

THE NEPTUNIAN CHARACTER

Neptune was discovered in 1846, being then retrograde (in the Placidian system) in 25½ Aquarius. Its single satellite, Triton, has a retrograde motion.

In 1848, year of the Communist Manifesto, the Fox sisters began their spiritualistic tricks under the influence of a married sister named Mrs. Fish.

Since Neptune stays for so long a period in one sign (it is now in Scorpio and will remain there until 1970) its influence in the lives of individuals will depend on its position in the houses of the chart and the aspects it makes with other planets, rather than on its zodiacal placement, which is a collective influence.

It also follows that the weight of Neptune is only ponderable when it is very strongly accentuated by other agents (mainly of a formal or musical nature) in an individual's horoscope. When it is so heightened we may speak of the Neptunian personality or the Neptunian character.

We would have to speak of a rapture, mirage, enchantment. We would have to speak of speech itself, of blood, of sex. The arcana of the pineal gland are Neptunian. We would have to speak of hair, sperm, and sweat. Secretions from secret holy places.

The negative Neptunian character is disposed to intrigue, duplicity, treachery, above all to secrecy. The triple veil of the negative is wound about him.

The positive Neptunian character is cosmically sensitive. He verges upon places where the human meets the possibility of a kind of further

evolution, upon a place beyond human psychology where "intuition" is replaced by communion. The working of his intelligence is not rational but sensational, i.e. a kind of magnetic adhesion. He proceeds immediately to the secret, where it hides in its bushel of light. He finds it in the heart of the obvious.

He dissolves to create.

It is rare that the Neptunian does not sometimes disquiet even his closest friends or lovers. The impressions he makes are ambiguous, dreamlike, often profoundly disturbing or uncanny. It is as if one were hearing, far below the ground, murmur of unknown waters. No one is sure where a Neptunian stands. He stands where others are unsure. He is ungraspable.

Constant evasion, fears and slidings away, the Neptunian's danger is a vaporous formlessness. Figures merge and divide in the misty desire world. In the stream of the mysteries.

The Neptunian is not attracted by ethics, by decisions. He is outside, below or beyond conventional morality, not by choice or affirmative power but by sheer incapacity or transcendence. Normal perception is a jail from which he wishes to break out.

As his emotional life is deep and strange, frequently abnormal and unstable, his sexual life is correspondingly manifold and mysterious, and to those unequipped to sympathize with mutable water, the "water of water" as it were, weird, abnormal, repellent. A cosmic pansexuality is hardly audible to ears tuned in to the earth.

It is rare that the Neptunian has the virile staying power of a Taurus or Scorpio, or the energy of an Aries, but as with any statement made

about him, qualification is essential here, since it is by fantasies he is excited, in the mirage, and he may dream of endurance. Always, for him, sexuality is favored as a fundamental mode of knowledge, an access and key to the heights. The height he attains in sexual abandon is the *acclivitas* of the Brethren of the Free Spirit, who flourished in the Netherlands in the late middle ages. Frequently a Neptunian will have known physical love for an animal or a plant (usually a tree). At times when his essential seed leaves him he may experience the identity of the universe and his own body, an experience world-shaking enough to make other men lose their senses. The Neptunian emerges, not unscathed, but whole, from such revelations of deity.

Since he lives "on the margin," he represents the watery powers of the underworld. He is ineluctably attracted to the criminal, the forbidden, the untasted, always seeking to unveil, though not to the rational mind.

His human limits.

Physical maladies: voluntary intoxications (alcohol, opium, cocaine, goofballs, etc.). Ecstatic consumption. (Consumption in all senses. He is an oral character.) Hallucination, dissociation, the schizophrenic dream.

Spiritual maladies: Unbalance. The Middle Pillar not equilibrated. Treachery and conniving. Anxieties. Deceptions, all kinds of lies. Sexual frenzies. Obsession. Possession (incubus and succubus).

It is a black star of chimaeras that lures him.
But healing powers coil in the depths he sounds.