

VESTA: KEEPER OF THE FLAME

by Frances McEvoy

On November 6, 1994 the asteroid Vesta will station at 10 degrees of Cancer and turn retrograde for three months. This station will occur with Vesta forming a Grand Water Trine with a stationary Saturn in Pisces and a retrograde Venus in Scorpio. These planetary stations and the Grand Trine are particularly notable because they come just a few days after the total eclipse of the Sun at 10 degrees Scorpio.

What does this mean? Retrograde Venus, trine a stationary Vesta and Saturn turns the emotional and aesthetic sensibilities inward and gives a highly personal and subjective view of love and beauty. Sensitivity, idealism, perfectionism, and a certain remoteness are all indicated. Vesta gives a love of solitude, a need to preserve a part of the self untouched and pure.

Vesta is the third largest of the asteroids, and the fourth to be discovered in 1807. It has a 29 year cycle similar to Saturn, and after 98 years it comes back to within two degrees of the same degree on the same day and month. Within that 29 year cycle is a repeating cycle of 11-18-11-18 years, though the asteroid actually circles the entire zodiac every three and a half years. It turns retrograde every 16-18 months.

In Roman mythology, Vesta was the Goddess of the Hearth, similar to the Greek Goddess Hestia, whose job it was to keep the sacred fire burning in the home and temple. Vesta's hearth was round, and the public sanctuary or temple was a round building. The priestesses were either daughters of the king or of respectable families, and served 30 years, after which time they could marry. They took vows of chastity, and if they broke this vow they were beaten. More serious was to let the sacred fire go out, in which case they were buried alive. The life of the vestal virgin required a transcendent self-discipline.

Vesta Keywords

Vesta had a prominent place in worship both in the home and in the public place. Tending the fire was a sacred obligation. The nuns of the Catholic church share the same archetypal role as the Vestal virgins. Like priests and nuns, the vestal virgins were protected by society. Key words here are commitment, chastity, solitude, purity, duty, perfection. Today's examples of Vestal energy do not usually have a safe and secure place for their spirits to grow.

Vesta men and women do not ordinarily seek power or material reward. A meaningful work is what they need and though they usually excel at their professions, it is the quality and perfection of their work which drives them, not material reward, fame or power. These people relish their privacy, and do not need a partner to feel complete. Their strength lies within themselves, so there is a noticeable centeredness and wholeness to the

personality. A Vesta woman will share her life only with a man who exhibits similar commitment and dedication. As a mother she will be more concerned with her children's educational and moral development than with their psychological problems. If she does not have a family, she usually dedicates herself to such institutions as hospitals and schools. She may live alone or at least have her own private space within the family.

Scientist Marie Curie was born with Vesta conjunct Uranus in Cancer, both trine Sun in Scorpio and Moon in Pisces. Marie showed an early passion for physics and chemistry, and married a fellow scientist whom she met at the Sorbonne. She and Pierre Curie shared their work until his accidental death in 1906, and after his death she held a chair in physics at the Sorbonne. She won Nobel Prizes in both chemistry and physics, and isolated radium and plutonium.

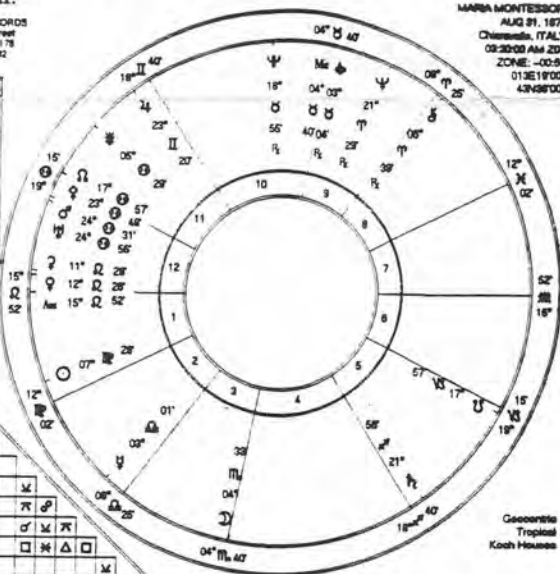
Social anthropologist Margaret Mead was born with Vesta in Scorpio on her midheaven. She was totally absorbed in her work, which she shared with three successive husbands. After earning a Ph.D. from Columbia at age 24 and went to live with primitive tribes in the South Pacific to study their culture and behavior. She stated once that good work came from all three of her marriages, and therefore she considered them all successful.

