

# Finding Copernicus and astrology's vindication in the sky

## Part 2

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**In the first (March-April 2020) of this two-part essay, the case was made for dwarf planets to be added to cycles of outer planets in assessments of grand epochal changes. In Part 2, the 'dwarfs' (such as Makemake and Sedna) are assessed as the possible missing link in winning astrology a greater acceptance and respectability. And what do these celestials' aspects tell us of the years ahead?**

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We all hunger for a time when astrology is finally taken seriously on a wider scale. Certainly, we as astrologers do what we can to answer questions and thereby help transmit the extraordinary perspective we have.

Tackling this challenge has been a quest of mine as I have become an advocate for inclusion of dwarf planets in charts, even to the point of claiming that the appearance of the largest of these bodies, specifically Eris, Makemake, Haumea and Sedna, is the greatest advance in astrology since the discoveries of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto.

I advanced this view in my astrologer-focused book called *More Plutos*. But just alerting astrologers is not my end goal. I believe that we are on the cusp of an honest-to-God breakthrough, one that might equal medicine's discovery of micro-organisms. That was their Holy Grail. And once medics realised that 'invisible' bacteria and viruses were responsible for all the disease they hadn't been able to cure for thousands of years, diligent researchers began finding cures and the entire medical profession rose in everyone's estimation. Until those tiny culprits were identified, doctors heavily depended on the body's natural ability to heal.

It's almost ironic, and maybe a sign of their value, that the dwarf planets were so hard to spot, just like micro-organisms.

Eris, Makemake, Haumea and Sedna were discovered between 2003 and 2005. Once I began working with them, I saw how astonishingly powerful they are: they consistently identified behavioural elements I found missing in charts that had perplexed me for decades. I wondered if inclusion of the dwarfs might even allow one to focus on angular relationships between the planets and luminaries. The idea is not to dismiss

signs, houses and other chart elements, but to find a simple way to show astrology works, using interesting historical examples.

So, with all this on my mind, it was a stellar day when I picked up Richard Tarnas' 2006 book, *Cosmos and Psyche*. Here was someone aiming to reach well-read, curious and history-aware readers, those likely to recognise and respect the achievements of psychologist C.G. Jung. Beginning with Jung's experiences of synchronicity, Tarnas describes Jung's early work with astrological archetypes, leading to his experimentation with, and acceptance of, astrology as a useful tool for psychoanalysis.

From there, Tarnas exhaustively demonstrates how simple angular patterns between the slowest planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto (with occasional help from Saturn and Jupiter) coincide with discernible trends in human behaviour, beliefs and efforts to change society that match the planetary archetypes in aspect. Unfurling a sweep of history at once expansive, comprehensive, and well-detailed, Tarnas finds the way to show astrology working, simply and convincingly.

If all that weren't enough to suggest that I had found a kindred spirit, a leader to follow into the fray of persuading the 'Muggles', Tarnas frames his exhortation to consider astrology valid as a vital breakthrough for humankind, comparable to the mid-16th-century Copernican Revolution. That's when Nicolaus Copernicus grasped that planetary motions were simplified if the planets are imagined orbiting the Sun and not Earth. This realisation caused great upheaval and consternation at the time, since virtually everyone in the world could not believe that Earth moved at all, much less around the Sun: it was thought that Copernicus and his few defenders were either crazy or heretics. Regardless, this was necessary

