draft, incorporating his biography and the full signifiers for the Nodal periods on which I had asked for feedback, Marc sent me the following summary which I have incorporated here in full.

Marc’s subjective perception of the pattern of his own life

“The following is my own view of the pattern of my life, driven solely by my own memories and perceptions, not by the need to respond to a framework which has been offered to me, and which may therefore to some extent distort my true feelings. It might be interesting to see how this compares with the other version”

May 46 to August 57

Essentially happy childhood, with no more than the average number of scares and alarms. Clouded towards the end - 53 to 56 - by unhappy events in my father’s family. But perhaps not enough to dent the onward momentum of my life at the time. After all, passing my quali⁴ in spring 57 was a major triumph - for me and for my family.

⁴ ‘passing the quali’ a Scottish expression whose equivalent in English is “passing the eleven plus” - the examination which before comprehensive, non-streaming secondary education was introduced under the British Labour Government of 1964 -1979, had to be taken at the end of primary education to determine whether the pupil proceeded to a technically or academically oriented secondary school.

Fig 17

Turning point 1

Marc X
Reference Chart
Natal Chart
27 May 1946
11:15:00 GMD
Glasgow, Scotland

Marc X
2nd Chart
Naibod Secondary
1 March 1957
08:15:12 GMD
Glasgow, Scotland

T Point 1 J.....Academy

3rd Chart
Sunrise Chart
1 March 1957
06:58:14 LMT
Hamilton, Scotland

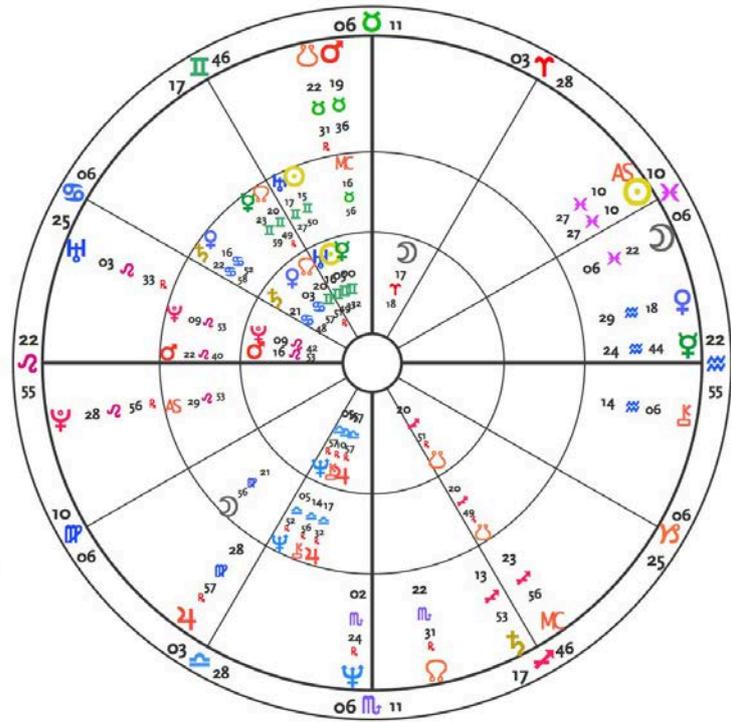


Fig 18

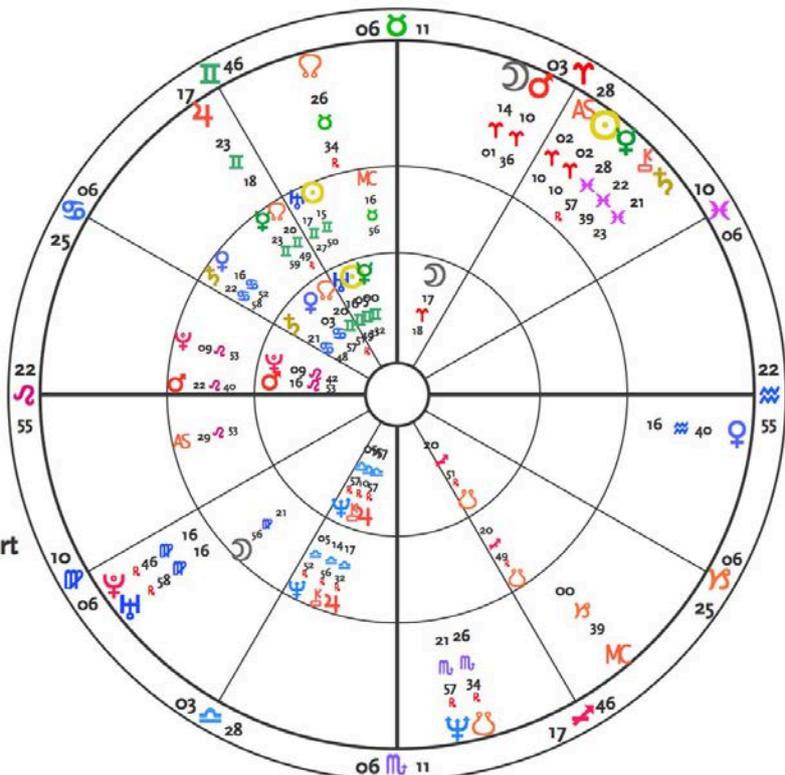
Turning point 2

Marc X
Reference Chart
Natal Chart
27 May 1946
11:15:00 GMD
Glasgow, Scotland

Marc X
2nd Chart
Naibod Secondary
1 March 1957
08:15:12 GMD
Glasgow, Scotland

T Point 2 Beatrice - start

3rd Chart
Sunrise Chart
23 March 1966
06:01:42 LMT
Hamilton, Scotland



August 57: TURNING POINT 1

Transfer from primary school to J... Academy [senior secondary].

August 57 to April 66

I now think it was the transfer to the Academy - NOT my father's problems - that was the actual trigger for a downturn in my life. (...from Marc's biographical notes..." I was barely 11 in August 57 when I started, and emotionally younger than that. In retrospect, the decision to send me early to the Academy was definitely a mistake - I was intellectually - but not emotionally - ready "...) The Academy destroyed my self-esteem. That made strong parental back-up especially important, and perhaps it was more damaging to me than it might otherwise have been that my dad had his own problems at this time. My dad's problems would doubtless have impacted on me in some more or less challenging way, but on reflection I think the actual positive damage was done by my too-early transfer to secondary school.

The end of this period - 64 - 66 - saw my first faltering - and unsuccessful - steps towards the opposite sex.

April 66 - TURNING POINT 2

Started going out with Beatrice. Wonderful from the first. Literally like the sun coming out from behind the clouds. After my previous difficulties with other girls, it was easy and natural with her. Positive explosion of self-esteem as a

result. In those days, I used to write my name on the sleeves of the records I bought. Up till early 66, the signatures tend to very small. After that, the writing is huge and scrawly. It tells a story.

In actual fact, the whole year of 1966 deserves mention as an '**annus mirabilis**' in my life. It started badly and ended sadly, but in the course of it, I started going out with my future wife, and had my first foreign holiday, and saw 'Doctor Zhivago' for the first time.⁵ Like 1973 - see below - 1966 was a year of 'coming into my own'. It is almost as if I 'came into my own' in two instalments - 66 and 73.

April 66 to May 73

Rising graph. A time not without its ongoing troubles. I hated my University course, but forced myself to go through with it because I thought my life would be wrecked if I didn't get a degree. My dad's troubles didn't resolve themselves till March 67, and the preceding Xmas, when he was suddenly taken off into mental hospital, was in a real sense **the nadir of my life**. But the simple fact is that, after Beatrice, the tide was running for me not against me - I couldn't be stopped.

May 73 - TURNING POINT 3

Finished my post-graduate course and finally finished with 'school'. Great sense of release. Happily married, plenty of

⁵ Quote from Marc's biographical notes: "26th Nov 66. Saw 'Doctor Zhivago' for first time. MAJOR LIFE EVENT. Very strong resonance with themes of personal freedom dealt with in the film." (He saw this film 3 times!)

money. This is the moment of finally and fully ‘coming into my own’. See previous comments re 1966.

May 73 to May 79

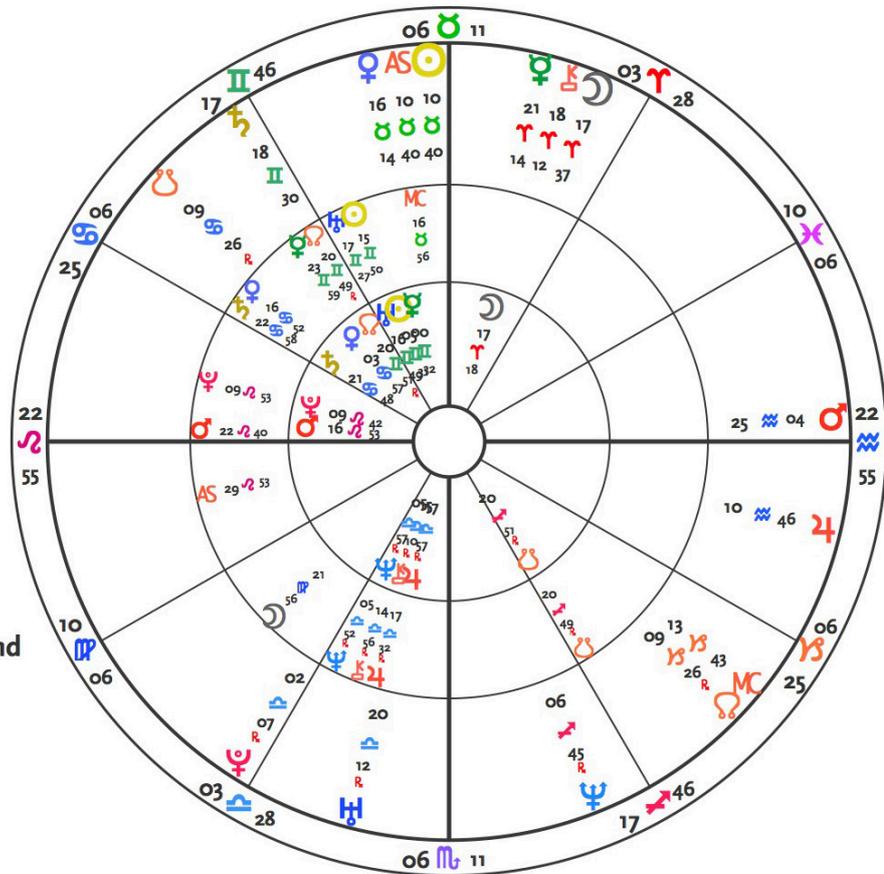
The high plateau of life. Happily married, well off, active in SNP, empowered, full of a sense that life had meaning and purpose. Ominous signs during last year – May 78 to May 79.

Fig 19
Turning point 3

Marc X
Reference Chart
Natal Chart
27 May 1946
11:15:00 GMD
Glasgow, Scotland

Marc X
2nd Chart
Naibod Secondary
1 March 1957
08:15:12 GMD
Glasgow, Scotland

T Point 3 Education - end
3rd Chart
Sunrise Chart
1 May 1973
04:23:43 LMT
Glasgow, Scotland



May 79 - TURNING POINT 4

Thatcher. Life plan derailed in one day. Nothing has ever been the same since. (my emphasis)

May 79 to January 86

Material aspects of life still as favourable as before, but increasingly grim struggle to recapture some sense of meaning. Change of job - disastrous. Death of father - December 84 - was the moment I finally lost my grip, but full implications didn't come home to roost until....

January 86 - TURNING POINT 5

Sudden collapse of intimacy with my wife.⁶

January 86 to January 88

Pure, unadulterated misery

⁶ Note: In response to my identifying 24.1.86. as a key date on which tr Uranus was exactly conjunct his SNode at 20 degrees 44 minutes Sagittarius, Marc responded thus: "24/1/86 - can you pick a date, or what?? My 16th wedding anniversary and the effective end of my marriage. Beatrice's affair had begun the previous summer. I was unaware of this, but I had been aware of increasing awkwardness in our relationship, and tensions were building. On 24/1/86, I made a sexual approach to Beatrice, which seemed reasonable to me on our anniversary, and was rebuffed with some abruptness. Something exploded in my head. I experienced a split second of blinding fury which I quickly controlled, only to discover that it had been replaced in my heart by an icy coldness. I fell out of love with Beatrice in that instant - after 20 years of closeness and affection."

