

# Aleister Crowley's Horoscope

## The mystical Yod & the Thoth Tarot

v/ Derek R. Seagrief



### Mystical Signatures –Hand of Fate, the “Y” Configuration

The *Yod* or *Hand of God*, *Finger of Fate*, is an astrological term when one planet forms an aspect of 150-degrees, known as a quincunx, with two (or more) other planets which are in a 60-degree sextile aspect to each other. These planets form a “Y” pattern which has the keywords of – Direction & Destiny. This shape is also known as a “*Yod*”, which is the Hebrew word for “*hand*”, and the first letter of the Divine Name of God, which is why this pattern is often referred to as the *Hand of God* or *Finger of Fate*.

The energy generated by the Yod, places much significance upon the Focal planet, because this planet is seen as the “mission in life”, the ultimate destiny or celestial pointer. The two quincunxes show the demand to integrate some conflicting elements within ourself, while the planets in sextile aspect generate the prospect of some form of reward that occurs as a result.

There is an obsessive quality with the Focal planet – either you are held by it, or you have hands on to direct its energies.

Everything, as always with interpretation, depends upon the degree of self-awareness. Yet it's negative manifestation needs to be cast out, and its highest expression activated.

The Yod, or Hand of God, is a power karmic aspect indicating conflicting energies from the past which need to be synthesized and balanced during this present incarnation. As the name suggests, we are “Fated” to meet the energies represented by the planets involved until we achieve wholeness, integration and release of the energies.

In the illustration we see the Master Initiate pointing to an androgyne holding the letter Y. The letter “Y” is also representing the fusion of the

male and female parts of the psyche. It is also the “yellow” stage of the Great Work in alchemy, the stage of integration and revealing.

The quincunx aspect can be best illustrated by looking at the natural zodiac. Starting with the first degree of Aries, the first sign of the zodiac, we move 150 degrees forward or five signs and arrive at the start of Virgo. These two signs represent Fire & Earth. If we go in the opposite direction from the first degree of Aries, travelling backwards in the zodiac five signs, we arrive at Scorpio. These signs bring together the elements of Fire and Water. This method reveals that the quincunx aspect has the properties of the planets Mars, Mercury and Pluto.

The quincunx in everyday astrology has a reputation of bringing together planets in different elements and therefore produces much inner stress and potential health problems. And yet, the quincunx represents a major aspect of initiation, for we are initiated into the mysteries (Scorpio) of the mind (Aries) and body (Virgo). Such an aspect brings hidden energies into our everyday routines. It is an alchemical aspect because it challenges us to discover a new dimension of being within ourselves that is related to the planets which are linked by the quincunx.

And so when there are two quincunxes, the Yod pattern, this introduces the focus upon challenging us to make emotional & mental readjustments and regeneration. There is a balancing of the desired against the practical, the ideal against the real. We can see one side of this aspect as “what is desired” and the other side as “the price that must be paid to attain it”.

Practitioners of astrology also know that this aspect provides us with flashes of brilliance, moments of true knowing and the gift of vision. A Yod or Hand of God pattern isn't a common occurrence, yet they are often shown in the charts of psychics, mystics, scientists, artists, musicians, astrologers, intuitives and those in the helping professions.

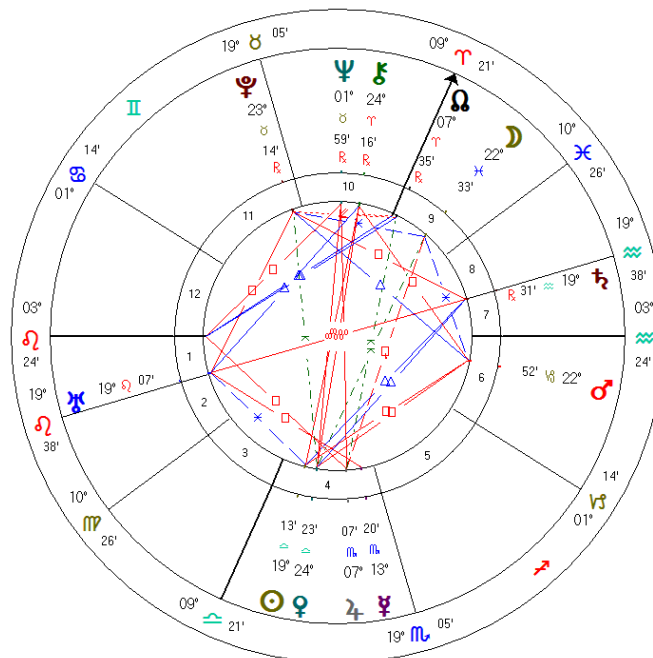
### **Aleister Crowley & his Thoth Tarot**