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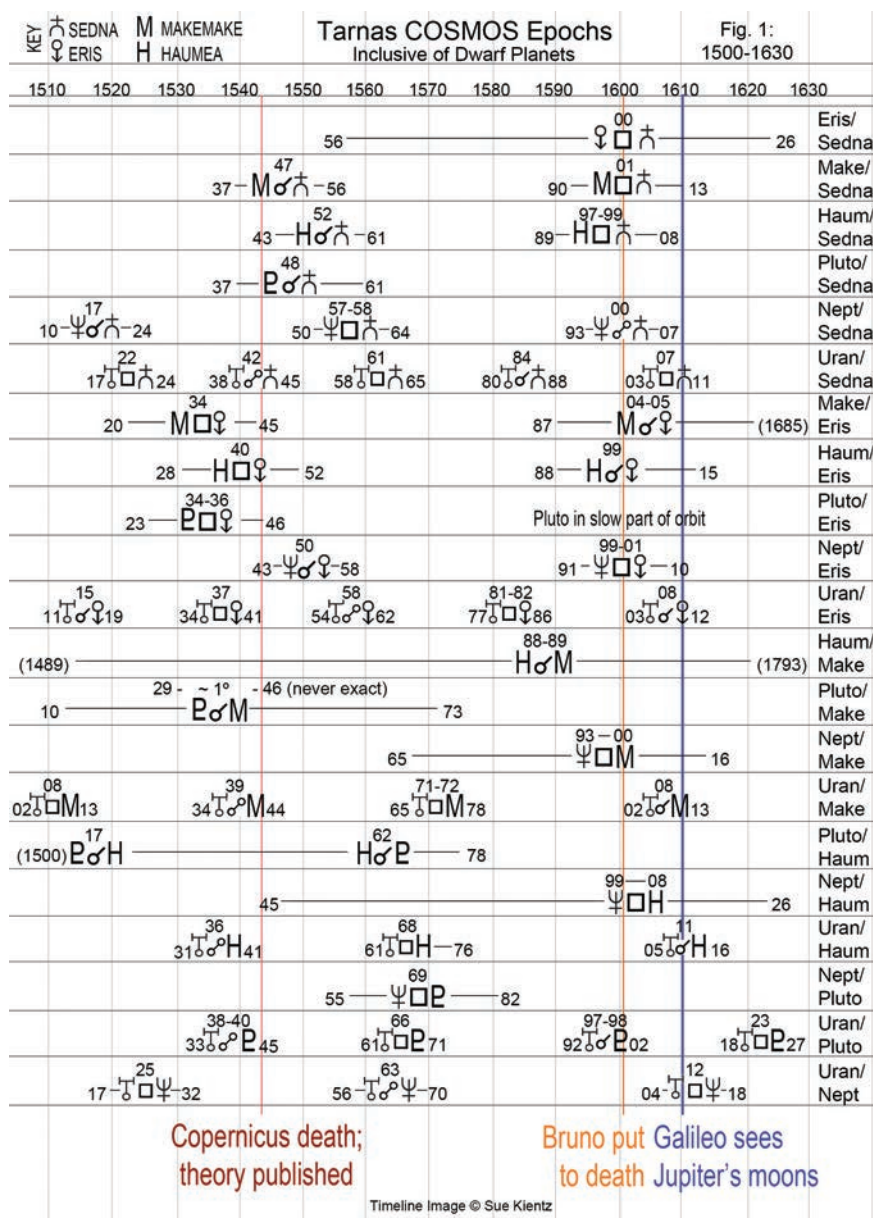


Fig. 1. Tarnas' epochs as developed in *Cosmos and Psyche* (2006), with the largest dwarf planets added, for years 1500-1630

knowledge to acquire so as to properly understand physical reality, which made possible the unfolding of the modern age.

As to our present situation, a confirmation of astrology might be a similarly explosive but crucial perspective jolt that humankind desperately needs. If one could clearly show that everyone and everything are connected, and that this is demonstrable by the timing of the solar system's most massive orbs, this could really shake things up and engender new considerations about other people, our fellow creatures, and Earth as a whole. With enormous challenges ahead, such as climate crisis, a worldview that unveils a grand inter-dependence could save many human lives and whole cultures and countless species.

What Tarnas envisions is the highest calling imaginable for long-maligned astrology.

Since so much of Tarnas' views resonated with me, I wondered how the dwarf planets fit into his timeline of historical epochs. One thing I noticed doing that work, a sample of which appeared in the March-April 2020 issue of *The Astrological Journal*, was that Tarnas never predicted when this huge paradigm shift might arrive. If it should prove as earth-shattering as the Copernican revelation, I assumed it might look like the cycle that began then, around 1543. Astrology's breakout moment, which I already believed in from my own research, could appear similar. So, I looked, but what I found was astounding: you need dwarf planets to see Copernicus' breakthrough!

