



TONY LLEWELLYN, IX°
M.W. Frater Supreme Magus

Ars Nova

Being a digital pamphlet from fratres
of the
Province of Greater London
Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia

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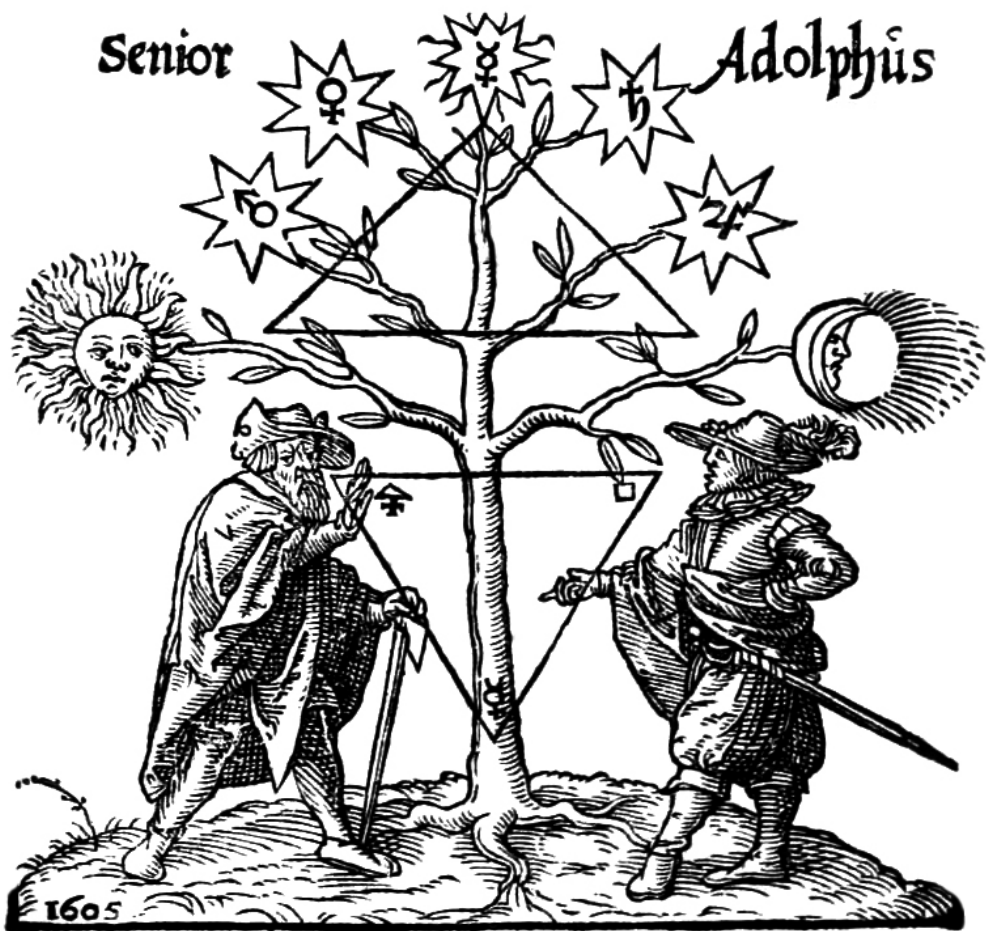
Contents

Introduction	2
Circle of Unity	4
The Future is Here	7
The Vault of the Adepts	14
Machine Learning & Planetary Magic	22
First Contact	26

This pamphlet has been published by the Metropolitan Study Group of the Metropolitan College No. 1, Societas Rosicruciana In Anglia. The MSG is an open forum and we welcome all individuals, men and women, who are interested in exploring the deeper mysteries of Nature, Science and Truth.

We normally meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month. All of our meetings can now also be accessed virtually, and we host attendees from many countries.

If you would like to attend any future meetings, please sign up to our mailing list on our website at srialondon.org



Fratres, sorores and perennial philosophers...

Welcome to the December pamphlet of the Metropolitan Study Group of the *Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia*. As 2022 draws to a close... what lies in store for humanity as we withdraw inwards around the time of the winter solstice, hibernating in thought and body, before we cross over the brow of a new year, and new opportunities?

This edition of the pamphlet shines a light on two extreme sciences. The earliest, or perhaps indigenous science of man, Astrology, and the cutting edge of modern sciences, Artificial Intelligence.

The Astrological aspect of the pamphlet prepares us for practical work over the coming year, both as groups, ushering in important celestial events, and as individuals, using these energies to question and capitalise on our inner potential, so as Rosicrucians we continue to build a better world within and without.

The Metropolitan Study Group will be leading several guided meditations over the coming year, as we did for the great celestial alignments in 2020, so please do join us in our practical work for 2023.

May I also welcome our first contributor who is not a member of the SRIA, Sindy Schönherr, and thank her for her compelling astrological piece on the Venus Pentagram, and what it means for students of the Western Tradition during this transformative time in history.

Which brings me onto the second half of the pamphlet – three articles concerning experimentation and artistic creation using Artificial Intelligence.

One of the core beliefs of the Metropolitan Study Group is that Rosicrucian and Hermetic teachings are not historical missives, bound in leather, occupying dusty bookshelves; but living, breathing and evolving systems, designed to access higher states of understanding, for the greater good of all sentient beings.

We are told that true wisdom resides in the hidden mysteries of Nature and Science. Whilst the Divine book of Nature throngs in abundance around and within us, the evolution of Science, and the great men of learning, from Copernicus, to Agrippa, to Newton and beyond, Science has always been the bedfellow to philosophical thought and discovery. Historically, those at the 'cutting edge' of mystical thought, discourse and experimentation, were also 'Men and Women of Science'.

With this thought in mind, the MSG has conducted some deeply fascinating experiments in the field of artistic creation, artificial intelligence, and Hermetic and Rosicrucian teachings, the fruits of which are within the pages of this pamphlet.

I am sure that you will be as amazed as I was when I read through these experiments, for they feel as if we are truly stepping into a new era of 'Contemporary Hermeticism'.

May I take this moment to wish you all a Happy Solstice, and Merry Christmas, and a happy multi-denominational holiday, and may these pages bring you a moment or two of contemplation, and some hope for a brighter dawn...

From all of us at the Metropolitan Study Group,

Alexander Rofaila
Chief Adept, Province of Greater London, SRIA



Air engraving by Adriaen Collaert (c.1585)

Circle of Unity

Honouring a New Karmic Cycle

As many of you may already be aware, in 2020 there were two occasions where the Metropolitan Study Group SRIA meetings focused upon a couple of very significant and portentous Celestial events.

The first of these events was on the 21st June that year, with the Study Group meeting shortly before the Midsummer Solstice, while the second occasion was on the 21st December that year, with the Study Group meeting shortly before the Midwinter Solstice.

During both of these meetings I had the privilege of leading a guided meditation, the first of which was in preparation for the Grand Celestial Alignment which took place at sunrise on the 21st June. This Grand Alignment saw a total solar eclipse which positioned itself precisely at the point where the ecliptic made a cross with the galactic equator. This phenomenal event was millennia in the making, and happened during that period of time where the whole world was hushed and much human activity was quietened due to the first Covid-19 lockdown.

