

Raimo Nikula

Eris or Proserpine?

In search of the real name and meaning of a new planet

Eris or Proserpine?

Raimo Nikula

Eris or Proserpine?

In Search for the real Name and Meaning of a New Planet

© 2021 Raimo Nikula

Kustantaja: BoD – Books on Demand, Helsinki, Suomi

Valmistaja: BoD – Books on Demand, Norderstedt, Saksa

ISBN: 9789528020363

Contents

Introduction.....	6
About the classification.....	7
A mirror of its time?	9
Eris, false name and address.....	13
Dwarf planet's Astronomy.....	15
Position in signs.....	17
How on earth does a name come about.....	19
Background: Myths,Fairy tales of Femine.....	21
Eros and Psykhe.....	21
Hades/Persephone, Pluto/Proserpine.....	23
Beauty and the Beast, Snow White.....	27
On the Road to the Underworld.....	28
The seductive goddess.....	31
Divine feminine energy.....	33
Examples of aspects.....	36
Eris and the Sun.....	40
Eris opposition Sun.....	44
Eris and Angles.....	50
Eris and Moon.....	55
Eris and Mercury.....	58
Eris and Venus/Mars.....	64
Eris and Jupiter.....	70
Eris And Saturn.....	72
Eris and Uranus.....	74
Eris and Neptune.....	75
Eris and Pluto.....	76
Eris in aspect patterns.....	78
Lonely Eris.....	79
Eris-Sun theme.....	81
Eris-Moon theme.....	82
Eris-Mercury theme.....	83
Eris-Venus theme.....	84
Eris-Mars theme.....	85
Eris-Jupiter theme.....	85
Eris-Saturn theme.....	86
Eris-Chiron theme.....	87

Eris-Uranus theme.....	88
Eris-Neptune theme.....	88
Eris-Pluto theme.....	89
Eris-Uranus theme.....	90
Eris-Neptune theme.....	91
Eris-Pluto theme.....	92
Eris-Angles theme.....	93
Eris and appearance.....	93
Eris in Houses 1-12.....	95
Eris in family relations.....	102
External phenomena.....	103
Sexual dimensions.....	106
Dyke.....	109
Glimpses on Ceres/Eris conjunctions.....	114
Mundane events.....	117
Eris in recent history: Indian gang apes.....	122
Eris and the Aries ingresses.....	123
Eris in Aries on 4 June 1922.....	129
Eris mixep-up transits - examples.....	131
Eris transits: Sun-Pluto-Angles.....	132
The synastry case of Rodin and Claudel.....	146
Eris in distant history.....	146
Eris takes hostages - kidnapping cases.....	150
Controversial naming process.....	161
Summa Summarum.....	173
Sources and literature.....	175
Table 1: Eris aspect with slow moving planets...	179
Table 2: Position of Eris 1900-2040.....	182

Introduction

New celestial bodies are being found at an accelerating rate at the frontiers of our solar system with advanced search tools. After the discovery of Pluto (1930), there was a long period of silence. Then, in 1977, a small dim celestial wanderer, christened Chiron, caught the eye of the search camera. But it is only since the 1990s, as astronomical technology has improved, that a number of small celestial bodies have been located far from the edge of the Solar System, some of them with very strange orbits, but still belonging to our Solar System as distant objects belonging to several different astronomical categories.

The discovery of new celestial bodies has led to an inevitable shift in focus in astrology, or at least there are tunings in that direction. While the major planets of the solar system will always be the main focus of mythological and astrological interpretation, asteroids and new celestial bodies discovered in the Kuiper belt are gradually taking their rightful place. For now they are still in the periphery and of little interest, but literally 'on the edge of the world' they are gradually trickling into the more general astrological consciousness. The process can be slow because more and more of these new celestial wanderers are being discovered all the time; the sheer number, cataloguing, naming and searching for meaning, let alone establishing it, takes a considerable amount of time. The tidal wave of new distant celestial bodies is only just beginning and astrology really needs to start thinking about what part they might play in interpreting the charts in the first place. The beautiful, harmonious septet of seven classical planets, or the Harmony Sisters of the Sun, Moon and eight planets, is

becoming a veritable mixed choir of celestial throat sounds of different races. But it must be remembered that the new minor planets and celestial bodies are moving far out to the edges of the solar system.

