



The Lunation Cycle By Dane Rudhyar

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The Eight Types

NEW MOON TYPE: All persons born exactly at new moon, or within about three and one-half days following the new moon—thus with the moon less than 45° ahead of the sun.

This type of person tends to be eminently subjective, impulsive and emotional in his responses to human relationship and social processes. This may produce a state of confusion, a tendency to project oneself upon others and the world at large, to live life and love as if they were dreams, or screens upon which to cast one's image—and often one's shadow. People and situations are met, in most cases, without much regard to what they actually are in *themselves*; they become symbols.

Sigmund Freud, and Karl Marx (born under an eclipse) are typical examples; so, in another sense, were Woodrow Wilson and Queen Victoria who sought to impress their ideals and personal characters upon the world. The Queen became identified with an era and its *mores* in matters of human relationship. Other examples: The Persian Prophet, the Bab, who in 1844 ushered in a new religious era and experienced martyrdom

Amos Bronson Alcott, the Transcendentalist, well known for his subjective idealism and spiritual youthfulness — Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, a woman of intense vital energy and subjective vision, fired with one basic "solar" purpose — Ludwig Erhard who succeeded in reviving German industry and finances — Gamal Nasser, head of a reborn Egypt — President L. B. Johnson.

CRESCENT TYPE: All persons born with the moon from 45 to 90 degrees ahead of the sun in the zodiac.

Here we see the new impulse for action, or quality of activity, theoretically released at the new moon, as it challenges the old in a more or less intense struggle. This leads usually to self-assertiveness, faith in oneself and an eagerness to overcome obstacles in carrying out an inwardly felt command or vital urge. As every type has its negative aspect, this crescent type may be characterized in some cases by a deep, subconscious sense of being overwhelmed by the momentum of the past and the power of "ghosts" or *karma*. This negative feeling comes as the result of a failure to repolarize one's capacity for personal or social relationship.

The unfortunate French King, Louis XVI typifies the negative aspect. Among positive representatives of the type we can list Ralph Waldo Emerson, who sought to bring new spiritual and existential values to his New England culture — Franz Liszt, who succeeded in changing the social status of musicians and in challenging traditional musical concepts, yet felt the need to return to the Church of his troubled adolescence — Andrew Carnegie, the steel magnate whose Foundation became a model for many similar projects — Louisa May Alcott, the author of "Little Women," etc.—and President John Kennedy.

FIRST QUARTER TYPE: All persons born with the moon from 90 to 135 degrees ahead of the sun, i.e. from 7 to 10)12 days after new moon.

This represents in the lunation cycle a time of crisis in action, a time for managerial, forceful activity. The essential drive in the person is the building of frameworks (or scaffoldings) which may serve for the future objectivation of new social ideals and of a new sense of interpersonal relationship. A strong will is usually present in the positive instance of the type, and perhaps a feeling of self-exaltation when faced with crumbling old structures, and the (at times) ruthless attempt at consolidating the new ideal.

Joseph Stalin and Oliver Cromwell, also Howard Scott of "technocratic" fame are positive types; the French poet, Baudelaire, is a negative instance, yet a remarkable "manager" of words. The Russian composer Shostakovich and President Charles de Gaulle tenaciously intent upon building a New France belong also to this type, and so does perhaps less characteristically, Queen Elizabeth of England, though her country may see a new attempt at rebuilding itself within the framework of a future Europe.

GIBBOUS MOON TYPE: All persons born with the moon 135 to 180 degrees ahead of the sun, thus a few days before full moon.

These persons tend to pay much attention to the development of their capacity for personal growth. They desire to contribute value and meaning to their society, their culture, or in general to "life." They ask repeatedly "Why?"; they work toward a clarification of personal or social-cultural issues, with some kind of, to them, important goal in view. They generally have keen minds and a capacity to associate ideas and concepts, seeking thereby to make

possible some kind of revelation or illumination. They may devote themselves to a great personality or cause, and/or want others to work for them with the same devotion.

Among men of that type one finds the unorthodox and brilliant German philosopher, Count Hermann Keyserling, the inspired mystic Jacob Boehme, Lord Byron, and composer Gershwin who gave a new distinction to popular music. Among scientists Newton and Pasteur can be mentioned. The great international banker J. P. Morgan, and presumably Napoleon I, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Khrushchev belong also to this type.

FULL MOON TYPE: All persons born at full moon time and during the three and a half days which follow. The moon is therefore from 180 to 135 degrees *behind* the sun in the zodiac and, we might say, racing to meet the sun. This is the first of the types belonging to the waning hemicycle of the soli-lunar cycle; and it carries out the symbolical meaning of the full moon, apex of the cycle.

Objectivity and clear consciousness as the result of interpersonal and social-cultural relationships are, theoretically, the basic factors in character. The original impulse of the lunation cycle (its fundamental ever-sounding "tone") has now become a formed concept, a more or less clear image. What was mainly *felt* in the past is now *seen*. This may mean a revelation or illumination, and normally some kind of fulfillment; but it can also mean, negatively, separation or divorce—perhaps even a divorce from reality, or inner division ("man against himself"). Relationship means everything to the person of the full moon type, or else he repudiates all relationships except perhaps those with an ideal or "absolute" character.

