

# Expanding the eras of Tarnas' cosmos

with Eris, Makemake and Haumea

Part One

Sue Kientz

It's time to take a few dwarf planets into account to add eras and themes in our assessments of the cycles of the outer planets in relation to history's grand epochal changes, as first anticipated by Richard Tarnas (author of *Cosmos and Psyche*)

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In his 2006 book *Cosmos and Psyche*, Richard Tarnas calls for a new cosmology to replace the modern view of a Sun/science-centred cosmos that philosophers have progressively exposed as bereft of spirit and meaning for three centuries. He proposes that it's time we restore Earth as central, because our planet is where life, intelligence and consciousness reside, all precious commodities that just might be the intended product of the Universe. But Tarnas is not simply calling for us to more closely attend to those great mysteries of existence; he is truly intent on a profound paradigm shift. His aim in promoting an Earth-centred cosmology involves a revisiting and re-examination of astrology's claim to meaning and guidance for mankind.

Tarnas' fascinating book uses persuasive arguments and the vast panorama of history to show general readers how cycles of the outer planets signal grand epochal changes. But even as Tarnas was putting the final touches to his magnum opus, he admitted that the recent advent of a few more planets might need to be taken into account. Just the previous year, in 2005, Caltech astronomer Mike Brown announced the discovery of three new, relatively large bodies in the Kuiper Belt, one more massive than Pluto, and the other two roughly two-thirds Pluto's size. None was named officially at the time, although the largest one made news with its nickname Xena, a sly hint that Brown assumed it qualified as the tenth planet (think Roman numeral "X").

A few years later, all would be named but rather designated 'dwarf planets', along with Pluto and former asteroid Ceres. Tarnas suggested astrologers might find that Eris (the former Xena), Makemake and Haumea, and other hefty discoveries, could present additional archetypal periods once their meaningful operation in charts was confirmed.

When I came upon Tarnas' work, I felt in a unique position to ascertain if these newcomers had a crucial place in historic eras as he conjectured. In 2014 I published articles on Eris and Makemake in *The Astrological Journal*, followed by my 2015 book *More Plutos* that covered all three plus several more, slightly smaller yet around Ceres' size, still formidable enough to be considered dwarf planets.

Before you wonder if the 'dwarf' designation is belittling,

know that this is a common modifier for celestial objects. Big galaxies like our Milky Way often have smaller galaxies orbiting them called dwarf galaxies. There are stars called red giants like Aldebaran, and other stars called yellow dwarfs, which in fact is the class of our own Sun! So, you see, there is no dis in the term dwarf planet. Those so designated are large enough to resolve into a sphere, and most have one or more moons. They are much more substantial than asteroids. To compare, Makemake and Haumea are each about 14 times the size of Chiron; Eris is more than 20 times bigger.

I have studied dwarf planets for eleven years now. And this work has revealed that they represent consistent new archetypes, and often account for missing traits and milestones previously found lacking in historical figures or persons well known to me. For example, the mystery of why no clear planetary indicator appeared to foreshadow Princess Diana's death was solved by a close square to Diana's Mercury from Haumea in progression (*More Plutos*, 193-195). Makemake was the bizarre element missing in Salvador Dali's nativity (*MP*, 9), which lacked Uranus contacts to account for his weird persona and art, and its appearance in Alfred Hitchcock's chart clarified why he loved to shock people (*MP*, 14). Since Eris is twin-in-size to Pluto, I suspected them to be a pair, like Jupiter-Saturn and Uranus-Neptune; therefore, Eris might be an antidote to negative traits of controlling Pluto. Eris indeed showed up strongly in charts of people interested in fighting power-abusing personalities, dedicated to confronting discrimination and inequality when in supportive aspect, while hard aspects exposed those with issues dealing with or accepting people different from themselves.