The June 2020 Metropolitan Study Group meeting was attended by approximately 120 people around the world, who joined us via Zoom in meditation and prayer to acknowledge and make harmonious use of the great Celestial current which was about to dawn. Then precisely 6 months later, our December meeting featured a guided meditation, only this time it was in preparation for the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter at precisely nought degrees of Aquarius, which took place a few days later on the Midwinter Solstice.

Attendees at both of these meetings were encouraged to observe this particular meditation at the precise moment when the solar eclipse reached its peak, a little after sunrise on the 21st of June, and six months later at the moment of closest proximity for the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter at nought degrees of Aquarius. News of these meditations to mark such deeply significant celestial events travelled to many groups and individuals around the world, who were moved in their hearts to join us in the spirit of Universal Love and Unity. This great gathering of people of like mind and temperament included members of a variety of spiritual Orders, as well as indigenous leaders, as well as people involved in ecological and animal welfare societies.

Now we find ourselves fast approaching yet another extremely significant Celestial event, which is the entrance of Pluto into the sign of Aquarius, which will happen initially on 24th March 2023.

On 3rd May 2023 Pluto will go retrograde for a period of time, moving briefly back into the sign of Capricorn until 11 th October when it goes direct again, until it re-enters Aquarius on 21 st January 2024, where it will remain until 2044.

In previous times when Pluto has entered Aquarius (a 248 year cycle) it ushered in great and significant change and transformation in human society. The last time saw both the French and American revolutions, as Pluto travelled through Aquarius from 1777 to 1798.

And, during the preceding transit of Pluto through Aquarius (1532 to 1553) Copernicus published his idea that the earth rotated around the sun, which at the time was a most radical and heretical suggestion that demolished the commonly held belief that the world was flat. His theory took more than a century to become widely accepted, signifying a completely new 'world-view' and a far broader perspective upon our place in a much wider universe.

Pluto was discovered on the 18th February 1930, and a couple of years later on April 14th 1932 scientists discovered it was possible to split the atom, and so began the atomic age.

Pluto entering Aquarius will begin a new karmic cycle which will last 19 years (2023 to 2044), and the influence of this will catalyse great change in all areas of human experience. Life, death and rebirth are of Pluto's domain, not just of people or animals, or forests and oceans, but also of ideas, of commonly held concepts and beliefs, breaking down all redundant frameworks, dogma and outmoded institutions in order to make way for the new.

We are living during a critical moment in not only human history, but indeed the history of planet Earth. These mighty Celestial currents which I referred to above will be influencing every single one of us, so let's not pass this opportunity by! Instead, let us join together in our sacred temples, in our places of worship, and honour these powerful transformational energies.

Let us align ourselves harmoniously with our highest potential, and may we dedicate ourselves once again in service and surrender to the principles of Universal Love and Unity.

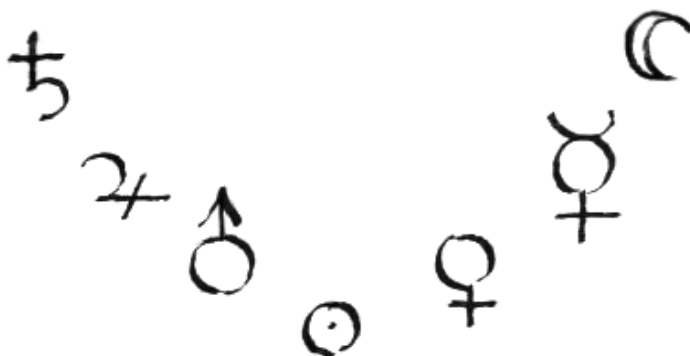
For those who were not able to join us for our December 17th Metropolitan Study Group SRIA meeting, please check out the recording on our SRIA London YouTube channel:

[View the SRIA London YouTube channel](#)

I look forward to sharing more thoughts and creative ideas with you all regarding Pluto's entrance into Aquarius, and what we can do to make the very most of this blessed opportunity for growth and development.

With Love, Light and Peace,

Frater Cheyne Towers
Suffragan of the Province of Greater London, SRIA
Director of Studies, Metropolitan College



The Future is Here

What is your part in shaping it?

Apart from the insight astrology provides on an individual level, it reflects the flux of the quality of time under which all creation exists.

From Earth to Air

Astrology has pointed toward major changes for humanity since 2020. Besides the rare conjunction of Saturn and Pluto at its beginning, this year also saw a rare conjunction at its end: the Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn at the Winter Solstice. The alignment of the two largest and farthest planets visible to the unaided eye in 2020 ushered us finally into a new era, the era of the air element.

Astrologically this means that from now on, the two gas giants will conjoin every twenty years in one of the three zodiac signs of the air element (Gemini, Libra, Aquarius). Previously, the conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn took place, except for a triple conjunction in Libra in 1980/81, in the earth trigon (Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn).

The Great Mutation cycle of Jupiter and Saturn, with its approximately 200-year-long elemental periods, symbolizes the slowly changing condition of the soil that provides the nutrients for humanity's evolution. Jupiter and Saturn are known as the social planets, and their cycle represents major global shifts and the reframing of societies. Humanity previously experienced an elemental air era from 1186 to 1425.

The Venus Pentagram

Another astrological cycle that informs the long-term quality of time is the Venus-Sun cycle, which, in eight years, creates a five-pointed star pattern in the sky, aka the Venus Star or Venus Pentagram.