Mary Baker Eddy, prophet of Christian Science is an excellent example of what has just been said. In the nearly opposite sense we have the "Apollinian" thinker, Goethe, and Rudolf Steiner, the occultist-seer, also a fervent admirer of Goethe. Joan of Arc is another "visionary" example of the type, prophet of a united France and of modern nationalism. The Hindu spiritual "wayfarer," Krishnamurti, presumably belongs to this category of personality; but so does the Spanish dictator Franco, and the astrologer Evangeline Adams.

DISSEMINATING TYPE: All persons born with the waning moon from 135 to 90 degrees behind the sun in the zodiac. This is also a "gibbous" moon astronomically speaking, but pointing to a direction opposite to that of the gibbous moon belonging to the waxing hemicycle.

I use the term "disseminating" because, in the positive sense, such a person tends to want to demonstrate to others what he or she has learned or experienced. Thus an individual of that type often acts as a disseminator of ideas—as a popularizer of what has impressed him most forcibly in his studies or his experiences, in his tradition. He may become a real crusader; but the negative type can easily be lost in a Cause and develop fanaticism or be swayed by mass emotions.

Among statesmen, —this disseminating type is represented by Jefferson, Disraeli, Teddy Roosevelt, Bismark—and Hitler. Among thinkers and artists we find in this category Carl Jung, and before him, Dante and Wagner.

LAST QUARTER TYPE: All persons born with the waning moon from 90 to 45 degrees behind the sun.

While the first quarter type represents basically a state of crisis in *action*, this last quarter type is essentially characterized by a tendency to experience crisis in *consciousness*; at least what seems mainly important to these persons is the embodiment of their ideological beliefs in definite systems of thought and/or concrete institutions. In personal as well as social relationships they tend to force issues on the basis of some more or less important principle which they feel they must uphold, perhaps at all costs. They may lack flexibility, as they often consider themselves pioneers whose work only posterity will appreciate. They are geared to a future of which however they only see the structural outline or prenatal glow. In some cases they are able to display an irony or sense of humor which they put at the service of their Cause—or else they are unable to take criticism.

To this type belong reformers like Luther and Gandhi, statesmen such as Washington, Lenin, Trotsky, Mussolini. The apostle of the "Single Tax" movement, Henry George, the humanitarian poet Victor Hugo, the scientist Einstein, and the humorist George Bernard Shaw can be added as significant examples of the type.

BALSAMIC MOON TYPE: All persons born with the moon less than 45 degrees behind the sun, thus about 3% days before new moon. This is symbolized by the inverted lunar crescent seen before sunrise—thus announcing as it were, the new day.

The approximately three days of this "balsamic" soli-lunar relationship represents *one tenth* of the whole lunation cycle. In the old Hindu doctrine of cycles, the last tenth part of a cycle (and, but not quite as significantly so, the first tenth of the next) constitute a transition state (*sandhya*)— and we might say also the seed state. In these last three days of the lunation cycle of thirty days, the cycle, as it were, comes to seed; and this seed is to become the foundation of the future plant, *provided* conditions for germination are adequate.

This type of personality is, in its highest manifestations, prophetic and completely turned toward the future, even though it feels itself the end-product of the past—yet, a past which outwardly or consciously it has left behind. At times the individual feels himself possessed by a social "destiny," or led by a superior power. He is more or less aware of being a kind of shrine (or "field") within which something greater than his personal selfhood is taking place; thus he may readily accept sacrifice or martyrdom for the sake of the future, be it the future of a small group or of humanity as a whole. He tends to sense a character of finality in all important relationships he experiences; that is, he sees them both as ends of some process and as means to reach some transcendent goal.

This may lead to fanaticism—as in the case of the French revolutionist, Robespierre, who initiated the cult of the goddess, Reason—or to great political vision, as in Thomas Paine, surnamed rightly the "Father of Democracy," and in Lincoln, the Emancipator. The philosopher Kant, Havelock Ellis, student of the end—results and perversions of the sexual drives, Cecil Rhodes, who had a vision of an African empire, President McKinley under whose Administration the United States began to operate in the field of international politics as a world-power with immense potentialities for leadership—and who was killed in office—and Pope Paul VI, born just before new moon and who revolutionized a good many things in his Church; these men belong to the balsamic type.

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In applying the above characterizations of the eight lunation types one must evidently consider first of all the limitations imposed upon an individual by his social environment, his culture, etc. It matters little whether we deal with a statesman who dies a martyr to the political Cause he has espoused, or with a teacher of a small rural school (perhaps in an undeveloped region) whose life becomes utterly consecrated to raising the level of education of the village's children. What counts is the *quality* of the relationships entered upon by the person being considered—the manner in which his or her life of personal, social, cultural relationship is polarized, and thus the nature of the contribution the individual makes to his community or nation.

This eight-fold classification of lunation types does not, however, fill all the requirements of a thorough analysis of personality, and it should be supplemented by another kind of astrological approach to the lunation cycle. This approach leads us to the study of what is called the "Part of Fortune," and in general to a consideration of the real meaning of all so-called Arabian Parts.

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