

The Developmental Age Method

Tracking the Sands of Time

By Glenn Perry

Evidence suggests that the zodiac not only symbolizes the structure and dynamics of the psyche, but also the evolutionary unfoldment of consciousness. The structure of the zodiac exactly parallels the stages of the human life cycle. Each sign can be understood as a developmental stage of specific quality and duration. And because houses are based on the same angular dynamics as the signs to which they correspond, they also represent the same 12-stage process.

The Developmental Age Method (DAM) is a system not only for articulating a 12-stage developmental model, but also for determining the significance of planetary positions at specific life-stages. Each sequential house-stage has its own quality and duration. Whereas the zodiac shows the generic unfolding of consciousness, planets in houses reveal the native's actual experience during specific periods. Planets signify both where (house) and when (age) that planetary process will be most acute. A planet's sign and aspects further clarify the meaning of events that occur during the period the planet signifies. In addition, there is a meaningful coincidence between events from different developmental stages that are expressions of the same planetary aspect.

The Hypothesis

Client work over the past twenty years has led me to conclude that planetary house positions specify types of experiences that occur within the period symbolized by the tenanted house. The Developmental Age Method provides a means for precisely determining these planetary age points.

Unlike conventional predictive methods, the DAM is not derived from actual or symbolic plane-

tary movements. Rather, it is based on evidence that signs and their associated houses correspond to developmental stages in the human life cycle. The basis of the theory is observational and grounded in actual studies by pioneers in the field of developmental psychology. The essential meaning of a sign/house is consistent with the predominant concerns that emerge at specific phases of life. It follows that the native's actual experience during a house-stage may be symbolized by the location of planets within that house.

In this brief introduction, I refer to *sign-stages* and *house-stages* or sometimes *sign/house stages*, all of which have a similar meaning. A *sign-stage* is generic and refers to the meaning and duration of developmental stages signified by zodiacal signs. In contrast, a *house-stage* is personal; it refers to the same 12-stage model but does so in the context of an individual birthchart wherein planets reside in specific houses, which then gives a personalized meaning to those house-stages. The term *sign/house stage* is used whenever I'm not talking specifically about a sign-stage or a house-stage.

Each sign/house stage comprises a period one year longer in duration than the stage that precedes it. Since Aries/1st house signifies the first two years of life, Taurus/2nd house would be the next three years, Gemini/3rd the following four years, and continuing through to the Pisces/12th period of 13 years (see Figure 1). Note that each stage is one year longer in real time than the number that sign/house represents; thus, Leo/5th is six years of duration; Virgo/6th 7 years duration, and so on. Again, this is not based on any actual or symbolic movement of planets. It's derived from the simple observation that signs and their

associated houses correspond to the predominant concerns and developmental tasks of specific periods of life. The sign Leo, for example, is virtually synonymous with the psychology of adolescence (14 through 19).

The Question of House System

This method has been tested and confirmed *only* with the Placidus house system. And since it works with Placidus, it cannot work with other house systems. The reason is that each house system differs with regard to the number of degrees a house entails and thus where a planet would be located within that house. In saying this, I'm not arguing that Placidus is more accurate than other house systems. It's simply the house system on which the method is based.

Ages corresponding to a period should be read as 'from' and 'to'; thus, Leo/5th is from age 14 to age 20; Virgo/6th is from age 20 to age 27, and so on. Signs/houses are associated with the following developmental stages.

Sign/House	Age	Duration
Aries/1st	0-2	2 years
Taurus/2nd	2-5	3 years
Gemini/3rd	5-9	4 years
Cancer/4th	9-14	5 years
Leo/5th	14-20	6 years
Virgo/6th	20-27	7 years
Libra/7th	27-35	8 years
Scorpio/8th	35-44	9 years
Sagittarius/9th	44-54	10 years
Capricorn/10th	54-65	11 years
Aquarius/11th	65-77	12 years
Pisces/12th	77-90	13 years

Figure 1: Sign/House Periods

Again, the meaning and duration of signs/houses are consistent with maturational stages based on empirical research in the field of developmental psychology, including but not limited to the work of Piaget, Erikson, and Kohlberg.

Time Accelerates, Consciousness Expands

The fact that each stage is one year longer in real time than the stage before is significant. While it is not entirely clear why sign-stages increase in real

time as human beings move forward in life, it appears to be related to the observation that time accelerates as we age. That is, our subjective experience of time is that each year seems to go by more quickly than the one before. No one knows exactly why this is so.