To give you an adequate appreciation of additional eras I propose to include in Tarnas' grand scheme, let me explain a bit further these new archetypal designators:

- **Eris** is likely a co-ruler of Libra, sharing duties with Venus, the personable partner, rival, and spouse. Eris, however, personifies a different, more unsettling Other – the stranger, outcast, immigrant, homeless person, those almost invisible to us as we pass them by on the street. If Pluto denotes desire for control, the will to power, Eris represents the connector, one desiring true community, integration, wholeness, all hallmarks of

*enduring* power. If Pluto's appearance seems symbolically tied to the atom bomb, atomic energy and the rise of organised crime, Eris' signal events are the connective internet, social media, and the smartphone. Recording crimes via a handy cell phone is a direct undermining of selfish Plutonic designs. This is especially true in cases where police (a Pluto profession) are caught in the act of killing or injuring unarmed African Americans or other people of colour (Eris as 'Other') for minor offences.

Adding Eris into the mix of the outer planets highlights the struggles of those historically excluded from power. Eris aspects appear at hard-fought milestones of Black America's civil rights movements, as well as the battle for women's rights and LGBT acceptance. In all these cases, members of these groups for too long have been considered lesser than men, or white men, or straight men. Women are the original Other. People of colour and gay individuals, as well as the disabled, poor, and mentally ill, have suffered similar marginalisation. Most recently, immigrants in many countries are being demonised. Adding major aspects of Eris with Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto explains in higher definition, this age-old contest for equal treatment taking place now and in eras of the past.

- **Makemake** is best described as Uranus on electric steroids. Hard aspects of Makemake can make you seem a genius or a crazy person. Weird Al Yankovic and Dr. Demento of U.S.A. radio fame both have Sun square Makemake; note their desire to be identified as "weird" and "demented". If Uranus is the planet of technology and machines, Makemake is quantum technology and virtual machines (and if you're thinking, "What is that stuff exactly?" you make my point. You must be a brainiac to know). Makemake spurs what I call 'breakthrough knowledge', with 'shocking' an apt word for persons or events sporting a prominent Makemake. Ben Franklin was born Sun-trine-Makemake and invented the lightning rod. Electricity pioneers Edison and Nichola Tesla had Sun, Mercury and Makemake conjunct, and Sun sesquiquadrate Makemake, respectively. The U.S.A. Declaration of Independence, signed at Sun-sesquiquadrate-Makemake, is celebrated by Americans each year in distinctive Makemakean fashion: with *fireworks*.

Adding Makemake into Tarnas' epochs shows changes in overarching ideology and the appearance and assimilation of creative genius. This is especially true when you look at major aspects between Haumea-Makemake and Makemake-Eris, as you will see. For an apt historic moment to cue the advent of Makemake, consider how all history and knowledge seem magically drawn out of thin air when we whip out our phones. Makemake made its debut in 2005; the Apple iPhone appeared two years later. On the dark side, Makemake also represents online

misinformation, often sensational, that seeks to lead the unwary astray.

- **Haumea** is the transformer, fixer, and healer (when being helpful), and killer and destroyer (when not) that you thought were Pluto's traits. You see, unbeknown to all, Pluto and Haumea have been conjunct for five periods, sometimes for decades, in the last 500 years. These two dwarfs have an unusual 2,000-year cycle, with ~500 years of conjunctions followed by ~1500 years of squares and a few oppositions. The previous conjunction set encompassed the Greek Miracle and the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. This cycle is especially important to be aware of right now, as we are facing 113 years of their opening square (discussed later in this article).

Haumea-prominent individuals often bring dramatic change, for good or ill. Some stone-cold killers were born at Sun-conjunct-Haumea, like the lead 9-11 terrorist pilot Mohammed Atta, Roman emperor Caligula and England's King Richard III. People mostly known for their deaths might have Sun square Haumea, like Nicole Brown Simpson; or Sun semi-square Haumea like JonBenét Ramsey and RMSTitanic captain Edward J. Smith. Haumea also has a potent, positive side that 'changes everything'. Lindberg, with his Sun sextile Haumea, proved it possible to fly across the Atlantic, ushering in global transportation. Elizabeth Barrett Browning, also Sun sextile Haumea, had the mettle to leave family, friends and everything behind to elope with fellow poet Robert Browning, a move that saved her life. The three heroes of United Flight 93, Todd Beamer, Mark Bingham, and Tom Burnett, who foiled the terrorists on their plane in their lethal mission to hit Washington, all had natal Sun square Haumea.

