



Sedna

treasure

Imagine being responsible for naming something as special as a celestial object, especially one with an unusual orbit extending far out into the invisible Oort cloud. That was the challenge facing its discoverer, Caltech astronomer Mike Brown, in 2003. The object, provisionally labeled 2003 VB₁₂, was found to orbit our Sun about every 11,400 years.¹ So, the last time this ~995-meter-diameter rock² was in the same spot in our heavens, Earth's humanoid inhabitants were just emerging from the late Stone Age. Some primitive cultures were starting to domesticate plants and animals, but the majority still survived by hunting and gathering. Any historical record was thousands of years in the future. This object's "year" in effect encompassed all of human achievement, since during that singular period we moved from using stone tools to launching interstellar probes. The magnitude of such a huge circumnavigation boggles the mind. What could you focus on as being a worthy name for something that potentially has "seen it all"?

Fortunately, Brown's capacity for naming such objects has proven to be truly phenomenal, and even in this daunting case, he was inspired. His imagination hit on one unique aspect of this new world's elongated path. Considering the farthest point of its orbit, he thought of how cold it would be.³ He decided to look for a name in the myths of people who lived at or near the Earth's poles, and this led him to the gripping, sad, yet redemptive story of the Inuit creator goddess, Sedna.

A Myth of Suffering and Surprising Reward

Sedna's myth comes down to us through generations of Inuit storytellers, and consequently the story has many variations. Even so, each telling of Sedna's tale leads to a core predicament of deprivation, suffering, and extreme brutality, followed by a magically uplifting resolution. Let's first examine the details of Sedna's story and see how it might assist us in grasping its symbolic meaning.

There are two main versions of the Inuit goddess's myth. In one, Sedna is the daughter of two giants, and she herself grows to mammoth proportions.⁴ She becomes impossible to care for, because she has an enormous appetite and requires

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by Sue Kientz

massive amounts of food. Then one day, her parents wake up to find her eating their legs. Now desperate, the two put Sedna in a kayak, paddle out to sea, and throw her overboard. As they leave, feeling a bit guilty, their kayak starts behaving erratically. To their horror, their giant daughter's large hand has risen from the sea and grabbed the boat. Terrified, the parents take their paddles and chop at her huge fingers, which break off and float down into the deep. There, the fingers transform into seals, walruses, salmon, and other sea creatures. Sedna swims down to the ocean floor where the fish build her a shelter. She becomes a protector of all sea life, a personage to whom Inuit hunters pray, asking her to release her sea brethren to them for sustenance.

The second and perhaps more frequently told version portrays Sedna as a young Inuit girl who is not ready to marry. Various explanations are given for her reluctance: She's a vain beauty who thinks no suitor is good enough for her;⁵ she doesn't want to leave her poor, widowed father;⁶ she would rather marry a dog;⁷ she desires wealth and comfort and is therefore waiting for someone rich who can provide such a lifestyle.⁸ In this Young Girl variant, her father is her only parent, and he grows tired of her excuses. She is either forced to finally marry "the next person who shows up" or wooed by a mysterious hunter who promises her fabulous riches and comfort, winning her consent. In any event, the stranger takes her away to his abode, and this is where the trouble starts and almost every account of the Young Girl version intersects.

Sedna finds herself in a desolate place with no real shelter or basic necessities. Her husband turns out to be a bird spirit in disguise who will bring her only raw fish to eat. After suffering in these inhospitable conditions for a while, essentially isolated and alone, she either cries out for her father, who hears her distress, or her father happens to visit and see the dire situation. Sedna begs him to take her home. Her father agrees, and they leave in his kayak. In some versions, he kills the bird-husband.

On the voyage home, Sedna and her father are followed — either by the enraged bird-husband or (in versions where he is killed) his bird allies. The pursuing birds flap their wings to kick up a terrible storm. Now fearing for his life, the father throws Sedna overboard, sacrificing her so that he can escape. Sedna grasps the edge of the kayak to pull herself back in, but the father, still panicked, either uses a paddle to hit her fingers (which break off, since they are frozen from the icy waters) or he cuts them off with his knife. The severed body parts, just as in the Giant version, float away as they magically change into seals, walruses, and sea lions. Sedna, too, sinks into the deep but does not die. Instead, she becomes a goddess or leader of the ocean's multitudinous life forms.