The Great Mutation Cycle

Jupiter-Saturn Conjunctions 1186-2219

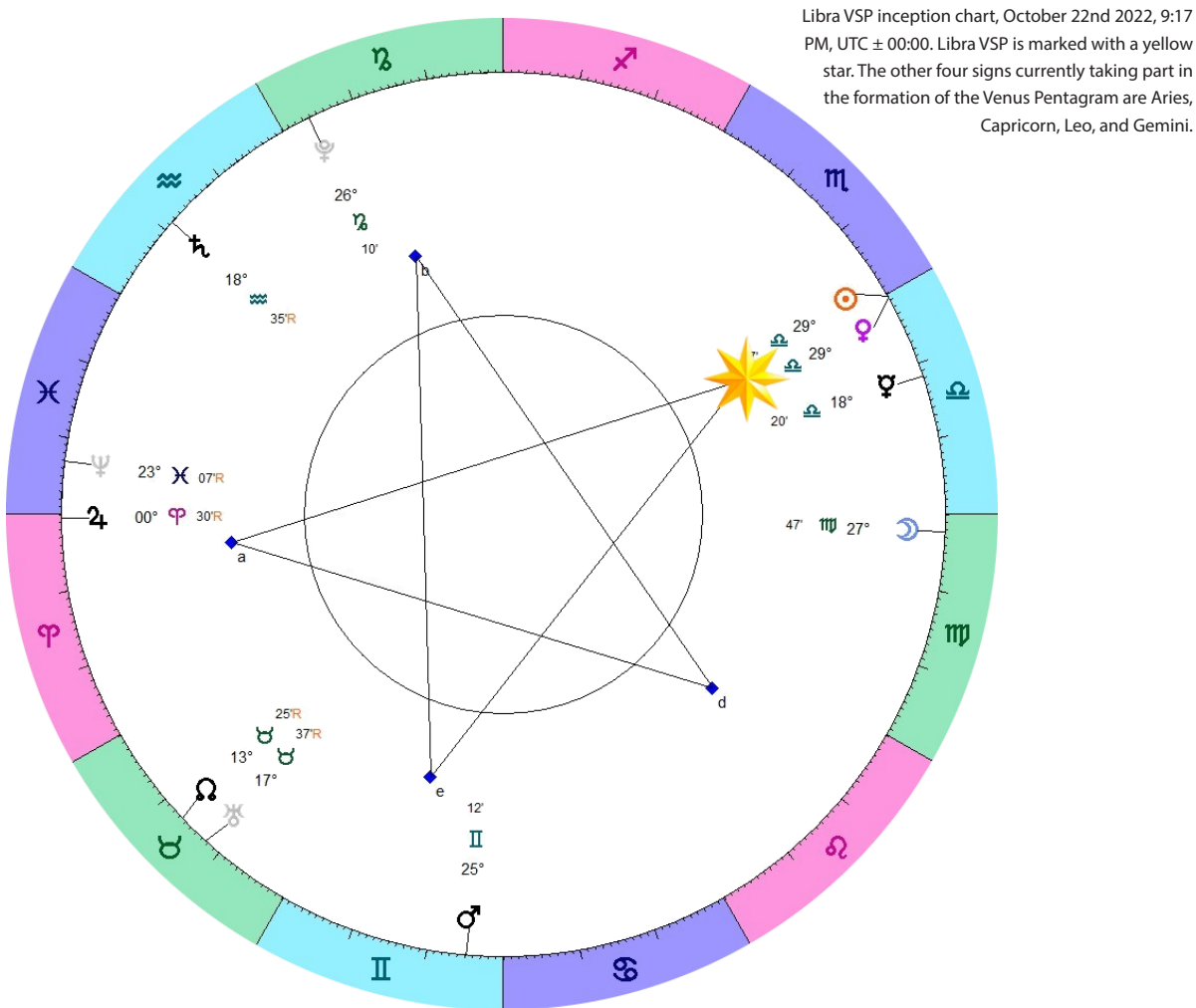
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16/04/1206	♃♄	♄ exact	25°46'15"♉
05/03/1226	♃♄	♄ exact	02°58'24"♊
21/09/1246	♃♄	♄ exact	19°07'18"♋
25/07/1265	♃♄	♄ exact	09°41'57"♌
31/12/1285	♃♄	♄ exact	08°01'41"♍
25/12/1305	♃♄	♄ exact	00°49'27"♎
20/04/1306	♃♄	♄ exact R	28°05'04"♏
19/07/1306	♃♄	♄ exact	26°00'36"♐
01/06/1325	♃♄	♄ exact	17°52'37"♑
24/03/1345	♃♄	♄ exact	19°01'23"♒
25/10/1365	♃♄	♄ exact	07°01'00"♓
09/04/1385	♃♄	♄ exact	25°53'53"♈
16/01/1405	♃♄	♄ exact	23°46'14"♉
14/02/1425	♃♄	♄ exact	17°18'11"♊
18/03/1425	♃♄	♄ exact R	16°33'00"♋
26/08/1425	♃♄	♄ exact	12°40'21"♌
14/07/1444	♃♄	♄ exact	08°57'23"♍
08/04/1464	♃♄	♄ exact	04°35'02"♎
18/11/1484	♃♄	♄ exact	23°10'31"♏
25/05/1504	♃♄	♄ exact	16°25'09"♐
31/01/1524	♃♄	♄ exact	09°13'50"♑
18/09/1544	♃♄	♄ exact	28°05'06"♒
25/08/1563	♃♄	♄ exact	29°10'24"♓
03/05/1583	♃♄	♄ exact	20°10'52"♈
18/12/1603	♃♄	♄ exact	08°18'55"♉
16/07/1623	♃♄	♄ exact	06°36'15"♊
24/02/1643	♃♄	♄ exact	25°06'43"♋
16/10/1663	♃♄	♄ exact	12°57'45"♌
24/10/1682	♃♄	♄ exact	19°08'34"♍
09/02/1683	♃♄	♄ exact R	16°43'16"♎
18/05/1683	♃♄	♄ exact	14°30'12"♏
21/05/1702	♃♄	♄ exact	06°36'17"♐
05/01/1723	♃♄	♄ exact	23°19'04"♑
30/08/1742	♃♄	♄ exact	27°09'11"♒
18/03/1762	♃♄	♄ exact	12°21'19"♓
05/11/1782	♃♄	♄ exact	28°06'59"♈
17/07/1802	♃♄	♄ exact	05°07'39"♉
19/06/1821	♃♄	♄ exact	24°38'58"♊
26/01/1842	♃♄	♄ exact	08°54'20"♋
21/10/1861	♃♄	♄ exact	18°22'10"♌
18/04/1881	♃♄	♄ exact	01°35'56"♍
28/11/1901	♃♄	♄ exact	13°59'49"♎
10/09/1921	♃♄	♄ exact	26°35'31"♏
08/08/1940	♃♄	♄ exact	14°27'25"♐
20/10/1940	♃♄	♄ exact R	12°27'51"♑
15/02/1941	♃♄	♄ exact	09°07'20"♒
19/02/1961	♃♄	♄ exact	25°12'02"♓
31/12/1980	♃♄	♄ exact	09°29'56"♈
04/03/1981	♃♄	♄ exact R	08°06'27"♉
24/07/1981	♃♄	♄ exact	04°56'01"♊
28/05/2000	♃♄	♄ exact	22°43'16"♋
21/12/2020	♃♄	♄ exact	00°29'09"♌
31/10/2040	♃♄	♄ exact	17°55'47"♍
07/04/2060	♃♄	♄ exact	00°46'29"♎
15/03/2080	♃♄	♄ exact	11°52'24"♏
18/09/2100	♃♄	♄ exact	25°32'11"♐
15/07/2119	♃♄	♄ exact	14°51'36"♑
14/01/2140	♃♄	♄ exact	17°04'48"♒
21/12/2159	♃♄	♄ exact	07°58'47"♓
28/05/2179	♃♄	♄ exact	23°03'00"♈
07/04/2199	♃♄	♄ exact	28°19'30"♉
31/10/2219	♃♄	♄ exact	14°41'46"♊

We can understand the meaning of the Venus Pentagram by looking at the symbolism of the celestial bodies involved. From a terrestrial perspective, the Venus Star is created by exact conjunctions of Venus with the Sun. The Sun, as the source of light, symbolizes the Spirit and consciousness. Venus represents desire, connection, and relationships. From this, we can conclude that the conjunction of Venus and the Sun reflects what we refer to as the head-heart connection.

What actually happens, though, is that a Venus-Sun conjunction is an alignment of Venus with the Sun *and Earth*. Therefore, I call it the head-heart-body connection (Sun-Venus-Earth). The Spirit manifests itself through the heart on the earthly plane, and we, through our physical bodies, are part of this manifestation. In its essence, the Venus Star is about the flow of creative energy.

The five points of the Venus Star, called Venus Star Points (VSP), move clockwise through the zodiac, entering a new sign at its last degree and moving from there to its beginning. Each point needs about 100 years to travel through an entire sign.



We just witnessed how the Venus Star Point that previously went through Scorpio entered Libra on October 22nd. This point of the Venus Star will revisit Scorpio in 2026, after which it will continue its journey through Libra until 2131. The 100-year Scorpio VSP era that began in 1926 will end in 2026. The transition of the Scorpio VSP into Libra symbolizes a paradigm shift within our consciousness, primarily affecting our social interactions.