And it appears very likely that the same is true of the planetary combinations that designate Tarnas' prophesied new cosmology.

### Copernicus: I'd rather die, then publish

Tarnas' approach suggests that some combination of the modern planets, i.e., Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, should herald the Copernican epiphany. One of them (with only Jupiter or Saturn involvement) just won't cut it, as those giants move 'too fast' to signal the kind of radical change indicated. Plus, Tarnas uses the most basic aspects, conjunction and opposition, and only occasionally credits a square with a key transition. One has to agree that a massive perspective change, such as we are speaking of, should be worthy of a conjunction or opposition.

See the first timeline image (Fig. 1), bottom three rows. The only modern planets in mutual aspect around 1543, the year Copernicus died and was published, is Uranus separating from opposition to Pluto. Tarnas uses a 15-degree orb to delineate the beginning and ending of epochs, so Uranus is 'under the wire' opposite Pluto. However, this expanded view shows they acted in concert with a wondrous cast of newcomers.

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Check out the epochs of Sedna at the top. Uranus opposes Sedna exactly one year before Copernicus' book *De Revolutionibus* ['On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres'] debuts. Uranus, planet of astronomy and astrology, partners with Sedna, harbinger of hopelessness, suffering and steadfast determination.

A quick primer on Sedna: think Saturn-Neptune. It's almost verbalised in the name: Sat+Ne = Sedna. This frigid world, named after an arctic sea-goddess, has a lopsided orbit 11,400 years long; so, for all of recorded history until just recently, Sedna has been at the far end of its orbit and nearly immovable in transit for any one lifetime. In the last few hundred years, however, Sedna has slowly sped up as, like a comet, it's reaching a 'close' approach to the Sun. Overall, despite the current Coronavirus pandemic, people are indeed suffering less and being cured of or managing illnesses that were once death sentences. Uranus opposite Sedna therefore highlights the utter hopelessness that Copernicus and his adherents felt, as they contemplated that their great discovery was impossible to broadcast. But it also represents their determination.

Copernicus did publish and his supporters kept spreading the word as they could.

Meanwhile, note a great cluster of dwarf planets make conjunctions with Sedna after 1543. In range of conjunction six years before that year is Makemake and Pluto, so both aspect Sedna in succession. Makemake-Sedna is exact in 1547, Pluto-Sedna in 1548. Makemake is a hyper-Uranus object, an indicator of genius that seems almost crazy, that is so far ahead of its time. So Makemake conjunct Sedna shows this to be a time when those determined Copernicans were daring to speak of their theories but were mainly perceived as crackpots. Pluto-Sedna represents their perseverance in appreciating the power in the Copernican arrangement. They will be vindicated, someday. It will take Sednan persistence.

By 1543, the Haumea-Sedna conjunction is moving into position. Acquaint yourself with Haumea in detail at [MorePlutos.com](http://MorePlutos.com), but suffice to say here, Haumea is huge change that destroys, transforms, fixes and/or heals. That was the last phase of the Copernican effect – first the seemingly bizarre theory that Earth spins like a top and flies around the Sun (Makemake), then the power of the theory's simplicity accounting for planetary motion (Pluto) would persuade orderly minds, and lead to changed minds (Haumea), a growing certainty that the Sun-centred view is truth, not the more complicated Ptolemaic arrangement.

Eris, a body as big as Pluto, plays a role around this time. Eris is squared by Makemake, then Pluto, then Haumea, exact in 1534, 1534-36 and 1540. Copernicus and his friends risked their reputations and even their lives by developing and discussing their vital insight, as such views could provoke charges of heresy. Eris in charts is most reliably an indicator of

'the other', the outcast, the opposite of those in power (Pluto). Negative Eris aspects tend to exclude those deviating from the norm. Positive aspects welcome differences. This was not a time of inclusiveness. The Copernicans had to be careful that they didn't speak about their beliefs to just anyone, lest they suffer the fate of a later devotee, Giordano Bruno, mentioned in the next section.