In modern charts you can see names like Chiron, Folos, Nessos, Sedna, Gonggong, Chariklo, Hylonome, Ixion, Pelion, Thereus, Asbolus, Elatus (Pylenor) are all so-called centaurs, small and distant celestial bodies whose orbits intersect with those of the planets in the solar system, so that they can typically cross the orbits of Uranus, Neptune and even Pluto as they orbit the Sun.

Classifying new comers

To be more specific, all of the above minor planets are neither centaurs nor transneptunian. The new celestial wanderers were first divided into four distinct groups. 1) Centaurs 2) Cubewanos 3) Plutinos 4) Transneptunians.

1) Centaurs have orbits that cross the orbits of other planets, typically Saturn and Uranus.

2) The name Cubewano was originally an inside joke among astronomers, but became established. It originally stood for the letter combination 1992 QB1, of which the English pronunciation is cu-be-wan-o, which was given to a new celestial body. The orbit of Cubewano is irregular and does not follow the orbit of Neptune or other planets.

3) Plutinos are distant centaurs that move relatively close to Pluto's orbit and are its kin.

4) Trans-Neptunians (TNO=Trans-Neptunian-Object) are celestial wanderers whose orbits are harmonious with those of Neptune and other planets.

5) Later, the classification was further refined and transneptunian celestial objects were subcategorised as scattered disc objects (SDOs),

The newly discovered celestial body was initially listed by astronomers in 2003 as UB313, but was later provisionally christened "Xena". It originally belonged to the SDO category, but the classification was revised at the IAU Congress in Prague in 2006. According to the decision of the meeting, it is a "dwarf planet" like Pluto and Ceres. Whether it is a dwarf or a giant in astrological terms remains to be seen. In September 2006 it was finally renamed and as a result we have an important planet with the mythological name "Eris".

This is the result of my personal exploration, a small and limited introduction to the symbolic world of Eris. It is not an attempt to nail down the interpretative significance of the new planet in a definitive framework, nor is it an attempt to take the matter forward in a purely logical way. Rather, my purpose is to present the mythological background of the little planet, to put forward suggestions, intuitions, conjectures and to confirm them with examples. My interpretation is based on a different basis from that to which Eris as a mythological figure refers. But still, the discord between those I have seen until now and mine, are not perhaps so great after all.

A mirror of its time

When a new planet is discovered in the sky, it is like a new food being eaten for the first time. Its assimilation into the symbolic world of astrology begins immediately, but still the stomach can growl for a long time at the new arrival. Today, information about astrological novelties spreads like wildfire fed on oil, and speculation about the interpretation of a new planet is generated online.

But no era starts from scratch or from an intellectual vacuum to build its symbolic world either. When Uranus was discovered in 1781, it was fairly quickly understood in astrology as a reflector of its own time. In the late 1700s, the most important events were the independence of the North American colonies from their mother country England in 1776, the Great French Revolution of 1789, the spread of democracy, new civil liberties, human rights and general Enlightenment principles and civilisation in Western culture. The natural sciences advanced rapidly, inventions abounded and the rational management of nature became the guiding star.

Nor was the discovery of Neptune in 1846 a problem. This was accompanied by the Communist Manifesto (1848) and the rise of socialist ideas to represent the worldview and political goals of the working class. Neptune's principle became the 'levelling of everything' or the dynamic movement 'from the bottom up'. The spiritualist movement also began in 1848 in the USA and soon spread to Europe, soon mobilising similar mass phenomena - albeit without concrete aims of changing the world. Anaesthetics were invented and surgery became safer. The word hypnosis was first coined by James Braid in 1843.

Through anaesthetics and hypnosis, Neptune had the opposite function in terms of self-consciousness, by reaching the lower layers of consciousness, where there is not yet a structured and limited focus on egocentric experience.

Pluto was discovered in 1930, when its connection with its own era was realised. It was the time of Prohibition in the USA, the mind-altering substance coveted by man was banned, so it had to be obtained illegally, and to organise the illegality, bloody rival gangs of gangsters emerged as Al Capone rose to become the most notorious in Chicago. The rest of the world was in the grip of economic depression and soon fascist mass movements were gaining strength in Germany, Italy and even Finland. The whole 1930s was a period of violent black or dark brown extreme-right wing or nationalist mass movements.

It has been more difficult, for example, to link the time of the discovery of Chiron with the symbolism of this small centaur. Its discovery in 1977 does not seem to have provided any particularly clear red thread to follow.