Fig 20
Turning point 4

Marc X
Reference Chart
Natal Chart
27 May 1946
11:15:00 GMD
Glasgow, Scotland

Marc X
2nd Chart
Naibod Secondary
1 March 1957
08:15:12 GMD
Glasgow, Scotland

T P 4 Thatcher
3rd Chart
Sunrise Chart
3 May 1979
04:20:22 LMT
Glasgow, Scotland

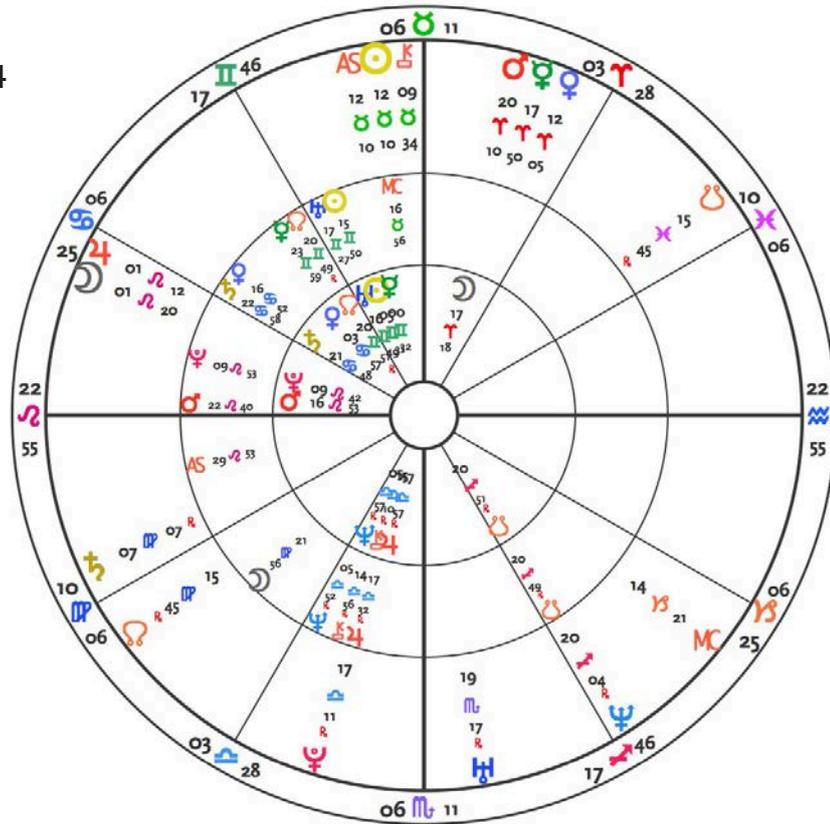


Fig 21
Turning point 5

Marc X
Reference Chart
Natal Chart
27 May 1946
11:15:00 GMD
Glasgow, Scotland

Marc X
2nd Chart
Naibod Secondary
1 March 1957
08:15:12 GMD
Glasgow, Scotland

T P 5 Marriage -end
3rd Chart
Sunrise Chart
24 January 1986
08:16:07 LMT
Hamilton, Scotland

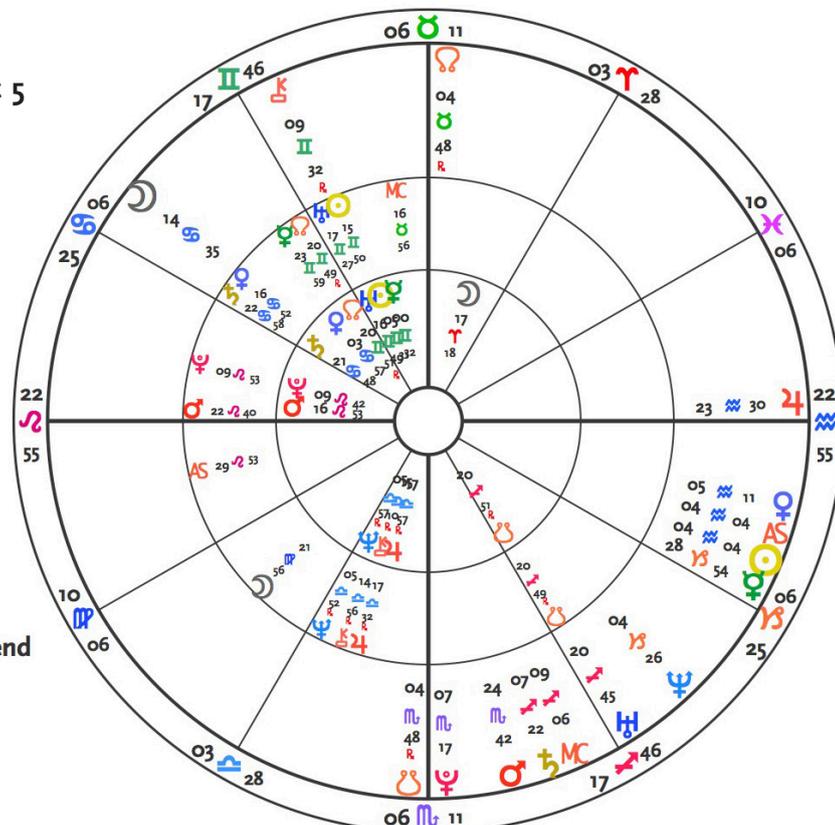
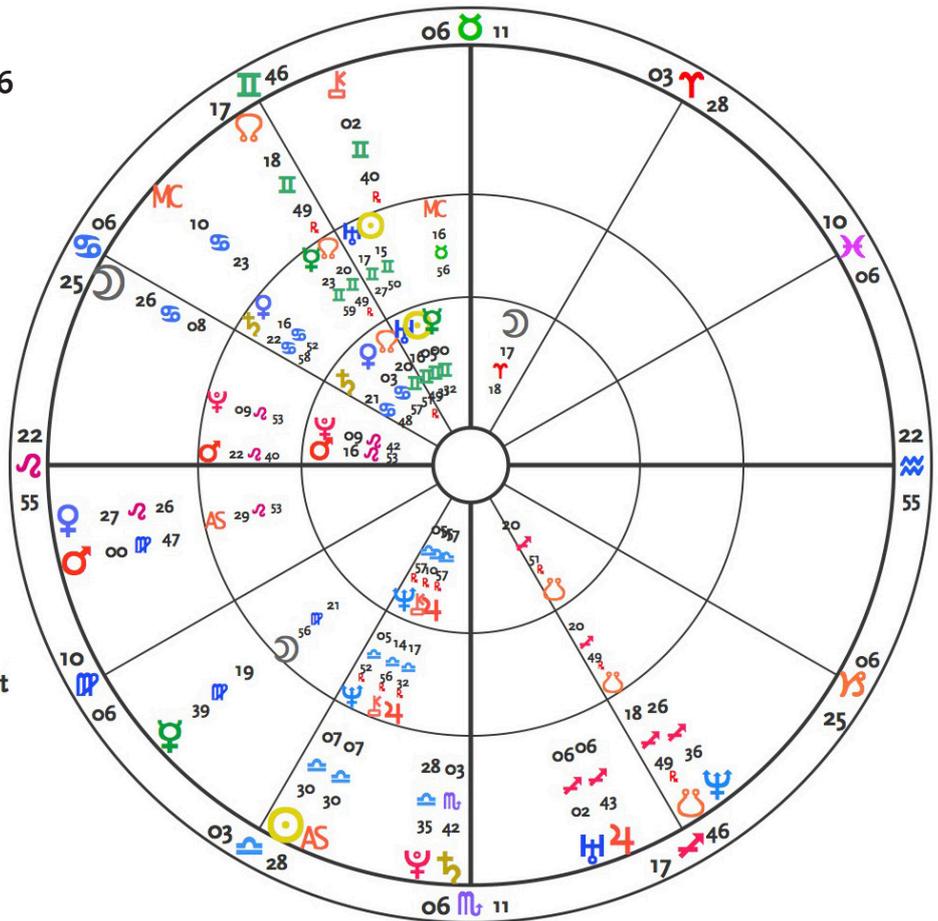


Fig 22
Turning point 6

Marc X
Reference Chart
Natal Chart
27 May 1946
11:15:00 GMD
Glasgow, Scotland

Marc X
2nd Chart
Naibod Secondary
1 March 1957
08:15:12 GMD
Glasgow, Scotland

T P 6 Caitlin - start
3rd Chart
Sunrise Chart
1 October 1983
06:07:30 LMT
Glasgow, Scotland



January 88 - TURNING POINT 6

Caitlin (his current partner)

January 88 to Present

“Upward track again, but with many wobbles. Domestic happiness restored, but the rediscovery of a sense of purpose in life has proved elusive.”

Marc's turning points - an examination of the Nodal patterns

It struck me on re-reading Marc's **own** summary of his life pattern, and **his** identification of turning points, that this provided an excellent opportunity to analyse the Nodal, planetary and eclipse pictures on each occasion and see if there was anything about them suggesting they were out of the ordinary.

TURNING POINT 1: EARLY TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL: SPRING/SUMMER '57

Marc passed his qualifying examination for a place at senior secondary school in the spring of 1957, and began attending J..... Academy in August 1957. The transiting NNode was at 22 Scorpio in the 4th House in March 1957, squaring his Asc/Desc, then 12th House Mars in July 1957. That year, the progressed MC/IC axis was at 16 degrees 56 minutes of Taurus/Scorpio, square the Mars/Ascendant midpoint at 16 degrees 18 minutes Leo in the 12th House. **The North Node triggered this powerful, fateful pattern in July 1957,** then the Mars/Pluto midpoint in late August, and Pluto in October. The Nodes crossed his IC/MC at 6 Scorpio/ Taurus in January 1958. Furthermore, transiting Saturn crossed his 5th House SNode in December 1957, just at the end of his first term, and was active at that point until the Xmas of his second year, with a final exact transit over the summer of 1958.

The one total solar eclipse of the season, at 18 Gemini, fell on 8 June 1956 **exactly** conjunct his Uranus/Node midpoint

on his 11th house cusp, close to the progressed Sun at 16 degrees Gemini. There were two total lunar eclipses, one on 18 November 1956 at 26 Taurus, the other on 13 May 1957 at 23 Scorpio, both closely squaring Marc's Asc/Desc axis as the Nodal axis crossed it.

This conjures up pictures of a core struggle in a very young person to hold on to some sense of personal identity and worth whilst being severely buffeted by the dark, impersonal, destructive and transformative power of Pluto. Uranus/Node in Gemini being triggered suggests the premature pitching into a higher level of intellectual challenge than he could cope with. The feeling of struggling just to survive comes through very clearly from the above patterns. There is also a poignant feeling of loss of innocence, and having to face too soon the fact that the world is a brutal, competitive place in which a bright intellect is insufficient for protection.

TURNING POINT 2: APRIL '66: GOING OUT WITH BEATRICE

Interestingly, although Marc gives 29.04.66 as the day he asked Beatrice out, he also gives the date of 23.03.66 as the day he saw her at a wedding and "conceived the idea that I would like to go out with her." Although the Nodal and outer planet aspects are roughly the same, they are closer for the date in March, than the date in April - suggesting that the conception point is more potent than the birth moment! On 23.3 the key difference is that transiting Jupiter at 23 Gemini was conjunct his NNode for the second time (the first time was when he and his school mates saw

the new Queen!) whereas it had passed on by April. The transiting Node in the **10th House, opposite its position in TP 1**, is at 26 Taurus, again squaring the Asc/Desc axis, conjunct progressed MC at nearly 26 Taurus, and picking up the total lunar eclipse degree of 18.11.56 featured in **TP 1**. Transiting Saturn at 21.5 Pisces in the 8th House squares the Nodal axis **and its TP1 position**. Opposite Saturn are the big heavies Uranus and Pluto, conjunct in the 2nd House at 17 Virgo - in all, a grand cross with the natal Nodes. Transiting Neptune also features, at 22 degrees of Scorpio in the 4th House, quincunx the radix NNode and transiting Jupiter, conjunct the South Node.

The overall feeling is of a powerful, fated encounter - Pluto once again strongly emphasised - which will lead him to redefine both where he is coming from and where he is headed, centred on the sphere of relationship. Neptune's presence in the 4th in Scorpio emphasises his longing for connection both at a body and soul level - and the Nodes's 10th House location emphasises the shared path in life through their politics which he and Beatrice were to have powerfully in common.

The most significant eclipses of the season also bring echoes of **TP 1**. The total solar eclipse of 30.5.65 falls at 9 Gemini, widely conjunct the Sun/Uranus midpoint in the 10th House; in **TP 1** the total solar eclipse fell on the Uranus/Node midpoint. The annular solar eclipse of 20.5.66 fell at 29 Taurus in the 10th House, conjunct Marc's MC/Node midpoint. The last (annular) lunar eclipse of the season falls on the 29.10.66 at 5.5 Taurus, within half a degree of Marc's Midheaven. The progressed Moon at

10.5 Capricorn picks up Marc's pre-natal solar eclipse at 12.5 Capricorn.

There were nine years, half a Nodal transiting cycle, between **TP1** and **TP2**, hence the Nodal and eclipse resonances.

TURNING POINT 3: MAY '73: THE END OF FORMAL EDUCATION

Marc completed his post-grad course and his higher education with a "*great sense of release*".

The first point of Nodal significance to record is that he was by then 27 and this was the year of the NNode's return to the South Node position in the **5th House** in Sagittarius. There is immediately a strong link with **TP 1**, also concerning his education; this was the position Saturn had reached at the end of 1957, the end of the first term of secondary schooling featured in **TP 1**. Furthermore, Saturn by transit exactly conjuncted the Uranus NNode conjunction in May 73, opposite its own position during the **TP 1** period, and square its **TP 2** position. 18 Gemini was the critical solar eclipse degree for **TP 1** - another potent connection between two educational turning points.

Transiting Uranus in Libra conjuncted natal Chiron and Jupiter in the 3rd House, opposite the Moon, making an exact trine to the Uranus/Node conjunction semisextile Saturn in May 73 - the whole natal Nodal pattern being triggered by transiting Uranus trine Saturn!

I find this a bright set of images for a combination of

achievement through hard work rewarded, and a joyous sense of liberation. Uranus' foreground presence as the dominant outer planet is very appropriate for this particular turning point.

There were two total eclipses that season. The first fell on 10 .8.72 at 18.5 Cancer in the 11th House, picking up the Moon/Jupiter, Mars/Uranus, Mars/Node and Uranus/Asc midpoints. The second, on the 30.6.73, fell at 8.5 Cancer in the 11th House conjunct Venus, triggering the Mercury/Mars, and Sun/Pluto midpoints. Interestingly and appropriately at the time of Marc's entry into the structured world of work as an urban planner, both eclipses picked up Marc's pre-natal solar eclipse at 13 Capricorn. The progressed Asc at 10.5 Virgo trined that eclipse; the progressed Moon at 11.5 Aries squared it. The overall pattern speaks of dynamic creative intellectual achievement and the start to offering that creativity to the collective as the Nodal axis transits the 5th/11th Houses.

TURNING POINT 4: 3 MAY '79: THATCHER

In the biographical profile he sent me, Marc described November 1973, when the Scottish Nationalists won a famous election victory in Govan, as the start of his serious political involvement. He was still 27, and that November the 5th House NNode crossed 29 Sagittarius, South Node 29 Gemini in the 11th - his critical Asc/Mc midpoint! This point describes the coming together of who he is with what he aspires to offer the collective through his life path. Finding a focus for his political drives as the North Node crossed this axis I find wonderfully appropriate.

