

# In-Depth Astrological Delineation – Essential Dignities

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## The Religion of the Stars

- “Astrology is the science of finding and utilizing the natural potentialities as indicated in the planetary chart at birth. It becomes a religion when it shows the individual how these natural tendencies can and should be utilized for the benefit of all mankind and the furtherance of the purposes of Deity.”
  - Edward Doane

## Hermetic Astrology & Elbert Benjamine

- Elbert Benjamine (aka C. C. Zain) was perhaps the most prolific astrological author in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Between the years 1914 – 1951 he wrote thousands of articles and numerous books such as:
  - *Astrological Lore of All Ages*
  - *Beginner's Horoscope Maker and Reader*
  - *How to Select a Vocation*
  - *Body Disease and its Stellar Treatment*
  - and more.
- Under the aegis of The Brotherhood of Light/Church of Light and using the nom-de-plume of C. C. Zain, he authored the 24 books that comprise the 21 Brotherhood of Light Lessons
- His astrological system, for which he coined the term “Hermetic” combined ancient practice, contemporary mathematics, and an active research department
- His work would impact future generations of astrological notables
- Elbert Benjamine was born Benjamine P. Williams to Dr. William J. Williams and Emma (Greene) Williams at 5:55 a.m. on December 12, 1882 near Adel, Iowa
  - 94°W00'; 41°N37'.
  - His family remembered this as the year the great comet flashed across the sky
- A natural seer, Benjamine had many psychic experiences in his youth
- In *The Next Life*, the penultimate book in the Brotherhood of Light Lessons, C. C. Zain describes an incident from his youth where he used his psychic abilities to help locate the missing bodies of two drowning victims
- In 1900 at age 17 he began studying astrology in an effort to debunk it
- He scoffed at the idea that planets could influence human affairs
- He calculated the charts of family and friends and discovered that astrology worked in spite of its apparent absurdity
- Certain authors who young Benjamine studied alluded to a Mystery School known as the Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor
- In 1909 at age 28 he attended a meeting of The Brotherhood in Denver, Colorado
- In a surprising chain of events his life would be turned upside-down when he was commissioned by the Brothers to place their teachings in writing
- Benjamine had studied at Iowa State University, to become a naturalist
- He was instrumental in the founding of a bird sanctuary in Los Angeles County
- In an article written in 1940 by his wife Elizabeth Benjamine states;
- “He was subjected to much ridicule by his relatives for believing in “such bunk,” or for trying to get them to believe in it. Here were people close to him, who were representatives of the well-educated, who scoffed at the thing which through rigorous experiment he found to be true. He decided that for all he knew, there might be whole continents of phenomena which as yet had not been explored... He would still be a naturalist, but starting with that winter of 1898-99, the natural history in which he would specialize, and in which

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he would try to be useful to his fellowman, would be the natural history of realms and forces not commonly recognized.”

- Benjamine moved to Los Angeles in May 1915
- On November 11, 1918 The Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor disbanded and The Brotherhood of Light opened its doors to the public
- Upon moving to Los Angeles, Benjamin P. Williams would later change his name to Elbert Benjamine, in order to protect his family
- His father was a doctor and a deacon in the Disciples of Christ Church and Benjamine’s interests in occultism and astrology were frowned upon in his community
- The Brotherhood of Light teachings were written between March 21, 1914 and February 20, 1934 by Elbert Benjamine under the penname of C. C. Zain
- Benjamine chose to use a pseudonym for any writings he did for the B. of L. in order to keep the work separately identified from the writings he published under his own name.
- C. C. Zain saw himself as not so much the author of original thought, but rather as an amanuensis or scribe writing down the information he received from the inner plane brethren
- He would subject his impressions to rigorous research and find comparisons available in the contemporary science of his day.
  - **A School of Practical Occultism**
- In 1932, anti-astrological ordinances were passed in Los Angeles County aimed at prohibiting both the teaching and practice of astrology
- It appeared as though political forces would once again drive the Brotherhood underground
- The Brotherhood of Light closed its membership roster and became the Church of Light, just prior to the passage of these ordinances
- The Church of Light was incorporated under the Laws of the State of California on November 2, 1932 in order to ‘teach, practice and disseminate the Religion of the Stars.’
- Astrology comprised 7 of the 21 Brotherhood of Light Lessons
- There are 7 courses devoted to Alchemy (transmuting planetary energies)
- There are 7 courses devoted to Magic (extra-sensory perception)
- In the late 30’s the Church of Light Quarterly was being mailed to 16,000 students free of charge. Church of Light classes were open to the public on a free-will offering basis
- During the Great Depression many persons benefited from this policy who would otherwise be unable to afford classes
- C. C. Zain was a unique leader, he opposed hero worship and cult-like behavior
- He discouraged members from taking any of his writings on blind belief, but rather to subject them to rigorous testing of their own
- Church of Light members were given freedom of conscience and encouraged to study as many things about religion, science and the mysteries as they could and then draw their own conclusions.
- Within the first half of the 20th century these teachings were distributed around the world
- Like the writings of Bailey, Blavatsky, Steiner and Heindl, the works of C. C. Zain have impacted the lives of thousands of students of Western Occultism