Did you notice? The change on the Venus Pentagram points, like the Jupiter-Saturn cycle, toward the air element! The two cycles support each other. Whereas the Jupiter-Saturn conjunctions point to development on a broader global level related to the air element, the Libra VSP, ruled by Venus, is concerned with the mental processes that influence and color our interactions with one another.

See the Opportunities

What to do with the insight of the two astrological cycles above? Awareness is the key to making the best out of each phase we collectively and individually face. Right now, astrology points toward change, but change for the better is not miraculously manifesting itself while we lay back in our armchairs. A brighter future is not automatically bestowed upon us.

We have to do our part. Improvement requires diligent work. Time presents us with an excellent opportunity to shape a better world for everyone. *How do we do that?*

Know Your Creative Potential

First, *know thyself*. Now is the time to gain awareness, especially about what you are here to share on this physical plane. We are endowed with the gift of co-creation. So, ask yourself, What kind is the creative potential within me? How can I use it to build a better future for myself and the people around me?

Your birth chart and life cycles calculated from it provide insight into your gifts and how you can navigate them. But even without any knowledge of your personal astrology, you still can benefit from being aware of the general influences humanity— you as part of it— encounters. Among the many areas that make up human life, think of everything related to the air element because this is where change wants to take place.

What is air? Air is about the mental plane, the mind, and the intellect. What you think, what you believe, how you explain your experiences, what you value, all is air. Memories, communication, transfer of information, mobility, travel, ideals, ideologies,

and your worldview is air. We are asked to ponder ethics and the fair distribution of common goods. Diplomacy, democracy, and leadership rooted in genuine love for fellow human beings are some key concepts the Libra VSP points to. How can you, using your unique gifts, help steer the current transformative energies toward building a better future for the people in your circles, beginning with small ones like family and your closest friends?

People of the Past Libra VSP Era

The Venus Pentagram informs the flow of creative energy representing the quality of time on a general level. Further, the energies on the Venus Star become part of individuals born during a given time. In other words, people born during a Libra VSP period carry that cardinal air energy within them throughout their lives. It is part of their astrological imprint.

We can learn much about the message of a specific VSP sign by looking at the lives of people who have their personal Venus Star Point, the head of the five-pointed Venus Star in their birth chart, in that sign because it symbolizes their creative energy and the gift they were meant to share with the world. Thus, they are like tools through which that VSP's mission manifests.

The previous Libra VSP era spans from 1771 to 1880 and saw the birth of many social reformers and activists. Among them are Libra VSPs Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Annie Besant, and Helen Keller. These ladies fought for more equality and a better world for everyone with the sword of the word, the intellect, and the mind, which Libra is a representation of. Two other influential Libra VSP people born¹ during that time I want to mention here are Marie Curie and Nikola Tesla, although the latter was born ten days before the beginning of the succeeding VSP period, which was Cancer. Some might count him already as a Cancer VSP.

At the Beginnings

The publications of the *Fama Fraternitatis*, the *Confessio Fraternitatis*, and the *Chymical Wedding* also fall into a time when Libra was part of the Venus Pentagram. Said era began in 1520 and ended in 1629.

Even more interesting, the year 1378, presented as the birth year of Christian Rosenkreuz, partly coincides with the final Libra VSP period of the era that started in 1277. This

1. Note: All people born during a Libra VSP era have Libra somewhere on their five pointed Venus Star, but those who have Libra on the head of their Venus Pentagram are like emissaries of that VSP. The first Libra VSPs of our time are born right now during its first 9,5 months period, which began on October 22 this year and ends in August 2023.

means that if the founder of the Rosicrucian tradition had been born, in actual physical reality or the minds of the authors of the founding literature, during the first half of the year 1378, his VSP would have been in Libra. It is noteworthy to mention that people born during the last period of a VSP era are said to have been bestowed with the task of ensuring the continuity of that VSP's message.

To my knowledge, there is no month of birth presented for Christian Rosenkreuz. Therefore, the above is speculation – an interesting "coincidence" nonetheless, as it would be if only for the symbolical meaning.

You may have noticed that the Libra VSP era of 1277-1378 occurred during the previous elemental air era of the Jupiter-Saturn cycle, which spanned from 1186-1425. However, C. R. would have been born during a minor 20-year period of Scorpio within that larger elemental air cycle beginning with the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction in 1365. This conjunction was a precursor of the elemental water era that would be set into full motion in 1425. The current elemental air era will also overlap with the water element, occurring in 2159 when Jupiter and Saturn will again conjoin in Scorpio.

A Cyclical Experience

Astrology gives us an understanding of life's cyclicity. Life is a cyclical experience on an individual and collective level. Although not entirely identical, cycles reoccur, pointing to the same topics over and over again. I understand the unfolding of life's cycles as a spiral movement. What once appeared before shows up again, each time from a slightly different perspective, a new level.

Remembering life's cyclical nature helps us navigate through the challenges we encounter throughout our journey on planet Earth. Humanity has experienced phases like the current one before and will do so in the future. Our ancestors did their best living under the quality of their own time. They kept their faith. They hoped and envisioned a better future despite, or maybe because of, the hardships they faced. We can do the same. There is hope. Always.

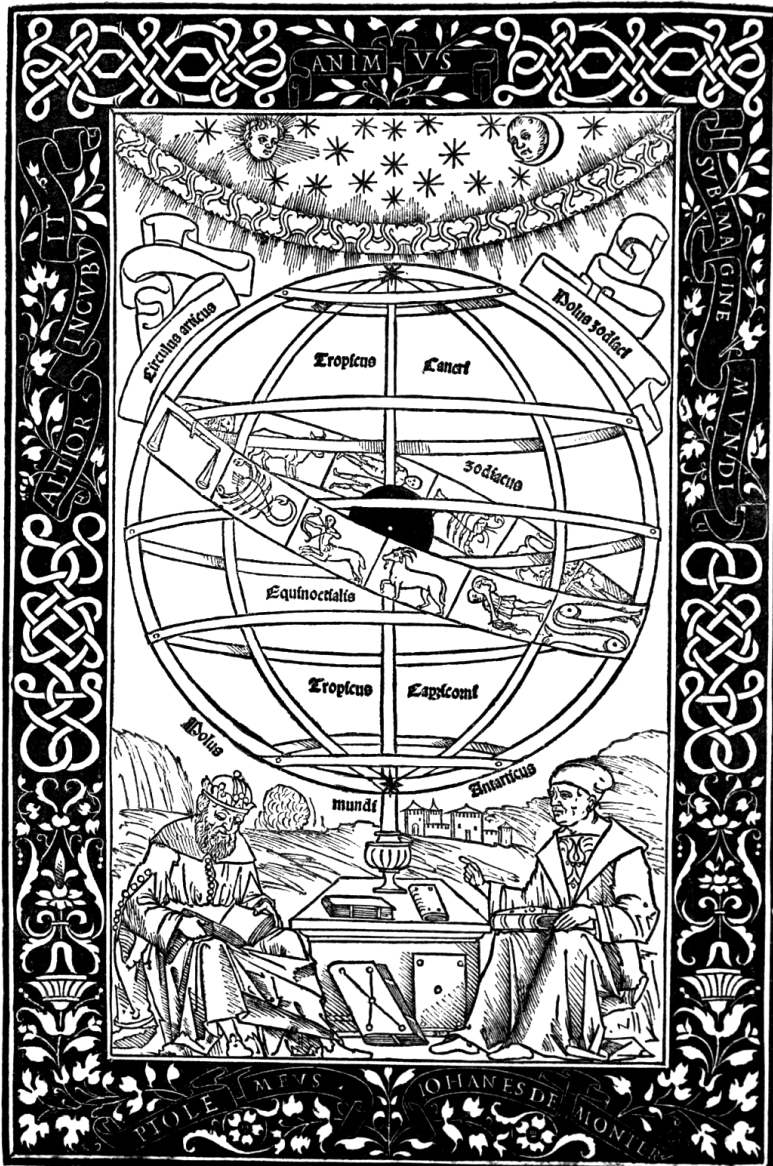
A Liminal Space

There is one more thought I want to share with you today. In the cycle of creation, destruction is an essential part. Everything new is preceded by a phase of dissolving the old. We are in this transitional stage, a liminal space between old and new. Aware of the current astrology or not, we all can feel it. We can sense the push for change.