Virtually all developmental stage models hold that each new stage signifies an increase in awareness over previous stages. This is due to each sign-stage transcending but including the developmental achievements of its antecedent stages. "Transcend but include" is the fundamental principle. In this way, consciousness incrementally expands and deepens throughout the life cycle.

Coincident with growth is the subjective sense that time is accelerating. This sense appears to be universal. With each new stage, there is a widening and deepening of awareness accompanied by a quickening of time. The older we are, the more we see, and the faster time passes. Accordingly, our subjective experience of the length of each sign-stage may be equal despite the dilation of sign-stages in objective time as we progress through life. So, for example, if the Sagittarius stage (44-54) comprises a ten-year period, and Cancer (9-14) a five-year period, then it follows that a year seems to go by twice as fast at 50 as it did at 10.

Testing the Hypothesis

The validity of the stage-model can be tested based on whether the meaning of a sign is consistent with the predominant concerns and activities of the life-phase it allegedly signifies. For example, if developing a job skill, making oneself useful, and entering the work force is the predominant concern from 20 through 26, then is this concern consistent with the meaning of Virgo? If evidence consistently supports the hypothesis that sign meanings conform to the predominant concerns of corollary developmental stages, then a persuasive argument can be made in favor of a zodiacal developmental model.

There is plethora of evidence that the zodiac itself is a developmental stage model. So consistent are the correlations that one could almost say that the truth of the model is self-evident. The sign Virgo, for instance, is clearly associated with the need to be of service, to be competent, efficient, useful, and so on, all of which come to the fore when an individual is preparing to enter the work force in a fully commit-

ted way from 20 through 26. During this period, he or she is apt to be attending University or graduate school in preparation for a specific career; or receiving on-the-job training (apprenticeship) to develop the requisite skills for a vocation. This is precisely what occurs during the Virgo period of 20-27, after which the importance of marriage and partnership (Libra) assumes a predominating significance.

If signs conform to developmental stages, then it follows that their associated houses may, too. Deriving from this is the hypothesis that planets in specific house positions may correspond to critical events that occur during the ages those planets signify in those houses. Like a slow-moving transit, a planetary period seems to encompass approximately one to two years. That is, for any planet in a house, its time of significance is a one to two-year window during which the planetary effect increases as the native gets closer to the exact date and decreasing as s/he moves away.

In assessing whether experience conforms to a planetary position, it is important to look at the overall quality of the period rather than trying to find a singular event, though such an event may, in fact, encapsulate the quality of the time. For example, if the 3rd house corresponds to ages 5 to 9 when children start school and learn to read and write, then what might be the significance of Saturn in the middle of this house? If the native reports they had learning experiences (3rd house) of a Saturnian nature at age 6-7, this would constitute evidence in support of the hypothesis.

Perhaps, for example, the person was deprived of an education, or it was delayed, or overly strict, or stressful due to circumstances beyond their control, or they demonstrated superior academic skill. We might surmise that such a Saturnian experience had an enduring psychological impact vis-a-vis the individual's capacity to learn and communicate. If the person's actual experience confirms this, then it supports the hypothesis. I have been consistently seeing this type of confirmation over the twenty or so years that I have been testing the model.

Of course, it could be argued that a planet's energy will be continuously active in the affairs of the house it tenants regardless of the native's age. Thus, for example, Saturn in the 3rd would correspond to Saturn-like experiences vis-à-vis learning and communication not only at age 6-7 but throughout the life. However, it has been my experience that during

the actual house-stage that corresponds to a planetary position, the planet will assume a **predominating significance** for a 1-2-year period within that stage. Pivotal events are likely to occur that are strikingly consistent with the meaning of the planetary position.

The Huber Age Point Method

While in some ways the Developmental Age Method parallels the Age Point Method developed by Bruno and Louise Huber in Switzerland, it is very different, too, especially regarding the length and meaning of stages as symbolized by houses. For example, the Hubers assigned a duration of 6 years to each of 12 house-stages. Conversely in the DAM, each house constitutes a duration one year longer than the previous house, starting with a two-year period for the 1st house, three years for the 2nd house, and so on.

Work on the DAM evolved on a completely independent track from the Hubers and is supported by actual research from developmental psychology. So far as I can discern, the Huber Method was created without any support or connection to developmental stage theories, such as those associated with Piaget, Erikson, Kohlberg, and others (see Figure 2, next page). The same can be said for other house-stage theories in astrology, such as the A.T Mann method.¹ In contrast, the DAM is entirely consistent with major developmental theories while also offering a means for discerning individual life experiences during distinct stages.