By 1979 he had become prominent in the Scottish National Party, as a socialist within it.

That summer, he described his life thus: *“the outward flavour of this date is - utter and total immersion in, and commitment to, an external cause that was on the verge of achieving revolutionary change and thereby giving shape, validity and meaning to my life.”*

In this summer of hope and expectation for him, and for Scotland, Jupiter was (for the third time) exactly conjunct Uranus NNode - and Neptune, on the South Node, was **exactly** opposite.

His own words vividly express the astrological symbolism; poignantly so, in view of the shattering of his dreams which would shortly occur... Marc’s words to describe **TP 4** are far more eloquent than mine could be: *“I realised on 3.5.79 that life as I had known it was over.”*

The astrology is at its most eloquent and powerful here. The transiting N Node in the **2nd House** in Virgo has just squared its own position at 20 Gemini in the 11th House, and squares Uranus exactly, forming a Nodal grand cross worth Uranus as the focal planet. Transiting Uranus in the 4th House at 19 Scorpio quincunxes NNode. Transiting Neptune retrograde is once again exactly on the South Node. Transiting Pluto at 17 Libra in the 2nd House has just crossed Chiron, and is **exactly on Jupiter, in the same position as Uranus was during TP 3**, triggering once again the whole structure of the natal Nodal pattern. As if that wasn’t sufficient, Mars on the day is at 20.5 Aries, opposite

transiting Pluto, conjunct the natal Moon and further setting off the whole Nodal pattern.

The only total solar eclipse of this season, on the 26.2.79, falls at 7.5 Pisces, exactly opposite Saturn's future position at 7 Virgo, just about to turn retrograde, on election day, squaring Marc's 10th House Mercury/Uranus midpoint, his Sun at 5.5 Gemini, and **exactly hitting his Neptune/Pluto in Virgo first house midpoint**. Adding in progressed Mars at 5 Virgo with the progressed MC/IC axis at 8 Gemini/Sagittarius creates a mutable grand cross potentiated by a Pisces solar eclipse. The sudden shocking death of a hard worked - for dream leaps out of this symbolic pattern.

The first total lunar eclipse of the season, at 4 Libra on 24.3.78, falls on Marc's Neptune. The second one, at 23.45 Pisces on 16.9.78, squares the natal Nodes from the 8th House. The last (partial) lunar eclipse of the season, at 23 Virgo on 13.3.79, puts in place the last leg of a Nodal grand cross - shortly to be followed by the crucifixion and death of Marc's hopes and dreams for his country.

TURNING POINT 5: JANUARY 24 1986: END OF MARRIAGE

I have put the full text of Marc's feedback re the end of his marriage under note (vi). The essence is that, on **24.01.86**, in "*a split second of blinding fury... replaced in my heart by an icy coldness... I fell out of love with Beatrice - after 20 years of closeness and affection.*"

On 24.1.86 transiting Uranus was at 20 degrees 44 minutes

Sagittarius, conjunct his South Node at 20 degrees 44 minutes Sagittarius - **absolutely exact**. The progressed MC/IC axis is at 18 degrees 41 minutes Virgo/Pisces; exactly square Marc's Uranus/N Node midpoint. Marc's description aptly sums up the way Uranus works in its most extreme manifestation - sudden, unexpected, cold, separative, and absolute. The rest of the astrology is just as final. Transiting Pluto at 7 degrees Scorpio is about to retrograde over his IC, following the transiting SNode at 5 Scorpio, opposed by the North Node travelling at 5 Taurus conjunct the MC on the **9th House** side. This echoes the NNode's position conjunct the IC in **TP 1** (January 1958) **Also in TP1**, the last (annular) lunar eclipse of that season fell on the 29.10.66 at 5.5 Taurus, within half a degree of Marc's Midheaven.

Saturn's position at this turning point is at 7 Sagittarius, exactly square its position at **TP 4** in 1979, evoking the grand cross solar eclipse pattern present at ß that turning point.

The two key lunar eclipses of the 85/86 season carry the same sense of finality and the same eerie resonances with **TP 1**. The total lunar eclipse of 28.10. 85 at 5 Taurus falls on Marc's MC, opposite transiting NNode/Pluto; on the 24.3.86, at 4 Scorpio, conjunct the IC, and transiting SNode/Pluto. The (partial) solar eclipse of 19.5.85 falls at 29 Taurus, conjunct Marc's 10th House MC/NNode midpoint. **This echoes TP 3**, the **start** of the relationship, when the annular solar eclipse of 20.5.66 fell on the same point. The last (partial) solar eclipse of the 85/6 season, eloquently, at 17 Aries, conjuncts Marc's ninth house Moon, thereby sextiling the North Node and triggering the whole natal Nodal picture.

In the symbolic Sunrise chart for 24.1.86 the transiting Moon is at 14.5 Cancer, conjunct progressed Sun at 13.5 Cancer, opposite Marc's fifth House pre-natal solar eclipse degree at 12.5 Capricorn. I find this striking piece of soli/lunar symbolism very affecting... as though the Fates were that day busily engaged in re-aligning the male/female principles in his life. "*Come in, Marc and Beatrice... your time is up!...*"

A final ironic touch, signifying that this ending was part of Marc's being pushed out into a deeper and wider experience of life in general and relationship in particular, is offered through the placement of transiting Jupiter on 24.1.1986. It is at 23 Aquarius, conjunct Marc's Desc, trine the NNode Uranus. And Jupiter's position in **TP 3** when he began with Beatrice? 23 Gemini, conjunct NNode/Uranus, **exactly** trine its future position when the relationship was to end.....

TURNING POINT 6: CHRISTMAS 1987: CAITLIN

After 2 years of miserable realisation that his marriage was over, Marc did "*the typical male thing, and proposition (ed) Caitlin at the Xmas 1987 office party*" They then began their affair in January 1988, and are still very much together. Although there are some Nodal signifiers for that time, as with Beatrice the most vivid ones appear at the 'conception' time of the relationship; I decided to use the conception month as the Turning Point for that reason. In his biographical notes Marc reports going in to a city office to hand in a job application in October 1983 (no date given), and seeing Caitlin there. "*I didn't speak to her, but I did notice her, and asked a friend.... who she was.*" He got the job and from then on, he and Caitlin were colleagues.

The transits given are for 1 October 1983. The North Node has just made its second Return and at 18 Gemini is exactly on the Node/Uranus midpoint, retrograding into the **11th House**, with the South Node on the 5th House cusp; very appropriate for a love affair which began in a group context!

This links closely with **TP1** when the total solar eclipse of the 1956/7 season fell on 18 Gemini. 18 Sagittarius, too, represents the position of Saturn in the winter of 1957 which features in **TP1**. At that stage in his life the 5th/11th pairing of Houses expressed itself at a different level, reflecting him taking his creative energy and struggling to set it in the wider group context of his first senior school. Furthermore, there are also echoes of **TP2**, the start of his relationship with Beatrice in March 1966, when Saturn was in the 8th House at 21.5 Pisces, squaring the **TP1** position. **TP3**'s Nodal axis, at the end of his formal education in May 1973, has the North Node meeting the South Node, at 20 Sagittarius.

Saturn at that point was crossing the NNode/Uranus conjunction, highlighting 18 Gemini yet again.

In **TP4**, Thatcher's election victory on 3 May 1979, the North Node is at 20 Virgo, making a grand cross with the natal Nodes. Jupiter is at 18 Gemini, the NNode/Uranus midpoint, and Neptune is exactly on the NNode; Uranus by transit quincunxes it from 19 Scorpio. Two of the lunar eclipses of the **TP4** season of 1978/79, at 24 Pisces then 23 Virgo, weave in with all the other links. In **TP5**, the end of his marriage on 24.1.96, Uranus the major significator falls **exactly** conjunct the South Node at 20 degrees 44 minutes Sagittarius.

Continuing with the significators for **TP 6**, the 'conception' month of his relationship with Caitlin, we find other clear Nodal links. Transiting Pluto at 28.5 Libra in the third house, approaching his IC, quincunxes the Node/MC midpoint in the 10th House, the same midpoint triggered by the solar eclipse of May 66 which featured in **TP 2**, the start of the relationship with Beatrice. Transiting Neptune in the 5th House, very appropriate for romance, is at 26.5 Sagittarius, in a separating conjunction with his SNode, **exactly** opposite the Venus/NNode midpoint in the 11th House.

The progressed Asc/Desc at 17 Virgo/Pisces is within a degree of exactly squaring the NNode/Uranus midpoint, as it approaches a grand cross to the radix Nodal axis; progressed Venus at 18 Leo in the 12th House has just crossed radix Mars, and sextiles the North Node Uranus thereby triggering the whole Nodal pattern. Could he have been heading for a clandestine new relationship which would shake up the status quo, one wonders?!

The eclipse season of 1982/3 offers some striking emphases. The partial solar eclipse of 15.12. 82 falls at 23 Sagittarius, conjunct the 5th House SNode, opposite the Pluto/MC midpoint in the 11th House. The following total solar eclipse on 11.6.83 at 20 Gemini exactly triggers the NNode and its attendant natal pattern, also resonating back through all the previous **TP s**. The lunar eclipses have a literal flavour: the first on 30.12. 82 at 8.5 Cancer in the 11 House is conjunct Marc's Venus/Fortuna conjunction, opposite his pre-natal solar eclipse degree of 13 Capricorn. The second, on 25 .6.83, falls at 3 Capricorn, exactly opposite Venus/Fortuna.

There is the Nodal clustering effect present in this turning point, just as the others. But there is a strongly Venusian and Neptunian “feel”, denoting the beginning of romantic love; foreground Uranus here emphasises the buzzy excitement of the brighter face of Uranus. Pluto is not such a threatening, dominant figure as in previous turning points. Altogether, one gets the feeling that the relationship with Caitlin, although sure to bring the usual **afogs**⁷, is more about sensual pleasure and good companionship than about gut-wrenching life changes in the future.

In addition to analysing in detail the six Turning Points identified by Marc, I thought it might also be useful to list in **Appendix ii**, along/with their astrological signifiers, his maternal grandfather’s death, his brother’s birth, the family’s relocation when Marc was 6, his father’s death, and the moment he described as “the Nadir of my life” as further illustration of the kind of Nodal pictures which form at undeniably potent points in life.

The fact that every single Turning Point reported by Marc plugs in closely to the Natal Nodal axis and its links, is quite stunning and thought-provoking. I will have more to say about what I think the research on Marc’s life reveals in the Conclusion to the book.

⁷ from Anne Whitaker’s Second Year CPA Portfolio “another fucking opportunity for growth” - quote from one of my counselling supervisees on a bad day!

Appendix ii: Marc's life:

nodal periods outline

It would have taken up too much space to include Marc's 14 pages of biographical notes in this Appendix, and also revealed more personal detail, albeit anonymously, than would have been comfortable. But I have quoted from these notes at several points during the case study. The outline below consists of the key periods of Marc's life with the main transits and progressions listed, in response to three separate sheets I sent out, asking first for responses to the transiting Nodal Cycle, secondly to transits of planets over natal Nodes, then progressions of planets to natal Nodes. These were then synthesised.

I have left in one or two sentences here and there which I thought might be of interest. I have also included in this section the other significant events apart from Marc's chosen Turning Points, which are illustrative of the way Nodal 'clusters' form, especially with Pluto to the foreground, on such key occasions.

These are: maternal grandfather's death January 1951; brother Russell's birth October 7 1952; family move to district outwith Glasgow November 1952; Nadir of life 7 February 1967; father's death 8 December 1984.

NOTE:

TYPE 1 = Transiting Nodal Cycle

TYPE 2 = Transits of Planets over Natal Nodes

TYPE 3 = Progressions of Planets to Natal Nodes

EARLY LIFE 1946 - 1951

Period 1: 8/8/46 to 24/5/47: Type 2 Transiting Uranus conj NNode/Gemini/11th H

Period 2: 28/1/48 to 17/9/48: Type 2 Transiting Jupiter conj SNode /Sag/05th H

Period 3: 1/3/50 to 1/11/50: Type 2 Transiting Chiron conj SNode /Sag/05th H

Period 4: Early Autumn 50: Type 3 Progressed Moon's first crossing of NNode

Period 5: 31/8/50: Type 2 Transiting Saturn/Virgo/2nd H/ square Nodes

Maternal Grandfather's death? Jan 1951. Transiting NNode/ Pisces/8th/first square Nodes + Transiting Neptune/ Libra/3rd conj Chiron Jupiter trine NNode + transiting Pluto/Leo/12th/ conj MarsAsc midpoint sextile NNode

PRIMARY SCHOOL YEARS 1952-1957

Brother's birth October 1952 *Transiting NNode conj Desc in Aquarius, trine NNode radix + transiting Neptune/Libra/3rd H conj Chiron Jupiter sextile NNode radix + transiting Pluto ex conj Asc sextile NNode + transiting Neptune/Libra/3rd H conj Chiron Jupiter trine NNode + transiting Uranus/Cancer/11th H semisextile Uranus NNode midpoint*

Move to district outwith Glasgow November 1952 *Transiting NNode/Aquarius/6th H trine NNode Uranus midpoint opp Mars Ascendant midpoint + transiting Pluto ex conj Asc sextile NNode + transiting Neptune /Libra/3rd H conj Chiron Jupiter*

*trine NNode + transiting Uranus/Cancer/11th H semisextile
Uranus NNode midpoint*

Period 6: 13/8/53 to 4/4/54: Type 2 Transiting Jupiter's first crossing of NNode/Gemini/11th H

Period 7: Summer 55: Type 3 Progressed Mercury conj NNode/Gemini/11th H

Period 8: Early April 55 to Mid March 56: Type 1 Transiting NNode's first crossing of SNode/Sag/5th H

Period 9: Jan/ Feb 57: Type 3 Progressed Moon/Virgo/2nd first square of Nodal axis

SECONDARY SCHOOL YEARS 1957 - SUMMER 1964

Period 10: 12/1/58 to 8/10/58: Type 2 Transiting Saturn in Sag conj SNode in 5th H

Period 11: January 60 to December 61: Type 3 Progressed MC/Taurus/10th H semisextile NNode 11th H/Gemini

Period 11 Most Potent Point: December 60

Period 12: January 61 to December 62: Type 3 Progressed Sun conj NNode/Gemini/11th

Period 13: Summer 64: Type 3 Progressed Moon's first passage over SNode/Sag/5th

UNIVERSITY YEARS: AUTUMN 1964 - SUMMER 1973

Period 14: Age 18; late August 64 to mid August 65: Type 1
First Nodal Return to radix NNode/Gemini/11th

Period 15: 1/4/65 to 1/3/66: Type 2 Transiting Chiron/
Pisces/8th H square Nodes

Period 16: 23/7/65 to 15/2/66: Type 2 Transiting Jupiter's
second passage over NNode/Gemini/11th
Period 14 Particular Focus: Third week Feb 65 to Third
week March 65.