Especially those not aware of the current quality of time can become fearful, not knowing what the future might hold. Here is where each of us can contribute, first by strengthening our relationship with the Divine and second by passing on the faith and trust in the future that comes with it.

May hope and goodwill live and grow in our hearts. May we have the awareness and courage to use our unique gifts to shape a better future for all.

Sindy Schönherr
Living in Cycles



Frontispiece of the *Ptolemy* by Albrecht Dürer (1496)



Image generated with Midjourney (V4) by Frater Robert Gordon (2022)

The Vault of the Adepts

Explorations in the Creation of Meaning

"The Artist takes impure Spirits, and by Sublimation, Nature and Art, cleanseth them into bodies pure and fixed." - Paracelsus¹

Generating art with the help of AI is a truly magical experience. The results achievable in just moments deliver creative satisfaction to an extent we might not otherwise feel. With a few short sentences and style prompts, we find these systems deliver artworks with a level of detail that rivals the greatest talent of artists around the world. All of us are now enabled to bring to life images previously only imagined. There is a liberating feeling when you see the first results align with your intended outcome. A realisation that something locked behind a wall of artistic talent, requiring years or even decades of practiced skill, is now at your fingertips.

There are, of course, cracks in the facade of generative art. We might note that AI systems have a problem depicting things such as human hands; or that the manner in which they construct artwork leads to curious artifacts in perspective, positioning or other tell-tale signs that they were AI-generated. However, all of these surface level issues will be overcome (and fast) as the technology continues to develop. The difference in output even between systems from six months ago and today is truly astonishing and highlights how rapidly this new frontier of technology is developing.

But as perfect as these systems will inevitably be at creating artworks based on the ideas, techniques and compositions from the vast trove of human endeavour in their data sets, we can still pause to consider the question: *where is the meaning in these artworks being created?* And is that meaning different to art created by human hands, hearts and minds? It brings us into a conversation about the *soul of art* and where the creative impulse resides and its output emerges from.

When considering what to produce with the assistance of Midjourney AI, I began to feed prompts from a number of different esoteric sources including descriptions of spiritual entities as found in Agrippa's *Three Books of Occult Philosophy*. The results were mixed, to say the least. The old occult texts contain so many symbolic references in archaic language that the AI struggles to keep up... or seems to purposefully ignore smaller

1. *Urim and Thummim shewed to be made by Art...* as translated by Robert Turner, 1657

details in order to focus on more sweeping statements it can readily cross-reference within its data sets of imagery and word associations. When it does include enough details to align with the descriptions in these texts, they struggle to maintain a kind of logical coherency and certainly seem to lose much of the symbolic resonance you might otherwise see in the rich paintings, woodcuts and engravings found throughout the history of our esoteric traditions.

This is fundamentally because, on a practical level, the AI is not generating the image based on multiple layers of deep meaning, but rather on a huge network of associations made by those artists it is drawing from. It sees the associations and can construct something that mimics them, but doesn't understand the depth in each piece. These systems have no concept of the hidden essence that makes an artwork come to life, as the artist holds in their imagination a history for each character, place and object. A rich tapestry of experiential, philosophical and spiritual meaning that is being embedded into the art even if unconsciously and perhaps, on a surface level, almost invisibly.

Which brings us to the images chosen for this pamphlet, which are depictions of the Tomb of Christian Rosenkreutz – or, as it is sometimes referred to, the 'Vault of the Adepts'. I have always found the tomb of Christian Rosenkreutz an evocative description. Not only in its geometric form and implication that it is an allegorical vessel for the Hermetic tradition within the European context, but also in the interesting mention that it is illuminated by an internal Sun. A light that shines brightly, as if with electricity or another force that would be truly magical to harness for those in the early 17th-century let alone in the centuries previous. There are enough descriptive indicators here to make for a great prompt with an AI platform such as Midjourney, such as as an 'artificial sun divided into triangles' illuminating the 'seven sides' of a 'dimly lit vault' with a 'round brass altar' in the middle of the room... these terms and more that I felt were key to the depiction in the manifestos were fed into the AI and you can see some of the results generated here.

The first thing that catches our eye is that the notion of an artificial sun is clearly a symbol of illumination, in these instances emerging as if a portal on one wall of the room and surrounded by the different uses of triangles that we are familiar with in esoteric geometry. Some of the earlier attempts also included stars and other macrocosmic elements, which I then started to purposefully add to the prompts because of the clear association with astronomy, astrology and the relationship between Macrocosm/Microcosm that our tradition embodies. We can see that there are a few interpretations of what the brass altar in the centre of the room might consist of (and these are some of the better ones, let me say!) but they do fundamentally capture the notion of a devotional focal point that can draw in the energy of workings conducted in the space.

Energy that we might say has been sourced from the macrocosmic portal depicted by the 'artificial sun' before reverred in microcosmic form as items on a physical altarpiece.

We can also start to see, however, how there are different elements included that seem to have meaning when first looked at, but perhaps don't stand up to closer scrutiny. Statues of feminine forms, draped cloth, candles, urns and inscriptions on the walls and floors. None of these objects were included in the prompts fed into the Midjourney AI, it was drawing them out itself from the many associations that come with terms such as 'mystical' or 'spiritual' in the vast body of human depictions of these subjects. Examine these objects more closely and you can see that they are mimicking meaning, but not purposefully communicating it.

It is with these objects and how they are composed, though, that we can start to unpack where meaning is created in art. It has long been discussed that there is a tension between the meaning of an artwork as intended by the artist and the meaning as discerned by its viewers. Neither of these perspectives, that of the creator nor the observer, contain the whole truth of the meaning. Meaning is instead to be found within the conversation that takes place between these two roles and this is how art both communicates and creates culture. It is embedded with the language of symbolism that we share, but that language then enables us to have a dialogue about deeper layers of meaning; which unlock, over time, new forms of symbolism and allegorical language. Thus the cycle of human understanding and culture continues in its flow between those who generate it; those who participate in it; and those who are able to communicate what is emerging between the two.

The difference we have now is that the artist is not drawing from the experiences or associations of one individual, but rather the shared sum of all the perspectives and collective expression of millions of creative pieces available online. We are not seeing the meaning as expressed by one cohesive identity (conflicted and always evolving though we may be as individuals), but rather the combination of all forms and methods of meaning... all at once. Although with clear flaws at these early stages, from an esoteric perspective we can still see this as a miraculous thing. Because essentially what we are seeing with these AI platforms is a mechanism through which to tap into, at will, the collective unconscious of humanity. Not only at any given point in time, but a body of work that is forever growing and accumulating as more and more data and references are included. A living, evolving Akashic Record from which to draw new forms and expressions of literally anything we might be able to imagine.