The Haumea event could be the emergence of social engagement tools that the internet makes possible, to help those in dire need (e.g., GoFundMe) and petitions for political change or calls to demonstrate in person, for those wishing to actively 'change the world'. The negative side of Haumea arises in the online recruitment of people into extremist organisations, changing young lives for the worst, even leading to death.

Now you're set to see how several epochs (that Tarnas discusses) had hidden dwarf relations and learn of new eras that show what critical indicators these large dwarf planets can be.

### Pluto and Eris – the missing epochs

If Eris is a polarised partner of Pluto, Eris must show important cycles with its celestial compadre, and it does. We can't cover all the ways Pluto-Eris might manifest, due to space concerns, but these milestones from American history

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involving immigration are instructive:

**Pluto conjunct Eris (1746-1772, 1 exact 1756-57).** This period coincides with waves of migration to the U.S. from northern England, Ireland and Scotland in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, often after crop failures led to famine. Germans, Dutch and Swedes, and sadly many African slaves, also arrived during the pre-revolutionary period. With plenty of frontier for settlers, the conjunction represents the new arrivals' efforts to tame unfamiliar surroundings (Pluto) while dealing with competing immigrants and Native Americans (Eris).

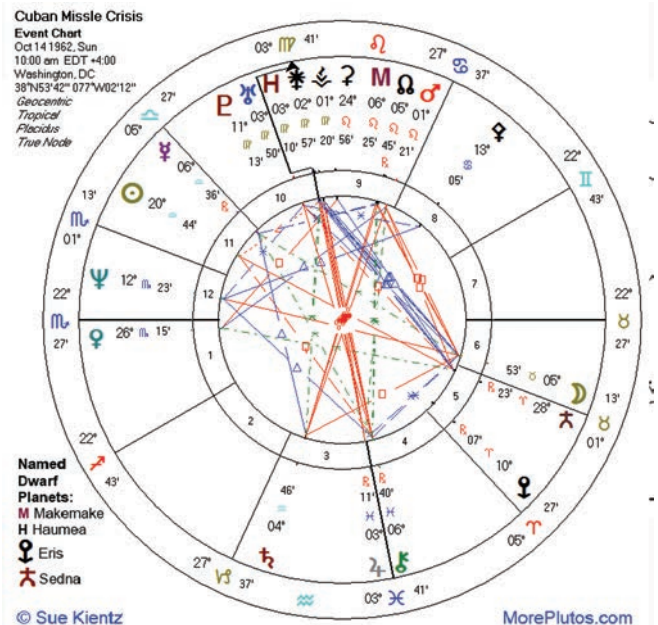
**Pluto square Eris (1885-1925, exact 1907).** Immigration to the U.S.A. increased at the start of this period, as large steamer ships began transporting greater numbers of migrants to America. In 1907, entry numbers peaked, mainly due to passage of a federal law that year denying entry based on whether a person might become a public charge or had immoral aims or violent political intent. This gave greater latitude for immigration officials to reject applicants for simply appearing suspect. At the end of this period, Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1924 that set up country quotas and banned Asian immigrants. The trend of this period led to more control (Pluto) of foreign migrants, especially "undesirable" ones (i.e., "not like us" – Eris).

**Pluto opposite Eris (1972-85, exact in 1978)** again encompasses a time of reaction against migrants. A 1965 Immigration Act abolished the 1924 country quotas, instead focusing on reuniting families, welcoming refugees and those with useful skills. While President Johnson insisted the reform "will not reshape the structure of our daily lives", it had a huge impact. Asian migration quadrupled and illegal immigration increased through the Mexican and Canadian borders. This finally led (at the end of the period) to the 1986 Immigration Act that provided better enforcement of the borders but also gave amnesty to millions of illegal entrants who had come to the U.S.A. before 1982 and met certain requirements. This epoch outlines the period of angst and attempts at remedying the immigration situation to the satisfaction of as many people as possible, both citizens and law-abiding migrants – thus the opposition between Pluto (those who want to take control) and Eris (community concerns, compassion for families and refugees).

Interestingly, this period also made Americans feel powerless (negative Pluto), despised and rejected (Eris) in another arena. Near the midpoint of this time, Iranian activists stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran and took 52 American hostages, holding them for a year-and-a-half before releasing them.