Some Rules for Interpretation

Planetary age markers seem to be **pivotal turning points** in which a planet assumes a predominating significance that encapsulates its general meaning in the life. Again, the planet's sign, house, and aspects are felt acutely over an approximately one to two-year period. A planetary age represents a momentous time wherein events occur that catapult the life forward as a consequence of what the native experiences and learns vis-à-vis that planet at that time. It may be experienced as:

- A developmental crisis
- A turning point
- A pivotal life experience
- Life changing events
- Memorable times

Age	Zodiac Model	Piaget	Erikson	Kohlberg
90				
77	Pisces	Formal Operations (12 - indefinite)	Ego Integrity vs. Despair (65-Death)	Level III: Postconventional Stage 6 Universal Principles (65 – 90)
65	Aquarius		Generativity vs. Stagnation (40-65)	Level III: Postconventional Stage 5 Social Contract and Individual Rights (44 – 65)
54	Capricorn			
44	Sagittarius			
35	Scorpio		Intimacy vs. Isolation (19-40)	Level II: Conventional Stage 4 Maintaining Social Order (27 – 44)
27	Libra			
20	Virgo			
14	Leo		Identity vs. Role Confusion (12-19)	Level II: Conventional Stage 3 Interpersonal Relationships (14 – 27)
9	Cancer	Concrete Operations (6-12)	Industry vs. Inferiority (6-12)	Level I: Preconventional Stage 2 Individualism and Exchange (5 – 14)
5	Gemini			
2	Taurus	Preoperational (2-6)	Initiative vs. Guilt (3-6)	Level I: Preconventional Stage 1 Obedience and Punishment (0 – 5)
			Autonomy vs. Shame/Doubt (18 months – 3)	
0	Aries	Sensorimotor	Trust vs. Mistrust (Birth -18 months)	

Figure 2: Zodiac Ages in Comparison to Piaget, Erikson, and Kohlberg Models

People in the native's life symbolized by that planetary configuration may serve as **catalysts** during the period the planet signifies. Whether old or new relations, these people are apt to change the native's life in a way consistent with the configuration. Generally, such people constitute a blending of the characters associated with the house-planet combination.

For example, if the 2nd house signifies figures of attachment, and Neptune is associated with victims and perpetrators, then Neptune in the middle of the

2nd house (age 3-4) may correlate to an amalgamation of Neptune and 2nd house figures. For example, during the period of 3-4, an object of attachment—parent, sibling, or beloved grandparent—may become ill, go away, or in some other manner be associated with loss, grief, or tragedy. It may feel as if the ground of one's life has dissolved, the bottom falls out, familiar surroundings and sources of comfort must be relinquished, and so on. Of course, there are other possibilities, too, depending upon Nep-

tune's sign and aspects, and they will be equally consistent with the range of potentials signified by Neptune in the 2nd.

A planet's sign, house, and aspects should be evaluated to assess its meaning at that developmental period. For example, if Mars Scorpio in the 4th at age 11 is under stress from hard aspects, we can hypothesize that there was a significant incident or experiential pattern involving violence, aggression, or an accident that was relevant to the native's relationship with his family at that time. This may be something the native did, or that happened *to* the native, or both. Perhaps there was a significant event involving a 4th house character, such as the mother. Mars Scorpio in the 4th opposing Pluto in the 10th could indicate a divorce resulting from abuse of the mother (4th house) by the father (10th house). This, in turn, might have been traumatic to the native.

Saturn Taurus in the 1st might correlate to experiences of severe restraint during the first year of life, as it did for a client of mine who was born with club feet (*talipes*) and had to wear heavy leg braces that impeded his movement (see Figure 3, this page). Shortly after his first birthday, doctors decided to put his legs in restraints to straighten them out and force them to grow properly. As a result, he was unable to crawl or move the way a year-old baby normally would. Saturnian limits, restraints, and controls imposed by medical authorities were literally preventing him from moving, which would otherwise be the normal and proper activity of the Aries /1st house stage. The metal braces on his legs remained for six months,