The relationship of all three new planets discovered in the new era to their own time is relatively clear. The phenomena in politics, societies and world development are typical temporal synchronicities: these phenomena have not produced the planet Eris, nor have they been produced by Eris, but they have encountered each other and this encounter can be interpreted in a meaningful way in the model provided by astrology. In order to discover new planetary symbolism, synchronicities in as many areas of life as possible are needed.

But now that Eris was discovered in 2003 and has an official - though in my opinion not so suitable - name, we can stand as a question mark as to the contemporary phenomena it symbolises. What does this time ultimately represent, what is the most important thing here? I am sure that many of us have, at least in our minds, thought about our own time and scribbled down at least these things on a piece of paper:

- Awareness of the possibility of destroying the Earth and humanity.
- The attempt to objectify all that is human and ultimately to fuse man and machine;
- The domination of science, economics and technology over any other mental activity: human, humanistic thinking.
- Following the ideal, the human object environment becomes disposable. And man's relationship with nature is also a model for the relationship with other people, values, opinions and truths: everything is disposable.
- The state of the environment, climate change caused by man, the pollution on land, sea and in the atmosphere and melting of the polar icecaps.
- Threat of depletion of energy resources. Coal is soon banished, and oil will not be available indefinitely. All of this but for the short-sighted human specie the possible natural catastrophe doesn't seem to have much effect. All middle-class people want to buy a gas-guzzling SUV as soon as they can afford.
- Illegal immigration. The migration of people from poor countries to richer countries illegally.
- The shifting space of male and female role perceptions, from male power, patriarchal values sliding towards matriarchal

systems. Patriarchal communities are resisting and tensions are arising, sometimes erupting in dramatic and violent ways.

- The accelerating pace of world unification and ensuing merging of all western values and objectives into one cohesive superculture – but it's materialistic values still unchanged.

- Results of merging: The same hotel chains, McDonald's, pizza bars, and chain stores everywhere, same thought patterns, attitudes, the same average knowledge, the same goals, hopes and dreams cloned in every man.

- The current crisis in the world is terrorism which is not going away any time soon.. Of particular importance and tensions between religions and cultures, especially sharp opposition between Christian West and militant Islamic groups.

Undoubtedly, in this age, there are certain expectations as to what themes – if any - could be associated with the significance of the planet we have discovered. The fact that in 2003 the discoverer of UB313 immediately named the distant planet as a female warrior ("Xena") is, I think, an indication of the expectations and collective pressures of the time.

Unfortunately in Xena I see more Aries symbolism than anything else. The world, as it were, is in need of confirmation of the mythical networks of the collective mind associated with a new kind of femininity. And Eris seems to be responding to this cry, even if the title itself seems like an artificial compromise now that it has been given the playful tentative name of 'Xena', the female warrior. Apparently, a somewhat similar warlike female figure (Eris) had to be found in Greek mythology. The result is unsuccessful and creates an unfortunate situation where the name of the planet and its mythical and psychological content are not the same thing.

Of the current planets in the astrological chart, the Moon, Venus and Neptune are more clearly feminine in nature. The Sun, Mars, Jupiter (and Uranus) are masculine. Mercury is neutral and so is Pluto in more complex way. Saturn is a paradox in this respect, symbolically the patriarch and fearsome father-figure if anyone in mythology, but the ruler of the feminine sign Capricorn. There are more masculine planets than feminine ones. That is why many astrologers have also adopted the four largest of the asteroids, Ceres, Pallas, Juno and Vesta, which also represent the needs and motivations of the female world and psyche. In any case, in the interests of symbolic fairness, Eris' arrival evens the playing field and in this sense the new planet's meaning is a welcome new perspective on astrological interpretation.

Eris – a false name and address

But as such, the name Ewas ris, in my opinion, a failure and the situation is unpleasantly confused when behind the Eris' name another kind of collective, psychological and mythical forces are operating. Eris was a minor deity in Greek mythology, brother of the war god Ares (Mars). The name itself means 'strife, quarrel, dispute' and, in the broadest sense, chaos. Its Latin equivalent is 'Discordia', which is, of course, the direct opposite of harmony. Depending on the source in ancient mythology, two goddesses named Eris can be distinguished. Homer's Iliad, on the one hand, speaks of the daughter of Cronus and Nyx, and the sister of Ares, who sowed discord and strife wherever she went. She was the one who just ignited the Trojan War by throwing an apple before the goddesses with the inscription 'kallisti' - to the fairest'. The dispute over who was really the fairest led to a Great War and destruction. On the

other hand, Hesiod's epic of Days and Labours mentions the much more positive Eris, daughter of Zeus and Hera, who encourages work, diligence, competition and enterprise to achieve economic security. As I said, I think the name Eris is ill-considered and I will argue that it is a different mythical basis from which to start.