**Pluto square Eris (2012-31, exact 2020).** It's hard to see the current anti-immigrant crisis that has swept the U.S. as starting earlier than 2015, when presidential candidate Donald Trump campaigned on blaming Mexican border crossers for

rape, murder and drug crimes. But by 2012, Republicans had whipped up their base against President Obama, claiming he was not born in America despite the release of his birth certificate. This tactic allowed the GOP to take back both houses of Congress, certainly an effective power play (Pluto) that capitalised on anxiety about 'Others' (Eris) changing the country in unsettling ways. The midpoint of this era comes right at the time when U.S. voters will decide if Trump and his policies (building a wall to keep immigrants and refugees out, separating migrant families, misplacing their children, and in general insisting on America First) deserves a second term. To complicate things, the shadow of Russia (a devious Other) already once found interfering in American elections, is predicted by U.S. intel agencies to do so again. The square suggests a fierce battle between the fearful (Pluto) and those advocating for immigration reform and compassion (Eris).



## Dwarfs impacting the Tarnasian eras

In his book, Tarnas focuses mainly on conjunctions and oppositions between Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto as demarkers of critical historical eras. For example, he describes the Uranus-Pluto conjunction that encompassed the 1960s (1960-72, with exactitude at 1965-66) as an "extraordinary era... intense, problematical and seminal... animated by a peculiarly vivid and compelling spirit" (*Cosmos*, 142). He points to the revolutionary (Uranian) spirit that played out in the arts, culture, political protests against the escalating Vietnam War, and increasing demand for equal rights for people of colour, especially in the USA. This collective impulse sought not just power but sweeping change.

But at the time, another factor was present, as Pluto and Haumea were slowly separating from their fifth, final

conjunction in the mid-1950s. Uranus would be in orb to unite with Haumea from 1958-66, exact in 1962-63. Those latter dates have special meaning if you are looking for change so severe it threatens death. In 1962, the Cuban Missile Crisis brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. This was a culmination of the West's fears of Communist aggression harboured for years, especially stirred by the 1957 launch of Sputnik near the beginning of the Uranus-Haumea epoch. And 1963 brought the assassination of President Kennedy, which dashed the optimism that began the 1960s.

Following JFK's death, unrest was clearly Plutonic, a vying for power and control by those demanding civil rights, whether African Americans, women, Native Americans, or late in the Uranus-Pluto period, gays and lesbians. Inroads to positive change were made, but sometimes at bloody and violent cost. One might wonder, why did this time mobilise so many groups of people who were historically disenfranchised? The answer is that by 1967, Uranus was moving opposite Eris (1967-75, exact 1970-71). The demand for power (Uranus-Pluto still in force in the late Sixties) morphed into an insistence for equal status under the law. One key concern was that of gaining the freedom for women to choose whether or not to bear unplanned children. The US Supreme Court decision of *Roe vs Wade* in 1973 made it legal for women to make that decision (note today in America, this right is under assault as Uranus separates from conjunction with Eris).

Pluto and Haumea combined with Uranus, made this an exceptional time, indeed transformational; but Pluto had powerful help from game-changing Haumea; and community-conscious Eris brought disempowered groups out in the open to insist on that change.

Tarnas finds some parallels between the great conjunction of the Sixties, and the French Revolution and its Uranus-Pluto opposition (1787-98, exact instance 1792). The planetary epoch fits the years of France's great and bloody conflict like a glove, but once again there is more explained by the mighty dwarfs. Most agree that the revolution began as a good thing, with peasants demanding more equitable treatment from a self-serving upper class. But in a few years, what started with idealism and *fraternité* descended into the Reign of Terror (1793-94), a time matching the arrival of another pairing, the Uranus-Makemake square, in orb 1793-1802, exact 1798.

That understandable revolt from a grossly unsympathetic aristocracy, turned into a bizarre ideology (Makemake) that allots death as "just" punishment for social or political disagreement. First you have the emergence of the idea that people can simply be disposed of, to the making of efficient killing machines (high tech for their time, and thus Makemake) that do just that.