The name Aleister Crowley (1875-1947) is often heard in Scandinavia connected to the ever-popular, beautiful and revolutionary tarot deck – the THOTH Tarot – which he created with the artistic genius of Lady Freida Harris. I first came into contact with Crowley's work via his Thoth Tarot cards way back in 1969 when they were first published. At the age of 17 and preparing to enter Art School, I eagerly purchased the first edition – and since then, they have been a constant companion, my portable Guru – a universal wisdom book in 78 pictures. Crowley's deck was the first Tarot deck to combine Astrology and Tarot, and the first to demonstrate

that the origin of the cards originated from the Kabbalistic Tree of Life – and nowhere else. I myself begun learning astrology through using these tarot cards, and as I explored their unfamiliar symbols, I was inspired to also learn Kabbalah. Forty years has unfolded since these three symbol systems have become my life companions – and today I can truly say (T)arot, (A)strology, (K)abbalah or TAK!

Aleister Crowley, self-proclaimed Prophet of the New Age, was a most amazing character. He explored every avenue of human activity in his pursuit of self-realisation. He was undoubtedly one of the greatest mystics of all time, although a very complicated and controversial character. One needs a lot of information and references to Crowley to really appreciate his incarnation. Crowley’s creative genius enabled him to become a true pioneer of East-West synthesis as he promoted almost single-handedly the magical revival of Paganism in the 20<sup>th</sup>. Century.

Aleister Crowley  
**Natal Chart**  
 12 Oct 1875 NS, Tue  
 23:16 GMT +0:00  
 Leamington Spa, UK  
 52°N18°001"W31'  
*Geocentric*  
*Tropical*  
*Placidus*  
*Mean Node*



### Three Yod's

If we turn our attention to Crowley’s birth horoscope, we shall see that he doesn’t have just one Yod pattern – *he has no less than three!*

The individualizing planets Sun and Uranus are in exact sextile (60-degree) aspect – and both form the quincunx aspect to the Moon in the 9<sup>th</sup>. House sign of Pisces. Now the 9<sup>th</sup>. House shows not only our world view and contact with internationalism, but it is the area of “Higher Education”. So yes, Crowley went to University and was a brilliant, highly educated man – but didn’t get any finishing degree from his Oxford studies. But when at the age of 23 he became a member of the magical Order of the Golden Dawn, he made astonishing progress in less than one

year, moving into the Higher grades and demonstrating that he was a natural magician, well able to travel in his body of light and make contact with teachers on the inner planes. Crowley's receptivity with the Moon, as the Focal planet of this first *Yod*, supported by the Sun & Uranus, then becomes a major way-in to an appreciation of his magical world-view.

The second Yod or Hand of God aspect involves the Moon, Mars and Uranus. The Moon and Mars are in sextile aspect and both form their quincunx aspects to Uranus as their focal planet, rising in 1<sup>st</sup>. House sign of Leo. Uranus in the first house does indeed have something unique to say, and as a representation of what the esoteric sciences call, "*Electric Fire*", Crowley's mission was indeed to identify himself as the Awakener, the archetype of change, and announce the birth of the New Aeon of Horus - the Crowned & Conquering Sun child, normally depicted in ancient Egypt as the hawk-headed man. The emergence of the New Aeon of Horus, the Ever-coming Son - which astrology identifies with the Age of Aquarius - as humanity moves from the Piscean dying god philosophy of Osiris, the father of Horus, is an event Crowley foresaw would end humanity's fear of death. This is our great goal of reaching initiation into true Solar Consciousness. It is during this present Aeon that the past and the future are obliterated and what remains is just the Now. Existence is *Now*, not of Time (Saturn) but of Eternity (Uranus).

Uranus is also the planet of Ritual and Magick. Crowley defined "*Magick as the Science and Art of causing Change to occur in conformity with Will*". So with Uranus as the Focal planet in the 1<sup>st</sup>. house of Self-Identity, he manifested his originality and creative genius through Magick, emphasizing that making contact with one's own True Will, was the goal of any incarnation. He was indeed, the Magician's Magician.

