

## **What Do You Do With A Dwarf Planet??**

*Sung to tune of "What do you do with a drunken sailor?"*

by Sue Kientz

*Dwarf Planet Pluto image taken by NASA's New Horizons spacecraft in 2015, different colors represent different compositions of surface ices, revealing a surprisingly active (and as you see, thirsty) body (Image credit: NASA/JUAPL/SwRI)*

Hopefully you have or are planning to read the new *NCGR Geocosmic Journal* special issue on Dwarf Planets. Many of you likely received the print version, but remember, the digital issue online is twice the size of the hardcopy, so dive in there as well. As editor Scott Silverman says in his intro, there are a lot of differing opinions to absorb on these newcomer Dwarf Planets. In addition, some articles argue how or even whether we should be venturing interpretations of them right now, as for some it seems too early. Another writer expresses concern that astronomers may not get these new planet names right, since they have no belief that planets have underlying meaning; rather astrologers should somehow be

consulted in naming new planets, dwarf or otherwise. Zane Stein in his article recounts actually being able to successfully contribute names for some centaurs by way of corresponding with the Minor Planet Center's gatekeeper at IAU(1), Brian Marsden, but it's rare to be as lucky or persuasive as Zane to pull that off.(2)

I would like to assure my esteemed colleagues that no one ultimately chooses a bad name for a planet, whoever is tasked or permitted to do so. This cannot happen, and I'll tell you why. First, naming a celestial object will not automatically describe the body's essence. Any name will have baggage that needs to be jettisoned, as all mythic names have stories that don't apply to the basic operation of the planet so named. We accept Jupiter but don't expect those with prominent Jupiter aspects to wield thunderbolts. No one thinks Jupiter is better renamed Excess. And while I do admire Richard Tarnas' idea that Uranus should have been christened Prometheus, maybe that's true of Uranus in good aspect. But isn't selfless Prometheus a bit too positive for those with hard aspects, who in extreme cases can be "know-it-all" we might describe using words similar to "Your anus"? There's something perfect about sky god Uranus for planet Uranus, and that's why through a process of tugs and pulls, arguments and suggestions, Uranus' name became official. Besides, just like Excess is more apt a meaningful keyword than "Jupiter," any new planet's chosen mythic name, once examined in charts, eventually reveals its pithy keywords.

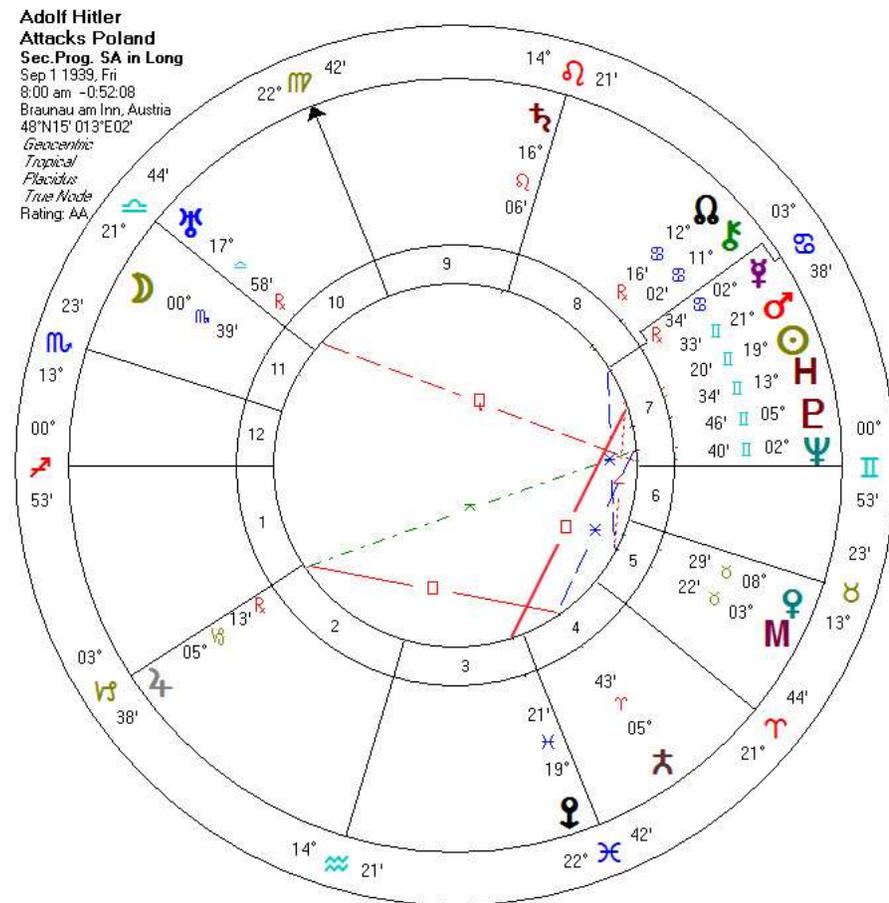
The other reason I assert "correct" planet names are chosen is this: if astronomers could not choose wisely enough, then how do they live their lives with such faulty decision-making abilities, and yet their charts work, their birth charts describe their talents and weaknesses, transits operate for them right on time, and secondary progression accurately summarizes their best and worst years? If only astrologers could manage to assign appropriate names, then astrology should only work for astrologers, for those who can read the planetary starting points and understand how to act when this transit happens or that secondary progression aspect forms. But that's not what happens. Everyone experiences their transit/progressed aspects pretty much on time. How is that? The same way that planetary names are correctly chosen. We are influenced by innumerable external and internal factors, consciously and unconsciously.