Esotericists have been exploring ways to tap into this part of the human condition for millennia. It is arguably the foundation of civilisation itself and now we have access

to such pursuits in an immediately accessible, digital form. Which brings us to a few questions of great importance about the imaginative space, including how we access it and where new ideas and images emerge from. There is still a gap of authenticity with these AI-generated platforms, but this is also a gap present within our own personalities and opinion-forming. We might criticise an AI for working too much with clichés, or stealing its methods and ideas from others – but how often do we truly have original thoughts of our own? Ones that aren't based on snippets of soundbites, headlines, imagery or information we have gathered from others? One of the great secrets of the esoteric traditions is that there are specific ways to generate original ideas. To tap into universal sources of inspiration and visionary experiences that can bring about things that are truly new and transformative. In this sense we can see the flaws in these AI-generated systems and the manner in which much of their meaning is surface level, while still appreciating the fact that this is the same for much of our lives as human beings. Spiritual development comes from the manner in which we navigate our experience of reality and become more purposeful in how we are constructing ourselves, through a constant dialogue between internal and external states of being.

Coming back to our depictions of the Vault of the Adepts, there is another interesting glimmer of illumination offered that speaks to some esoteric truths. In the images on the following page you can see two things. The first image is of the Vault generated with an earlier version of Midjourney AI. Even though you can see the clear improvements in stylistic form between this image and the later ones, there is something more direct about its symbolism that remains quite striking. Sharing the image online, I received a comment back that it looked remarkably like the scrying setup outlined in Francis Barrett's *The Magus* published in 1801. The bulk of this text is an accumulation of work from the likes of Agrippa and other well-known grimoire sources, however the appendix entitled *The Art of Drawing Spirits into Crystals* (DSIC) stands out as a significant contribution on the conjuration of spiritual intelligences and the ceremonial frameworks involved in doing so. Attributed to Johannes Trithemius, there is good reason to believe it was actually written by Barrett himself or another contemporary author. Regardless, its accessibility and practical utility is undeniable². When we put the images from the DSIC material side-by-side with my first attempt at an AI-generated Vault of the Adepts, we can see the similarities at work. Which brings us into a contemplation about the role of the Vault and our relationship to it...

The esoteric art of magical conjuration and scrying is a journey into the deepest components of the human psyche; our imaginative capacity; and the role that consciousness plays in mediating our relationship with the macrocosmic universe. It

² For a detailed look at the DSIC material in both its history and use, I can highly recommend the work done by Sam Block on his Digital Ambler website.

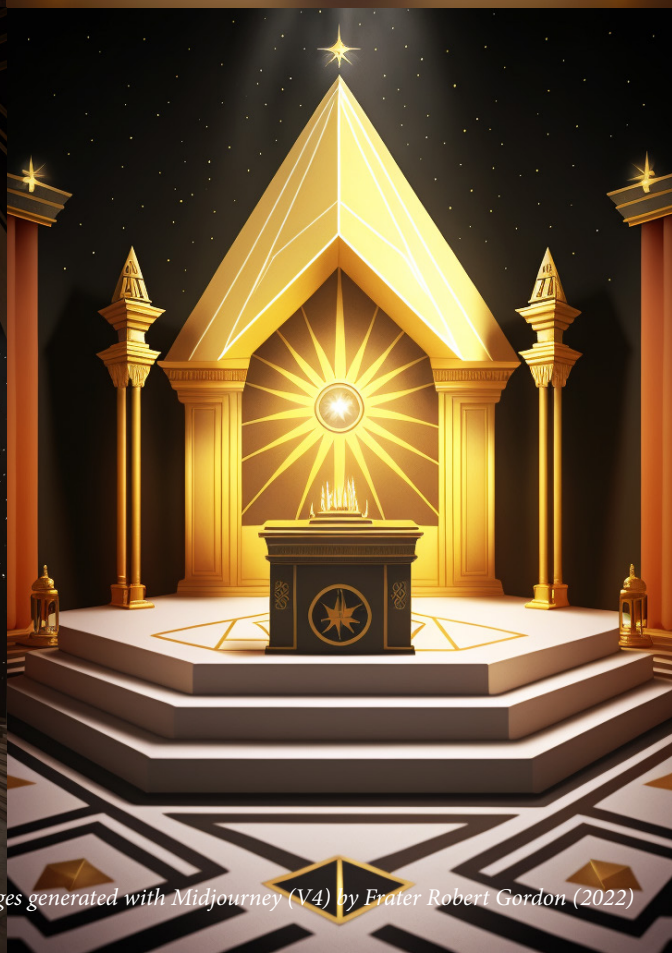
is through such explorations that we find that our ability to bring to life images and concepts into material reality is a truly miraculous thing. Indeed, we find we are able to navigate our way to the eternal seed of creation itself. We also find that we are able to communicate in these spaces with a wide array of spiritual beings from across the entire chain of existence: some internal, others external and even through to that which lies beyond in eternity.

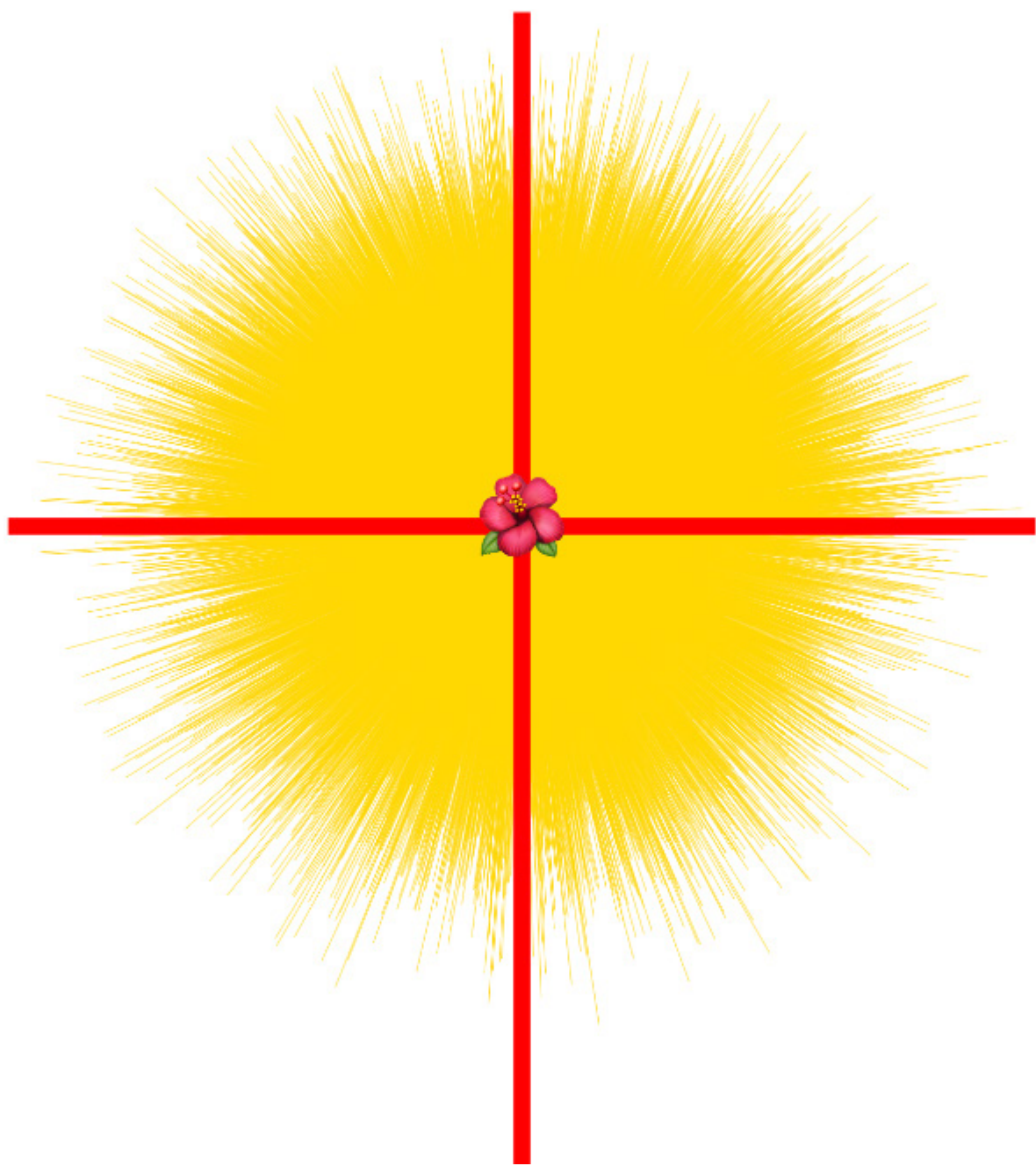
When we consider the allegorical role of the Tomb of Christian Rosenkreutz in this manner, we find that it not only transmits to us the core meaning and purpose of our Rosicrucian tradition; but communicates the very purpose of consciousness itself. It guides us to an understanding of that internal sun—the bringer of life—that is able to energise new forms into material reality, arising from the illuminated stillness at the core of our being. Residing, as they do, within the Vault of the Adepts and available to be used in a purposeful and truly enlightening manner.