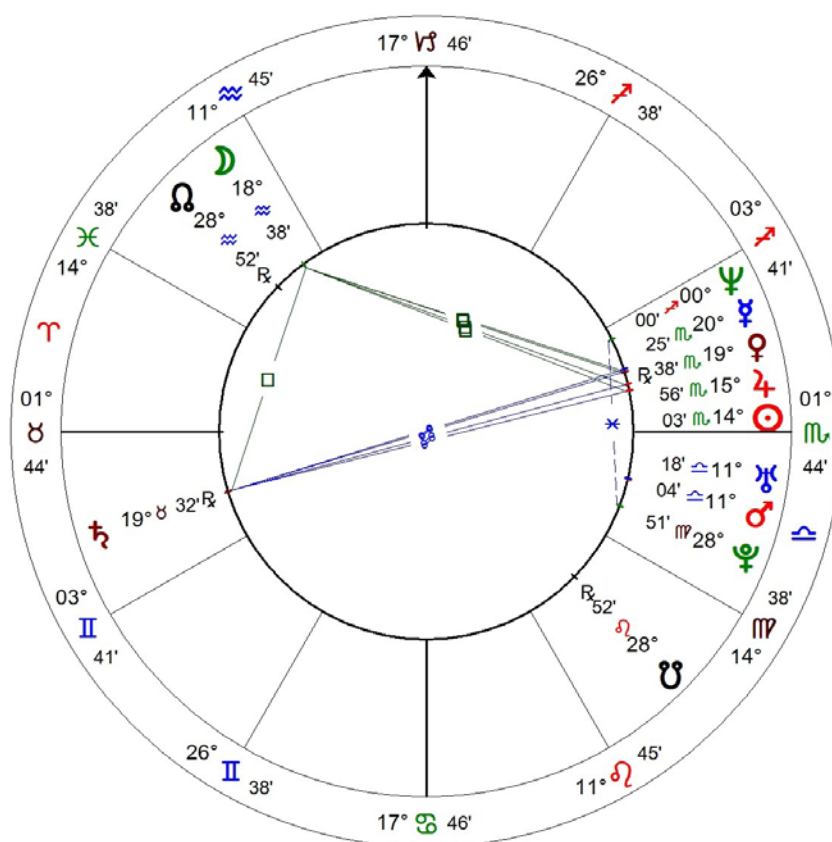


Figure 3: Bonds Trader at International Investment Bank

precisely at the heart of his Saturn period. As a one-year-old, he had no understanding of the reason for the restraints, only that they were forced upon him against his will (opposition to Sun as well as Jupiter, Venus, and Mercury).

Saturn continued to be an issue for him during his adult life—fear of being controlled, dominated, thwarted, overpowered, and the like. This fear compelled him to compensate in the opposite direction, resulting in a life of extraordinary achievement. Saturn Taurus in the 1st opposes a tight Scorpio stellium of Sun, Jupiter, Venus and Mercury in the 7th, which correlates to ages 30-32. This was a period during which he became an “equal partner” as a bonds broker at a giant investment bank and ultimately emerged as team leader spearheading contentious negotiations with management who had been hoarding compensation—that is, withholding payment for services rendered.

A two-year legal struggle ensued that recapitulated the struggle he experienced at age 1 (Saturn period) when his freedom to assert himself was restrained by an intrusive, overbearing authority (Saturn). Now, at age 31, an overbearing authority was again imposing controls and preventing the *movement* of funds that had been legitimately earned. By owning his capacity for authority and successfully taking control of the situation, he was able to make substantive progress in healing his Sat-

urn wounds from infancy. He enjoyed a personal triumph that enriched his self-esteem (Sun), deepened his faith in justice (Jupiter), and matured his capacity for partnership and negotiation (Venus). Overall, he felt empowered personally and financially (Scorpio) to move his life forward.

Note that the signs Taurus-Scorpio initially corresponded to his body (Taurus) being in Saturnian restraints due to a medical (Scorpio) condition. Later, these same signs corresponded to the financial world in which he worked. Sun in the 7th is consistent with his equal partnership with fellow brokers, and the opposition correlates to the negotiations in which he demonstrated extraordinary skill. Sun conjunct Jupiter and Venus seems to conform to the legal (Jupiter) battle that he and his partners (Venus) waged against management (Saturn). Having won the lawsuit by the end of age-32, he became extraordinarily wealthy.

The fact that this major turning point in his life occurred precisely at the age signified by his Scorpio stellium (30-32), and that it was analogous to what he experienced during his Saturn/1st house period of six to 18 months, is testament to how the DAM can provide a developmental context for interpreting natal configurations of key significance. Such diachronic connections also illustrate how later periods provide an opportunity to redo and resolve earlier traumas that belong to the same aspect.

Planetary Signs and House Significators

Planetary sign positions are relevant and should be interpreted in the same way one would interpret them natively; that is, as qualifiers of the planetary energy. The only difference is that the significance of the planet-sign combination is most salient during the age the planet represents.