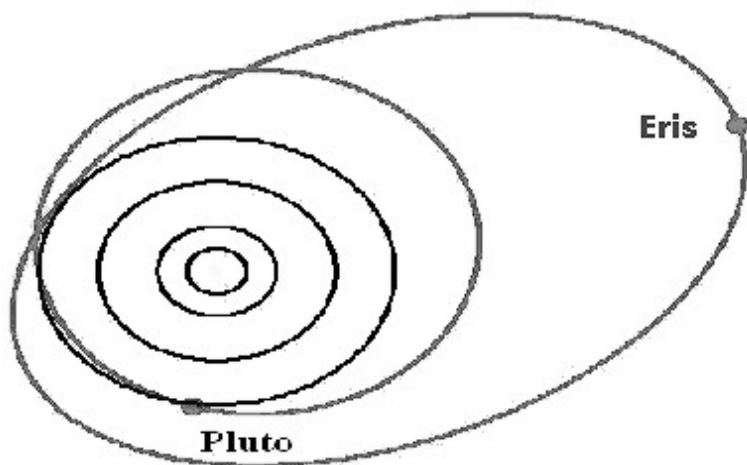
Many people have already forgotten that the symbols of astrology have not so far followed slavishly in the direction of the planet's name and mythology. Uranus in mythology was little more than an abstract 'sky god'. It does not offer much of any clue to build Uranus' symbolism on. Instead, the myth of Prometheus offers and is the basic myth of Uranus symbolism. Neptune was originally the Greek Poseidon, the brother of Zeus, the god of the seas, but there are more dimensions to this figure in astrology than what appears on the surface to be Poseidon. Neptune is nowhere near as powerful a deity as the multi-powered Poseidon, who could cause mists, floods and earthquakes. Neptune can be compared with smaller gods of the sea, such as Nereus, who could change shape at will and that's why Neptune can appear in human behaviour a power to adapt to anything and to disappear into nothingness.

Profile of the miniature planet

But what is the planet Eris like physically, what are its strategic dimensions? At the International Astronomical Union meeting in Prague in August 2006, it was named a dwarf planet along with Ceres and Pluto. Or was it the case that dwarf scientists named Pluto the astronomers' favourite planet? Pluto is now a dwarf planet too. How successful this external definition is, is left to the humorists... The discovery of Eris in 2003 was just

one of many discoveries of distant celestial bodies in recent years, but the planetoid later christened 'Eris' was larger than the others and in that sense an anomaly. Its orbital period is a whopping 556 years and its orbit is comet-like super elliptical. That's why its slow signs are Aquarius to Taurus and its fast signs are Gemini to Capricorn. Its temporal effect is therefore very different depending on the sign. In Libra, the sign where it is closest to the Sun, it stays for only 12 years, and in Aries, the furthest sign, it stays for almost 130 years! Being closest to the Sun, it comes close to Pluto's orbit and you can take that as a technical clue too: Pluto and Eris are linked, they come close together like couples after separating from each other.

Eris' orbit in relation to Pluto and the other planets in the solar system.



Raimo Nikula's book on Eris is not quite according to the main current in astrology, but he presents an ample collection of examples which prove his point - as far as it is possible at all. Not Eris - the sower of discord, but a part of the mythic underground triangle, Pluto/Hades (Father), Ceres/Demeter (Mother) and daughter Eris - aka Proserpina/Persephone. To understand Eris, we have to think her as a part of a mythic family, which present subconscious urges and motives stemming from closeness - mixed feelings of dependencies between mother and father and their daughter. In this mythic triangle, Proserpine/Eris easily becomes a pawn in power games between other family members. Taking Eris at a face value=name is the interpretation misses the point, author says. Most of the interpretations of Eris is not about Eris as such, but they seem to be descriptions of Eris present sign, Aries. By looking into lives of famous people, who had strong Eris, we can expand our understanding this mysterious new (small) planet. The belief that every new planet name corresponds its meaning, should be challenged as a questionable shortcut to truth.



BoDTM
BOOKS on DEMAND