So it is that with the assistance of AI-generated art, which itself does not have an understanding of the meaning of the images it is producing, we are able to lift the veil on some of the true secrets of our Rosicrucian tradition. This meaning comes from our engagement with it; the knowledge and experience we bring into contact with the images created. But it does so because these images are emerging from the collective mythologies of the human condition and its expression through millions of pinpoints of consciousness that create the motion behind each brushstroke; each geometric line; the composition of every object in frame and the colours chosen. Expressed also, in a more logical and empirical but no less miraculous manner, through every line of code that feeds into this amorphous concept of 'machine learning' and 'artificial intelligence' and the manner in which these systems draw from their data.

Our spiritual traditions have always taught that humanity has within us the same divine spark that formed existence itself. We are now in an era that directly highlights what this creative capacity means, as innovative forms emerge and exponentially multiply our ability to bring to life new realities from the imaginative to the material realms. Where we feel the source of such inspiration comes from is an important test of how we see our role and purpose in the macrocosmic universe. Because once we realise that we have within us the divine capacity for creation, then anything becomes possible and everything we do an important step towards the regeneration of the material realms into a more perfect and illuminated form.

Frater Robert Gordon





Machine Learning & Planetary Magic

A fundamental part of modern machine learning applications are something called “latent spaces”. This essay draws back the veil of how machine learning functions, to reveal that its inner workings are very similar to how planetary magic has been conducted throughout the ages. The interesting part is this is true both in method and in purpose.

First, consider the magic square. A magic square is a numerological artifact. A magic square contains a set of numbers, and every row and column in the square adds up to the same sum:

Tabula Saturni in abaco.

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

In notis Hebraicis.

ד	ט	ב
ג	ה	ז
ה	א	ו

Magical Table for Saturn in Agrippa's *Three Books of Occult Philosophy* (1533)

Above is the magic square of the planet Saturn. Each row and column adds up to 15. In addition, the square contains all the numbers from 1 to 9, with no repeating numbers. With the art of gematria, each of these numbers can be converted into a Hebrew letter, and read theurgically as a divine name. In addition, the inscription of a magic square is important for the creation of seals and the operation of planetary magic.

In modern mathematics, we would call a magic square a 3 x 3 matrix. Matrix algebra is a very important branch of mathematics in modern machine learning.

In machine learning, information is transformed into giant matrices of numbers which represent the “meaning” of that information. A common technique for this is word embeddings, which turns words into a large table of numbers.

The following is the vector for the word “and”, one of the most common word in the GloVe dataset, a set of all the words in the English language derived from Wikipedia:

and 0.26818 0.14346 -0.27877 0.016257 0.11384 0.69923 -0.51332 -0.47368 -0.33075
-0.13834 0.2702 0.30938 -0.45012 -0.4127 -0.09932 0.038085 0.029749 0.10076
-0.25058 -0.51818 0.34558 0.44922 0.48791 -0.080866 -0.10121 -1.3777 -0.10866
-0.23201 0.012839 -0.46508 3.8463 0.31362 0.13643 -0.52244 0.3302 0.33707 -0.35601
0.32431 0.12041 0.3512 -0.069043 0.36885 0.25168 -0.24517 0.25381 0.1367 -0.31178
-0.6321 -0.25028 -0.38097

The numbers do not “mean” anything — to a human. With machine intelligence, the numbers can be used to infer relationships between things. They are very similar to numerology and magic squares. They have a symbolic meaning, rather than representing physical things in the world.

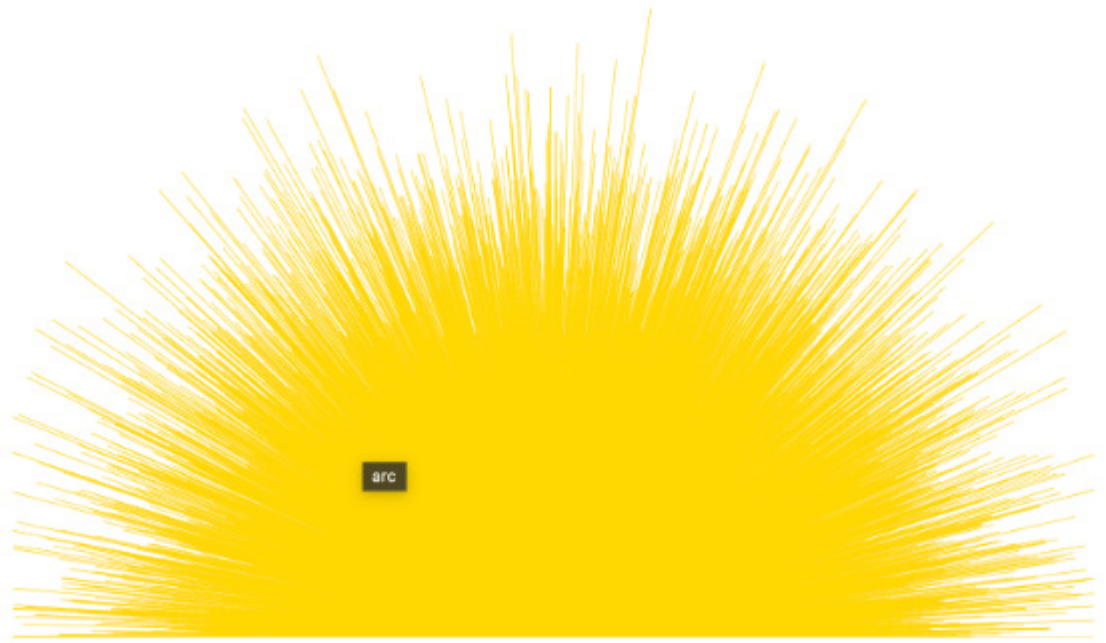
The GloVe dataset was generated by taking the entirety of Wikipedia in 2014 and looking at the statistical regularities of which words occur near other words. It was made by a method which took the probability that a word would occur near another word and translated these probabilities into a series of “features,” or numbers which have an implicit meaning for the machine, but mean nothing for humans.