Period 17: 17/3/66: Type 2 Transiting Saturn/Pisces/8th
H square Nodes (+ just after transiting Jupiter's second
passage over NNode/Gemini/11th)
Period 18: 24/9/66 to 30/6/67: Type 2

Period 19: 21/9/67 to 17/7/68: Type 2 Transiting Uranus
(ruler Desc, placed 10th H) conjunct Pluto (ruler IC,
placed 12th H) Virgo/2nd House square Nodal axis,
operative for this whole time

21st Dec 66. Dad taken suddenly off to mental hospital for
drug treatment for depression. VERY dismal moment in
life. (Note: this was two days before Pluto went retrograde
23/12/66 - 20.5 Virgo - exactly square natal Nodes)

7th Feb 67. NADIR MOMENT. Family dog had to be put
down. Vet visited house and administered poison. Mum
and I then had to watch dog take about an hour to slide
downhill and die. This while Dad still in hospital. **Almost
certainly the nadir of my entire life. (note: transiting**

NNode/Taurus/10th square radix Pluto [IC ruler] /12th House, + *transiting Pluto/Virgo/2ndH square radix Nodal axis at this point.... a Pluto/Node 'double whammy'!*) Not in terms of intensity of grief - but in terms of a generalised feeling of abject misery/pointlessness. Afterwards, I had to take dog out into garden and bury it.

Period 19: 21/9/67 to 17/7/68: Type 2

Period 20: Autumn 71: Type 3 *Progressed Moon/Pisces/8th H 2nd square to Nodal axis. ALSO Transiting Saturn/Taurus/10th semisextile NNode June 1970 to April 1971 AND transiting NNode/Aquarius/6th H opp radix Pluto conj Mars square radix MC/IC axis (June 1971 - Jan 1972)*

Period 21: 2/10/72 to 19/5/73: Type 2 Transiting Saturn conjunct NNode

EARLY MARRIAGE, BUILDING A CAREER, POLITICAL LIFE: 1973-9

Period 22: Age 27; end October 73 to end October 74: Type 1 Transiting NNode's second passage over SNode/Sag/5th H

Period 22 Particular Focus: Third week April 74 to Third week Aug 74 Transiting NNode's second passage over SNode/Sag/5th H, followed by opposition to radix Uranus/Gemini/10th

Period 23: 5/7/77: Type 2 Transiting Jupiter's third passage over NNode/Gemini/11th

Period 24: Jan/Feb 78: Type 3 Progressed Moon's second passage over NNode/Gemini/11th

POST-THATCHER POLITICS, CAREER CHANGE, FIRST MEETING WITH CAITLIN 1979 - END 1985.

Period 25: end 1978 to end 1980: Type 2 transiting Neptune conjunct SNode/Sag/5th AND transiting Saturn/Virgo/2nd's second square to Nodal axis (Oct 79 to June 80)

Neptune retro 23/3/79: About 3 weeks after the 1979 Referendum. (Scotland)

Period 27: Age 36; late March 83 to mid March 84: Type 1 Second transiting NNodal Return to radix NNode/Gemini/11th H

Period 27 Particular Focus: Mid Sept 83 to 3rd week Oct 83: Advert for job in GCPD spotted and application lodged Oct 83.

Period 28: Summer 84: Type 3 Progressed Moon/Virgo/2nd H's third square to radix Nodal axis.

note: Marc's father died on 8.12. 84 "I lost my grip on life the day my father died." *Transiting Saturn in Scorpio/4rh quincunx NNode/Gemini/11th, + transiting NNode separating conjunct radix Sun/mercury conjunction/Gemini/10th applying square Asc, + transiting Moon conj NNode, + transiting Uranus/Sun conjunct SNode opposite Uranus conjunct NNode + transiting Neptune opposite Venus + transiting Pluto conjunct IC.*

END OF MARRIAGE - ADAPTING TO SEPARATE LIVES

1986 - 88:

Period 29: 24/1/86 to 14/11/86: Type 2 Transiting Uranus
conjunct SNode /Sag/5th H

24/1/86 - can you pick a date, or what?? My 16th wedding
anniversary and the effective end of my marriage.

Period 30: 8/3/87 to 21/11/87: Type 2 Transiting Saturn
conjunct SNode/Sag/5th

Misery.

Period 31: (1.9.86) to 1/6/87: Type 2 Transiting Chiron
conjunct NNode/Gemini/11th

More misery.

And my brother emigrates to Canada **July 87.**

A NEW RELATIONSHIP STARTS, AND SELF- DEVELOPMENT WORK, 1988 -1995:

Period 32: January 88 to January 90: Type 3 Progressed Asc/
Virgo/2nd H square Nodal axis

Period 32 Most Potent Point: January 89: 88/89: my first
Xmas/New Year as a 'single' man. Perhaps the decision to
take Caitlin to Ottawa (to meet his brother). Or was that
December 88?

Period 33: 18/6/89: Type 2 Fourth transit of Jupiter conjunct NNode/Gemini 11th

Period 34: Autumn 91: Type 3 Progressed Moon's **second** crossing of S Node/Sag/5th H

Period 35: January 92 to January 94: Type 3 Progressed MC conjunct NNode/Gemini/11th

Period 36: 12/6/92 to 15/9/92: Type 2 Transiting Pluto / Scorpio/4th H quincunx NNode/Gemini/11th H

Period 35 Most Potent Point: January 93. Perhaps the period of deepest depression about prospects of selling my flat, and about prospects of getting all 6 flat owners to pay their share of fixing city centre flat's leaking roof.

Period 36: Age 45; early August 92 to late July 93: Type 1 transiting NNode's **third** conjunction with SNode/Sag/5th

Period 37 Particular Focus: Last week Jan 93 to 2nd week March 93 transiting NNode's third conjunction with SNode/Sag/5th (exact)

Period 38: June 93 to June 94: Type 3 Progressed Sun semisext. NNode/Gemini/11th H

Sept 93 - sold Caitlin's flat - she moves into mine. We become a proper couple.

Period 38 Most Potent Point: December 93 Progressed Sun semisextile Node/Gemini/11th (exact)

Period 39: Mid October 94 to Mid July 95: Type 2 Transiting Chiron/Virgo/2nd **second** square Nodal axis

Period 40: 24/4/95 to 18/1/96: Type 2 Transiting Saturn/Pisces/8th square Nodal axis

Period 41: June 94 to June 95: Type 3 Progressed Sun conj Saturn semisextile NNode/Gemini/11th H

Period 41 Most Potent Point: December 94 Progressed Sun conj Saturn semisextile NNode/Gemini/11th H exact

Period 42: 23/11/95 (exact): Type 2 Transiting Jupiter conj SNode/Sag/5th

Nervous time because of approach of Reorganisation (31/3/96).

NOTE Strathclyde Region ceased to exist on 31/3/96.

THE CHARTS: THEIR PROVENANCE

I have used the same format for all the Turning Points charts : a triwheel with Marc's natal chart in the centre; his progressed chart for the year(and month/date) in question in the middle wheel; and on the outer wheel, a sunrise chart for the relevant date or start of the relevant month. I have specific dates for three of the six Turning Points charts. For the others, I have used the first day of the month relating to the relevant Turning Point. Not having any specific times, I have used sunrise charts as a symbolic time measure. To give consistency, I then calculated the progressed charts using the GMT times which came up for the sunrise charts.

Sources :

The source for all the charts was initially Marc's 14 page biographical summary to which I have already referred in the References and Notes section, and in Appendix ii. Secondly, Marc sent me his own "subjective perception of the pattern of his own life" which is reproduced in the text of the case study. The same information re-appeared there, framed as Turning Points.

C i) Turning Point 1 : J Academy Marc identified August 1957 as Turning Point 1, but described " passing my quali in Spring 57 " as "a major triumph." I discuss the period Spring - end of 1957 in the text, highlighting August. The relevant charts were set for 1 March 1957, taking the month of the passing of the exam as the 'conception' date for this Turning Point.

C ii) Turning Point 2 : Beatrice - start Marc described

the start of Turning Point 2 as April 1966. But in his biographical notes he mentioned that he saw Beatrice on 23 March and decided then that he would like to go out with her. I noticed that the Nodal picture was somewhat more powerful for the 'conception' date of March 23, so decided to set the charts for that date.

C iii) Turning Point 3 : Education - end. Marc gives May 1973 as the point he "finally finished with school" so I set the charts for the symbolic date of 1st May 1973.

C iv) Turning Point 4 : Thatcher. In his biographical notes Marc gives the General Election date of 3.5.1979, saying "life plan derailed in one day."

C v) Turning Point 5 : Marriage - end. This Turning Point is highly specific to a split-second occurrence on 24.1.86. A detailed quote from Marc's biographical notes is given under References & Notes (vi.)

C vi) Turning Point 6 : Caitlin - start. In Marc's" subjective perception of the pattern of his own life " included in the text, Marc gives this Turning Point as ... January 1988, and the Nodal links are certainly striking then. However, sticking with the impression I was forming that in these Turning Points the 'conception' date seemed to yield the more vivid symbolism, I again used Marc's biographical notes to find this point which goes back to October 1983 as the month in which he first saw Caitlin. (see text for further detail). Lacking a specific date, I set the chart for the symbolic one of 1 October 1983. Once again, the Nodal picture was more striking for that date than for January 1988.....

Cvii) Marc X - natal data withheld for reasons of confidentiality. Source : Birth Certificate.

Chapter 4: case study 3

Four nodal moments

Introduction

Having completed two lengthy case studies, each offering a different “take” on the significance of the Nodal axis, I thought it would be interesting finally to look at the Nodes from yet another perspective. For this chapter I have chosen four different people’s lives: two men, and two women; two well known, two not. From those lives I have chosen key defining moments, points at which one would expect to see strong Nodal signatures.

1. John Glenn

The extraordinary Jupiter Uranus year of 1997 saw space exploration of an especially *boldly going* kind being a very high profile human activity. The renovation of the Hubble telescope in mid-February enabled the most fantastic pictures of the outer boundaries of our galaxy and beyond to be sent to earth thereafter. The Voyager space craft landed on Mars in early July. The Saturn space probe was launched in mid-October.

Then, in mid-January 1998, former astronaut John Glenn hit the news again around the world. As **Scotland on Sunday**¹ said in its *Newsweek (World)* section for Friday January 16th:

¹ Scotland on Sunday, 18 January 1998.

“John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth in 1962, is to return to space at the age of 76, NASA announced. A long-serving US senator, Glenn will be part of the crew of the next space shuttle mission having offered himself as a human guinea pig for scientific work on the ageing process as it operates in zero gravity. NASA agreed to Glenn’s request for a place on the shuttle because of his experience and the fact that he remains super-fit.”

The first thing to strike me was the chronology - 36 years separate the current announcement from Glenn’s first trip into space: two whole Nodal cycles. The charts relevant to this announcement tell a most vivid story, with the Nodes very much in evidence. Firstly, Glenn’s natal chart.