The third Yod or Hand of God pattern is constructed from the Moon again, this time making the sextile aspect of opportunity with the god of the Underworld, the planet Pluto – and both in quincunx aspect to the focal planet Venus.

The Goddess of Love is positioned within it's own sign of Libra, Crowley's Sun-sign ruler, and in a 4<sup>th</sup>. House setting, showing the specific stage upon which the actor or planet performs. Venus is the love-cement that bonds people together and the 4<sup>th</sup>. House Department of Life is the Home environment, our relations with family, especially the father. Crowley's family were members of the Plymouth Brethren (or Brothers), a fundamentalist Bible sect, who even viewed the celebration of Christmas as a pagan event. Crowley often went with his preacher-father on local missionary travels, and he absolutely loved the texts from the last book of the Bible, the prophetic and Apocalyptic visions of the beloved Saint John

in *Revelations*. He loved his father but hated his mother, seeing her as representing a sexless Victorian cow, and was devastated when his father died during his early years. It was his mother who called him “*the Beast 666*”, and with his Biblical background of Apocalyptic visions, he launched himself into his magical career.

With the female archetypes of Venus and the Moon becoming transformed through contact with Pluto, god of the Underworld, the stage was set for Crowley’s obsession with sexuality as a potent means of self-transformation. Sex, he once wrote, is just another name for the instinct of God.

To interpret these planetary combinations we would see that the owner would evolve through dealing with their inner “black hole”, defined as an insatiable drive for emotional nourishment and the feeling of never being truly loved. This would be the normal astrological analysis from the viewpoint of the ego-personality. But Crowley was both a personality, and a multi-dimensional being, so this allows us to explore the horoscope from the soul viewpoint.

### **The 3 Focal Planets – or Crowley’s Karmic Mission**

So let us now present these 3 Focal planets of these three Yods, in another perspective. All three Focal planets represent Crowley’s Mission Statement for his incarnation – and if we identify them with the tarot archetypes from his own Thoth deck, using the Trumps or Major Arcana cards, then something remarkable takes place. Each of the planets gets translated as one of the 22 Keys. There are 10 planets and 12 signs that correspond to the 22 Pathways on the Tree of Life and the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet through which means God created All.



The plane URANUS becomes translated as the Divine FOOL, card numbered Zero or No-Thing. It is neither male or female. This is a symbol for Spirit, the wild-card represented by the *Joker* in any normal pack of cards, becoming whatever we require in our game of cards. This breath

of fresh air, the archetype of the Fool, is the most powerful of all, because it is the Origin & Destiny of all the other 77 cards in the Tarot deck.

Crowley was undoubtedly a highly individualized spirit, always pioneering, always innovative, freedom-loving and independent – yet always unpredictable – qualities we associate with both the planet Uranus and the Tarot Fool.

Did you know that during the same period he was described by the English tabloid press of the day as the “*most wickedest man in the world*”, he was recommending to the wartime Prime minister, Winston Churchill, the famous finger gesture, “V”, for Victory, as a counter-magic to the Nazi’s swastika – interesting ‘eh?

Uranus is the planet of accelerated evolution and the modern ruler of the sign Aquarius. Now if we identify Key 17: THE STAR with this vibration, then we have connected with the magical essence of Crowley’s mission, that “*Every Man & Woman is a Star*”.

Instead of trying to determine the Will of God and then attempt to cooperate with it, each of us must now come to realize that our will, if properly understood and executed, is already in harmony with the Divine Will. This is a fundamental shift in our self-identity because it is now possible for humanity to awaken to the liberating fact that each of us is a star, as unique and self-radiant as our celestial counterparts. This is also what is meant by the Hermetic Law underlying all Astrology and Magick – “*As Above, So below*”. The tarot image of Crowley’s Star card touches a longing in the depths of our unconscious. After the previous image of destruction shown in Key 16: The Tower, this Lady of the Stars, the Egyptian goddess Nut, reveals to us that new life will grow, for she represents the light within the darkness. The entire card, with the mighty globe in the background as a symbol of the Earth, shows us that there is constant renewal, hope for the future and is a vision of indescribable power and beauty. Through the archetypal imagery of The Star we experience the principle of eternal renewal, a return to the fundamentals in which we recognize ourselves as part of the greater whole.

The MOON is another of the focal planets in Crowley’s horoscope. In terms of the Tarot this becomes translated as Key 2: THE HIGH PRIESTESS, the light of revelation in the darkness of night. The Priestess represents the Moon in her higher aspect – the aspect that joins the human to the divine. Crowley called this card – the *Priestess of the Silver Star*.