This dark tale is as somber as it is somehow finally serene. The ending isn't "happy" but rather metes out a powerful divine recompense. The harsh violence of her treatment is extreme and repulsive, and yet I find, after examining more than a thousand natal and event charts, that Sedna's myth strikes exactly the right note to reveal this dwarf planet's meaning. Let's delve further into this uncomfortable tale so that you can begin to grasp Sedna's unique significance.

One might dismiss the Giant version as an attempt to justify the cruel treatment Sedna receives at the hands of her parents. Peel its vastly different introduction away, and you are at the focal incident of Sedna's being thrown off the kayak. This pivotal event has an important function, since it is in every version, and will be discussed in a moment.

In the numerous ways that the Young Girl version begins, all show her procrastinating. She refuses all suitors for one reason or another, until a crisis occurs: She is forced to relent, either by another's decree or when presented with an irresistible choice. But this transition leads to a worse situation: Sedna effectively loses every good thing she ever had. She endures an extraordinary lack of basic creature comforts and is even forced to eat raw fish, which repulses her. You might argue that Giant Sedna suffers privation at a similar juncture in that version, as she is voraciously hungry and her parents cannot adequately feed her. The words "lack" and "privation" cue

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us that there may be a Saturn cast to Sedna's predicament, in either case. Because Saturn is the farthest visible planet in our solar family, and Sedna the farthest orbiting planetoid, some correspondence might well be indicated. But is Sedna's flavor only Saturnine, or is something else detectable?

Sedna is reluctant to commit and wants to delay marriage — more hints of a Saturn temperament. But she is moved by someone who offers her the vision of her deep desire, which isn't Saturnian but more like idealistic Neptune. She is also duped, a Neptune flaw, and she despairs and pleads for help rather than take the initiative, Neptune again. Sedna's culminating role as sea goddess who presides over all the creatures there — quite an "inclusive" boast — also suggests a Neptunian cast to her myth. Neptune is the last "bona fide" planet, as determined by science; how apt if it indeed combines with "farthest-visible" Saturn to give a unique meaning to this new, far-off realm.

And now about that boat trip. In every version of this tale, Sedna's fingers are cut off by a parent. Here she is, finally fighting for herself and taking action, but her efforts are doomed by this callous, self-serving act. Her own father prevents her from saving herself, causing her acute suffering (Neptune) and seemingly certain death (Saturn). But that's when something magical happens: Her fingers become living things. Her dismembered body does not die but morphs into something majestic and wonderful, a goddess of the oceanic deep. Her suffering has benefic consequences, just when all seems lost. As she descends, she is uplifted to divine status.

You could also read the situation as a parent (Saturn) ejecting her from society (Saturn bounds the known community), but this catapults her into a larger group (Neptune) that accepts and fulfills her, making her their great mother goddess.

Writer Megan Crouch sees Sedna as reminiscent of Jesus and Hercules/Heracles, in that extreme suffering transforms

them into gods (referring to Jesus' crucifixion and Hercules' poisoned tunic).⁹ She wonders how Sedna qualifies for such exalted status, since the other two were progeny of gods and therefore simply achieved their birthright. Crouch offers ideas of what could drive Sedna's "survival," such as sheer willpower or positive rage — but why look further than that Sedna earns apotheosis because of the severity of her anguish? Isn't this reminiscent of the Buddha, a prince who gave up everything to meditate on what was really important? His realization was that all desire causes suffering and that to ultimately conquer worldly suffering leads to the supreme state of all, Nirvana.¹⁰ Jesus doesn't simply "pay" for his divinity with suffering but rather accepts it to remove the sins of mankind and bring the promise of Heaven. This shows that vastly different cultures associate protracted suffering with immense reward.

Suffering is undoubtedly a centerpiece of Sedna's myth, as the situation she endures at the kayak is horrendous. For that reason, Sedna's encounter seems less your garden-variety Saturn or Neptune transit, and more like a double-barreled Saturn–Neptune catastrophe. Her severed body parts (Saturn) and abandonment at sea (Neptune) act as a crucible that transmutes the dross of her life into an exalted existence. And consider this synchronicity: Combine the initial syllables of Saturn and Neptune, Sat-Ne, and you almost pronounce Sedna's very name.

All such happy coincidences aside, if Saturn and Neptune are indicated, why would a persistent application of the traits of two "negative" gas giants garner a significant reward? One might venture that, because of the passive natures of these two planets, people exhibiting Saturn and Neptune qualities or themes achieve their aspirations only by sustained, long-term effort. A strong Mars- or Jupiter-themed person might suddenly get rich by winning a prizefight or singing a hit song, and while such feats aren't easy, a quick payoff is possible when one can assert oneself. Enterprises involving more people or larger concerns require time and persistence. And then there are the colossal achievements. If your aim is to defeat a pervasive prejudice, beat a severely isolating or fatal disease, or institute the first democracy, those objectives are nigh impossible. To pull any of those off is the equivalent of driving a bus the size of the planet with everybody on board, and attempting a hard left turn. You won't succeed unless you drive super-Sedna slow, with loads of patience (Saturn) and a lot of faith (Neptune).