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- Elbert had been informed by the Brothers that he should have everything completed by 1950
- Elbert Benjamine passed from the physical plane on November 18, 1951
- In accordance with his instructions he was cremated and there was no public funeral
- His legacy is a body of work that is certain to hold a place in the history of Western Spiritual Tradition

## The Two Keys

- **The Gold Key**
- The Written Tradition
- Science
- Astrology
- The Sun
  
- **The Silver Key**
- The Oral Tradition
- Divination
- The Tarot
- The Moon

## Hermetic Astrology

- Three techniques unique to the Hermetic System of Astrology are:
- *Astrodynes*
- *Hermetic Progressions*
- *Alchemy*
  
- Hermetic Astrology works with the “Four Factors” of Astrology
- 1) The 12 Signs of the Zodiac
- 2) The 10 Planets
- 3) The 12 Mundane Houses
- 4) The 10 Aspects
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## Planets – Musical Tones

- Each Planet expresses a distinct vibration just as each musical note is distinct in its frequency

## Signs – Sounding Boards

- Just as the tone of “C” sounds differently on a Piccolo than on a Cello -

The “tones” of the Planets express differently according to the Sign in which they fall

## Houses – The Auditorium

- The houses function as the auditorium; however the music is being played outside the auditorium. The volume registers differently Depending on whether you sit by a door, window or solid wall

## Aspects – The Composition

- The aspects add idiosyncrasies and conditioning energy to the chart. They help to determine whether or not it is a dissonant or harmonious composition

## The Planets of Astrology

- In Astrology we work with ten planets representing ten different “urges” or “thought-cells” in the unconscious mind
- ☉ The Sun – Power
- ☾ The Moon – Domestic
- ☿ Mercury – Intellectual
- ♀ Venus – Social
- ♂ Mars – Aggressive
- ♃ Jupiter – Religious
- ♄ Saturn - Safety
- ♅ Uranus - Individualistic
- ♆ Neptune - Utopian
- ♇ Pluto - Universal Welfare

## Planets in Signs

- One method of interpreting a chart is by the placement of the planets in the signs of the zodiac
- Much like the way that musical tones sound differently to our ear whether they are played on a cello or a piccolo – the planets express their energies differently depending upon the sign they are in
- The signs or ‘sounding boards’ can allow for harmonious or discordant expressions of the planets energies