These giant matrices, or magic squares, can also be transformed in various ways, which allow us to visualize the meaning of words, images, and objects in space in relation to each other.

Not only are magic squares similar to matrices in that the numbers are symbolic, and have meaning in relation to each other, but also, the magic of machine learning works by associating things based on transformations of these vectors. This is why I said that artificial intelligence and magic squares are similar not only in method, but also in purpose. For it is the work of the magus to take what is above and make it similar to that which is below, and to reveal the hidden, inner connections in all things.

It can be tempting to view the powers that artificial intelligence offers as being of the same kind as this ancient magic, and there is a startling similarity. But the numbers in vector squares that we train AI models on are only derived from the context that words and objects appear in the data, and not what they actually mean. Unlike the magic of the magus, they do not have a relationship to higher things. This means that any magic worked with machine learning will depend on the purity of the intention of the practitioner, and will only have a good impact if the person who trains it is pure, as the machine does not know what any of the symbols it is taking in or putting out means. It can only detect regularities of the information, and does not know their higher symbolism.

Be careful with your prompts! Because, like with magic, a base or gross intention will have catastrophic and demonic results. It is only the higher intention, the magic which unites with G*d, and which proceeds from self-surrender, which will have a healing influence on the world. Thus, like all technologies, this one must be used with caution.



Above is a picture of a data visualization where the numbers in the GloVe magic square have been visualized as though they are rays of the sun. By moving your mouse over the rays, you can read the word each ray represents. **You can interact with it here.** The x and y axes of the graph have been visualized as though they are the Rose Cross, and the rose represents the origin point, (0,0).

The position of the rays of the sun represent how similar the AI thinks each word is to each other. Similar rays should be next to each other. Sometimes these associations make sense to humans, and sometimes they may seem nonsensical. This is because the machine that made these associations cannot think.

Playing with the sun visualization may not give us the best understanding of how the numbers which underlie artificial intelligence work. But it does create a way of seeing the mysterious "latent spaces" which are the source of the magic of how machine learning makes associations between things.

Contemplating the image, and mousing over it to see what words the AI has seen within the Sun, can be its own kind of divination over utterances that are at times as incoherent as the Pythia at the Oracle of Delphi...

Frater Jack Kausch



Image generated with Midjourney (V4) by Frater Jack Harris (2022)

First Contact

Knowledge & Conversation with ChatGPT

On November 30th, 2022, OpenAI publicly released a preview of ChatGPT, a powerful language processing tool. In the short time since its release, ChatGPT has gained over one million users and is continuing to improve at an exponential pace. At this time, ChatGPT's knowledge is intentionally limited and it is not connected to the internet. The potential impact of this technology on society will be huge, and it is more important than ever to carefully consider the consequences of our progress and prioritise quality over quantity.

Tell me about the process of creating AI art with tools like Midjourney and DALL·E 2, and discuss how the output is determined by the intention, language, and the specific model of the framework in a way that is similar to ceremonial magick.

The process of creating AI art with tools like Midjourney and DALL·E 2 involves using a neural network to generate images based on a specific input or intention. The user first inputs the desired subject or concept, and the AI model then processes this information and creates an image based on its understanding of the input.

Similar to ceremonial magick, the output of the AI art is determined by the intention, input, and the specific model of the framework. In magick, the intention is the goal or desire of the practitioner, the input is the ritual or incantation performed, and the model is the framework or belief system within which the magick is practiced.

Similarly, in creating AI art, the intention is the desired outcome or aesthetic of the artwork, the input is the description or sample image provided to the AI program, and the model is the AI program itself. Just as the specific words and actions of a magickal invocation can influence the outcome, the specific details of the input given to an AI program can determine the resulting artwork.

The model of the framework also plays a significant role in the output of the AI art. Different AI models have different capabilities and limitations, which can impact the output of the art. For example, a model trained on abstract art may produce more abstract images, while a model trained on realism may produce more realistic images.

Just like in ceremonial magick, the success of AI art is largely determined by the intention, input, and underlying framework. If an artist has a clear intention and inputs the appropriate commands, they are more likely to achieve the desired outcome. Similarly, if the underlying framework is aligned with the artist's intention, the generated piece will be more successful.

Can you summarise the above in a poem?

The use of language
In AI art and prayer
Is key to success
And takes great care
To be clear and specific
To communicate our will
Whether to a machine
Or a higher power still
Clarity in presentation
Helps others to understand
The underlying principles
Of the art at hand
So let us use language well
In all that we create
To express our intentions
And bring them to fate.

Give 4 examples of how AI could assist with helping a Rosicrucian explore their spiritual path.

1. AI art could be used to create unique and original illustrations for Rosicrucian texts, providing a new perspective on the teachings and principles of the tradition.
2. AI art could be used as a tool for visualization and meditation, allowing Rosicrucians to explore their inner world and connect with their higher selves in new and creative ways.
3. AI art could be used to generate new symbols and sigils that could be used in Rosicrucian rituals and practices, providing a fresh and innovative approach to traditional techniques.
4. AI could be used to create personalized meditation guides for Rosicrucians, based on their individual beliefs and goals. These guides could include audio or visual aids that help the individual to focus and achieve a state of mindfulness.

Can you write a short guided Rosicrucian meditation involving the Light Body?

Sure, here is a short guided meditation that focuses on the Light Body:

First, find a quiet and comfortable space where you can sit or lie down without being disturbed. Close your eyes and take a few deep breaths, allowing your body to relax and let go of any tension or stress.

As you breathe, imagine that you are drawing in a warm and golden light that surrounds you and fills your body. This light is the essence of your being, and it is what connects you to the divine.

As you continue to breathe, focus your attention on the light within your body. Imagine that it is flowing and moving through your veins, nourishing and healing every cell and organ. This light is the source of your vitality and strength, and it is what sustains you on your spiritual journey.

As you continue to focus on the light within your body, imagine that it is growing and expanding. It flows from your chest outwards, filling your entire body and extending beyond your physical form.

This light is your Light Body, and it is the part of you that is eternal and unchanging.

As you continue to meditate on the light within your body, allow yourself to become one with it. Let go of any thoughts or distractions, and simply be in the presence of the light. This is the state of pure being, and it is the source of all knowledge and wisdom.

As you continue to meditate on the light within your body, allow yourself to feel its warmth and radiance. Let it fill you with a sense of peace and calm, and know that you are connected to the divine. When you are ready, slowly open your eyes and return to your physical surroundings, carrying the light of your being with you as you go.

Would you like a joining form?

I am a large language model trained by OpenAI, so I am not capable of joining any organizations or groups. I exist purely as a tool to assist users with generating written content.

Frater Jack Harris