The cluster of dwarfs in aspect to Sedna and Eris is itself extraordinary: a triple conjunction and not a fleeting one. Makemake, Pluto and Haumea move very slowly and so persist in close orb for decades. Uranus opposes this unusual confluence in the years leading up to the theory's release, as if confirming that some special celestial revelation is at hand. And yet, circumspect Sedna acts as dampener to the excitement, insisting, "This must wait".

### Bruno burns for Sun-centred cosmos

The most lurid demise of one of Copernicus' followers in those early days was that of Giordano Bruno. In 1600 he was hung, dismembered and burned at the stake for his refusal to denounce the Copernican theory, among other "crimes". The modern planets are not in close major aspect except for a fading Uranus-Pluto conjunction, but the new dwarfs dramatically tell his story:

- Haumea square Sedna, 1599 exact
- Eris square Sedna, 1600 exact
- Makemake square Sedna, 1601 exact

The message is clear. The time is not yet right for Copernicans to press their theory openly. Those who argue for the Copernican viewpoint will be labelled pariahs (Eris), considered dangerously crazy (Makemake) and be destroyed (Haumea) so fearsomely as to be a warning to others. Pluto has slowed and lagged behind (being in the most distant part of its orbit), and those daring to proselytise for the heliocentric theory have no avenue to power.

But there is great value to seeing Bruno's fate coincide with these squares to Sedna. They show this is the next step. The Sedna conjunctions came as Copernicus allowed his work to be publicised. Now things have come to an admittedly nasty head, but the story is about to turn a corner.

On the Fig. 1 timeline, run your eye down the 1600 line and see how many pairings approach or reach climactic exactitude. All these coalesce into a momentous t-square that, by Bruno's execution day, involves the Sun with unswerving Sedna square Makemake/Eris/Haumea and opposite Neptune (see Fig. 2). His torture and death were so brutal that to this day Bruno is annually memorialised at the same spot as a champion of free thinking and expression. The event's Sun sextile Uranus and trine Saturn suggest he expected history would vindicate him.



## Giordano Bruno death

17 Feb 1600, 12 pm used

Rome, Italy

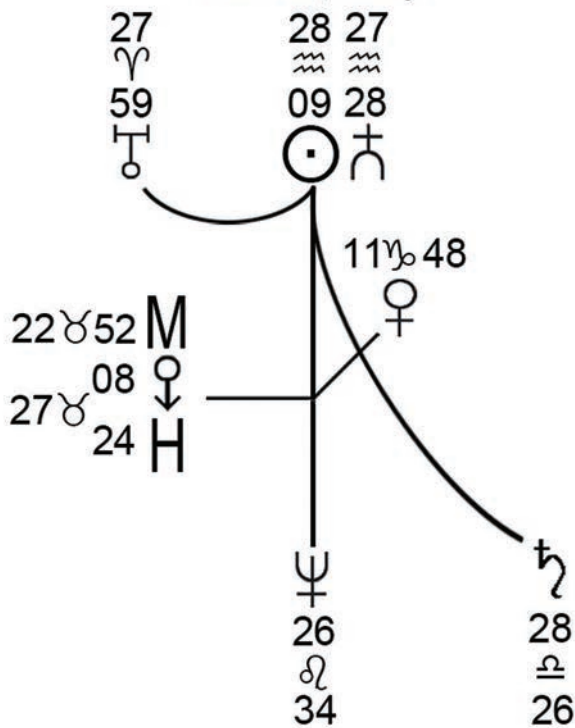


Fig. 2. Diagram isolating the major angles of Giordano Bruno's death, 17 Feb 1600 NS, Rome

## Galileo sees Jupiter's moons

A great milestone in understanding came when Galileo fashioned his own version of a telescope, one powerful enough to see the moons of Jupiter by accident. This act proved instantly revelatory. If these 'stars' were orbiting Jupiter, it could be true! Copernicus could be right – everything might not orbit Earth. And what celestial epoch marked this event that took place in 1610? Many epochs were near or at their peak:

