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Dwarf Planet TX₃₀₀, Celestial Reporter

by Sue Kientz

When I realized in 2008 that Dwarf Planets Eris, Makemake, and Haumea were shaping up as significant astrological bodies, and this information needed to get out there, I wondered if these were the only Dwarf Planets of critical importance. While smaller, Sedna revealed itself incredibly powerful and troublesome, with challenging transits akin to Saturn and Neptune stomping on you simultaneously. Sedna was half Pluto's size, around 1000km/diameter; others similarly sized were Quaoar, Orcus, and 2002 TX₃₀₀. I decided to check out everything around that diameter, to see if more were life-and-death indicators like the Big Three, or how they fit in this brave new expanded solar system.

What I didn't appreciate then was how astronomers calculated size. If a distant orb has a discernible moon, there are reliable methods to determine mass. Since Eris, Makemake, and Haumea have moons, it's straightforward to estimate how big those Dwarfs are. But absent a moon, astronomers observe the object's brightness and conjecture how shiny the surface likely is. If the distant world is composed of dull-colored material, it might be big, but its dimness could get it rated on the small side. Conversely, if the planet is very icy, with whitish or shiny material on its face, you might think it's huge because it's so bright, when in fact it may be tiny.

The "cure" for this dilemma is observing an occultation, which is when a planet passes in front of a star while telescopes snap photos. The resulting backlight shows the object's edges and betrays its size. That happened to 2002 TX₃₀₀ after I'd written an entire chapter on it – from 1000km to 286km diameterⁱ in a literal flash! TX₃₀₀ wasn't big, just extraordinarily shiny. And yet, this made me reconsider what makes something important. TX₃₀₀ was hailing us from deep inside the Kuiper Belt, and strangely enough, the people turning up with TX₃₀₀ prominent were folks who did that for a living, who attracted lots of attention as if wearing flashy clothes or blowing a whistle. They were broadcasters – each just one person, but with an influence magnified because they were on TV or had a newspaper byline or a nationally syndicated radio show. I had to grant that size might not be everything, just like one person could have a big impact wielding a microphone or megaphone. Maybe "brightness" commands attention for good reason.

My understanding of TX₃₀₀ began after noticing that both Rush Limbaugh and Keith Olbermann, news announcers of opposing political persuasions, have natal Sun conjunct TX₃₀₀. That seemed a curiosity until I ran into Walter Cronkite, Sun (21 Scorpio 48) conjunct TX₃₀₀ (28 Scorpio 31). If a seven-degree orb bothers you, I'll address that in a moment. Walter Cronkite of CBS News is perhaps the most famous news anchor of all time. People trusted him, so much so that when he reported on February 27, 1968, that the Vietnam War looked un-winnable, President Johnson famously remarked that if he's lost Cronkite, he's lost Middle America, and so abandoned his reelection plans. At the time, Cronkite's progressed Sun (13 Capricorn 53) semi-squared p. TX₃₀₀ (0 Sagittarius 00). That wide conjunction at birth set up this key life milestone in secondary progression. Whether wide or near-exact, orbs at birth are what they are for when your big moment arrives, and those planets form similar, more perfected angles in transit or progression. Another notable TX₃₀₀ milestone was November 22, 1963, when Cronkite announced on TV that President Kennedy had died, at p. Mercury (28 Capricorn 34) sextile p. TX₃₀₀ (29 Scorpio 54) and opposite p.

Saturn (28 Cancer 31). Removing his glasses and wiping a tear, he broke the awful news (Saturn-TX₃₀₀) to America.

To be clear, the meaning of a prominent TX₃₀₀ isn't "you will be on TV or radio." One must consider what underlies the job of writing or announcing the news, or being a reporter – you take information and deliver it to others. You aren't making up reality (like writers or liars, the purview of Dwarf Planet Varuna, not coincidentally a near neighbor of TX₃₀₀). You rather package and relay information. How does that manifest with TX₃₀₀ in hard aspect or in supporting angles or contacting benefics? It's the difference between those delivering vetted information, clearly and without ulterior intent, and those who report unpopular or horrific news or have an agenda, either their own or as part of a larger propaganda effort.

I kept my chapter on TX₃₀₀ because misleading information and partisan spin were huge problems when I wrote *More Plutos*. TX₃₀₀ was in a long-term T-square with Varuna and Haumea, signifying that lies and efforts to change people using slanted stories might continue into the next administration. Yet who could even imagine Trump as president in 2014, much less how he would manhandle the press? But it's there in secondary progression: Trump's p. Sun (0 Virgo 26) sesquiquadrate p. TX₃₀₀ (16 Capricorn 03) at his Inaugural; within days he misreported his inauguration crowd size. This aspect today is only separated 2½ degrees, certainly still operative. TX₃₀₀ is essential to fathom our media-focused world.

For more people with challenging TX₃₀₀ aspects to personal planets, check the charts of Fox News anchors (past or present) or conspiracy theorists like Alex Jones. But accurately reporting facts is not just a current preoccupation. History is rife with TX₃₀₀ notables:

- **Samuel Pepys**, Mercury square TX₃₀₀, described the Great Fire of London in his journals at p. Mercury (10 Aries 40) sesquiquadrate p. TX₃₀₀ (26 Scorpio 42).
- **Winston Churchill**, Mercury semi-square TX₃₀₀, a journalist during the Boer War, reported his remarkable escape from the enemy at p. Sun (3 Capricorn 18) square p. TX₃₀₀ (2 Libra 21).
- **Anne Frank**, MercuryRx opposite TX₃₀₀, vowed in her diary to become a journalist while hiding from the Nazis. She perished in a concentration camp, but her father found and then published her diary on June 25, 1947, as her p. MercuryD (17 Gemini 00) returned opposite p. TX₃₀₀ (18 Sagittarius 46). Her observations on war and religious discrimination caught fire and became a worldwide sensation that death could not stop.

Count on "Little" TX₃₀₀ for the Big Story.

¹Still bigger than Chiron (~218km)

Sue Kientz, author of *More Plutos (2015)*, has studied astrology since 1977, and specializes in the largest Asteroids (*Pallas, Vesta*) and new Dwarf Planets (*Eris, Makemake, Haumea, Sedna, and others*). Sue has been reporting the "good news" of Dwarf Planets to astrologers via NCGR talks, Facebook posts and mentoring, and free articles and book chapters available at MorePlutos.com – all in line with natal TX₃₀₀ conjunct her ascendant, and p. TX₃₀₀ exactly opposite p. Uranus. Sue is currently working on a general audience book that casts the Dwarf Planets as astrology's great breakthrough, similar to medicine's discovery of microorganisms