This period was soon followed by a Uranus-Haumea square,

in orb 1798-1808, exact 1803. This began at the end of the French Revolution, with Napoleon promoted to First Consul, leading progressively to his transformation of France into a dictatorship. The aspect midpoint 1803 coincided with his total revamp of the French judicial system (good) and the beginning of the Napoleonic Wars (bad). The French went on to transform Europe, at first welcomed as liberators (Uranus), but soon revealed as bringers of suffering and death (Haumea).

You might have noticed Haumea and Makemake appear near conjunction at the start of the French Revolution. In fact, by Tarnas' calculations (e.g., considered still operative if not apart more than 15 degrees) these similar sized dwarfs were in conjunction range from 1489 through 1794! One might declare them harbingers of the modern world, demarking the rise of explorers who defied superstition and were rewarded by the discovery of the Americas, leading to others who pursued more wondrous and life-changing discoveries of the material world using telescope and microscope. Or consider them encapsulating a time that first freed adventurous individuals from Old Europe's economic and religious oppression, to the creation of a totally new form of government that promised personal and religious freedom, codified in the nascent U.S. Constitution.

How exactly does that match up with what's been said about new archetypes Makemake and Haumea? Put simply, people with ingenious, borderline-crazy ideas (Makemake) and/or those desiring great change in their lives, even under threat of 'certain' destruction (Haumea), emerged and dared to act. This describes Columbus and other 15<sup>th</sup>- and 16<sup>th</sup>-century explorers, as well as 18<sup>th</sup>-century American colonials Washington, Jefferson, Franklin and Adams who risked challenging a world-renowned British military. All these iconoclastic norm-defiers prevailed and ushered in a new world and new way of life.

A very recent seismic shift in world culture that Tarnas pinpoints is Uranus conjunct Neptune (in orb 1985-2001, exact 1994). He details the multitude of revolutionary scientific and spiritual changes brought forth in this seminal time. Yet no one knew that, at the exact conjunction, Eris in Aries squared the pair's position. The breakup of the Soviet Union brought a sense of unity (Neptune) and optimism in the future (Uranus), while the dawn of widespread connection via the World Wide Web led to advances in technology, spurring more jobs and business success. Yet lurking there, ready to strike, were disaffected elements (Eris) that few expected. Computers were beset by hackers, usually young misfits (Eris). The wondrous celestial appearance of Comet Hale-Bopp, enjoyed by all, oddly impacted an isolated community (Eris) who chose to commit mass suicide, thinking this would send them to a hidden spaceship. The West had won the Cold War but had little time to bask in that peace as, at the Eris square, Al-Qaeda began ramping up its onslaught on modern

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civilisation with the first World Trade Center attack in 1993. Their aim through the remainder of this period: kill Americans (negative Eris: targeting members of a particular group).

### **Pluto square Makemake (1992-2018, exact 2004).**

This aspect span, overlapping with the Uranus-Neptune period above, gives another view of the advent of Islamic Terrorism, encompassing the rise of Al-Qaeda to the collapse of the Islamic State, with its midpoint near the US invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. Muslim fundamentalists demanded tight control of their lands (Pluto) and desired to punish and kill Westerners so as to diminish the spread of Western influence. These haters of modern life, ironically, were willing to use technology and modern inventions (Makemake) to reach their goals. Advanced technology was, in fact, also effective against them (e.g., drone strikes).

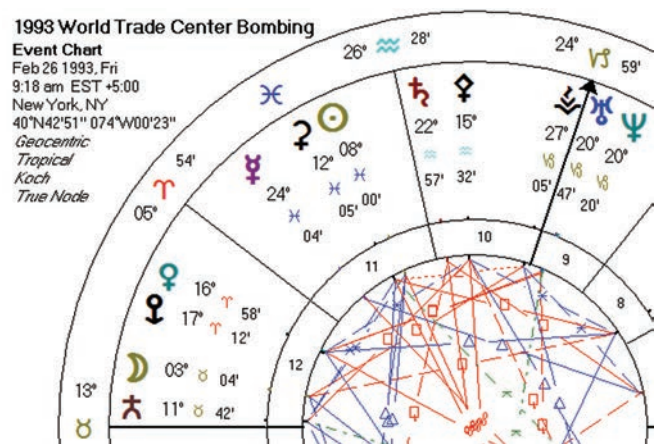
### **Pluto-Haumea Epochs: Ancient, Modern, and Imminent.**