As a case in point, I have Saturn in Virgo in the 5th. While this constitutes a life-long pattern, its purpose and meaning were especially acute during the period surrounding age 17. At that time, it manifested as a serious, ambitious (Saturn) striving to perfect a technique (Virgo) in playing sports (5th house), which pertained to my aspirations as an athlete during this period of my life. In high school, I threw the javelin in track and field, an event that required precision timing and perfect technique for superior results. During this period, I set state and national records, yet also sustained a broken bone (Saturn) in my hand

that ultimately frustrated my ambitions, as might be consistent with Saturn.

While signs are generically related to developmental stages, it is unlikely they have significance developmentally in the locations they reside in the natal chart. While the general traits of any sign are consistent with the life-stage they signify, this is not the same as correlating to actual events that occur during that stage. If Aries is on the cusp of the 10th house, for example, it does not mean that from birth to two years the individual is going to be preoccupied with 10th house concerns. However, it does mean that the impulsivity, spontaneity, and natural aggression of infancy—along with other Aries traits and values—will be implicit in one's approach to 10th house matters over the course of the life. This will be especially apparent during the period Aries occupies within the 10th house. If the 15th degree of Aries is on the cusp of the 10th, then approximately the 2nd half of the 9th house and first half of the 10th will be colored by Aries, or approximately age 49 to 60. Perhaps the person gives birth (Aries) to a theory (9th) or starts a new career (10th) during this time.

Preliminary research suggests that if there are no planets in a house, then the house significator should be examined by sign, house, and aspect. In one typical case, a young man had Aries on the 5th house cusp but with no planets in the 5th. Yet, at age 16 (5th house stage), he experienced a life changing sports injury that impacted his aspirations to be a professional baseball player. His Mars, which signified the 5th, was in Libra in the 10th and corresponded to age 58. Significantly, it was the focal point of a T-Square involving Uranus-Neptune in the 2nd opposed Moon in the 8th. This configuration seemed to reflect the nature of the key, life-changing event (a sports injury) that occurred during the period that Aries symbolized in his 5th house. The injury did not impact his current profession, for he had none (he was only 16), but it impacted his *future* career in that he was forced to relinquish his dream of becoming a professional baseball player. We might expect the impact of that event to be echoed in some way when he reaches his actual Mars age of 58 during his 10th house stage.

Aspects and Diachronicity

Diachronicity entails a meaningful coincidence between events from different developmental stages that are expressions of the same planetary aspect.²

If a planet in one stage forms a significant aspect to a planet that resides at a different stage, then those two stages are apt to be connected in a diachronic way. That is, an event in the earlier stage may form the basis for an analogous experience in the latter stage, since the same aspect unites the two periods of time. For example, if Pluto in Libra in the 2nd squares Venus Capricorn in the 5th, then traumatic events that might have occurred during the 2nd house period could be re-activated during adolescence (5th house stage).

Recall the chart of the bonds broker (Figure 3) who had restraints placed on his legs by medical authorities at age 1, which correlated to Saturn Taurus in the 1st opposing a Scorpio stellium in the 7th. Leg restraints meant that movement was retarded; he was being slowed, held back, restrained. Precisely when he reached the age of his Scorpio stellium (30-32), he underwent a profound transformation that empowered him to confront and negotiate a multimillion dollar settlement with authorities (Saturn) who had been hoarding and withholding (Taurus) compensation for services rendered. Even the word “settlement” has Taurean connotations. This illustrates how repetition of the aspect at the later stage provides an opportunity for resolution of issues that had their inception in the earlier period. The earlier event is not only analogous to the later event but may be preparatory for what will ultimately be required when the individual reaches the later stage—in this case, patience, forbearance, and perseverance. The earlier period, in effect, is a window through which the native’s future can be glimpsed.

Diachronistic patterns show meaningful relationships between events from different life-stages. Similar to synchronicity, analogous events that derive from the aspect have the same or similar meaning. However, unlike synchronicity, these events are not occurring simultaneously; rather, there is a historical and archetypal connection across time. Traumatic experiences from an earlier developmental period are recreated at a later stage to be solved by virtue of the higher-level, later-stage perspective.

Determining Planetary Ages

The DAM formula for determining planetary ages has been programmed into Cosmic Patterns Software and can be purchased from that website.³ In lieu of

software, however, planetary ages can also be ascertained with a simple hand-held calculator via the following five-step procedure using the Placidus House System:

1. Determine the total number of degrees of a house (= house size)
2. Divide house size by number of years it signifies (= degrees per/year)
3. Count the number of degrees of a planet from its house cusp (= planetary location)
4. Divide the planetary location number by degrees per/year (= house year)
5. Add the house year number to the age that starts the house (= planetary age point, or actual age of native at that juncture).