Nodal Moments 1

Fig 23

John Glenn

Natal Chart
 Monday, 18 July 1921
 16:00:00 EST
 Cambridge, Ohio
 40No2 / 81W35
 Tropical Placidus True Node

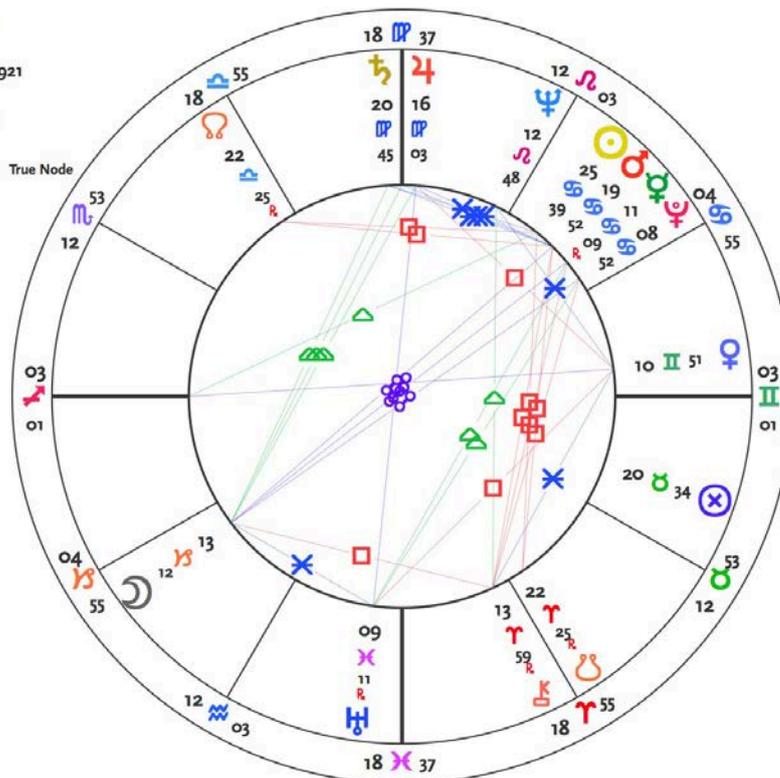


Fig 24

John Glenn - Earth Orbit

Natal Chart
Monday, 19 February 1962
19:00:00 EST
Washington, District of Columbia
38N54 / 77W02
Tropical Placidus True Node

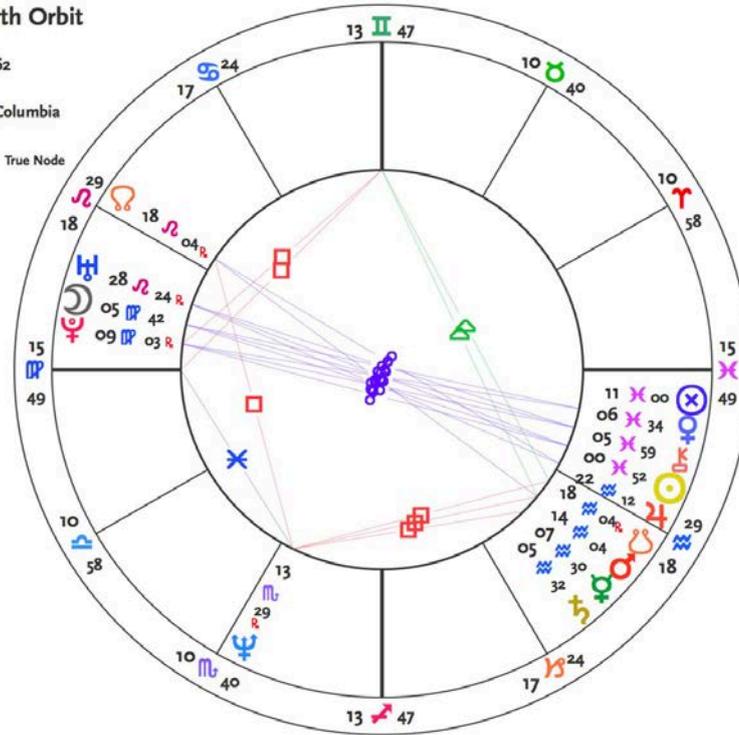
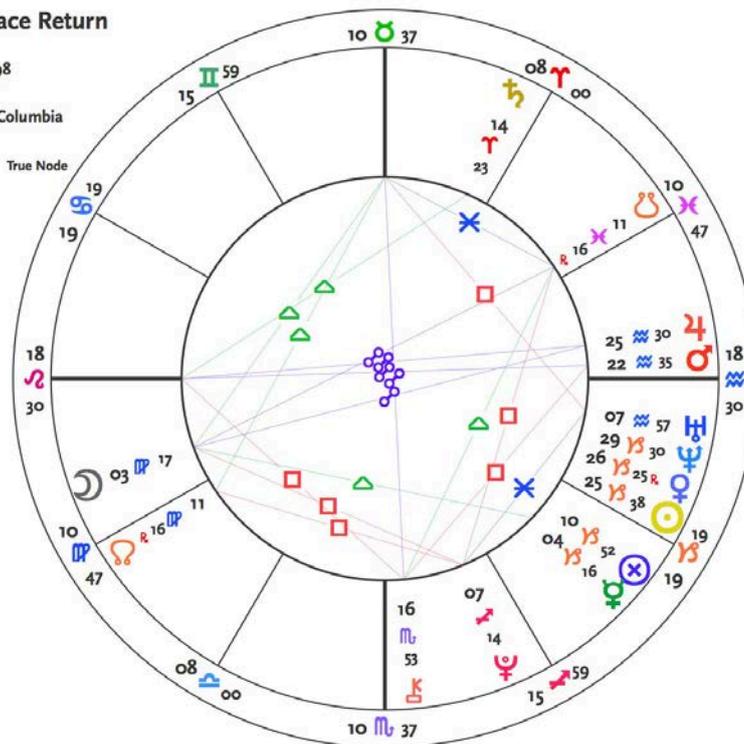


Fig 25

John Glenn - Space Return

Natal Chart
Thursday, 15 January 1998
19:00:00 EST
Washington, District of Columbia
38N54 / 77W02
Tropical Placidus True Node



The NNode is placed in Libra, in the 11th House, suggesting a team player, a man whose path involves entering into co-operative relationships with others for the common good, operating from a creative base. Venus the NNode ruler in the 7th House in Gemini, holds a prominent position square the MC/IC axis, reinforcing the links with others as an important part of his direction in life. What turns him on, drives him, is pioneering risk-taking. His 5th House ruler is Mars which is conj the 9th House ruler, the Sun, in the 8th House in Cancer, square the Nodal axis. This all suggests a pioneering, creative, adventurous voyager with a strong sense of connection to national pride (USA is a Cancer/Sagittarius nation) - who also needs to put himself in crisis situations which make him feel at his most vital and alive. Being blasted off in a rocket to become the first US citizen to orbit the earth would seem to fit the Nodal picture rather well!

He has what I call the “public service axis” - Virgo/Pisces - on his MC/IC, with Jupiter in the Ninth conj Saturn in the 10th - the Jupiter/Saturn midpoint being the MC degree. This is very contradictory - one the one hand we have an ambitious, perfectionistic man very much at home with bureaucracy and the fine details of administrative work. On the other, these fine details and formal structures - perhaps in the realm of public health if we take the sextiles to a strong Cancerian/8th House emphasis into account, have to be in the service of the big picture, the grand scheme. Jupiter in the 9th rules the chart, after all..... Jupiter is also in the Gauquelin plus sector², conjunct the Midheaven

² Michel Gauquelin, *Written in the Stars*, Aquarian Press, 1988, pp 72-5.

- **the** placement for politicians and actors. Despite the innate modesty and pragmatism of Virgo which is not a sign known for inflation, this man needs to perform, to proselytise - not for the hell of it, but in the service of others. Saturn is also in a Gauquelin plus zone³ - the culminating position for prominent scientists or doctors.

Both planets are opposite Uranus in 3rd House and square Venus, ruler of NNode, 11th and 6th Houses, in the 7th House. This is a rich set of images - of a man who can knuckle down to the demands of ambition and structure, but also needs to challenge the established order and/or people's view of him. After orbiting the Earth, he went on to be an executive with Coca-Cola, then into politics. There is a maverick feel to the pattern - a man whose path is very much connected to working with others on common goals, but who also needs to dance to his own tune. The strong Uranian oppositions and square also conjure up an image of someone who will challenge the limits set regarding what Man and man can and should do, those set by ageing and mortality being one of them.

How appropriate, then, that the Nodal axis and eclipse seasons potentising his 10th/4th, MC/IC and then 9th/3rd Houses from the Spring of 1997 to the Spring of 1998 should bring him to the world's attention again - offering his services to the human community as part of the crew of the next space shuttle mission *as a human guinea pig for scientific work on the ageing process as it operates in zero gravity. NASA agreed to Glenn's request for a place on the*

³ *ibid*, pp 75-7

*shuttle because of his experience and **the fact that he remains super-fit.***” (my emphasis)⁴

I have chosen the day the announcement was made as Glenn’s “Nodal Moment” - with the February 1962 day that he first orbited the Earth, as a parallel one. Looking at Glenn’s progressions and transits for the January 1998 day is very interesting indeed. The Nodal axis by transit is crossing the angular T-square discussed above, and transiting Pluto (which crossed Glenn’s natal Asc in 1995-7) squares the transiting Nodal axis and will soon involve transiting Jupiter which moved into Pisces on 2nd February 98. The total solar eclipse at 7 degrees 55 mins Pisces on 26 February, falling on his Sun/NNode midpoint, charges up his natal T-square and transiting Nodes, Pluto and Jupiter. The Virgo moon occupies 3 degrees at midnight on the day of the announcement, thereby crossing the above pattern during the course of announcement day.

The only progressions of note are striking: Venus (NNode ruler and Mars (SNode ruler) conjunct at 8 Virgo, conjunct the Sun/NNode midpoint and the solar eclipse degree - further emphasising the great dynamism building up around his natal T- square. Perhaps he is proving himself to a woman in his life, who one might suspect would be much younger?⁵

There’s an overall feeling of a grand, defiant, perhaps final

⁴ Scotland on Sunday, 18 January 1998. Quoted from Newsweek (World) section for Friday 16 January.

⁵ Note: the overall cast of this chart suggests a problem in common with JFK and Clinton, to name a couple of rather well-known role models whose combination of Libran charm, Aries machismo and liking for risk-taking, and Cancerian/8th connection to the dark waters of feminine sexuality and the pursuit of power, seemed to have caused them allegedly to need to remove their trousers in risky situations on a more frequent basis than most!

assertion of personal potency in the face of death, whilst taking on a challenge which should also benefit the human community by advancing the sum of our knowledge, suggested by the natal planets, transits and progressions. This is the ultimate taking-on of the Nodal challenge to be all you can be. *“Yes - and how grand if I die in the attempt!” one imagines Glenn saying. “What a way to go!”*

Finally - looking back at the chart for the actual day in 1962 when Glenn orbited the Earth, we find striking links to the transiting and progressed positions for the Return announcement. The Moon is in nearly the same position, approaching 6 degrees Virgo, conjunct Pluto at 9 degrees Virgo, opposite the Sun, Chiron, Venus and the Part of Fortune between 11 and 10 degrees of Pisces. The North Node transits Glenn’s 9th House, as in the current picture.

Looking at the eclipse season for 1961-62, the charging-up period prior to the orbit in February 1962, is compelling. The total solar eclipse at 26.5 Aquarius on 15 February 1961 appears as Mars conjunct Jupiter in the Return to Space chart of 1998. The Lunar eclipse on 2nd March 1961 is 11 degrees Virgo - this becomes the exact North Node degree of the Return chart. On 11 August 1961 the solar eclipse is 18.5 Leo - John Glenn’s Mars/Jupiter midpoint (9th House) and the Ascendant of the Return chart, square Chiron. The total solar eclipse on 5 February 1962, immediately preceding the orbit, is 16 Aquarius: conjunct the Mars/Uranus midpoint, square Chiron, of the Return chart, opposite John Glenn’s Venus/Node midpoint. The subsequent lunar eclipse on 19 February 1962, at 0 Virgo, is exactly opposite the 0 Pisces Sun of the Orbit chart... **“Return to Space, Mr Glenn - your time is up!”...**

2. Princess Diana

Princess Diana's premature death on 31.08.97 shook the world. One would expect the natal Nodes, for someone who became so famous and died so tragically, to be prominent and connected to planets suggesting the turbulent nature of her life and the brutal, sudden manner of her end.

I can clearly recall my first sight of Diana's chart (Civ) in 1984.⁶ The natal T Square leapt out at me, the eighth house NNode linked with Uranus, Mars and Pluto. Apparently I remarked to a student of mine "*I bet she'll be the first heir to the throne's wife to be divorced!*", a remark I had completely forgotten until the student reminded me of it when I ran into her ten years later. I also recall thinking that the chart suggested someone who would live fast and die young. But I kept that thought to myself. I'm pretty sure many astrologers had similar reactions to mine, not voiced in the public realm for very obvious reasons.

In the 1993 annus horribilis of the House of Windsor, the NNode was transiting through Sagittarius across Diana's Ascendant, moving into the 12th House, and squaring her natal Nodal T square right through until the summer of 1994, by which time the world knew that her marriage to Prince Charles was over.

In the spring and summer of 1997, as her landmines campaign gained momentum and popular press interest in her connection with the `Al Fayeds in general and Dodi

⁶ I first came across it in *Synastry* by Penny Thornton, p 140, Aquarian Press, 1982.