If planetary Sedna indeed melds Saturn's and Neptune's traits, we should expect those with Sedna contacts to prove resolute and visionary on the upside, inflexible and unrealistic on the downside. Those who stick to the high road just might realize their wildest dreams. The others risk nightmarish results.

Below are the stories of people whose lives demonstrate these sometimes awful, sometimes wonderful attributes — each person a testament to natal Sun configured with Sedna. Also note how, at times, Sedna's presence can even bring an actual chill, as if confirming Dr. Brown's original intuition that his faraway discovery had much to do with the cold.

Sedna's Glyph

A stylized rendering of the first syllable of the Inuit word "Sedna" is often used for its symbol.



However, this author believes that her alternate design better captures Sedna's Saturn–Neptune meaning.



This glyph is both an upside-down Neptune lacking the middle prong and a Saturn symbol with a centered "emptied" cup, rather than a hopeful Crescent Moon. Also suggested is the desolate cross on Calvary.

Extraordinary Patience Leads to Fantastic Results

Howard Carter, with natal Sun (18° Taurus) semi-square Sedna (2° Aries),¹¹ was the discoverer of the Tomb of King Tutankhamen. Carter specifically believed that the boy king's tomb, which no one had ever found, perhaps still contained its treasures, and he toiled for years to find it. His work was sponsored by **George Herbert**, the 5th Earl of Carnarvon (Cancer Sun square Sedna in early Aries), who had financed various excavations since 1907. By 1921, though, Carnarvon told Carter that the next season would be his last. Luckily, that was the year Carter found a promising tomb entry, and he wrote Carnarvon to come at once; however, this meant a month's delay while Carnarvon sailed from England to Egypt.

On November 26, 1922, with Lord Carnarvon by his side, Carter chipped through the entry, peered inside, and saw "wonderful things." But this was just the antechamber — the royal sarcophagus was guessed to be behind a sealed door beyond. Nevertheless, Carter did not rush the cataloguing of the antechamber, but spent months documenting its contents. On February 16, 1923,¹² with the Sun at 26° Aquarius semi-square Sedna at 14° Aries, Carter was ready to open the royal sepulchral chamber.

Once inside, Carter found a heavy stone sarcophagus filling the room. King Tut's coffin was not visible but sealed inside the massive structure. Not until January 3, 1924,¹³ when the Sun in Capricorn was square Sedna, did Carter finally penetrate the outer stone enclosure and several protective coffins, to reveal the solid-gold coffin containing Tutankhamen's richly adorned death mask and mummy. Only a Sedna temperament could have had the infinite patience to properly handle such a spectacular, historic find.

Winston Churchill had natal Sun (7°43' Sagittarius) trine Sedna (1°36' Aries). While growing up, Churchill had difficulty reading and writing. Yet this was the man who, after being drummed out of government in the 1930s, wrote the four-volume *History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, which contributed to his winning the Nobel Prize in Literature.¹⁴ Churchill also suffered from an embarrassing lisp that he worked assiduously to minimize. Yet this was the man who rallied all of Britain against the Nazis during World War II by delivering the most memorable and oft-quoted speeches.

While other politicians acquiesced to Hitler's demands and threats, once Churchill came to power as prime minister, he insisted that the British never relent. To the boys of Harrow School, he said, "Never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense."¹⁵ Speaking in the House of Commons in 1940,

he said, "[W]e shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender ..."¹⁶ And in spite of the punishing Blitzkrieg that Germany rained down on the British, they did not give up. Churchill's steadfast nature was instrumental to the Allies' winning the war.

If Churchill's most intense "kayak moment" was the Battle of Britain, his ocean kingdom was the saving of Europe, maybe even Western civilization. Churchill died on January 24, 1965 at 8:02 a.m. in London, England,¹⁷ as the Sun at 4°08' Aquarius squaring Sedna (28°42' Aries) echoed his natal Sedna theme of dedication and resolve.

