The Light & Shadow of Mercury in Secondary Progressions

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Roasting Cinnabar (Dragon’s Blood)
by Marlene Seven Bremner (2017)
Hermes, draw near, and to my pray'r incline, angel of Jove [Zeus], and Maia's son divine; Studious of contests, ruler of mankind, with heart almighty, and a prudent mind. Celestial messenger, of various skill, whose pow'rful arts could watchful Argus kill: With winged feet, 'tis thine thro' air to course, O friend of man, and prophet of discourse: Great life-supporter, to rejoice is thine, in arts gymnastic, and in fraud divine: With pow'r endu'd all language to explain, of care the loos'ner, and the source of gain. Whose hand contains of blameless peace the rod, Corucian, blessed, profitable God; Of various speech, whose aid in works we find, and in necessities to mortals kind: Dire weapon of the tongue, which men revere, be present, Hermes, and thy suppliant hear; Assist my works, conclude my life with peace, give graceful speech, and me memory's increase.

—Orphic Hymn to Hermes, translated by Thomas Taylor
Secondary Progressions as a Cycle of Personal Development

“There is no linear evolution; there is only circumambulation of the self.” — C.G. Jung from Memories, Dreams, Reflection

- The part equals the whole. One solar day has resonance with one solar year. Awareness of part illuminates the whole.

- Secondary progressed chart for age 30 is based upon 30 days after your birth. Rather than a frozen moment in time (like the natal chart) it reflects the ever evolving cycles of planets progressing from the radical nature of the natal chart.

- Reveals the timing of our inner potential manifesting and opens awareness into how our overall narrative is unfolding.
Psyche Seed

- Progressions are a Tree of Life growing out of our chart—there is descent into our roots and underlying nature, and growth through our trunk into ever expanding branches.

- Reveals inner potential we are opening to and what we are ready to receive. If the natal chart reveals the seed of our dynamic potential, then the secondary progressed chart unveils our state of becoming or returning to our Self.
Light and Shadow

Light: Daimon, Spirit, Sun, personal choice in response to life currents
clarifying insights of intellect
vision of purpose and meaning

Shadow: Fortune, Matter, Moon, circumstances of necessity
gifts of underworld, unconscious
nourishing, deepening inner sensation
source of light in the darkness
Caduceus of Hermes

- Two serpents: Daimon & Fortune*
- Kiss of Eros
- Knot of Necessity
- Mercury mediates between Solar & Lunar, intelligible & sensible, discerning choices & destiny

*from Saturnalia by Marcrobius (5th Century CE)
Winged Messenger

• function of intelligence and consciousness that interprets, translates, discerns, conveys ... meaning & understanding.

• writing and speech, music, visual art, expressive arts, nonverbal transmission
Fluctuations in fortune

Like trade & bartering

Technology

Travel

Commerces

Mercantile activities

Boundaries

Psychopomp

Guide of Soul

Liminal states

Crossroads

Thresholds

Boundaries
Mercury & Secondary Progressions

• Day (Earth) to Year (Sun) correspondence = Spirit into Matter [Robert Blashke, *Progressions*

• Retrograde 20 - 24 days = 20 - 24 years in secondary progressions

• Can station for up to 10 years within a degree on either side of stationing degree by progression

• Variable speed - up to 2 degrees per year when moving fastest

• Most people experience a Mercury retrograde by progression, but takes some people up to age 85 - 90
Mercury in the Secondary Progressed Chart

- Root interpretation of Mercury to the radical nature of Mercury in the natal chart. What is the condition of natal Mercury and what dynamic potential does it suggest?

- Keep in mind the houses ruled by Mercury in the natal chart

- Movement of Mercury between signs, houses, aspects, and synodic phases reveals shifts in life

- Progressed Mercury is activated by transits, and it activates the natal chart through aspects like a transit
Changing Signs

• Essential dignities: domicile, exaltation, triplicity, bounds, decans.

• Change in element: Fire to Earth, Earth to Air, Air to Water, Water to Fire …

• Change in modality: Cardinal to Fixed, Fixed to Mutable, Mutable to Cardinal…

• Change in Sect (Day/Night): diurnal to nocturnal; inwardly vs. outwardly directed expression; yin to yang, yang to yin

• Can also look at out of bounds (declination), 12 parts . . .
From place to place

• Progressed Mercury changing houses; pay attention when Mercury approaches and crosses the house cusp.

• Pay attention to progressed Mercury crossing angles and angular houses.
Synodic Cycle of Mercury

within 15 degrees of Sun = under the beams = invisible

Mercury under the beams is in a regenerative process

Conjunction with Sun is purifying, clarifying, and seeds future vision

*Integrate Progressed Mercury phases into narrative of Progressed Lunation Phases
Superior Conjunction

- Rhetorius (6th/7th Century) first used the Greek term *enkardios*, which means “in the heart,” in reference to a planet becoming strengthened when within one degree of the Sun.