The two times that Pluto and Haumea made multiple conjunctions within 500 years was during the Greek Miracle/Roman Empire period (476 BCE-14 BCE) and the Renaissance/Reformation/Scientific/Modern Age (1501-1968). This makes you wonder, how are these periods alike? Historians observe that each began with an absence or lessening of strong religious governance. People were able to think for themselves, rather than be forced to accept beliefs of the past. These empowered individuals could consider all kinds of ideas and solutions when contemplating the mystery of existence and the true nature of reality. Many realised that they themselves were able to find answers, that no appeal to a superior being or further understanding of the received wisdom of ancestors was required. This individual self-reliance (Pluto) starting in post-mythic Greece, and returning later in pre-Reformation Germany, had personally and socially transformative effects (Haumea).

Astrologers are in a unique position to analyse what will happen next, as the world is facing a long Pluto-square-Haumea period, (2010-2123, exact instances 2024-2028 and 2093-2100). Many anticipate great upheavals ahead due to climate change, artificial intelligence and other challenges; and just the idea of such drastic change (Haumea) already generates unease (Pluto). One piece of good news is that history shows that Pluto-Haumea periods prove less onerous as time goes on, because civilisation has created and improved social structures to deal with chaos, lawlessness and ignorance. Education, democracy, science, the emergence of ecumenical relations between disparate religious groups, may well aid us immeasurably and help us endure and innovate our way through the uncertain path ahead.

## Makemake-Eris heralds human flight

We can't cover all the various combinations of Uranus, Neptune, Pluto and the new dwarfs. But one particular pairing whose resulting era we would be completely blind to without



the new additions is worth a close look. Starting in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a fascinating progression appears if you track the relationship of Makemake, bringer of wild and crazy ideas, and Eris, marker of community involvement and acceptance...

**Makemake sextile Eris, 1903 (exact).** The Wright Brothers piloted the first successful powered flight at Kitty Hawk. This demonstration, once publicised, set off a flying craze, causing countless accidental deaths but resulting in the gradual improvement of airplanes. What had been dismissed as a ludicrous endeavor (Makemake) for many millennia is perfected and popularised by more people getting involved (Eris).

**Makemake square Eris, 1915-1948 (1931-33 exact).** Soon after its invention, the airplane is found to be an advantageous tool for war. Two World Wars and the dropping of atomic bombs using planes follow. The ingenious invention (Makemake) is the ultimate anti-social (Eris) tool.

**Makemake trine Eris, 1969 (exact).** The U.S.A. succeeds in putting two men on the Moon. The approaching and receding orb periods encompass the entire effort and final few trips. Another impossible crazy dream (Makemake) is now accepted as an achievement of mankind, and all the world celebrates, deemed included in the act (Eris).

**Makemake sesquiquadrate Eris, 1986 (exact).** The Challenger Space Shuttle explodes on live TV, killing all aboard including a schoolteacher. The sudden, shocking event (Makemake) has the world united in sorrow and a desire for answers (total community: Eris).

Adding more than just the squares, oppositions, and conjunctions (i.e., expanding Tarnas's technique) made plain that progression of events. Is it possible to extrapolate further?

**Makemake opposite Eris, 2026-2071 (2047-2048 exact).** An international effort (opposition) could send humans to Mars by the middle of this period, or possibly staff a manned Moon base in support of that goal. Mars is the real

prize for true progress in the exploration of our solar system, so could be the preferred target. Mid-21<sup>st</sup> century may be doable for the initial visit.

**Makemake sesquiquadrate Eris, 2117 (exact).** Some event similar to the Challenger Disaster, happening at this time, could deliver a reality-check jolt (Makemake) that resets space exploration on a safer, more dependable track. Once again, the public (Eris) would be shocked (Makemake) as well as closely interested in what improvements and innovations result.

**Makemake trine Eris, 2136 (exact).** At this point, people could actually be living on Mars, long term. As crazy as that effort may seem (Makemake) – even to those then alive (as going there would require a virtual lifetime commitment) – the result is a Martian community (Eris).