For years, astronomer **Edwin Hubble** (Sun at 29°06' Scorpio trine Sedna at 5°05' Aries) sat in the bitter cold observing room at Mt. Wilson's 100-inch Hooker telescope,¹⁸ looking for proof that the universe was more than just our Milky Way galaxy. Back then, what we now recognize as other galaxies were called "nebulae" and thought to be areas of dust and gas relatively close by. On October 6, 1923,¹⁹ with the Sun in Libra opposing Sedna in Aries, Hubble spot-

ted a special type of star flaring in M31, the Andromeda nebula. The star was a Cepheid variable, a type so predictable in behavior that astronomers can calculate its distance with remarkable accuracy. Hubble did the math and realized that the nebula the star was inside was almost a million light years away — far outside the boundaries of our Milky Way.

Hubble then experienced the equivalent of a big bang in his brain as he realized that those blurry nebulae so far away were probably "island universes" — galaxies full of stars just like our own — and what he thought was the size of the cosmos was exponentially bigger. Hubble's dogged determination led him to uncover an unfathomably greater reality, *the Universe!*

Steadfast through the Worst Times

Sedna's disturbing story has led to other theories. Astrologer Richard Brown's reaction to Sedna's myth was to propose that Sedna is a victim, and Sedna's theme one of victimization.²⁰ Perhaps sometimes that is true, but as we've seen, the bedrock of Sedna is something deeper: more of a solid determination, perhaps even a willingness to suffer when committed to achieving something precious. In the following examples, none of these individuals was a victim, but all were devoted to something for which they were prepared to sacrifice themselves.

Shah Jahan, whose Sun (14° Capricorn) was semi-square Sedna (26° Aquarius), was the fifth Mughal emperor of India and exceptionally devoted to his favorite wife, Mumtaz

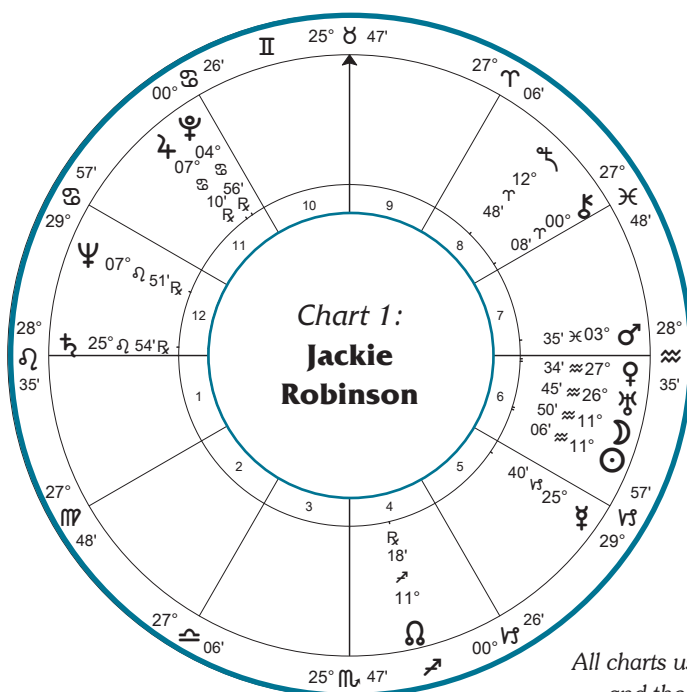
Sedna is often found when a terrible disaster happens, and once in motion, there's nothing to be done but let it be — as mythic Sedna herself was forced to do.

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Mahal. When she died in childbirth on June 17, 1631,²¹ with the Sun at 25° Gemini trine Sedna at 0° Pisces, Jahan was inconsolable. At the time of her passing, Jahan's progressed Sun at 24° Aquarius was conjunct progressed Sedna, and because Sedna moved very slowly then, its transiting position in very early Pisces was still semi-square Jahan's natal Sun. He mourned for two years, refraining from all luxuries, continually crying, so distraught that his beard turned white.²² He could have tried to forget, to distract himself in many ways, but he waited out his grief. Acceptance came when Jahan resolved to build his beloved a fabulous resting place, a huge undertaking that became the Taj Mahal. The magnificent mausoleum and grounds took 17 years to build and is still a marvel today. His cherished wife, like Sedna, finally had the wondrous kingdom he felt that she deserved.

Jackie Robinson had the Sun and Moon at 11° Aquarius sextile Sedna at 12°48' Aries. (See **Chart 1**, below.) He successfully broke baseball's color barrier in April 1947, in no small part because he promised Dodgers manager Branch Rickey not to retaliate against any verbal abuse anticipated from fans or other ballplayers. His calm acceptance of the terrible insults had a powerful impact on the public and even on fellow players born in the segregated South, who ended up rejecting such behavior. Jackie's sacrifice enabled more African-American players to sign with other teams soon afterward.