CELESTIAL RECORDS
 39 Common Street
 Belmont, MA 02178
 617 454-1992

Zodiac Signs
♈ Aries
♉ Taurus
♊ Gemini
♋ Cancer
♌ Leo
♍ Virgo
♎ Libra
♏ Scorpio
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♑ Capricorn
♒ Aquarius
♓ Pisces

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R	2	3	1
E	0	3	1
A	1	0	1
W	5	1	0



Rose Kennedy was born with Vesta conjunct Venus and Saturn in Virgo in the 8th house, a contributing factor to her long life. She taught her children that "from those to whom much has been given, much is expected." Always concerned about the moral and educational development of her children and grandchildren, Rose's strong religious faith has helped her survive the violent deaths of four of her children, plus the tragedy of her retarded daughter Rosemary.

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Educator and scientist **Marie Montessori**, originator of the Montessori system of education, was born with Vesta stationary on her midheaven, trine her Virgo sun. She was the first woman in Italy to graduate in medicine, and her educational methods were originally devised to work with deprived children. She was so successful that she tried the methods on normal children with equal success. She gave the children simple tools, explained their use, and then gave them the freedom to move around and handle the tools in their own way. She taught mathematics, botany, geography and zoology to children from illiterate homes, working to improve sense perception and coordination.

Confinement, Solitude

When Vesta is prominent in the chart, there may be unchosen confinement and solitude. Anne Frank, the Dutch Jewish girl who died in a concentration camp in World War 2, had Vesta conjunct Mercury and Sun in Gemini. Her diary was found after her death and published. It described her life during two years of confinement in an attic when she was a young teenager.

The religious life is a natural outlet for those born under Vesta's influence. Mother Francesca Cabrini had Vesta rising in Leo, near Venus and the North Node. Her primary interest was helping needy children, and she founded orphanages and missions. She was canonized in 1946. Another Vesta saint was Saint Therese de Lisieux, the Little Flower, born with Vesta on her South Node. She lived a simple, dedicated life of devotion.

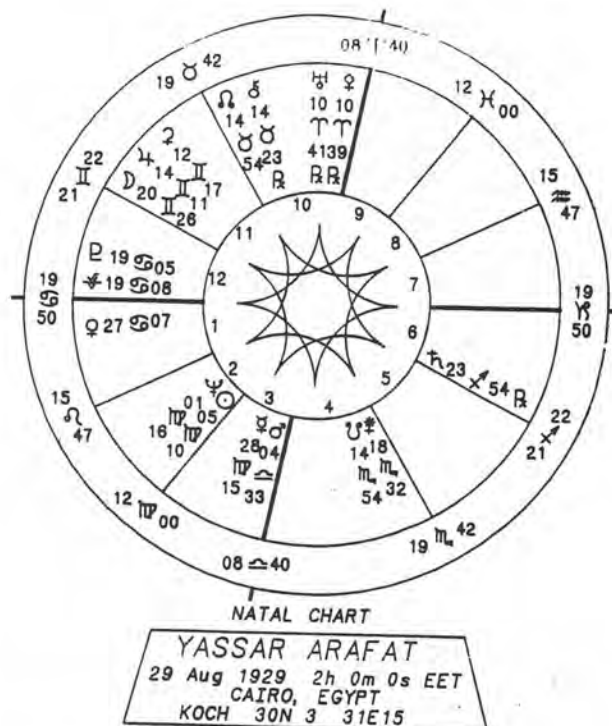
Queen Victoria was born with Vesta conjunct Pluto and Saturn in Pisces. Following her husband's death, she withdrew into self imposed solitude. Her many letters to her children and grandchildren reveal her concern for their education and moral development. Vesta often brings periods of solitude after loss, illness or demanding work. Victoria established a royal ideal of morality and commitment in contrast to the lifestyles of her ancestors. Another English Queen with a strong Vesta was Queen Mary, who married Victoria's grandson George V. Mary also had Vesta conjunct Pluto, opposite Saturn and Ceres. She approached both motherhood and the monarchy with a sense of duty and commitment, and never forgave her eldest son, the Duke of Windsor for abandoning his throne for Wallis Simpson.