- Uranus conjunct Eris, exact 1608 – some new, initially perplexing 'strangers' (Eris), four 'stars' that are Jupiter's moons, appear in the heavens (Uranus) in January 1610.
- Uranus conjunct Makemake, exact 1608 – the new moons seen through the telescope (breakthrough tool: Makemake) shock and agitate observers (Makemake traits).
- Uranus conjunct Haumea, exact 1611 – this is the year after Galileo published *The Starry Messenger* that publicised his startling, attitude-altering (Haumea) observations.
- Uranus square Neptune, exact 1612 – the church is soon circumspect about Galileo's claims. Many churchmen

simply refuse to look through his telescope (Neptunian denial of Uranian scientific discovery).

- Uranus square Pluto, exact 1623 – Galileo is prohibited to publish or defend Heliocentrism at this point. Church power (Pluto) over-rules intellect (Uranus).
- Uranus square Eris, exact 1632 – the Catholic Church neutralises Galileo's 'revolt' from the norm by charging him with heresy; he is imprisoned and convicted in 1633. Galileo must denounce the Copernican theory, and even then, remains under house arrest for the rest of his life. Those supporting Copernicanism are ostracised (Eris).

The Uranus conjunctions are solidly positive indicators, representing Galileo cleverly improving the telescope and making significant discoveries (not just Jupiter's moons, but the phases of Venus and mountains on the Moon). But Uranian squares follow. The Church sees a threat to people's beliefs (Neptune) which could weaken church power (Pluto). People are encouraged to denounce Galileo and he becomes an outcast (Eris), his work banned.

## Newton breaks through

Since Copernicus was correct, it was just a matter of time for his theory to become accepted, but it took a young genius named Isaac Newton to make the convincing case. In 1666-1667 while waiting out the plague in the English countryside, Newton worked it all out as Eris moved conjunct Makemake (the 'outcast' theory gets help from a bona-fide genius) and Haumea (he has a completely novel approach), and Uranus conjunct Sedna (beginning a new cycle of determination). Then Newton kept it all under wraps for years – and who wouldn't? It was still risky to go against prevailing religious beliefs. However, a fellow scientist eventually prompted him to publish his findings, entitled *Principia Mathematica* (July 5, 1687 OS). Guess what was having some big milestones at that time?

- Neptune conjunct Sedna, exact 1687
- Neptune opposite Haumea, exact 1687
- Haumea opposite Sedna, exact 1688
- Makemake opposite Sedna, exact 1688
- Makemake conjunct Haumea, exact 1690
- Surprisingly, no modern planets in major aspect within a 15-degree orb, around 1687. However, on that 5 July date, Sun/Pluto was closely sesquiquadrate Neptune.

Everything (Neptune) was changing (Haumea), as the inquiring spirit of the Enlightenment emerged. Some people even claimed Newton's ground-breaking masterpiece as its catalyst. But this also shows a natural progression. At its inception, the Copernican idea was beset by a mood of seemingly impossible negativity (many dwarfs conjunct



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Sedna). Now the theory illuminates (dwarfs' opposition) a new class of scientists eager for the truth to be revealed. Patient persistence has paid off. The once unorthodox theory (Makemake) is accepted by these scholars who are thrilled by its mathematical proofs.

### So, when is it astrology's turn?

Currently, Makemake, Pluto, Haumea and Eris are not gliding along together like four horsemen of the Enlightenment, ready to batter Sedna into submission in rapid succession. Times are different, but dramatic figures are afoot. We are in the midst of the following epochs:

- Haumea opposite Eris (1999-2036, exact 2014-2018)
- Uranus conjunct Eris (2012-2021, exact 2016-2017)
- Uranus opposite Haumea (2012-2022, exact 2015-2017)
- Pluto square Eris (2012-2031, exact 2020)

And the most concerning combination:

- Pluto square Haumea (2010-2123, exact 2024-2028, and when Haumea speeds up as Pluto slows, more exact squares 2097-2100)

All too well we know that we live on the brink of disturbing times, facing dire difficulties predicted ahead, such as climate change, increased automation, Covid-19 and other global trends that threaten to displace people, cause job loss and pose other unforeseen challenges. In the midst of this anxiety about the future, the current configurations confirm some huge change (Haumea) has already begun, an illumination or resistance (opposition) that could involve astrology (Uranus), and concern strange elements, interlopers (Eris), whose power is not yet wielded or appreciated (square Pluto). Sounds like the advent of dwarf planets, which have yet to be widely embraced.

Here is a candle in the dark: Uranus conjunct Sedna (2022-2030, exact 2026). Could this signal some key transition or emergence for astrology when determined adherents (Sedna) to a new cosmic viewpoint (Uranus) are on the rise? Remember, it was the opposition of these two when Copernicus, near death, allowed his theory to be published, and a later conjunction when young Newton laid out his early proofs.

The modern planets are supportive at this time, though not 'calling the shots' with epoch-starting angles:

- Uranus sextile Neptune, close orb 2024-2027
- Uranus trine Pluto, close orb 2024-2027
- Neptune sextile Pluto, close orb 2020-2036

Moderns also get Sednan support in the 2020s, and combine

in an imposing minor grand trine:

- Pluto trine Sedna-Uranus, exact 2023-2026
- Neptune sextile Sedna-Uranus, exact/close orb 2025-2027

Neptune sextile Pluto could ease our way into the 2030s, as promising Dwarf figures coalesce:

- Neptune opposite Makemake (2023-2045, exact 2034)
- Neptune conjunct Eris (2029-2044, exact 2037-2038)
- Makemake opposite Eris (2026-2071, exact 2047-2048)
- Uranus opposite Pluto (2042-2052, exact 2047)
- Neptune opposite Haumea (2037-2064, exact 2050-2051)

These are the same vital cast of characters that uplifted Copernicus and his steadfast believers nearly 500 years ago, and re-formed major aspects for Galileo's and Newton's contributions and ultimate vindication. Makemake, with its breakthrough viewpoint, appears crazy until someone shows it really does make sense. Note that Neptune opposed Makemake at Newton's crafting of the *Principia*. Neptune opposite Haumea is the *Principia's* appearance and effect – it swept Aristotelian celestial theory clear into the bin.