Nodal Moments 2

Fig 26

Princess Diana

Natal Chart

Saturday, 1 July 1961

19:45:00 GMD

Sandringham, England

52N50 / 0E30

Tropical Placidus True Node

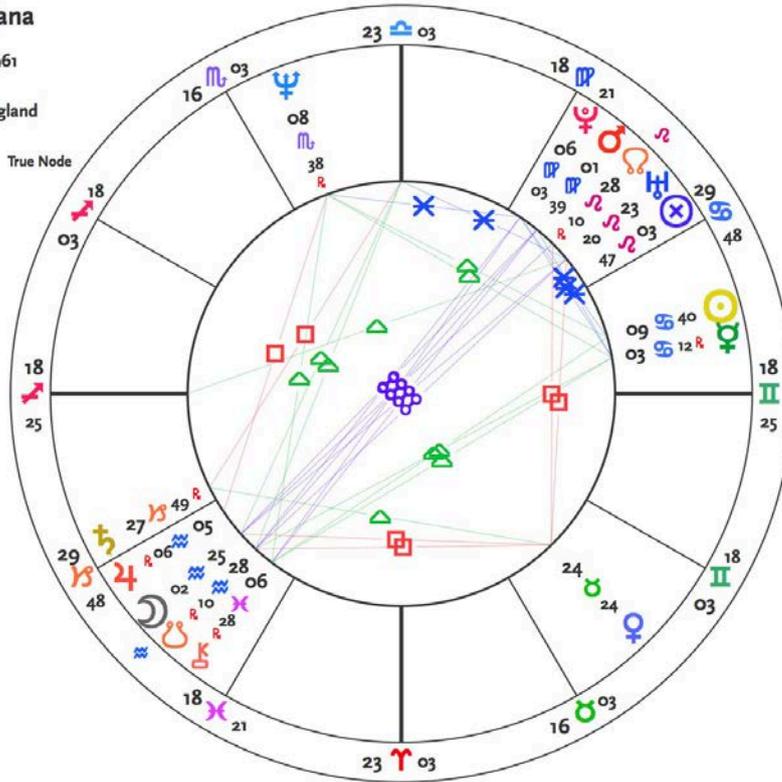


Fig 27

Princess Diana

Naibod Secondary

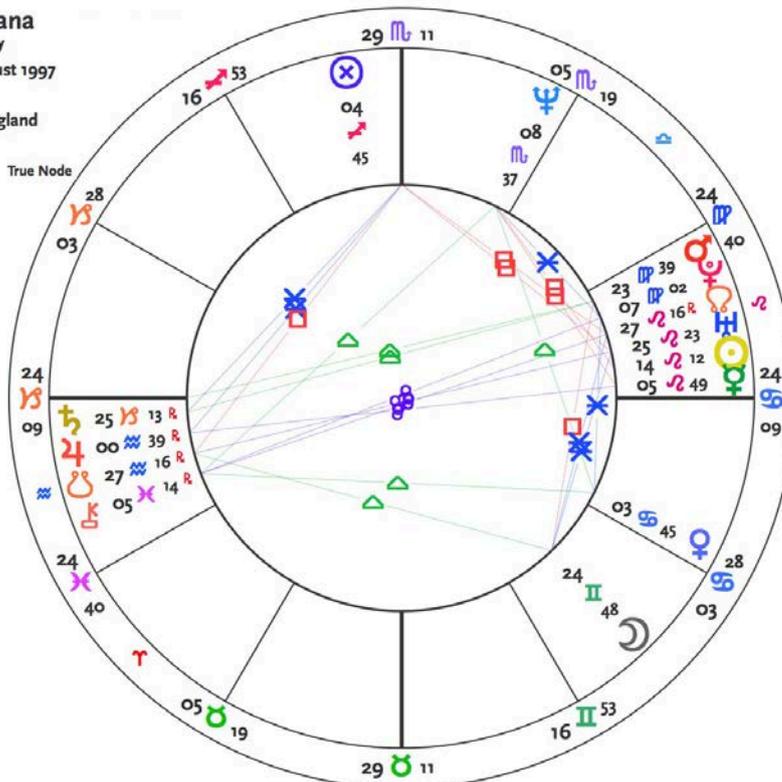
Saturday, 30 August 1997

22:24:00 GMT

Sandringham, England

52N50 / 0E30

Tropical Placidus True Node



The 1st September 1997 eclipse at 9.5 Virgo potentised the natal Nodal T Square. The eclipse also semi-squared her MC, and triggered the Sun/Neptune and Saturn /MC midpoints - very apt signifiers for ending her life against a concrete wall, the centre of the world's attention - and for the stories of intrigue, drug abuse (Dodi) and alcohol abuse (the car driver) surrounding the whole tragic event. Interestingly, transiting Saturn at 19 Aries retrograding from her IC was exactly quincunx the transiting NNode, thereby repeating the natal alignment between Saturn and the North Node. In her progressed chart, the most notable signifier for a fated encounter with the dark forces in the world is the progressed MC at 29 Scorpio, square her North Node/Mars midpoint the year she died.

Diana's pre-natal eclipses are starkly woven into the picture of her death. The pre-natal lunar eclipse is 3.5 Libra, square Mercury, 7th House ruler in the 7th House - conjunct progressed Venus at 3 Cancer, square the lunar eclipse degree when she died - such a powerful signifier for her profound need to find emotional security in relationship as a major factor in her death. Diana's pre-natal (total) solar eclipse is even more stark. It falls at 18.5 Pisces, conjunct her 3rd House cusp, and becomes her South Node degree square her Ascendant and that of the accident chart at the time of her death.⁷

The Virgo/Pisces axis is the axis of the Christian era - the cross its most potent symbol. Having a Gemini/Sag/Virgo/

⁷ Note: there are many profound links between Diana's chart and the 1801 UK chart. For me, the most striking is that Diana's pre-natal lunar eclipse at 3.5 Libra is conjunct the UK's Asc/Uranus midpoint - what a signifier both for a powerful, graceful female presence who would shake up the nation's image of itself, and bring the UK one of its most devastating shocks.....

Pisces/Nodal cross at the moment of Diana's fatal crash, configured with her pre-natal lunar eclipse degree, has a powerfully fated feel to it, which seems appropriate to the spirit of our particular time and what Diana in her life and the manner of her death seems to have represented for many people. Here I quote from my own work:⁸

... "On 31 August, Princess Diana, the new revolutionary international 'queen of hearts' was killed, and the whole world went into shock and mourning. Modern global technology ensured that her death made instant world headlines - and her funeral on 7 September attracted an audience of at least half the population of the globe: the biggest mass media event in human history.

The shocking challenge of this event to British tradition and its now tottering monarchy has been profound. The vast outpouring of collective pain in response to this death goes far beyond grief for a person, who is more of a symbol than a real individual to most of those who mourned her. It has shown us how deep is our collective longing for a person, or some way of living which can heal the woundedness of spirit as a human community which we seem to be feeling.

A male sacrificial victim/Redeemer in the person of Christ, who for the whole of the Christian era has had the longings of millions for a personal Redeemer and healer of common human suffering projected onto him, began this millennium and its tempestuous history. Perhaps our collective projections onto Diana, this time a female sacrificial victim/Redeemer, are a powerful symbol of its ending?"

⁸ from Anne Whitaker Jupiter Uranus Newsflash 1997: draft Part 2: Summer/autumn 1997.

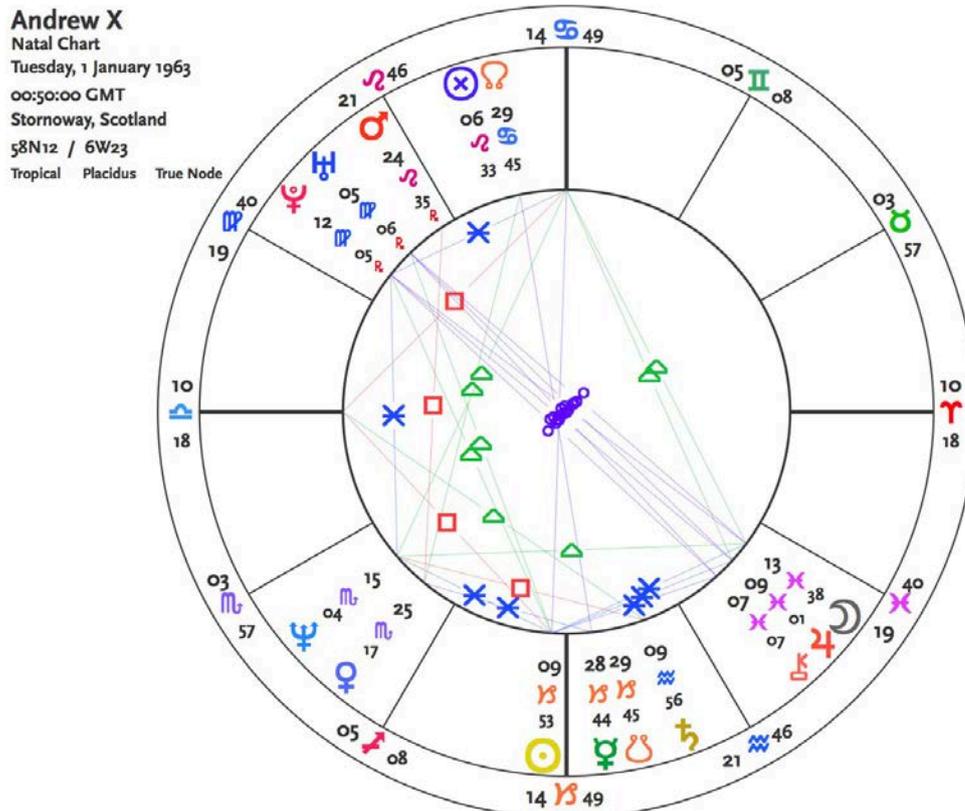
3. Andrew X.

In this example, Andrew’s “Nodal Moment” is so closely bound up with family fate issues that it is important to set a biographical context before exploring the astrology.

Andrew was born in January 1963 into a small seafaring community, the only son of parents in their forties. His two sisters were 15 and 8. He was the late compensation for what had become a deeply unhappy marriage. His father had left his mother when their first daughter was only 3, but had returned because of the child’s distress. He was a colourful Jupiterian character who combined being a senior local government officer with being a renowned poacher. A heavy drinker, he was sometimes violent towards Andrew’s

Nodal Moments 3

Fig 29



mother. She was a sensitive, but emotionally immature and unstable woman who acted out the victim to the bully in her husband, whilst at the same time having highly developed emotional blackmail skills and an unbreakable survival capacity.

Much of his childhood was spent preparing to live out his father's unfulfilled dream of going to sea, and responding to his mother's need for protection from his father. "*I was afraid to leave home in case he killed her.*" He felt desperately pulled, because they both loved him and in their own ways were good to him, whilst at the same time putting in place conditions which threatened to blight his future life.

His father died when he was 21, just after the end of his first disastrous relationship with a disturbed and needy woman. His second major relationship which occupied his twenties was equally disastrous. Not long after he eventually extricated himself, his mother died, in the summer of 1992, just before major exams which he nevertheless passed.

That summer he had an affair with Alexis, who he was to discover over the months that followed came from a very disturbed background. She went off the Pill without telling him until it was too late - she became pregnant. Andrew and she decided to try and make the relationship work for their child's sake, so she moved into his house that autumn. She was prone to wild mood swings and outbursts of violent behaviour.

Their child, a boy, was born in spring 1993 and within hours Alexis was expressing fears that she might harm him.

There followed a nightmarish nine months during which Andrew looked after both her and the little boy. Alexis put such pressure on him that he gave up his well-paid job to be at home all the time.

In response to severe provocation, Andrew struck her on several occasions - he was horrified, despising as he did male violence towards women. He could see how he was replicating his father's behaviour towards his mother – *“I was facing for the first time the ugly side of my own nature.”* By the end of 1993 he had given up hope that the relationship could work. He was afraid Alexis would become pregnant again. He dearly loved his little son. He feared for his own sanity.

The night that Saturn entered Pisces on 28 January 1994, just before midnight, he walked out. I have chosen this as his “Nodal Moment”. As can be seen from the accompanying charts, the astrology is stunning.

Natally the South Node is in the 4th House, with Mercury conjunct at 28 Capricorn, Saturn widely conjunct at 10 Aquarius. (Cvi) This offers a powerful image of a man bound to home and family both by a strong sense of responsibility and a fear of change, fear of the disruption brought by the new. The NNode in Cancer in the 10th, however, points to the need for Andrew to push himself **beyond** the restrictive safety of his family roots, in order to create his **own** sense of safety and belonging, through the pursuit of a life path which embodies a belief in the value of caring for others, and gives him outlets for his imaginative and emotional life. The link between Cancer NNode and Part of Fortune in Leo

Fig 30

Andrew X - Walk Out

Event Chart

Friday, 28 January 1994

23:48:00 GMT

Stornoway, Scotland

58N12 / 6W23

Tropical Placidus True Node

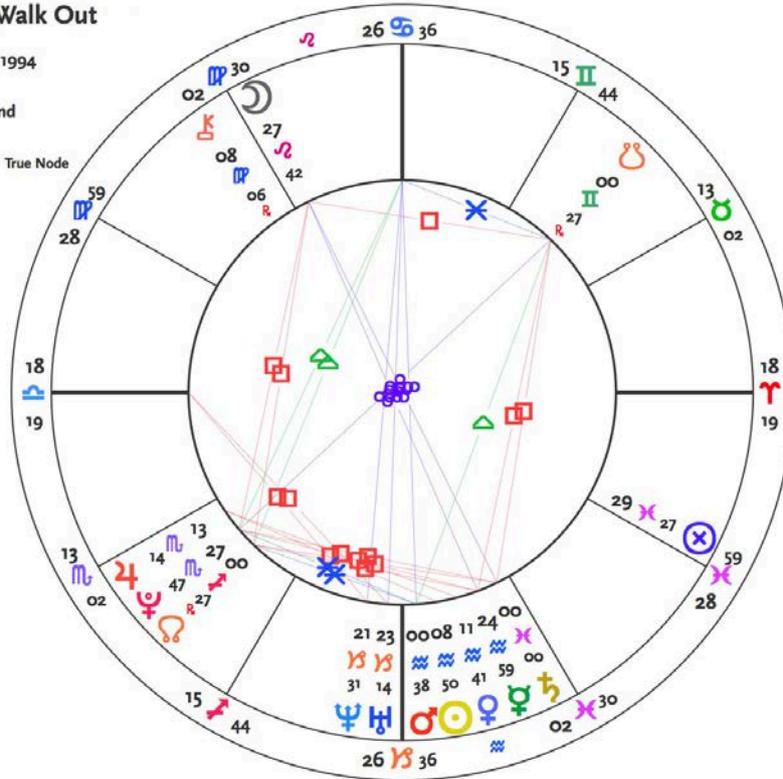


Fig 31

Andrew X - Progs -28.1.94

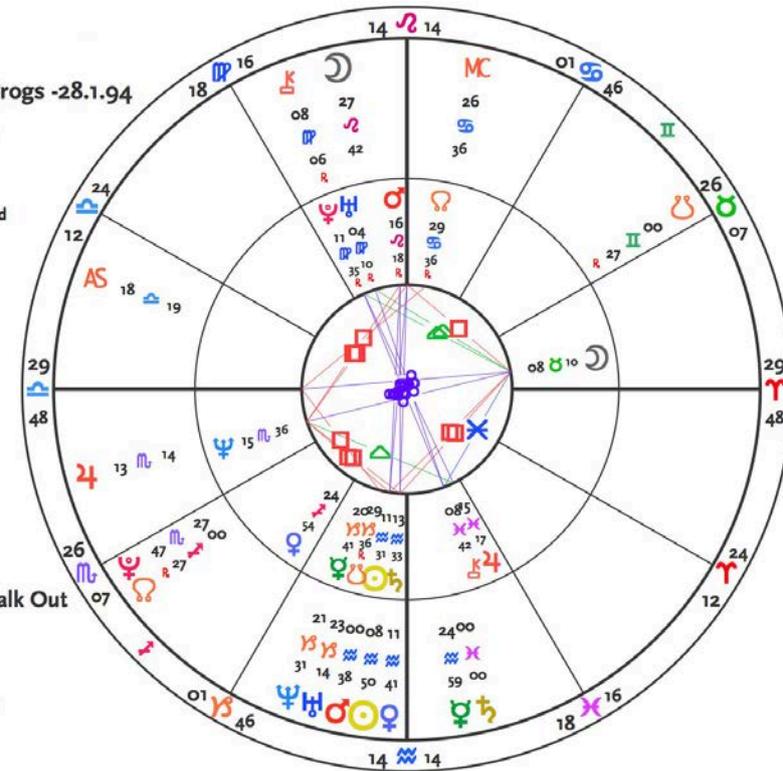
Reference Chart

Naibod Secondary

28 January 1994

23:48:00 GMT

Stornoway, Scotland



Andrew X - Walk Out

2nd Chart

Event Chart

28 January 1994

23:48:00 GMT

Stornoway, Scotland

suggests that accessing his creative energy in a satisfying way can be one reward of challenging the restrictive pull of the Saturn/SNode position - and that he has the capacity to rework the axis by bringing his capacity for mental discipline and commitment to the welfare of others to bear on his own creative work.