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- “The First Requisite for judging any horoscope—Natal, Stellar Diagnosis, Mundane, Weather, or Horary—is to know the particular Tone, or rate of vibration, radiated by each of the planets, and what the observed effects are of these vibrations upon life. Just as colors, musical tones, etc., depend upon electromagnetic wavelengths or wavelengths of physical substance, so each planet radiates a given wavelength and frequency in astral substance which we call its Tone. The effect of each planetary Tone is given in Chapter 3 (Serial Lesson 47), Course II, *Astrological Signatures*.”
  - Horary Astrology – C. C. Zain
  - “Of the 10 planets only 4 are harmonious or discordant due to their own nature. Venus is harmonious, adding harmony equal to  $\frac{1}{4}$  the power of each aspect it makes. Mars is discordant, adding discord equal to  $\frac{1}{4}$  the power of each aspect it makes. Jupiter, the major benefic, adds harmony  $\frac{1}{2}$  the power of each aspect it makes. And Saturn, the major malefic, adds discord  $\frac{1}{2}$  the power of each aspect it makes. The other 6 planets are neutral insofar as harmony or discord is concerned, their harmony or discord being determined only by their essential dignity and the aspects they form.”
  - Horary Astrology – C. C. Zain
  - “**The Second Requisite** for judging any horoscope is to know the Tone Quality of each Sign and Planet in the chart. The Nature and Tone Quality of each of the 12 Signs is fully explained in Chapter 2 (Serial Lesson 46), Course II, *Astrological Signatures*. This Tone Quality of a sign influences each planet found in the sign in a somewhat different manner. This is due to the particular planetary tone and the characteristic resonance of the sign.”
- Horary Astrology – C. C. Zain
- “The zodiacal signs act as sounding boards, or instruments, from which the planetary vibrations reach the earth. Each is a definite section of the astromagnetic field of force which surrounds the sun. Due to this definite position in a field of force, the tension of the astral substance through which the vibrations of a planet must travel is different in each sign, and varies to a less extent even in the different decanates of the same sign. This property of the astral substance of a sign may make it a harmonious sounding board for transmitting the vibrations of some of the planets, but a discordant sounding board for transmitting the vibrations of other planets.”
  - Horary Astrology – C. C. Zain
  - “It has experimentally been determined that a planet not only sets up vibrations in the sign it occupies, but also in certain other signs. These special signs are so sympathetically tuned to the planet that they vibrate to it no matter where it is located. They are keyed to the tone of the planet, and respond to its vibrations, much as a musical instrument keyed to a particular tone will respond to that tone when struck on another instrument, even when the other instrument is at a distance.”
  - Horary Astrology – C. C. Zain
- Essential Dignities**
- “By his general knowledge of the nature of each planet and each sign, the student becomes able approximately to determine the harmony or discord of a planet in any sign; for as a rule a planet is harmonious in a sign the nature of which is similar to its own, and discordant in a sign having dissimilar characteristics. But as this has been experimentally ascertained by others, it

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is well to memorize the signs in which each planet has its Home, Exaltation, Harmony, and also its Degree of Exaltation. From these the Detriment, Fall, Inharmony, and Degree of Fall can be ascertained by using the opposite factor in the zodiac. This harmony or discord of a planet due to being able to express its own true nature by occupying a sign or degree which forms a favorable or unfavorable sounding board for transmitting its vibrations is called the planet's ESSENTIAL DIGNITY. The table on page 2 gives the Essential Dignities of the planets, and should be well memorized."

- Horary Astrology – C. C. Zain

Table of Essential Dignities

PLANET	HOME	DETRIMENT	EXALTATION	DEGREE OF EXALTATION	FALL	DEGREE OF FALL	HARMONY	DISCORD
☉	♈	♏	♌	19	♍	19	♈	♏
☽	♋	♏	♌	3	♍	3	♋	♏
☿	♈-♏	♌-♏	♏	15	♈	15	♌	♏
♀	♌-♏	♏-♏	♏	27	♏	27	♏	♏
♁	♏-♏	♏-♏	♏	28	♏	28	♏	♏
♃	♌-♏	♏-♏	♏	15	♏	15	♏	♏
♅	♏-♏	♏-♏	♏	21	♏	21	♏	♏
♁	♏	♏	♏	7	♏	7	♏	♏
♃	♏	♏	♏	18	♏	18	♏	♏
♅	♏	♏	♏	17	♏	17	♏	♏

### Planets at "Home"

- "These signs that persistently transmit the vibrations of a given planet, whether or not the planet is in them, are said to be **Ruled** by that planet. When the planet is in one of these signs it Rules, it is said to be at HOME.
- The sign that a planet rules transmits easily the constructive characteristics of the planet when the planet is in it. A planet at HOME thus gains the harmony given neutral planets when in a succedent house and making the perfect semisextile..."
- Horary Astrology – C. C. Zain

### Planets in Detriment

- "When a planet is in the sign opposite its home, which is called its

DETRIMENT, it thus gains ½ the discord given neutral planets when in a succedent house and making the perfect semisquare."