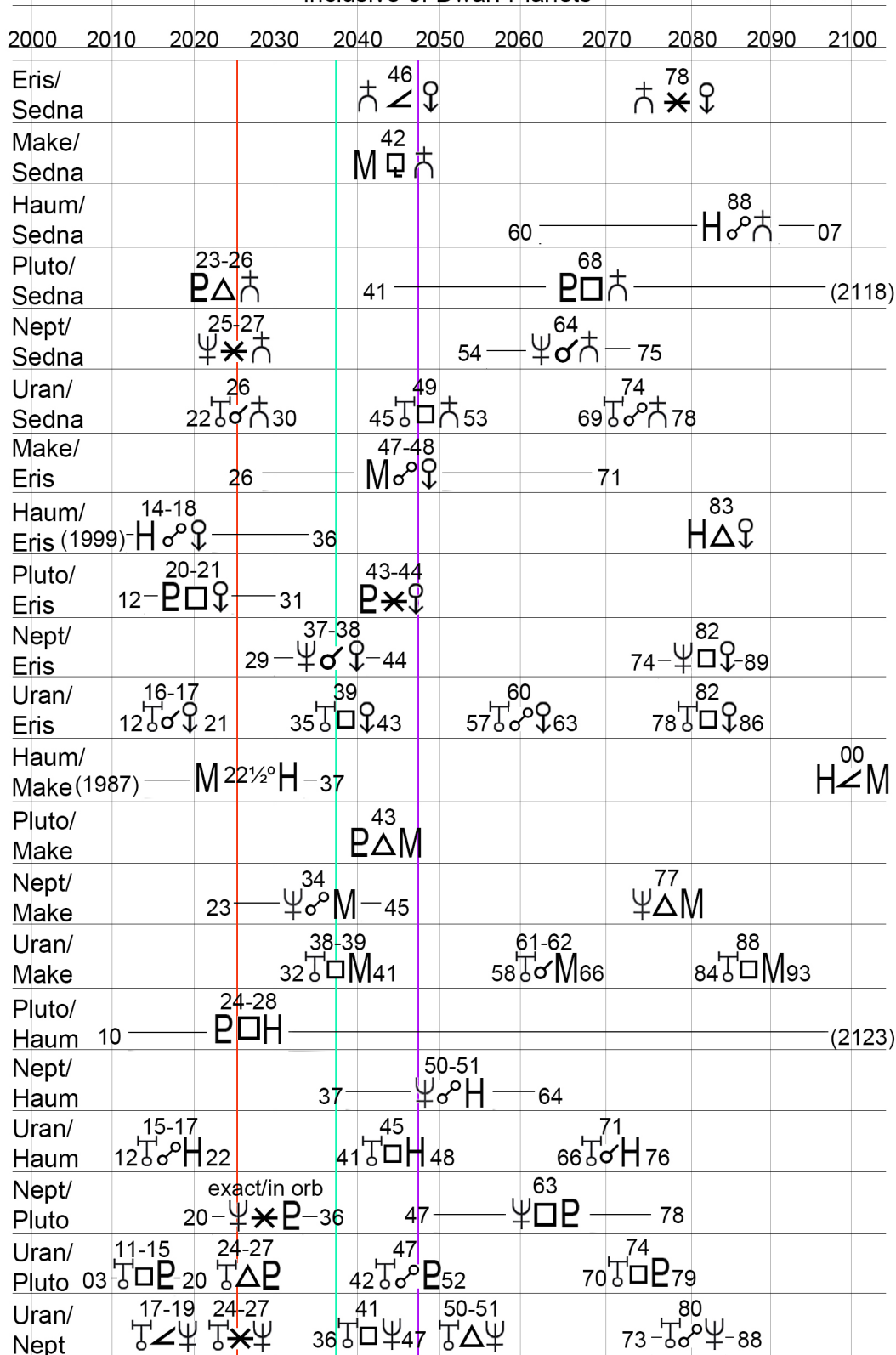
Perhaps you ask, what happened the last time Neptune opposed Makemake and then Haumea? The last time was the *Principia*! How confirmatory is that? Within just a few decades, beliefs are due for another epic overhaul. After all, it's the *Principia* moment we should be looking for, as more helpful for the re-evaluation of astrology, not the *De Revolutionibus* moment. The latter was just a beginning and fraught with fear about its acceptance. We need our worldview packaged in a successful message, one that not only shows astrology working with past examples, but how it could become a tool, useful for anticipating disasters, identifying nascent genius, planning ultra-long-distance spaceflights, among myriad other applications.

In fact, after the *Principia*, Neptune-Haumea drastically revised reality again at the next conjunction (1879-1919, exact in 1903) when Albert Einstein published his radical ideas on relativity in 1905. Einstein's Theory of Relativity dethroned Newton's universe of gravitational force, replacing it with curved spacetime. The imminent Neptune-Makemake and Neptune-Haumea oppositions should do the same, replace or enhance Einstein's universe with a cosmic revelation that might initially unsettle and perplex, but in time prove its enduring value.