When he walked out, his progressed Asc/Desc axis was making an exact Grand Cross with his radix Nodes, thereby pointing out that a major challenge to become all he could be, would be provided by a key relationship. The prog Asc moving from Libra to Scorpio is significant. A major issue with Andrew all his life had been his giving way in relationships to the needs and demands of needy and manipulative women - replays of his relationship with his mother. But the prog Asc as it crossed the 4th House/10th House Nodal axis was moving into Scorpio, a tougher and more determined sign than Libra - pleasing others is not Scorpio's primary goal!

Saturn, ruler of both his IC and co-ruler of his 5th, natively placed in the 4th, brings in the joint responsibilities to home (he was living in the family home left to him by his father) and to his child. Transiting Saturn entering Pisces in the 5th suggests, at one level, an end to self-sacrifice/ offering himself up to victims, being manipulated through his compassion and his neediness. Saturn's dynamic opposition to the Mars Uranus midpoint at 0 Virgo intensifies the theme of angry and radical rebellion against service to others - furthermore Mars rules the Desc, intensifying the relationship theme, and Uranus co-rules the 5th House of creativity and children. This powerful

energy surge activates the transiting Nodes at 0 Sagittarius /Gemini, heading towards conjunction with transiting Pluto and radix Venus. The overall pattern completes another, mutable Grand Cross -"*I'm out of here-I want a bigger life than this!*" Furthermore, the transiting Nodal axis is 45/135 the radix MC/IC axis, and transiting MC/IC is closely conjunct radix Nodes.

I have never seen such a powerful, fateful Nodal moment in **anyone's** chart. It speaks so strongly of the gate to the future opening, offering a different level of expression of energy than that dictated by the family past.

The eclipse seasons in the year prior to Andrew's walk-out are eloquent. The lunar eclipses of 9 December 1992, 4 June 1993, and 29 December 1993 at 16 Gemini, 14 Sagittarius, and 7 Gemini respectively, all charge up the turbulent Mars/Uranus/Pluto in Virgo opposite Moon/Jupiter/Chiron in Pisces as the transiting Nodes regress through the 9th/3rd House. Images of the wounded family past surging up through his life, of great anger towards the feminine principle, of the build-up of battle rage running with a huge sense of woundedness and neediness, and the restless desire for pastures new, are powerfully evoked from those images.

The partial solar eclipses, of 21 May 1993 at 0.5 Gemini and 29 December 1993 at 21.5 Scorpio, both trigger the difficult, combative Venus/Mars square which is also being transited by Saturn square Pluto. The picture is of a relationship explosion brewing up; there were several explosive episodes

between him and his partner between those two eclipses. Interestingly, the 21.5 Scorpio solar eclipse a month before Andrew left picks up his pre-natal lunar eclipse degree of 22.5 Aquarius which represents his 5th house cusp in his natal chart, and attendant Saturn/Uranus and Moon/NNode midpoints. There is a powerful picture offered here of his intense feeling for his child, and his sense of duty and commitment, clashing with his self-focused, freedom oriented drive to get out.

A further point of interest is that the full moon on 27 January, the day before he walked out, fell at 7 degrees 23 minutes of Leo - his pre-natal solar eclipse being 7 degrees and 49 minutes of Leo. This alignment falling on his 10th house Leo part of Fortune, triggering his natal Sun/Uranus midpoint, adds weight to the existing emphasis on the pull between his attachment to his son and the necessity of freeing himself from circumstances stifling his creative growth.

One year on, Andrew reported himself to be in good shape. He has regular contact with his little boy. He has put up barriers to Alexis' powerful attempts at emotional blackmail. He has been taken back by his former Company and is working his way quickly up the promotional ladder again. He will probably do an Open University degree and is pursuing studies of a spiritual and symbolic nature. His life feels far more creative, despite the pain of not living with his child... *"What I did the day I left I now see as vital to the rest of my life. Had I stayed, I would have repeated my father's life....I now feel I have a good chance to make my life my own."*

Fig 33

Anna X - Interview
 Event Chart
 Wednesday, 11 October 1995
 09:30:00 GMD
 London, England
 51N30 / 0W10
 Tropical Placidus True Node

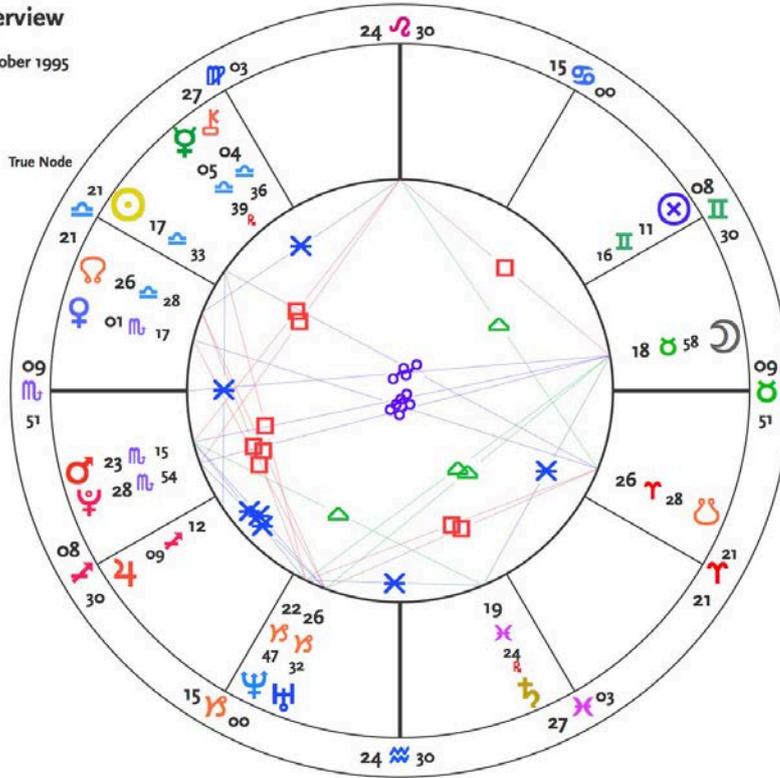
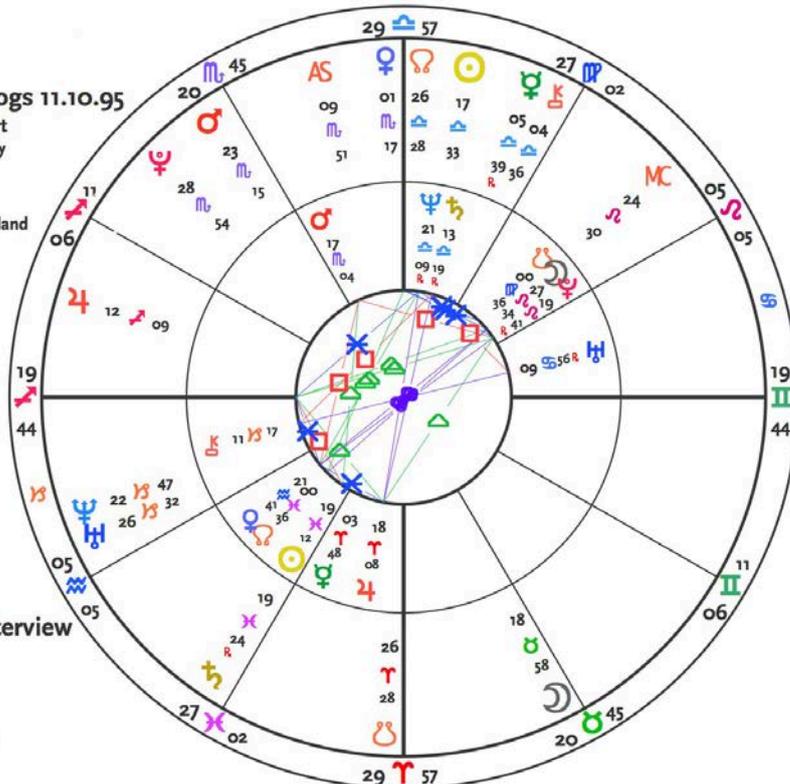


Fig 34

Anna X - Progs 11.10.95
 Reference Chart
 Naibod Secondary
 11 October 1995
 08:30:00 GMT
 Dumbarton, Scotland



Anna X - Interview
 2nd Chart
 Event Chart
 11 October 1995
 09:30:00 GMD
 London, England

a greater understanding of who she is, what she can offer the wider world, and in what form she should offer it. Last year in a letter from Africa where she now works, she said *“my inner life is a rampant beast with all sorts of questions and demands...”* To me this sums up what drives Anna!

The turbulent nature of her life, her perennially questioning struggle towards a gradually widening perspective, and her drive towards creating meaning for herself through service to others are well described by the Nodal pattern in her chart and its planetary links. Furthermore, Mars in Scorpio from the 11th House trine the NNode in the 3rd in Pisces, sextile the SNode in Virgo in the 9th, shows her commitment to fighting hard for what she believes in, and what will serve the wider human community.

It also shows that she is called on to battle against the darker forces in life and in society - she started her professional career as a Women's Aid volunteer in 1979, with her three children aged 8, 5 and under a year old. In the same year her sister was diagnosed as suffering from cancer; she died a month after Anna started her professional training in September 1982. Following a custody battle with her parents re her dead sister's little son Alan, he came to live with Anna and her children in 1984, the same year that she separated formally from her husband; he had left the family home in April 1982.

In 1985 she qualified as a social worker and got her first professional job. By 1994, she was working as a project leader for a major children's charity, her mandate being work with ethnic minority communities, anti-

discrimination and children's rights work. In the early autumn of 1994, as the North Node crossed her Ascendant, she obtained a temporary Acting Assistant Director's post within her organisation. She was getting very restless - her sons had left home, her daughter was nearly sixteen and looking towards university in a year or two. Pluto, her ruling planet, was transiting the latter degrees of Scorpio, preparing to square her Nodes from the first House. She attended an evening tutorial I gave on the Nodes, and we light-heartedly speculated on what might happen when Pluto moved into Sagittarius - relocation perhaps?

I have chosen Anna's "Nodal Moment" as 11th October 1995. On that day at 9.30 am she was successfully interviewed for the senior post which she flew to Africa to take up in January 1996. *It is a very significant day in her life.* Her mother was born on 11 October 1924, and her sister died on 11 October 1982.....

The progressions and transits tell a very clear story. The progressed MC is just moving into Scorpio, applying conjunct 11th House Mars, sextile SNode in the 9th House, trine NNode in the third. Progressed Moon is in the 9th House in Leo, - *the post concerns the welfare and protection of children through a major children's charity* - due to cross the 0 degrees Virgo SNode in the 9th House when Anna went to Africa in January 1996.

Transiting Pluto is in the last degree of Scorpio (re-entering Sagittarius on 11 November 95) applying conjunct the

Part of Fortune at o Sagittarius, square the Nodal axis at o Virgo/Pisces in the 9th/3rd Houses.⁹

The transiting Nodal axis is also prominent, transiting Node at 26 degrees Libra in 11th conjuncting the Mars/Neptune midpoint, triggering the Sun/Mercury midpoint. Anna had parted from her long-term lover the previous year, the last straw having been discovery of various of his infidelities, and he went to work in Europe only weeks before she got the African job. As the Node headed for her natal Moon Mercury/Saturn Neptune square, a close woman friend died: on 13 October, two days after her interview.

This pattern also foreshadowed her homesickness when she first went to Africa, and the uncertainty of her daughter's home base. Initially she came out with her mother to Africa; but after a couple of weeks returned home to Scotland where she is currently living with her father. The ill-health centring round lung problems which Anna had to fight from the end of 1996 is also foreshadowed in this pattern, although not manifesting acutely until the end of 1996/ start of 1997 as the NNode crossed Chiron at 4.5 degrees Libra in the **interview** chart, squaring the 2nd House(note) Venus/Node midpoint in her **natal** horoscope.

However, Anna after a traumatic start seems to have adjusted well. She has many areas of responsibility in her job, and many stresses. One of the big satisfactions - and her work's main focus - has been her helping guide into

⁹ Note: when transiting Pluto moved from Leo to Virgo in June 1958, Anna relocated from Scotland to England the following spring, just before Pluto went direct at 1.5 degrees Virgo in May 1959.

law in the country in which she works, a Children's Statute, unique in Africa, founded on the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child. This was the outcome of a seven year review of all existing laws which started in 1990. The Statute became law in August 1997 - with the North Node in 20 Virgo in her 10th House, opposite her natal lunar eclipse degree at 22 Pisces.

There are very strong links between the solar and lunar eclipses of the November 94-5 season and the chart for the interview on 11 October 1995. During this period, the transiting Nodal axis is retrograding through the 11th/5th Houses, providing very appropriate background indications that a process is at work in Anna's life which will push her towards expressing her personal, pioneering creative energies in the greater collective at a more challenging level than she has ever done before. Her energies, as we have seen, involve pioneering work for children - a very literal expression of the 5th House.