- Horary Astrology – C. C. Zain

### Planets in Exaltation

- "The most refined influence exerted by a planet however, is not when it is at home, but when in another sign which not only permits it to express its energy fully, but which due to the peculiar quality of its astral substance, lends itself particularly to the expression of the finer and more intense vibrations of the planetary tone. This other sign, which only transmits the planet's vibrations strongly when the planet is in it, yet which lends itself singularly to the highest expression of the planet's qualities, is called the planet's EXALTATION. A planet in its exaltation thus gains ½ the harmony given neutral planets when in a succedent house and making the perfect sextile."

- Horary Astrology – C. C. Zain

### Planets in Fall

- "When a planet is in the sign opposite its exaltation, which is called its FALL, it thus gains the discord given a neutral planet in a cadent house and making the perfect semisquare."

- Horary Astrology – C. C. Zain

### Planets in Harmony

- "There is also another sign in which a planet gains a little harmony, but only half as much as when at home. This sign is called its HARMONY. A planet in the sign of its harmony thus gains ½ the harmony given neutral planets when in a succedent house and making the perfect semisextile.

- When a planet is in the sign opposite its harmony, which is called its INHARMONY, it thus gains ¼ the discord given neutral planets when in

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succedent houses and making the perfect semisquare.”

- Horary Astrology – C. C. Zain

### Planets in Inharmony

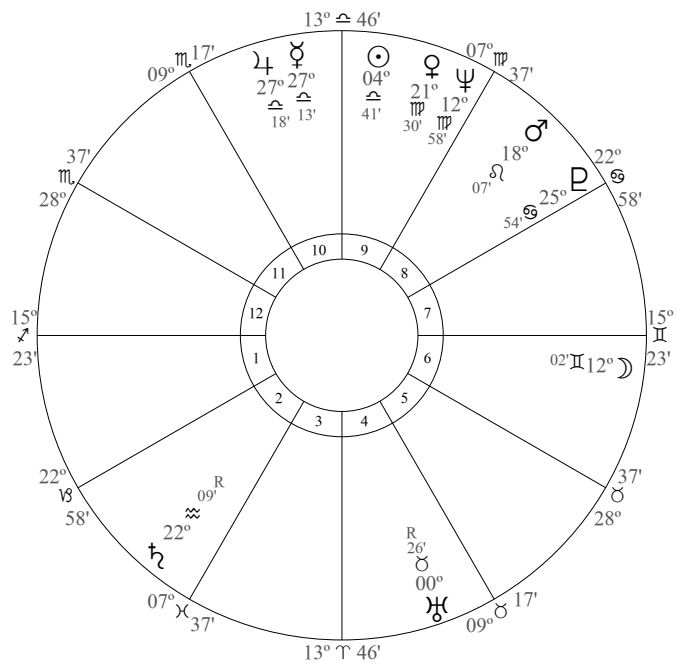
- “When a planet is in the sign opposite its harmony, which is called its INHARMONY, it thus gains ¼ the discord given neutral planets when in succedent houses and making the perfect semisquare.”
- Horary Astrology – C. C. Zain