Robinson died on October 24, 1972 at 7:10 a.m. in Stamford, Connecticut,²³ with the Sun at 1° Scorpio opposed Sedna at 2° Taurus confirming his Sedna role. The achievement of integrated baseball was the opening of a brave new world in American sports, a dream come true not just for a few but for all baseball fans, as well as lovers of equality everywhere.



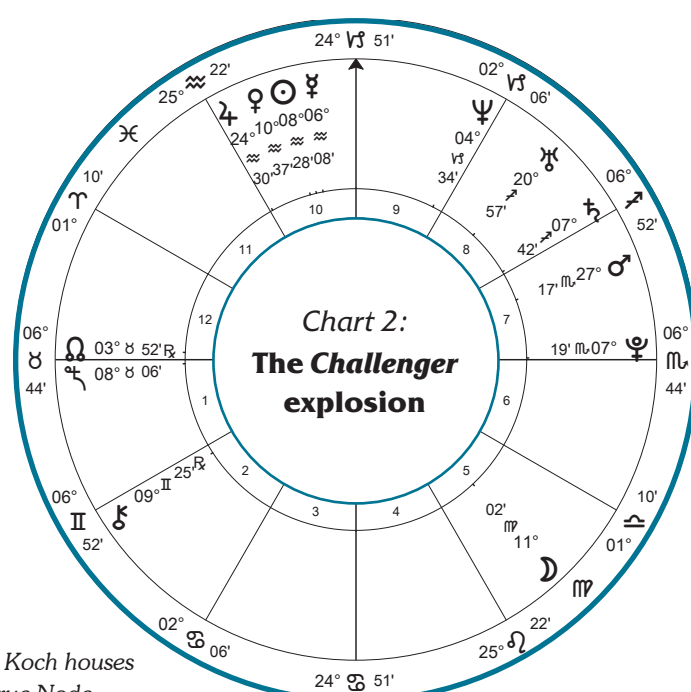
George Washington, with natal Sun (3° Pisces) conjunct Sedna (9° Pisces), sacrificed a rich, comfortable existence on his Virginia plantation to volunteer his service against the British in the Revolutionary War.²⁴ He endured many deprivations along with his troops, especially when wintering at Valley Forge, where 2,000 died, mostly from exposure and disease.²⁵ After the war, he could have retired to Virginia, but Congress unanimously elected him the first American president. Washington died on December 14, 1799,²⁶ as the Sun at 23° Sagittarius squared Sedna at 18° Pisces, resounding his natal theme.

Washington's greatest achievement wasn't any one battle, or even his restraint in only serving two presidential terms, but the entire enterprise of the United States of America, which he fostered with dedicated service. The U.S. July 4, 1776 chart shows a benefic Sun-Sedna placement, with the Cancer Sun trine Pisces Sedna.

The Saddest Events Include Sedna

Sedna is often found when a terrible disaster happens, and once in motion, there's nothing to be done but let it be — as mythic Sedna herself was forced to do in the end. In each of the cases below, the Sun and Sedna relate in a troublesome square or sesquiquadrate.

The **Challenger shuttle explosion** took place on January 28, 1986, with the Sun at 8° Aquarius square Sedna at 8° Taurus. (See **Chart 2**, below.) An estimated 17 percent of Americans witnessed this calamity via live TV²⁷ — including many schoolchildren, since teacher **Christa McAuliffe** (Sun at 10°28' Virgo sesquiquadrate Sedna at 23°14' Aries) was on board to teach a lesson from space. The cause of the shuttle's explosion was later determined to be the cold. O-rings on the solid rocket boosters weren't designed to withstand temperatures as low as 18° F. When one of those critical barriers



All charts use Koch houses and the True Node.

broke, the craft exploded, and ship and crew plunged into the sea, achingly reminiscent of mythic Sedna's ordeal.

The **Columbia shuttle disaster** of February 1, 2003 occurred when the Sun at 12° Aquarius was square Sedna at 17° Taurus. NASA knew that foam shedding off of the solid rocket boosters could damage the space shuttle's tiles during launch. Finally, this type of damage caused a breach of the hull during re-entry. Freezing cold atmosphere rushed in and led to the vehicle's breaking up, which killed the crew.