The solar eclipses of 3 November 1994 and 29 April 1995, at 11 Scorpio and 9 Taurus respectively, appear as the Ascendant and Descendant point of the Interview chart, and echo Anna's own 19 Scorpio/Taurus natal axis. The lunar eclipse of 18 November 1994 at 26 Taurus widely conjuncts the Moon and closely squares the MC/IC axis of the interview chart, as well as picking up her natal Pluto/Node, Venus/Neptune midpoints.

The next lunar eclipse on 15 April 1995 at 25 Libra falls on her natal Saturn/Neptune conjunction in the 11th House. The autumn one at 15 Aries, three days before her

successful interview, falls on the natal 5th House cusp, charging up her Jupiter/Saturn/Mercury T Square. The final, total solar eclipse of that season falls on 24 October at O Scorpio - conjunct her progressed Asc/radix Mars **and** the interview chart's rising Venus/Node conjunction. This eclipse **also** triggers her radix Venus/Node midpoint at 29.5 Capricorn. She hears at the end of October 1995 that she has got the job.

I think that Anna's Nodal Moment shows vividly the call to "*be all you **can be!***" which comes when the Nodes are strongly activated and potentised by the energy charges provided by the eclipses.

Conclusion

‘Major’ and ‘minor’ Nodal activity

Transits and progressions weave in and out of life - there may be years for example which are dominated by Pluto, others by Neptune, or very heavily Saturnian years. There are the few occasions eg where a planet changes sign by progression, or the MC progresses over Uranus, or the Moon. But there is Nodal activity of some kind going on **all the time**, as the Nodal axis regresses through the horoscope, transits come to the Natal or progressed Nodes, and progressions touch off the natal Nodal pattern. The Nodes appear to me to function both as witnesses (the Sun) and midwives (the Moon), symbolic translators of the archetypal energies of the planets into the medium of Life as it is lived in the Sun/Moon/Earth system.

Where, then, does this leave the contention that Nodal times have a particularly powerful, fateful “charge” to them? That can’t be true of **every** year in life, surely? If it were, the intensity of it would pretty quickly reduce people to cinders! What, therefore, distinguishes those **special** moments or turning points in life where either at the time, or later, we realise we have crossed an important threshold?

From the research done on Marc’s life in particular, I have concluded that there are two kinds of Nodal activity: major and minor, as it were. As already discussed, there is always some “minor” Nodal activity going on.

The really powerful “major” times on the other hand, which are few in any lifetime, are characterised by not just one or

two, but a cluster of transits and/or progressions involving the natal, and/or progressed, and/or transiting Nodes. The outer planets, especially Pluto with its strong “fated” feel, stand out. This was an impression I had already formed after 15 years of chart reading - but I’d never tested it out in formal research before.

Pre-natal eclipses are very much part of the weave, as can be seen from the case study material. The most striking example is seen in Mary Shelley’s horoscope where the pre-natal solar and lunar eclipse degrees appear as the actual Ascendant and SNode degrees in her horoscope, **and** the charts of all the key people and events in her life with reference to the authorship of **Frankenstein**.

I’m quite clear now, as the Nodal axis regresses through the chart, identifying via the highlighted houses the overall territory up for change, that the transiting eclipses function as “battery chargers”, gradually building up the energies of the person’s life in preparation to receive major change. An image comes to mind here from the female menstrual cycle, of the egg gradually being primed and prepared until it is at its maximum point of readiness to receive the male sperm, conceive and begin new life. I think the eclipses begin their work of charging-up as soon as the relevant eclipse season begins, which may be as long as eighteen

months before the turning point in the person's life appears.¹

The Nodes and the numinous

In allowing some images to rise which might help me pull the threads of the thesis together, the one which most persistently presented itself was that ghostly picture of a man's head and shoulders which must be the world's most famous photographic negative - the one which appeared when the photograph taken of the marks on the shroud of Turin was developed.² For many people throughout the world, this is a sacred image of the crucified body of Christ, and a central symbol representing the Christian era. Regardless of one's religious stance, it is not hard to see how this single awe-inspiring one-dimensional image conveys the symbolic essence of what Christianity means.

¹ Note: A very clear example comes to mind from my own recent life. In the spring of 1997 I decided that I needed an office out of my home to create space, mainly to write this thesis. My Asc/Desc axis is 9 Virgo/Pisces. The Virgo/Pisces eclipse season started on 9 March with a total solar eclipse at 18.5 Pisces, opposite Urania in my first House, closely linking in Mary Shelley's and Marc's Nodes. It was at this time that I chose Marc as my case study subject. On Friday 7 March I saw the office I decided on 10 March to rent. I paid for setting up the office from an insurance policy I had taken out 18 years previously at the age of 32. The NNode then was transiting the first decanate of Sagittarius, squaring my Asc/Desc. At that time, I had a feeling I might need money for some important ploy when I was 50!

The middle period of the season saw me well settled into the writing as the 9 Virgo eclipse fell exactly on my Asc. The day before the total solar eclipse of 26 February 1998 fell on the 6th House side of my Desc, I had a call from my landlords saying they needed to know by Friday 27 February whether I was going to renew my lease (up on 9 May) since the building was being sold. I decided to renew for 6 months and sent my cheque off just before the lunar eclipse on 13 March at 22 Virgo. The lease runs out on 7 November 1998 - the day I'm due to graduate from the CPA!

² The New Encyclopaedia Britannica, Micropaedia, Vol 12, p 55, (Encyclopaedia Britannica 15th Edition 1995)

It functions as a kind of *spiritual* hologram;³ in itself it is a one-dimensional holographic plate. But when the light of faith is shone on it, a three dimensional picture - physical, emotional, and spiritual, of what Christianity means, arises for the observer.

In contemplating the outcome of the research into the lives of both Mary Shelley and Marc, the idea of the natal Nodal pattern representing a symbolic holographic plate has taken shape.

The true turning points in life seem to leap into three dimensions - emotional, physical, and spiritual - from the holographic plate on which the basic pattern of the person's destiny is etched. That pattern is most appropriately carried in the Nodal structure, which holds images of the **light** of the quest for meaning through the Sun, reflection and containment of that light through the Moon, and grounding in Life's unfolding process through their orbits' particular relationship with the Earth's plane.

In every synastry in Mary Shelley's case; in every key event in both subjects' lives, running backwards and forwards in time and in the symbolism of all the birth charts, one can see, shimmering through the really critical turning points, the ghostly, but quite distinct holographic plate of both Mary and Marc's natal Nodal patterns. The Nodal Moments, though sketchier because of their being only **one** section cut through each subjects' unfolding life pattern, nevertheless

³ A hologram is "an image produced on photographic film in such a way that under suitable illumination a three-dimensional representation of an object is seen." Oxford Paperback Dictionary, Oxford University Press, 4th Edition, 1994.

also carry within them the basic shape of the natal Nodal blueprint. Robin Heath's comment bears repeating:⁴
"...astrology appears more and more to behave like a hologram. You can perform almost any technique with the data, turn the chart inside out or slice it up, and still the symbolic pictures remain."

Perhaps that powerful spiritual image of the sacred Shroud arose for me because in reflecting on the meaning of what I had seen at the core of all the different 'takes' on the Nodes at work in disparate people's lives, I felt myself to be in the presence of the numinous. I find it impossible to describe adequately what I felt when I realised that in Mary Shelley and Marc's lives, with **each** synastry and **every** major event and turning point, the natal Nodes and their attendant patterns had been painted, not faintly or casually, but in bold primary colours that could not be missed. I had a powerful sense of being in the presence of something 'Other', something which was not circumscribed by the mortality of one individual in one lifetime.

The resonances over long periods of time which were so evident in linking Mary Shelley's Nodal pattern with the contemporary controversy over how far humans should overstep their limits in altering the very building blocks of

4 The Mountain Astrologer, Issue 78, April/May 1998, Letters p 11.

life, focused by the appearance of Dolly the Sheep - and the links I found with my own horoscope, hers, and the time I had chosen to write about her, really struck me.⁵

I did not expect my research into **'The Moon's Nodes in Action'** to present me with such a strong suggestion that we all have our destiny, and that at certain potent times in life there are events and turning points which are initiations into the furtherance of that destiny - and that outwith our lives there may be some intelligent 'Other' observing and/or guiding that movement. But that is the feeling which persists in me as a result of my work.

I have always reacted with a degree of impatience to the theorising, usually with little practical evidence to support it, which takes place about the Nodes - now I'm rather more respectful! But it feels good to have done a fairly substantial piece of practical exploratory work demonstrating the theory in action. As the Indian astrologers have been telling us for centuries, the Moon's Nodes really do seem to be connected to the workings of Fate in the shaping of personal destiny.

⁵ 10th House Uranus at 25 Gemini, square 1st house Urania at 19 Virgo in my chart, plugs into her whole Nodal pattern, picking up her pre-natal lunar eclipse degree at 20 Sagittarius. My 10th House Mars at 1.5 Cancer is conjunct her Asc/pre-natal solar eclipse degrees at 2.5/ 3.5 Cancer. Her Mars Sun Uranus is conjunct my Fortuna Ascendant, her Chiron Venus conjuncts my Neptune, Her MC Pluto IC squares my NNode MC IC, her Mercury trines my MC NNode and her Neptune squares my Mercury Chart Ruler. I started work on the thesis, by reading Emily Sunstein's book on Mary Shelley, in mid-July 1997 with the NNode at 21 Virgo, and I'm finishing it now with the transiting Node at 3 Virgo, conjunct her Mars and my Fortuna. I hope to graduate on 7 November 1998, when the transiting Nodal axis will be at 28 Leo/Aquarius, exactly conjunct Mary Shelley's MC Pluto IC, square my NNode MC SNode IC at 28 Taurus/Scorpio - it's hard even for a persistent pragmatist like me to disbelieve in fated connections when contemplating all this!

The Nodes, birth, death and rebirth

The Nodes have also struck me as having strong connections, in the clustering effect I talked about, with conception, birth and death, of either a literal or more often a symbolic kind. I found it intriguing, for example, that in the two of Marc's Turning Points which concerned the beginning of the two key relationships with women which would most powerfully affect his life, the charts for the conception points of the relationships were more powerful than those for the actual start of Marc going out with Beatrice and then Caitlin. In Mary Shelley's case, the chart for the waking dream in which she could have been said to have conceived the idea which led to Frankenstein, was very powerful.

All of the key moments in all the case material concern conception, birth and death - literally, in the case of Princess Diana. Andrew's concerned the death of a relationship, but also the death of certain pathological ties to the family past, leading to the birth of an altogether more positive stage of his life. Anna's Nodal moment represented the birth of a whole new cycle of her life; the date of the interview, 11 October, was also the anniversary of both her mother's and her sister's death. John Glenn's moment concerned his rebirth as an astronaut, and also since he is 76 years old could be seen as him intent on going out in a blaze of glory, perhaps literally.

Marc's first Turning Point represented the death of his youthful image of himself as an intellectual achiever, and a very painful birth into experiencing the more brutal aspects of life as a necessary part of his life path. The election of

Thatcher in 1979 represented the death of his political hopes for his country - the whole period since then for him has been a long struggle for a man who needs the inspiration of belief to guide and focus his considerable energies and gifts.

My research has confirmed both the traditional view of the Nodes' connection with birth, death and rebirth, and my own impressions gained over many years' practice.

The Nodes in relation to other chart factors

I started out with certain questions. Do the Nodes say something specific, or do they act as a reinforcer for information which can be derived from other chart factors? I think I have demonstrated quite clearly that the Nodes and their attendant planetary/Angular links can be used **on their own** to sketch out a clear picture of the basic structure of a person's life path and the archetypal energies which need to be responded to and brought into the journey, for that person to be all they can be.

It appears that some lives are more touched by the hand of Fate than others. It seems that strong outer planet links, especially Pluto's conjunctions or squares to the natal Nodal axis, and strong prevailing major patterns eg Uranus conjunct Pluto opposite Saturn conjunct Chiron linked to the Nodes, bring some people a more challenging and Fate-directed life than others. Mary Shelley's chart is a very good example of this, with Uranus, dispositor of Pluto conjunct MC, conjunct her Sun and square her Nodal axis.

I have distinguished between minor and major Nodal activity in transits and progressions, and demonstrated that the major effect is what appears to be present when turning points occur. This would suggest that in contemplating the unfolding picture of a person's life, the **combination** of Nodal activity with the foreground presence of outer planets, especially Pluto, points out that something really special is going on and should be carefully noted.

I also asked whether astrologers are missing something important by not paying attention to the Nodes, natally and as life unfolds. I think the answer to this is yes, with particular reference to the transiting Nodal cycle and the eclipse seasons which accompany them. The pair of houses highlighted by the transiting Nodal axis and eclipses should be carefully observed, especially if the pre-natal eclipse degrees crop up in the form of a returning eclipse, or a current eclipse is triggering natal patterns linked in to either of the pre-natal eclipses.

I appreciate that we all need to earn our living and there are a multiplicity of interpretive factors available which would take all day to prepare if they were to be included in every reading. We have to be selective. But having done the research for this thesis, I think that, in preparing a reading, if the clustering effect I have been discussing is in evidence, it is important to pay particular attention to that person's natal Nodal pattern and the current Nodal/eclipse picture. The client is then likely to be bringing matters of a life-changing nature to us for discussion, which offers us roles both as observers and midwives; human agents in the here-and-now of those mysterious '*watchers by the threshold*' whose numinous presence in our lives is symbolically represented by the Moon's Nodes in Action.

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THE MOON'S NODES in action



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[‘Rumbold Raven’s Magic Menagerie’](#) (illustrated children’s poetry book)

[‘Wisps from the Dazzling Darkness’](#)

(an open-minded take on paranormal experience)

[‘Jupiter meets Uranus’](#)

(a great introduction to how astrology works at the individual and social level)