Everyone lives hemmed in by other people, walls, furniture, animals, plants, volcanos, oceans, personal concerns, fears, desires, and each of us acts and reacts accordingly. When Herschel basically named Uranus after King George III(3), other astronomers erupted. They would not allow the British monarch's name to be used. There was push back, additional suggestions, by *astronomers*, until consensus was reached. This tussle is comparable to how anyone leaving home each day has to pass through the door (not the wall), navigate streets and other cars to reach work or other destinations, reacting along the way to people, memories, phone calls, and on and on, conducting oneself based on feelings and thoughts, all of which in some way matches the timing reflected in our solar system's celestial spheres. Our path is sculpted by Others, just like planetary orbits are by Other celestials.

This "rerouting" we encounter day in and day out, this interaction with the world in general in myriad facets, is something perhaps you haven't thought about before as a reason one follows one's chart's unfolding. It's not fate, because you can pick up and move to another town, state, or country. You might struggle a little to "fit in" your new environment. That's you wiggling into a slot in the new life you're trying out. Maybe you don't like it and go home. Or you manage to fit in. You are really synching up your chart with the new environs.

That community interaction I see as the operation of new Dwarf Planet Eris. If you have supportive Eris aspects to personal planets, you are open to other's ideas, at ease with people quite different from oneself, welcoming of group interaction. Nelson Mandela (Sun trine Eris) verbally engaged his white jailers to understand them and break through the barrier of their racial differences.(4) Those with challenging aspects, on the other hand, can be less welcoming, even discriminatory, or they "work" at

the problem of how others treat them differently, like Malala (Sun square Eris).(5) Whatever meaning you divine for Eris must work similarly in transit and progression. Hitler started World War II by invading Poland as his p. Sun exactly squared p. Eris, perhaps the ultimate anti-social act.(6) Note these brief examples show both positive and negative Eris effects. Your interpretation must reveal both heroes and criminals.



However, if you read the special issue, there are other ideas on Eris. We all have to read about each take, review the examples, and decide if they make sense. Even more importantly, we have to put these large bodies (Eris is as big as Pluto! Makemake and Haumea are 2/3 Pluto's size) in our charts, our family members' charts, friends, old lovers, favorite celebrities, and every other chart we know and love, and see which meaning pans out.

This is your mission, should you decide to accept it. This article will not self-destruct in five seconds. Good luck.

**Notes**

1. IAU stands for International Astronomical Union, the governing body that creates rules for naming celestial objects and features (e.g., like what mythic names are permissible for identifying mountains on Mars).
2. Plus, Marsden died in 2010.
3. Herschel called it "Georgium Sidus" (The Georgian Star) in honor of his patron, King George III. The Latin didn't fool anybody.
4. Nelson Mandela, July 18, 1908, 2:43 p.m., Mvezo, South Africa; Astro.com
5. Malala Yousafzai, July 12, 1997, 8:30 a.m., Mingora, Pakistan; Astro.com
6. More of my Eris examples are at [http://moreplutos.com/articles/Eris-SueKientz\\_AstrologicalJournal-Sept-Oct2014.pdf](http://moreplutos.com/articles/Eris-SueKientz_AstrologicalJournal-Sept-Oct2014.pdf)

**Sue Kientz**, author of **More Plutos** (2015), has studied astrology since 1977 and specializes in the new Dwarf Planets (Eris, Makemake, Haumea, Sedna, Gonggong, Orcus, and others). Currently writing a general-audience book on the Dwarfs, Sue casts their addition to Astrology as a transformational breakthrough, comparable to Medicine's discovery of microorganisms. Visit **MorePlutos.com** to read free book chapters from More Plutos as well as other published articles including archived NCGR eNews pieces, Dwarf Planet keywords, and other fun facts. <https://www.facebook.com/MorePlutos>; E-mail: [Sue@MorePlutos.com](mailto:Sue@MorePlutos.com)