On December 26, 2004, the world witnessed the **Indian Ocean 9.3 earthquake and tsunami**, with the Sun at 4° Capricorn sesquiquadrate Sedna at 18° Taurus. This massive catastrophe killed more than a quarter of a million people, and millions in 18 countries became homeless.²⁸ The surging ocean literally tore people from the shore and dragged them out to sea, in an awful resemblance to Sedna's fate.

China's **Tangshan 7.5 earthquake** happened on July 28, 1976, with the Sun at 5° Leo square Sedna at 5° Taurus. As many as 655,000 people died, and nearly 800,000 were injured from the main quake and powerful aftershocks. The large city of Tangshan was mostly flattened, its people buried.

Sedna and Illness

Debilitating sickness can begin a Sedna-themed person's life, or strike in the midst of success. In the following cases, these individuals play out variations of the Sedna theme as they exert extraordinary patience and acceptance, which leads to sometimes unexpected but, in each case, happy rewards.

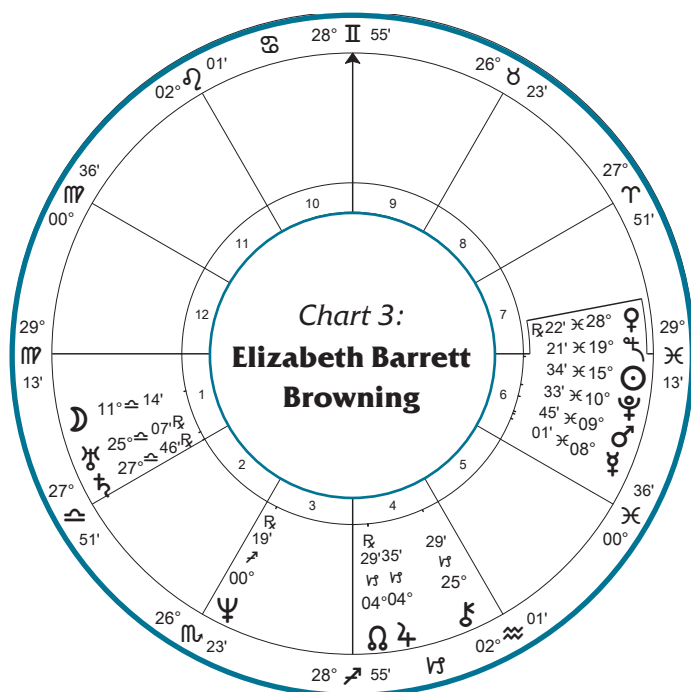
Stephen Hawking was born with the Sun at 17° Capricorn square Sedna at 20° Aries. Since young adulthood, this physicist's severe case of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) has relegated him to a mostly cut-off existence inside his own body. Yet he found that the isolation of his disease gave him the invaluable gift of being able to think about physics uninterrupted for long periods,²⁹ his intellect thriving in the equiv-

alent of Sedna's fruitful yet secluded domain. In this way, Hawking successfully theorized many remarkable properties of black holes. He even wrote a best-selling book, composing it two or three words a minute.³⁰ *A Brief History of Time* was published in 1988³¹ as Hawking's progressed Sun at 4° Pisces was semi-square progressed Sedna at 20° Aries, indicative of the patience the book's composition required.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, whose Sun conjoined Sedna in Pisces, became ill as a teenager, afflicted with a condition that doctors could never diagnose. (See **Chart 3**.) Already a prolific writer, she rarely left her home, due to her health and her father's overprotectiveness. She seemed to fully accept her situation, to live happily with her family, a spinster to the end of her days. But then she met fellow poet and admirer Robert Browning. The two fell in love but were prevented from marrying by her father, who disliked Browning. Barrett and Browning eloped on September 12, 1846,³² as the Sun at 19° Virgo opposed Sedna at 26° Pisces; they fled to Italy where Elizabeth's health improved.

Elizabeth's early years have a strong Sedna flavor because of her isolating illness and her father's forbidding her to reach out and grasp life with both hands. But with Robert's help, she escaped to what must have seemed a wondrous paradise — seaside Italy, with its temperate climate and natural beauty — to enjoy a life of love and motherhood, like Sedna in her fertile oceanic realm.

Helen Keller was born on June 27, 1880, with the Sun at 6° Cancer square Sedna at 3° Aries. Blind and deaf since age two due to an illness, Keller was unable to communicate with her parents and consequently became an isolated,



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uncooperative child. The family engaged teacher Anne Sullivan for help, who insisted that she be given complete control of Helen, away from the family. Sullivan fought Helen's tantrums while teaching her to repeat finger gestures, which were letters in the alphabet for the deaf. Helen finally made the vital connection between things and words when Sullivan spelled out the word "water" into Helen's one hand as water ran over the other. Sullivan's extraordinary persistence and patience broke through Helen's sensory wall and set her on the way to communicating with the outside world.