The above flight-space sequence focuses on just one, admittedly rosy, expression of Makemake-Eris. A more sinister side, e.g., “crazy ideology affects/infects normal people”, is always liable to appear instead or in tandem. For example, the same Makemake-square-Eris period of 1915-1948 just mentioned, began with the bloody beginnings of the Russian Revolution and Turkish genocide of Armenians, leading to vying extreme/nationalist ideologies (Makemake) and two World Wars fuelled by blaming certain groups of people (Eris) for social ills. The exact squares in 1931-33 cued the rise of Hitler whose whole appeal was possible due to well-crafted misinformation (Makemake) that kept supporters in line (Eris). So, while it's exciting to think of future Mars missions coming to pass in the upcoming Makemake-Eris periods, we must be vigilant at the same time that negative versions of this pairing do not take hold again.

In sum, Richard Tarnas had extraordinary prescience, calling for a new cosmology at almost the very moment that our “personal” cosmos, the solar system, expanded, as worlds heretofore unknown came into view. A new, higher-definition cosmos arrived indeed, thanks to some ingenious, game-changing ‘outcasts’ called Makemake, Haumea and Eris; and we astrologers are duly tasked with their further exploration and inclusion.

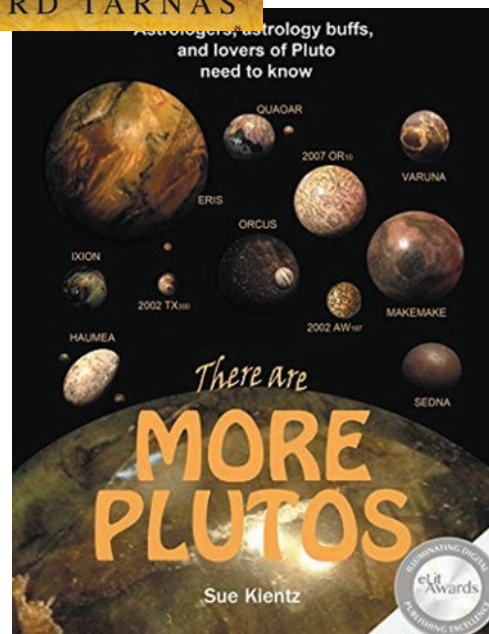
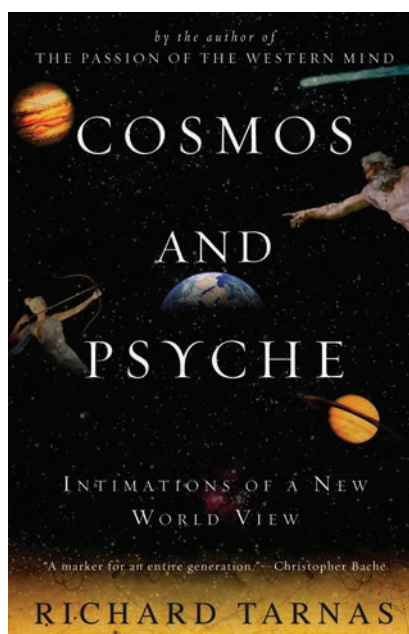
***In Part Two of this essay (published in the May-June 2020 issue), Sue Kientz is “finding Copernicus” in a further exploration of the new dwarf planets.***

### References

Kientz, Sue. *More Plutos*. (Indianapolis: Dog Ear Publishing, 2015)  
Tarnas, Richard. *Cosmos and Psyche*. (New York: Plume, 2006)

### Endnote

1 Uses 15-degree approach and separation, as Tarnas prescribes.



Sue Kientz specialises in astrology's mid-sized planetary bodies, the largest asteroids and massive trans-Neptunian dwarf planets Eris, Makemake, Haumea, and others discovered this century. Her experience researching the latter led to her book *More Plutos* which received a 2016 eLit Award. *More Plutos* also addresses how resonance and fractals 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) and via Facebook ([www.facebook.com/MorePlutos](http://www.facebook.com/MorePlutos)). Or email: [Sue@MorePlutos.com](mailto:Sue@MorePlutos.com).