- Can take about one year in secondary progressed chart

- Purifying, clarifying rebirth of Mercury that germinate essential purpose in cycle ahead. Insights felt may not be able to be fully manifested yet but seed intention

Roasting Cinnabar (Dragon’s Blood) by Marlene Seven Bremner (2017)
working at Burgholzi psychiatric hospital with Eugen Bleuler

1903 published *On the Psychology and Pathology of So-called Occult Phenomenon*

married Emma in 1903

Mercury became visible as Evening Star in 1920 as it moved from Virgo to Libra

Mercury stationed retrograde in 1959 at age 82 two years before death
EVENING STAR MERCURY

- Extends from Mercury being approx. 15 degrees ahead of the Sun until it stations retrograde and becomes less than 15 degrees ahead of Sun

- Nocturnal, inner discernment that can digest meaning from experience and express understanding eloquently

- Subjective inner senses helps clarify meaning and can more smoothly find places of achievement within collective
B Rating

Evening Star during peak writing period 1861 -1865

Prog Mercury conjunct Prog Uranus in 1862

First Volume of poems published Nov 1890

Died in 1886

Mercury stationed direct in April 1890

Even more secluded in 1867

Mercury stationed Rx May 1869 at age 38
**Mercury Stationing Retrograde**

- Can take up to 10 years stationing within a degree on either side of stationing. Can take 2-3 years for five minutes on either side of stationing, and can have approximately a year of virtually no movement.

- Key events and insights dramatically cause shift or deepening of path and purpose, taking the person to the next major stage in life.

- If there has been a long build up, something can be released with culmination as life direction begins to shift with intensity of focus.

Alexandre Toussaint de Limojon de Saint-Didier’s *Le Triomphe Hermetique* (1689)
Receives NAACP award and creates scholarship Foundation after Mercury stations direct in 1978

Mercury is stationing Rx when Rosa refuses to give up bus seat leading to bus boycott after being active with NAACP for 12 years
First album released in 1962 with Mercury at 14°45 Cancer

Played electric at Newport Folk Festival in 1965 with Mercury at 15°34 Cancer

Motorcycle accident on 7/29/1966 with Mercury stationing Rx

Mercury stationed Rx on 2/27/67 at 15°40 Cancer
psychopomp

guide of souls

mercury

retrograde
Chiaroscuro Contrasts of Light and Shadow

Cave at Evening (1774) by Joseph Wright of Derby
AA Rating

The Producers released with Mercury stationing RX

Nominated for Oscar in 1968 for role

Mercury stationed RX in Sept 1968 at 13°20 Leo

Willy Wonka (1971)

Blazing Saddles (1974)

Young Frankenstein (1974)
Inferior Conjunction

• Mercury retrograde within one degree of conjunction with Sun

• Can take about one year in secondary progressed chart

• Light in the darkness, rebirth during underworld journey

• Events and insights that germinate essential purpose, incubating more authentic expression in cycle ahead

Remedios Varo
Mercury stationed RX July 1942 at 24°23 Aquarius at age 13

Prenatal Inferior Conjunction at Scorpio 1

Inferior Conjunction June 1951 at 17°54 Aquarius at age 22

B.A. in 1948
Bachelor of Divinity in 1951

Married in 1953
Mercury stationed direct in Nov 1963

Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded Jan 1957

Letter from Birmingham Jail - April 1963

I Have A Dream Aug 1963

Selma - 1964
MERCURY STATIONING DIRECT

- Can take up to 10 years stationing within a degree on either side of stationing. Can take 2-3 years for five minutes on either side of stationing, and can have approx. a year of virtually no movement.

- Key events cause shift or deepening of purpose, taking the person to the next stage in life fueled by “retrograde” insights

- Often corresponds with shift toward more external achievement, assertively initiating one’s own path with work & goals
AA Rating

Born 2 days before Mercury stationed retrograde

Mercury stationed direct on 8/05/1991

Nevermind released 9/24/1991

Morning Star Mercury

Outwardly directed setting of intentions and achievement of goals

Curious, explorative, finding connections and weaving together understanding

Integrates insights from underworld retrograde journey into presence of self and external work

Cinematography is fully lit, all in focus

“Promethean”

More than 15 degrees behind the Sun
Depending upon birth time, Mercury could have stationed direct between May 1990 - April 1991.

Received idea for Harry Potter in 1990 while riding a train.

Born one day before Mercury stationed retrograde.
Larry David
July 2, 1947
born 3 days after Mercury stationed retrograde

Progressed Inferior Conjunction: 1959-1960
Met Richard Lewis at age 13 at a Summer Camp

Prog. Mercury Stationed Direct: 1970 - Graduated from U. of Maryland with a degree in History

Progressed Mercury returns to natal degree: 1984-1985
Writer on Saturday Night Live

1988 - Created Seinfeld pilot
Natal Chart Patterns:

• If born during Mercury retrograde phase, will experience dramatic shift of Mercury stationing and then moving direct back toward natal placement. Pay attention to Mercury returning to natal degree.

• Pay attention when Mercury’s backward and forward movement creates aspects with natal or progressed planets that form a sequence. For example, Mercury conjoins Jupiter while direct then moves retrograde back to form another conjunction with Jupiter.

• Pay attention when progressed Mercury triggers important signatures in the natal chart.
Mercury stationed Rx April 2006 at 28°16' Sagittarius

A Scanner Darkly released May 25, 2006

Shoplifting arrest 12/12/2001 hiatus until 2005

Stranger Things released July 2016

Inferior Conjunction January 2016