Another example of Vesta royalty was Grace Kelly who had the asteroid Vesta in Leo on her midheaven. We know that Scorpio Grace was not puritanical in her personal life, but her public image reflected the dignity and purity of Vesta in Leo.

Men can also have Vesta prominent in their charts. Former Governor Jerry Brown of California was born with Vesta stationary retrograde in Sagittarius, trine his ascendant in Leo and his Saturn in Aries. He is ascetic in appearance and lifestyle, trained as a Jesuit, then

graduated from Yale Law School. Known as a workaholic, he has never married.

Composers and musicians often have prominent Vesta in their charts. Johann Sebastian Bach, perhaps the greatest musician of all time, was born with Vesta conjunct Venus and Mercury in Pisces. Wolfgang Mozart had Vesta in Virgo conjunct his North Node just



above his ascendant. Franz Schubert was born with Vesta conjunct Venus in Capricorn trine Uranus in Virgo. And Chopin had Vesta in Cancer near his midheaven, trine his Pisces Sun. Leonard Bernstein had Vesta in Cancer conjunct Jupiter and Pluto. The mystical writer Antoine de St Exupery, author of *The Little Prince*, was born with Vesta conjunct Neptune in Gemini in his 10th house. His use of language was so beautiful and poetic it did not lose its magic even in translation.

Researcher Michel Gaugelin was born with Vesta stationary in Aries trine his ascendant in Leo and his Saturn in Sagittarius, a Grand Fire Trine. He was a workaholic and perfectionist, totally committed to his research in astrological data through statistics. At the end of his life he was discouraged and depressed over the lack of response to his findings, and particularly disturbed that his discoveries were often twisted to fit the ideas held by more traditional astrologers. He had also hoped for more recognition from the scientific community.

Chessmaster Bobby Fischer is another Vesta type, born with Vesta in Aries just past his midheaven., trine his ascendant. He won the U.S. Chess Championship at

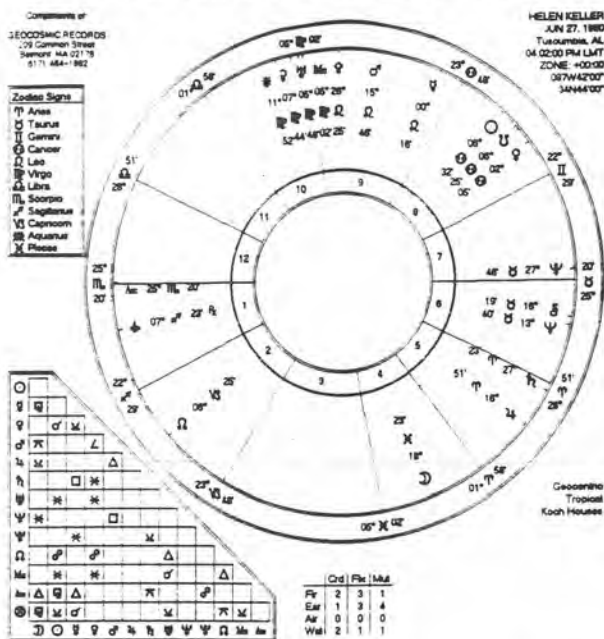
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Vesta -- continued

age 14, and in 1972 defeated Russia's Boris Spassky to become the Chess Champion of the World. Fischer has lived much of his life as a hermit.