### Mutual Reception

- “Two planets are said to be in mutual reception when each occupies the sign which is the exaltation or the home of the other. Thus if Saturn is in Leo and the Sun is in Capricorn, they are in mutual reception. If Jupiter is in Capricorn and Mars is in Cancer they are in mutual reception. When two planets are thus in mutual reception they tend to benefit each other through mutual aims. If at the same time they are in evil aspect, there will be an affliction commensurate with the aspect; but in spite of the aspect, each sets up vibrations in the sign that is the natural medium of the other, and thus renders the other assistance.”
- “Mutual reception implies that among some of the things ruled by each planet there will be cooperation. It does not annul the effects of a discordant aspect between two planets. The aspect, good or evil, will work out to its full extent in terms of some of the things ruled by the planets; but the mutual reception will bring about a cooperation between other things so ruled; even if it be an unconscious and unwilling cooperation.”
- Horary Astrology – C. C. Zain

### Brigitte Bardot

- Home
- ♃ ≈
- Detriment
- ♀ ♀
- Fall
- ☉ ≈, ♀ ♀
- Harmony
- ♂ ♂
- Mutual Reception
- ♃ ≈ ♀ ♀
- ♃ ≈ ♃ ♂

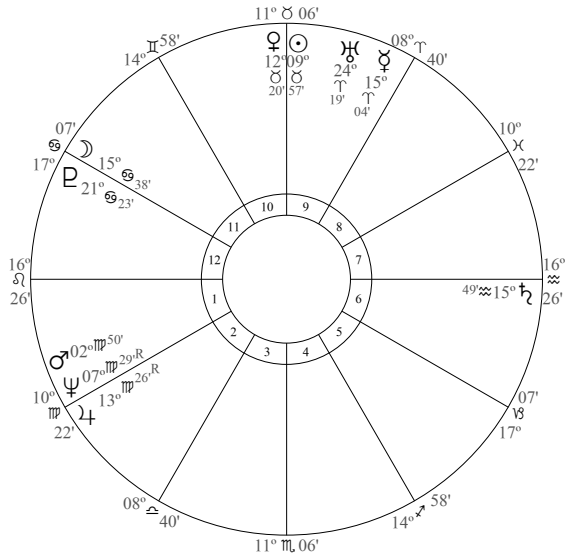


PLANETS				HOUSES				SIGNS			
	Power	%	Harmony		Power	%	Harmony		Power	%	Harmony
♄	74.03	13.9	-15.45	10	187.09	23.4	2.80	♈	204.07	25.5	-4.89
♀	68.63	12.9	-17.46	9	114.43	14.3	-40.23	♉	99.71	12.5	-18.42
☉	62.16	11.7	-1.93	8	109.00	13.6	-37.94	♊	97.45	12.2	-32.53
♂	52.92	10.0	-23.74	1	99.71	12.5	-18.42	♋	83.28	10.4	-22.20
♃	49.77	9.4	-25.77	4	64.12	8.0	-28.29	♌	76.05	9.5	-30.98
♅	46.27	8.7	-14.48	6	56.08	7.0	-13.71	♍	69.39	8.7	-24.24
♄	41.08	7.7	19.41	2	56.01	7.0	1.96	♎	40.81	5.1	-14.39
♁	40.81	7.7	-26.34	7	37.02	4.6	-7.72	♏	40.69	5.1	0.36
♂	30.64	5.8	3.19	3	25.74	3.2	-7.07	♐	32.96	4.1	-6.96
♁	28.71	5.4	-5.04	11	20.41	2.6	-7.19	♑	25.74	3.2	-7.07
♁	19.62	3.7	1.53	12	20.41	2.6	-7.19	♒	15.32	1.9	1.59
♁	16.98	3.2	-7.69	5	9.81	1.2	0.77	♓	14.35	1.8	-2.52
	531.62	100.0	-113.76								

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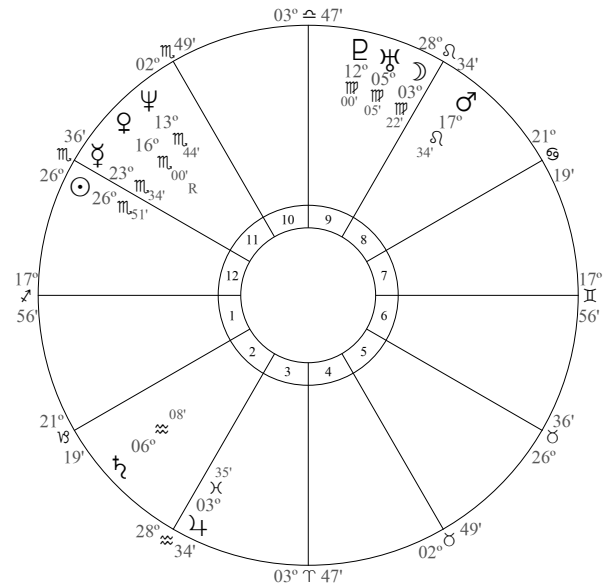
## Willie Nelson