For example, consider the following:

- A woman’s 7th house goes from 6° Scorpio to 8° Sagittarius, or 32° total. This is the house size.
- Since the 7th house signifies an 8-year period, dividing 32 by 8 equals 4° per/year.
- If the 7th house cusp is 6° Scorpio, and the Sun is at 18° Scorpio, then the Sun’s location is 12° inside the 7th (planetary location).
- Dividing the Sun’s location of 12 by 4° per/year gives us 3 years (house year).
- Since the 7th house cusp always signifies age 27, then $27 + 3 = 30$ years of age. This is the Sun’s age point, or the actual age of the native at that juncture.

We can expect, therefore, that from 29-31 the native will have experienced her solar configuration (sign, house, and aspects) in a manner that had a **predominating significance**. Perhaps she married a notable heart surgeon at that time and became an ardent champion of his work. More information can be discerned from the Sun’s primary aspects.

If you do not have a handheld calculator or are not particularly gifted at math (in which case you could do the calculations in your head), simply look at a planet’s house placement and approximate the age of the person at that time. If Jupiter is just inside the 8th house, for example, then Jupiter’s significance is likely to be predominant at approximately age 34-36.

Do Your Own Research

To record key events that correlate to planetary house positions, list the age of each planet and check this against actual biographical data. While you won't have data for planets that are in house locations beyond the native's current age, you can gather data for interpretations of planetary age points that have already been experienced. Try to discern key events that occurred during the age that a planet signifies. If the person has no clear memories of a particular age, it could suggest repression of traumatic events—or, in the case of the 1st house, the native was simply too young to have memories. In such instances, encourage the native to talk to family members that might have information about these periods of his or her life.

Be sure to consider aspects, too. If a planet in an earlier house makes an aspect to a planet in a later house, check to see if something occurred in the later house-stage that recapitulated the event(s) of the earlier period. Vice versa, how did events from the earlier period prefigure events of the later stage? When I arrived at my 10th house Jupiter position (age 56) I experienced certain key events that harkened back to my adolescence because Jupiter quincunxes Saturn in the 5th (age 17). These events even involved the same person!

You can write your own planetary biography by setting up a page with the following sections.

- **Planetary Sign Position**
- **Month & Year**
- **Age**
- **School Grade** (if in school)
- **House**
- **Aspects**

List the planetary sign position, the month and year, your age, grade in school if you were in school (this can help with memory), the house location, and important aspects that pertain to that planet. Do this for all ten planets, lunar nodes, and the Nadir (age 9), Descendant (age 27) and Midheaven (age 54). Next, write any pertinent biographical information below the headings for that year.

As an example, here is **Barack Obama's Developmental Timeline**.

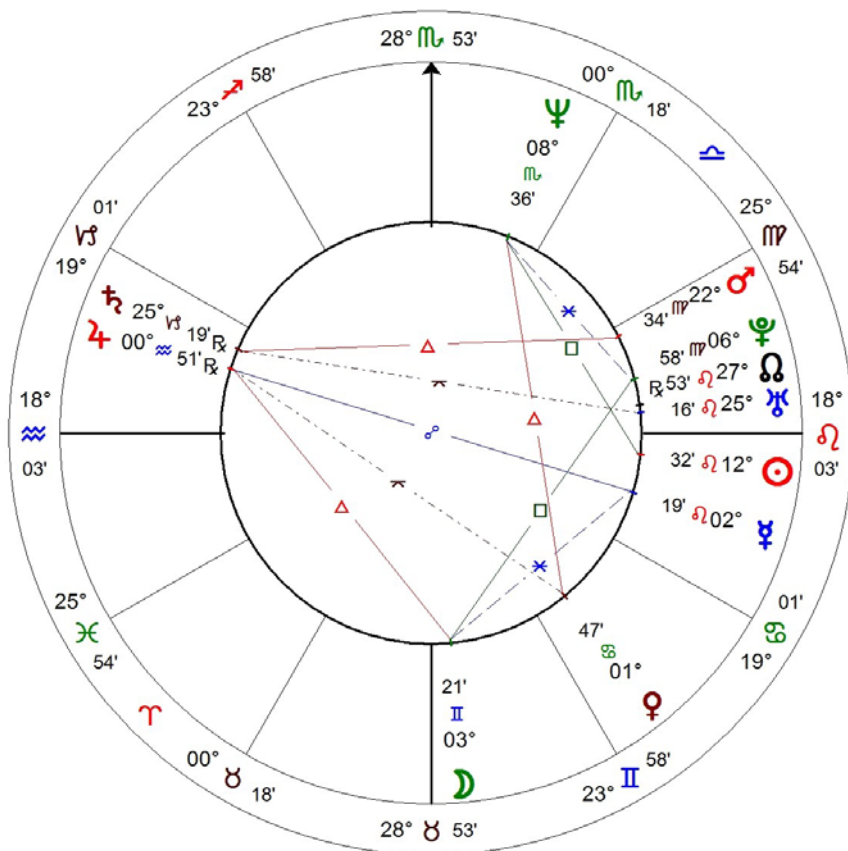
Planet	House	Sign	Age	Mo/Yr of Age
Moon	4	Gemini	9.9	Jun-1971
Venus	5	Cancer	15.9	Jun-1977
Mercury	6	Leo	23.2	Oct-1984
Sun	6	Leo	25.7	Mar-1987
Uranus	7	Leo	28.5	Feb-1990
Pluto	7	Virgo	31.0	Jul-1992
Mars	7	Virgo	34.3	Nov-1995
Neptune	9	Scorpio	46.9	Jun-2008
Saturn	12	Capricorn	79.8	May-2041
Jupiter	12	Aquarius	82.3	Oct-2043
North Node	7	Leo	29.1	Aug-1990
South Node	1	Aquarius	0.5	Feb-1962