Another example of a Vesta man is Supreme Court Justice David Souter, born with Vesta conjunct Saturn and the South Node. A bachelor, he lives an austere and monastic life style, totally absorbed by his work. He is a legal purist.

When conjunct Pluto or Mars, Vesta can exhibit a militaristic flair. **Yassar Arafat** was born with Pluto conjunct Vesta in Cancer right on his ascendant. Known primarily as a terrorist, he has won the Nobel Peace Prize



for his efforts to solve the problems between Palestine and Israel. And Oliver North has Vesta conjunct Mars in Gemini. He came to public attention during the Iran Contra investigation, and has become the darling of the far right. He is now running for the U.S. Senate.

A conjunction with Uranus can show a commitment to a radical life style as in the case of Angela Davis, born with Vesta stationary turning direct conjunct both Uranus and Mars. Angela was born the day after a total eclipse of the Sun in Aquarius opposite Pluto, and the Vesta-Uranus-Mars trio was part of a Grand Air Trine with Sun and Neptune. A Marxist, she also belonged to the Black Panthers. Another example of Vesta conjunct Uranus is Betty Friedan, founder of N.O.W. She wrote the *Feminine Mystique*. Betty has Vesta and Uranus in Pisces and is concerned that women not be helpless or victims.

Not surprising, **Helen Keller** had Vesta rising in Sagittarius, quincunx her Cancer Sun on the South Node. Her inner strength and centeredness helped her to overcome both blindness and deafness, and she learned to communicate in a world she could neither hear nor see.

Vesta last stationed and turned retrograde in Cancer in November 1976. Previous stations in Cancer occurred in November 1965, November 1947, November 1936 and November 1925.

Chart I -- Maria Montessori, Aug. 31, 1870, 3:30 AM LMT -1, Chiavrelle, Italy, 43N36, 13E19

Chart II -- Yassar Arafat, Aug. 29, 1929, 2:00 AM EET, Cairo, Egypt, 30N03, 31E15

Chart III -- Helen Keller -- June 27, 1880, 4:02 p.m. LMT, Tuscumbia, AL 34N44, 87W42 □

Frances McEvoy holds Chart Interpretation classes for all levels on Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Friday nights 7:30 to 11. Call 617/484-1882 for information. □

The Data Base by Lorraine Welsh

We're grateful to "Cosmic Muffin" Darrell Martinie, official State Astrologer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for the following timely data:

Mitt Romney, gubernatorial candidate. Born Mar. 12, 1947, 9:50 AM EST, Detroit, MI 42N20, 83W03. Source: birth certificate.

Joe Malone, State Treasurer. Born Nov. 18, 1954. 1:27PM EST. Newton Lower Falls (Newton-Wellesley Hospital) 42N20, 71W15.

Lieut. Gov. Paul Cellucci, Born Apr. 24, 1948, 10:45 PM EST, Marlboro MA 42N47, 71W05.

Also of interest due to his failing health:

Pope John Paul II (Karol Wojtyla) Born May 18, 1920, 12:30 PM EET, Wadowice, Poland, 49N53, 19E30. Source: Jim Lewis and Ariel Guttman in *Astro*-Cartography Book of Maps* 1989. □

HAND-Y CLASSES

Robert Hand, well known astrologer, author, and lecturer, and national chairman of NCGR, will be teaching Introduction to Traditional Western Astrology beginning Thursday, Jan. 3, at Astrolabe in Brewster. The course will teach basic astrology as it would have been taught in the Renaissance with the addition of Hellenistic material lost to the West but now deemed important. The course will last at least eight weeks at \$15/week payable in advance in four-week installments. Register with Sally or Donna at 508/896-5081. □