- Home
- ☽☿, ♀♁, ♃♁
- Detriment
- ♃♁, ♀♁
- Inharmony
- ♃♁
- Mutual Reception
- ♃♁-♁♁



## Jodie Foster

- Home
- ♃♁, ♃♁
- Detriment
- ♀♁
- Harmony
- ♃♁♁, ♂♁
- Inharmony
- ☽♁



PLANETS			HOUSES			SIGNS					
	Power	% Harmony		Power	% Harmony		Power	% Harmony			
♀	85.89	14.1	26.92	10	212.57	23.4	54.20	♁	283.25	31.2	70.52
♁	83.74	13.7	13.82	1	185.67	20.5	3.65	♁	152.59	16.8	57.85
☉	70.68	11.6	16.32	9	149.45	16.5	15.79	☿	98.42	10.9	-2.57
♁	57.90	9.5	-17.49	11	67.06	7.4	6.40	♁	93.24	10.3	-9.33
♁	56.98	9.4	12.51	6	62.10	6.8	-50.82	♁	78.77	8.7	-0.53
♁	49.04	8.1	4.13	2	60.15	6.6	44.87	♁	58.01	6.4	-43.68
♁	42.14	6.9	42.59	12	49.38	5.4	-6.70	♁	42.94	4.7	13.46
♁	41.40	6.8	-33.88	3	42.94	4.7	13.46	♁	24.78	2.7	13.78
♁	36.03	5.9	4.55	8	24.78	2.7	13.78	♁	21.07	2.3	21.30
♁	35.45	5.8	0.47	5	21.07	2.3	21.30	♁	20.70	2.3	-16.94
♁	25.01	4.1	-5.32	7	16.60	1.8	-9.80	♁	18.02	2.0	2.27
♁	24.86	4.1	-8.76	4	15.08	1.7	-2.07	♁	15.08	1.7	-2.07
	609.11	100.0	55.86								

PLANETS			HOUSES			SIGNS					
	Power	% Harmony		Power	% Harmony		Power	% Harmony			
♀	60.90	12.5	0.98	11	164.96	20.9	4.08	♁	236.52	30.0	2.08
♁	51.22	10.5	5.01	9	154.21	19.6	-2.06	♁	129.62	16.5	-1.45
☉	50.52	10.3	3.50	12	71.57	9.1	-2.00	♁	66.46	8.4	3.44
♁	49.19	10.1	-1.22	2	66.92	8.5	-14.43	♁	63.10	8.0	-12.53
♁	44.61	9.1	-9.62	10	66.46	8.4	3.44	♁	62.88	8.0	-8.75
♁	38.28	7.8	-8.15	8	56.49	7.2	-10.80	♁	60.90	7.7	0.98
♁	36.40	7.5	-5.30	3	55.32	7.0	-9.47	♁	46.20	5.9	-1.13
♁	36.01	7.4	2.95	1	46.20	5.9	-1.13	♁	36.83	4.7	-6.56
♁	31.56	6.5	1.81	5	30.45	3.9	0.49	♁	25.26	3.2	1.75
♁	31.16	6.4	0.38	6	30.45	3.9	0.49	♁	22.31	2.8	-4.81
♁	29.36	6.0	-2.03	7	25.26	3.2	1.75	♁	19.14	2.4	-4.07
♁	29.28	6.0	-5.88	4	19.14	2.4	-4.07	♁	18.20	2.3	-2.65
	488.50	100.0	-17.56								