Figure 4: Obama's Developmental Timeline

If we were going to choose a single year of great significance in Obama's life, we might choose the year he campaigned for and was elected President of the United States. That year was 2008. Note in the graph above that Neptune in Scorpio in the 9th house corresponds to June 2008, age 46.9. On the internet, there is a website that provides [Barack Obama's Timeline](#).⁴ For 2008, it states:

- June 3, 2008 - After defeating Senator Hillary Clinton in the primaries, Barack Obama becomes the presumptive nominee of the Democratic Party for the 2008 presidential election.
- November 3, 2008 - Barack Obama's grandmother, Madelyn Dunham, age 86, dies of cancer, just one day before the Presidential Election.
- November 5, 2008 - Barack Obama wins the US Presidential Election and becomes the first African-American President of the United States

If we were going to chronicle Obama's Neptune age in accordance with the aforementioned sections, it would look like this:



Barack Obama: August 4, 1961, 7:24 pm, Honolulu, HI

Planetary Sign: Neptune in Scorpio

Month & Year: June 2008

Age: 46.9

Grade in School: n/a

House & Key Aspects:

- Neptune 9th square Sun Leo 6th
- Neptune 9th sextile Pluto Virgo 7th
- Neptune 9th trine Venus Cancer 5th
- Neptune 9th quincunx Moon Gemini 4th

According to Obama biographers, 2008 was a time of constant travel (9th house) for the aspiring president. Obama gave soaring speeches about unity (Neptune in 9th) and the intention to “fundamentally transform America”—ergo, higher taxes on the rich and redistribution of income to help the disadvantaged (Neptune in Scorpio). Obama was seen by many people as a charismatic, messianic figure that could heroically alter the course of America toward social justice and a more ideal, compassionate society (Neptune square Sun Leo). By the time the year ended, he had finally arrived at a position of power to implement his vision for America. Significantly, this vision had initially taken form when he was visiting Kenya at 26 years old in a search for his

identity and life purpose. Age 26 corresponds to his Sun Leo in 6th, which Neptune squares.

It is also significant that Neptune Scorpio in the 9th corresponds to the year that he lost his grandmother, Madelyn Dunham. Neptune is consistent with a debilitating illness and subsequent loss; Scorpio signifies pain; and the 9th house rules grandparents. Thus, that year Obama sustained the painful loss of his grandmother to the debilitating illness of cancer. In many ways, Madelyn Dunham was more a mother to Barack than his actual mother, for he had been sent to live with her at age 10.

Note that his Moon in the 4th forms an applying 5° closing quincunx to his Neptune in the 9th. Since his Moon signifies age 10, Moon quincunx Neptune would be consistent with losing his actual mother at age 10 (she remained in Indonesia for 2 years) *and* moving in with his grandmother. The painful loss of his grandmother on the eve of his election as first African-American President of the United States is perfectly encapsulated by Neptune in Scorpio in the 9th. It's also an example of diachronicity, for both periods that correlate to the aspect (age 10 and age 46) likewise correlate to the loss of a maternal figure.

