

Dwarf Planets: More than Meaningful

by Sue Kientz

As we near the 15th anniversary of the "advent" of Dwarf Planets in our solar system, more astrologers are looking at these significantly large bodies to determine their meaning. The largest Dwarf Planet, as everyone knows, is Pluto, and in July 2005 we found it has a twin in size, later named Eris. Lesser appreciated have been Makemake and Haumea, discoveries announced at the same time as Eris, both about two-thirds the size of Pluto.

Many people wrongly think Dwarf Planets are like asteroids and consider them insignificant. It's true that the Kuiper Belt where most reside is basically another asteroid belt. But Dwarf Planets are potent, and they don't have to be as big as Pluto to work dynamically in charts. That said, it's true that the larger they are, the more impactful. Their relative sizes are:

- Same size as Pluto (Eris)
- 2/3rds Pluto (Haumea, Makemake)
- 1/2 Pluto (Gonggong, Quaoar)
- >1/3rd Pluto (Sedna, Ceres, Orcus, 2002 MS4, Varda, Salacia)
- >1/4th Pluto (2002 AW197, Ixion, Varuna)

To compare, the largest asteroids are 1/5th Pluto's size, and Chiron, less than a 1/10th! The latter detail should startle all astrologers into reconsidering these new-fangled Dwarf Planets.

But how to pierce the veil on their astrological meaning? Most astrologers wait until the object is officially named, then probe the name's mythology. That's certainly a good start, but the myth is unlikely to apply entirely. Look at the example of other planets. The main story of Uranus involves a god castrated by his son, yet we do not predict Sun/Uranus natives are castrated or will sexually mutilate others. There are no machines or futuristic stories involving Uranus. Only his being a sky god gives you the clue of the planet's intellectual and forward-thinking significance. Even the myths of classical planets do not wholly translate to astrological meaning. Saturn swallowed his children. Do we expect a Saturn transit to lead to such an act? You might insist that's metaphorical for time and aging, and I agree.

Similarly, one must locate that kernel of metaphor in a Dwarf's myth and test it in charts to uncover some core essence with positive and negative aspects. One must examine hundreds if not thousands of charts, both nativities and events. The same meaning should arise when Dwarfs transit personal planets, and work similarly in secondary progression. It's a powerful confirmation to see Dwarfs in major aspect with a natal planet, form other major aspects in transit or progression, at milestones that reflect your interpretation. Dwarf Planets also make long-lasting aspects with other Dwarfs and ice giants, so their combined meaning must represent a grand influence, some lasting decades.

Another tactic is to calculate their resonance with the outer giants. Pluto orbits twice for every three Neptune orbits, meaning Neptune and Pluto have a relationship that Neptune orchestrates. So when a Sun/Pluto person uses deceptive methods we consider "Plutonian" to get the upper hand, that trait is equally "Neptunian," observable even if you lacked Pluto's name or myth. You can compute the resonances of the Dwarfs with the giant planets to see these influences, to confirm a suspected meaning, even if the Dwarf is unnamed. For

example, the largest unnamed body in the solar system, 2002 MS4, may never be named, as discoverer Mike Brown has said he is not interested in doing so, despite its size of ~960km, as he finds nothing that motivates him to name it.* Yet MS4 is found prominent in the charts of intellects like Einstein, Newton, Goethe, Oppenheimer, and Feigenbaum, and marks milestones in knowledge acquisition in transit and secondary progression. MS4 currently opposes the USA Sun, as great minds race to produce a coronavirus vaccine. More than myths must guide this important interpretive work.

Each Dwarf's position in the Kuiper Belt also provides valuable clues, as they group together in "rings." Pluto has two large orbital companions, Orcus moving slightly faster (247 years) interior to Pluto (248 years) and Ixion orbiting slower (250 years), farther out from Pluto. I've found inner companions operate in a more conservative manner than the larger body (i.e., Pluto), while the outers exhibit a revolutionary style. The inner being Saturnian and the outer Uranian is actually confirmed by resonances to those giants. Thus Orcus asserts its power by conforming to and insisting on rules and desiring order. Ixion grabs power by breaking rules, which jives well with the Ixion myth. "Orcus" is another name for Pluto or Hades, making it difficult to pinpoint its meaning, but once you see it pop up in charts of celebrities known for obsessive-compulsive behavior, or ballplayers famous for pre-game rituals, you might look for Orcus in other charts of those who plan well, like to organize, or take love of order to overbearing heights. In the end the name fits perfectly: the Devil is in the details.

Like Pluto and its orbital cohorts, Haumea, Makemake, and Eris also have substantial-sized companions with orbital periods similar to theirs, but traveling in other signs and at different speeds, as all move in elongated paths.

Such strategies helped inform my book *More Plutos*, which defines 11 of the largest Dwarfs. Their crucial relevance is not just to add dimension to charts, which they absolutely do, but to reveal something unexpected, exciting, and transformative. With Dwarfs added, you can see major milestones in a client's chart using EITHER transits or secondary progression. You don't have to merge both systems to derive the most significant events. Adding the Dwarfs gives incontrovertible proof that secondary progression, the day = year tactic we all use, is a fractal of the transiting pattern. A day is a natural fraction of a year, which is what a fractal is, a portion of some larger entity, where a small segment (secondary progression) is self-similar to the larger whole (transits). This explains the long-standing mystery of why secondary progression works, and in scientific terms, a huge breakthrough for our profession. What else might Dwarf Planets do for us, and our clients?

* In-person conversation (2-21-2020)

Sue Kientz, author of *More Plutos* (2015), has studied astrology since 1977, specializing in Dwarf Planets Eris, Makemake, Haumea, and others since 2008. Sue is currently writing a general-audience book on the Dwarfs, casting their addition to astrology as a breakthrough comparable to medicine's discovery of microorganisms. She is also a technical writer at Caltech, where gathering requirements is the first step in project development. Read more on Dwarf Planets and get contact info at MorePlutos.com.