Against great odds, and almost exclusively through the agency of "fingers" (reminiscent of that key element in Sedna's myth), Keller surmounted her disability's severe isolation and found the new, grander world that lay around her.

Magic Johnson, who has the Sun at 20° Leo trine Sedna at 27° Aries, won five NBA basketball championships with the Los Angeles Lakers in the 1980s. But his phenomenal success was cut short when, on November 7, 1991, he announced his retirement because he had been diagnosed with the HIV virus,³³ as the Sun at 15° Scorpio opposed Sedna at 11° Taurus. Vowing to beat the dreaded disease, which at the time was considered a death sentence, Magic threw himself into a demanding regimen of exercise and experimental drug cocktails. The early detection of the disease and his unwavering commitment to regaining his health resulted in a stunning turnaround. By 1997, the virus was at undetectable levels in his blood.³⁴ Magic is a successful businessman and HIV activist more than 20 years after his diagnosis, and his life is a bright beacon of hope for others similarly afflicted.

The Agony of Sedna

The following individuals show two vastly different sides of a difficult Sedna placement: One is a depraved father, whose Sun-Sedna conjunction manifests as an affliction, since he horribly abused his own daughter for many years; and the other, a hotshot pilot with the Sun and Sedna in the less difficult (but still problematic) sesquiquadrate, who braved torture and imprisonment as a POW.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning's early years have a strong Sedna flavor because of her isolating illness and her father's forbidding her to grasp life with both hands.

Josef Fritzl, who has the Sun closely conjunct Sedna at 18° Aries, virtually re-enacted the worst of the Sedna myth in his brutal treatment of his daughter, Elisabeth. He imprisoned her for 24 years in a cellar, cutting her off from her family and a normal life. Not only did she suffer like Sedna, forced by her father into a windowless underworld and left alone, often in darkness, Elisabeth was also raped repeatedly. She gave birth multiple times, producing seven children in this stifling, cramped space, without painkillers or medical assistance.³⁵

Fritzl's life (Sun) revolved around this suffering daughter (Sedna), whose ordeal appears a cruel parody of the myth, with her being trapped in a sealed-off underworld and spawning creatures from her ravaged body.

John McCain was born with the Sun at 6°24' Virgo sesquiquadrate Sedna at 19°02' Aries. During the Vietnam War, McCain was shot down over Hanoi on October 26, 1967, when the Sun at 2° Scorpio opposed Sedna at 0° Taurus. Injured in the crash and then beaten by Vietnamese villagers, McCain was imprisoned and tortured, suffering extreme deprivation over five years of incarceration. Still, he persevered, even refusing a propaganda-motivated offer of release. Once he was freed, McCain recuperated and later ran for and won the U.S. Senate seat in Arizona, where he has served for many decades.³⁶

Certainly, his "kayak experience" was his capture and imprisonment — but few could have imagined the new life McCain would lead afterward: a long career in Congress and two runs for U.S. president. The touch of Sedna remains, as his injuries still plague him, and he has endured the agony of losing both of his presidential bids.

All We Need Is Sedna

Sedna has traveled a long path to its current position. Aphelion, or its farthest point from the Sun, came thousands of years ago, and perihelion, its closest approach to our Sun, won't happen until 2081. Until the 19th century, if you were born with Sedna aspecting personal planets, Sedna hardly moved in transit, so you were stuck with it in virtually the same spot your entire life (see Shah Jahan, above). With Sedna now traveling faster, those who have a natal Sedna contact get a break as it moves away, signaling an opportunity to conquer whatever trial Sedna represented in their life. Conversely, those who didn't have a Sedna contact at birth will get a dose of its harsh reality in transit. There is a silver lining to this, since going through some hardship often produces compassion. If more people experience Sedna, that could produce more compassionate people, which the world desperately needs.

This last incident involving Sedna depicts a time when the entire world came together with prayers and fervent well wishes for three men in severe danger, who were truly far from home.