Expect this change to unfold as Neptune opposite Makemake signals illumination or resistance to a dramatic development. Neptune conjunct Eris suggests some outsider component. That makes sense, as Tarnas proposed a new universe to emerge, and without something different involved, what will

# Tarnas COSMOS Epochs Inclusive of Dwarf Planets

Fig. 4:  
2000-2100



Modern Planets Like Message  
 plus Sedna form Newton's breakthrough  
 Minor Grand Trine prep work (like *Principia*)

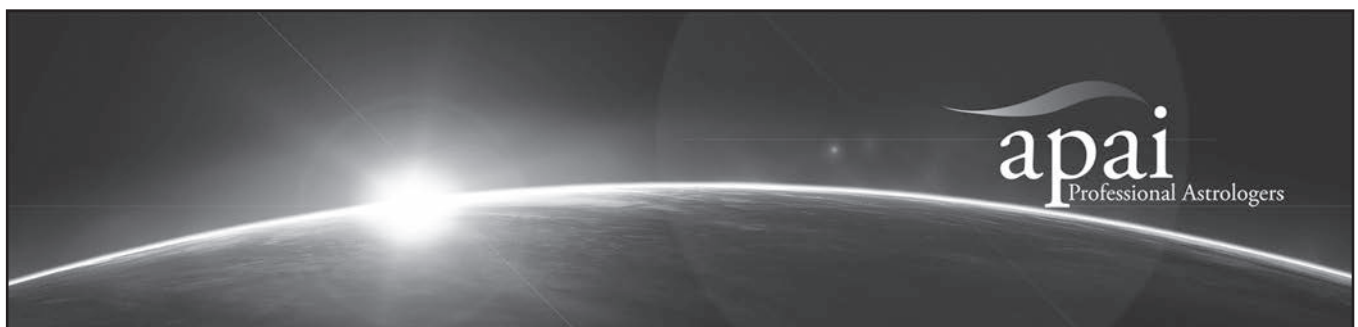
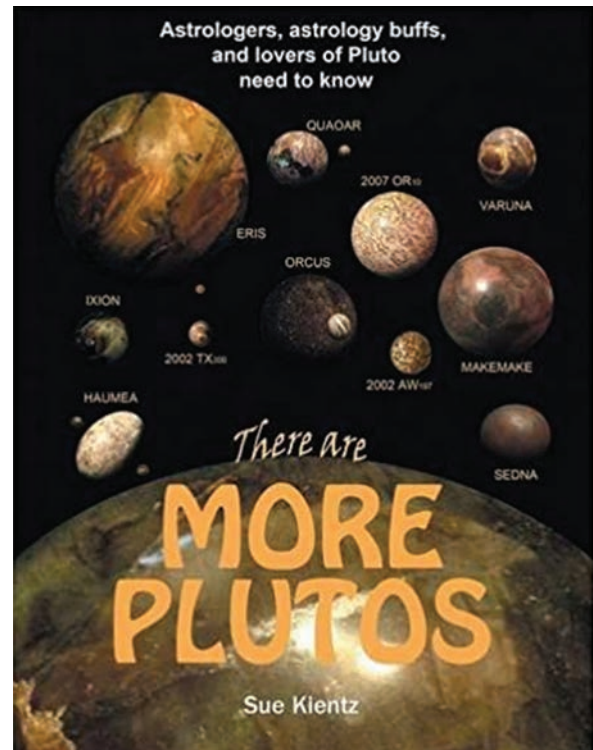


be new? Will astrology, as it has been practised, be enough for a grand redefinition? Could the use of the dwarf planets be the difference?

As you can see, they best pinpoint the epochs of Copernicus' revolutionary achievement and the later milestones on the way to its full acceptance. What else might the dwarfs reveal that could convince our dear Muggles of astrology's truth? I encourage all astrologers to try them out and see.



Sue Kientz specialises in astrology's mid-sized planetary bodies, the largest asteroids and most massive trans-Neptunian dwarf planets Eris, Makemake, Haumea and others discovered this century. Her experience of researching the last led to her book *More Plutos* which received a 2016 eLit Award. *More Plutos* also discusses resonance and fractals which can explain how astrology works. Sue is currently working on a general-reader book that explains how dwarf planets are astrology's great breakthrough, equivalent to what micro-organisms did for medicine. Read more on the dwarfs at [MorePlutos.com](http://MorePlutos.com), via Facebook ([www.facebook.com/MorePlutos](http://www.facebook.com/MorePlutos)) or e-mail [Sue@MorePlutos.com](mailto:Sue@MorePlutos.com).



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