Again, note under ‘Aspects’ that Obama’s Neptune squares his 6th house Sun, which signifies age 25.7 in March of 1987. Sun Leo in the 6th corresponds to an earlier developmental event that was pivotal in Obama’s life: his 1987 trip to Kenya to visit his father’s grave. Obama had been abandoned by his father before he was born, which is consistent with the Sun’s square to Neptune. When Obama was 11, he spent a short but confusing time

with his father who briefly visited him on a business trip. But Barack never saw his father again (Obama Sr. died in 1946 when Obama was 21). The absence of his black father was both painful and a source of identity confusion given that Obama's mother and grandparents were white.

To resolve the painful Neptunian loss of his father and the source of his solar identity confusion, Obama decided to visit his father's birthplace when he was 26. Again, the particulars of that event are related not merely to Sun Leo's position in the 6th, but its square to Neptune in the 9th. For that aspect clearly signifies Obama's abandonment by an idealized father (Sun-Neptune) who had lived in a foreign land (9th house). That Obama would travel to Kenya in hopes of restoring a connection to his father and thereby consolidate his own identity on precisely the year that corresponds to his Sun's position is certainly noteworthy. In [Barack Obama's Timeline](#), it states:

Barack Obama is now 26 years old. Before beginning his law studies, he decides to visit Kenya. He arrives in the village of Alego, situated on Lake Victoria, his father's hometown. He arrives there because he knows very little of his father. He wants to know who his father was, so he can understand his own identity. In Alego, Barack Obama meets his late father's family for the first time. He meets his grandmother and half siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews. The trip to Kenya helps Barack Obama realize the struggles that his father went through. It gives Barack a sense that the work he is doing is directly connected to his Kenyan family and their struggles. Barack Obama says: "[the visit] helped unify my outward self with my inward self in an important way."⁵

It is also significant that the very year that Obama is elected president—a heroic father figure to his country—he arrives at that juncture in his chart where Neptune resides. This suggests a connection between 2008 and 1987, or Neptune square Sun. Obama's own biography, *Dreams From my Father*, reveals how his political aspirations were inspired by the trip to Kenya during which he first formed a vision of his solar identity and life purpose.⁶ The DAM confirms that his attainment of the presidency was the fulfillment of a dream that began during his solar age point when he identified with his deceased father's suffering, sacrifice, and heroic ideals (Sun

square Neptune). Obama's autobiography, which he started writing only a few years after his 1987 Kenyan trip, reveals the foundation of the dream that he finally realized at his Neptune age point of 47 in 2008. This is another example of the previously mentioned concept of *diachronicity*.

Summary

As a predictive tool, the DAM is different from transits, progressions, or solar returns. Rather than tracking the actual or symbolic movement of planets in relation to natal positions, it sees each natal planet as itself symbolizing a specific period of the life. This allows for the interpretation of a natal planet in terms of its sign, house, and aspects, but also with respect to the developmental stage in which it occurs. In so doing, it adds an additional dimension of meaning to any planetary configuration. For one can now discern that planet's impact not only for the year it signifies, but also in the context of the overall life cycle. Notable events of that planetary year may have diachronistic reverberations in subsequent stages associated with the planets it aspects.

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Notes:

¹ In *A New Vision of Astrology*, A.T. Mann offers a model that claims conception occurs on the cusp of the 9th house with gestation unfolding through the next three houses until birth (1st house). The remaining houses comprise one's actual life until the 8th house, which is alleged to be the last stage ending with death. But this requires cramming the entire life cycle into 8 houses, age correlations to which are completely out of synch with studies from developmental psychology.

² While the term 'diachronic' generically refers to the way something develops or evolves over time, it can be applied to several fields of research. As used here, diachronicity entails a meaningful coincidence between events from different developmental stages that are expressions of the same planetary aspect. Use of the term 'diachronicity' can also be found in *Cosmos and Psyche* (2006) by Richard Tarnas, though of slightly different meaning. Tarnas uses the term to describe meaningful correlations between events that occur during different phases in the synodic cycle of two planets.

³ See Cosmic Patterns Software, Kepler, at:
<http://www.astrosoftware.com/>

⁴ See: <http://www.barack-obama-timeline.com/>, which
was accessed on 12/15/17

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ To fully appreciate the connection of these two periods,
see Obama's autobiography, *Dreams from my Father*,
and/or the biography written by Dinesh D'Souza, *The
Roots of Obama's Rage* (later made into a film/DVD, 2016:
Obama's America).