In April 1970, as the Sun in late Aries was nearing conjunction with Sedna in early Taurus, the **Apollo 13** mission ran into serious trouble. A short-circuit in an oxygen tank on the spacecraft caused a huge problem that nearly cost the lives of three astronauts on their way to the Moon. Engineers at NASA's Mission Control worked frantically for days to figure

out a solution to bring the men back alive. Meanwhile, the astronauts suffered from extreme cold, since they were forced to cut back on power. A critical course correction had to be performed manually, making their return that much more in doubt.³⁷ The high-stakes drama played out in the media, so by the time the capsule was approaching re-entry, millions all over the world were collectively holding their breath, praying that the crew would beat the odds. Parisian newspaper *Le Monde* wrote, "The whole human race is participating with them in the agony of their return."³⁸ As the time for their re-entry came and went, the worst was feared. A long minute-and-a-half later, the craft splashed down, and the men were safely recovered.³⁹ This successful return took place on April 17, 1970, with the Sun at 27°18' Aries conjunct Sedna at 1°25' Taurus.

These men were in the ultimate desperate situation, close to being marooned in space. But the determination and resolve of so many helped them to drop down into the greatest oceanic realm around: planet Earth.

Chart Data and Sources

(in alphabetical order)

Note: All data for events come from various Internet/news sources.

Apollo 13 returns, April 17, 1970; 6:07 p.m. CST; Houston, TX, USA.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, March 6, 1806; 7:00 p.m. LMT; Killoe, England; B: biography; Ruth Hale Oliver quotes Dorothy Hambate, *A Life*.

Howard Carter, May 9, 1874; London, England; X: date without a time; source: www.biography.com/people/howard-carter-20683395

Challenger shuttle explosion, January 28, 1986; 11:39 a.m. EST; Cape Canaveral, FL, USA.

Winston Churchill, November 30, 1874; 1:30 a.m. GMT; Woodstock, England; A: John Addey quotes father's letter, *Astrological Journal*, 1967.

Columbia shuttle disaster, February 1, 2003; 7:59 a.m. CST; Austin, TX, USA.

Josef Fritzl, April 9, 1935; Amstetten, Austria; X: time unknown; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fritzl_case

Stephen Hawking, January 8, 1942; 10:08:30 a.m. GDT; London, England; C: date in media, time unknown (rectified by Starkman).

George Herbert, June 26, 1866; Highclere Castle, England; X: www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/96255/George-Edward-Stanhope-Molyneux-Herbert-5th-earl-of-Carnarvon

Edwin Hubble, November 20, 1889; 11:45 p.m. CST; Marshfield, MO, USA; B: Marc Penfield quotes Gale E. Christianson, *Edwin Hubble: Mariner of the Nebulae*, Harper-Collins, 1995, p. 13: "Born near midnight on the 20th."

Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, December 26, 2004; 12:58 a.m. UTC; Banda Aceh, Indonesia; http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/eq_depot/2004/eq_041226/neic_slav_nr.html

Shah Jahan, January 5, 1592; Lahore, Pakistan; X: www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/537671/Shah-Jahan

Earvin "Magic" Johnson, August 14, 1959; Lansing, MI, USA; X: data from public media; time unknown.

Helen Keller, June 27, 1880; 4:02 a.m. LMT; Tuscumbia, AL, USA; DD: various times given.

Christa McAuliffe, September 2, 1948; 10:13 p.m. EDT; Boston, MA, USA; AA: birth certificate in hand from Frances McEvoy.

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John McCain, August 29, 1936; 6:25 p.m. EST; Colón, Panama; AA: copy of birth certificate online.

Jackie Robinson, January 31, 1919; 6:30 p.m. CST; Cairo, GA, USA; B: from autobiography written with C. Rowan, *Wait 'til Next Year*, 1961, p. 18.

Tangshan 7.5 earthquake, July 28, 1976; 3:42 a.m. Local Time; Tangshan, China; http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/world/events/1976_07_27_eib.php

George Washington, February 22, 1732 NS (New Style); 10:00 a.m. LMT; Colonial Beach, VA, USA; AA: birth record from family Bible.

References and Notes

(All URLs, here and in the Chart Data above, were accessed in October and November 2014.)

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Editor's Note: This article is excerpted from the author's upcoming book, *More Plutos*.

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Sue Kientz began studying the astrological signs in 1977 as a way to learn more about symbolism in literature. Originally skeptical that astrology could have any value, she was intrigued by the results. Sue has always included the large asteroids in her chart work, and sees the dwarf planets as the finishing touches astrology needs to show that Time has actual (and often very beautiful) patterns and features. A technical writer, Sue lives with her

boyfriend and four dogs in Pasadena, California. Her website is: www.moreplutos.com; Twitter: @moreplutos

Update to Astrology-Themed Treasures

This is an update to last issue's AstroGift Guide.

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