But why should there be a camel in the card? Well, yes, the Hebrew letter *Gimel* that is normally printed at the bottom of the cards does translate as

“camel” – but unless one is acquainted with the Kabbalistic correspondences that Crowley used, then the symbolism here will just pass us by. The camel is the “*ship of the desert*”, and travels the terrible desert wasteland and survives due to drawing upon self-sustenance. On the Tree of Life, it is the longest and most unique of all the 22 pathways, joining the top three Spheres or Supernals, representing pure Spirit, passing through the Abyss or wasteland region, with the rest of creation. This is the pathway that connects the Father in Heaven with the Son or Sun, at the centre of the Tree diagram. In a similar way we can glimpse the mystery of the Bible story that only Mary Magdalene experienced the risen Christ and not the male disciples.

Crowley attempted to show with his version of the Priestess that she is the Truth behind the Veil of Light, the Spiritual Mother and source behind all World Religions, our connection with the divine, our receptivity to the storehouse of the intuition, and our guidance from deep within. He himself needed female partners to act as his High Priestess, and channel information from the hidden worlds. They were called his “*Scarlet Women*” and he had no less than eight of them during his lifetime, assisting the major magical workings. Most of them ended up in failure and a few of them succumbed to insanity or rather *lunacy*. It was his wife Rose Kelly who was the most successful. During their honeymoon in Cairo during April 1904, she helped Crowley contact an extra-terrestrial intelligence named *Aiwass*, who then proceeded to dictate the prophetic *Book of the Law*, upon which the Thoth tarot cards and Crowley’s entire magical world view is based. *Aiwass* remained with Crowley for the rest of his life.

And the third focal planet in Crowley’s birth chart is VENUS, translated as Key 3. THE EMPRESS.

She is the Earth Mother, representing unconditional love and the power of the imagination to bring us closer to spiritual realities.

“*Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law – Love is the Law, Love under Will*”. These are the two most recognizable watchwords from *The Book of the Law*. The “Law” they refer to is the Law of *Thelema* (Greek for “Will”). Many people believe that Crowley was the hippie of his age, just doing his own thing, totally insensitive to his environment – and it is true, that at times he was, and other times not. Crowley’s motto or watchwords is not to be misunderstood as “*Do what you like and what you feel inclined to do*”, but rather contains the difficult and deeply ethical challenge to constantly live in harmony with one’s True Will.

## Three phases of Woman

One of the first things we would have noticed about all three Focal planets is that they have become translated as archetypes of woman. Uranus as the Fool is pure Spirit and neither male or female – but its corresponding zodiacal sign Aquarius is depicted as a woman.

What we see is the three phases of femininity – the VIRGIN, symbolized by the Priestess, the MOTHER, symbolized by the Empress, and the WHORE, the Star. In the traditional sequence the New Moon is the Virgin, the Full Moon is the Mother and the Dark last quarter, represented the old Crone, the Witch, Bitch or Wise Woman.

Crowley adored women, but it was the whore that he exalted as the type of Thelemic womanhood – Why? Because she had the full range of life experience and nothing was denied. One of the characteristic features of the New Aeon Crowley wrote, “*is the passionate union of opposites.*” When we remove the illusion of separation and with it, fear, we shall truly know what Love & Will are.

Crowley developed all these ideas into his own unique understanding of the Biblical Whore of Babylon, the Scarlet Woman or oracle that reveals and the Heavenly Bride, as mixture of Saturn & Uranus, which he called the Priestess of the Silver Star. He made the magical formula “*Love Under Will*” to balance Venus, Luna and Uranus to raise the consciousness into the realization that “*Every Man & Woman is a Star*”.

Everyone has their opinions about who Crowley was, and paradoxes seem to define his life and career. Yet as I stated early on, it is very difficult to come to an appreciation of the man and his mission without doing some serious exploration. His efforts to synthesize and integrate the esoteric spiritual systems of East & West make him one of the most fascinating cultural and religious figures of the 20<sup>th</sup>. Century. Even the 1960s pop phenomena of the Beatles appreciated the man, and his characteristic bald-headed image is found on the front cover of their best-selling album, “*Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Heart’s Club Band*”.

But, we can truly thank Lady Freida Harris for her 5-year work on painting the THOTH Tarot cards in collaboration with her mentor Aleister Crowley. Thanks to her artistic genius, many people will come to know about the man and his unique magical life philosophy.

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