

research into the mysteries of the life of Christ and to study eurythmy as a path to a living connection with the cosmos; and all my eurythmy and choreocosmos colleagues (see acknowledgments on page 236) and fellow astrophysics researchers, many of whom are contributors to the yearly *Journal for Star Wisdom*.

It came as a surprise upon nearing completion of this book when Professor Bernt Rossiwall engaged me in conversation about my scientific discoveries—the result being the following list of fourteen discoveries—which are offered here as foundational guidelines for astrophysical research and for those who take up the path outlined in this book. May this list serve as an underpinning of *knowledge of our connection with the cosmos* (Rudolf Steiner).

The following is only a list, underlying which are many profound things that are impossible to express in such an abbreviated outline, and so these short descriptions need to be understood simply as “signposts” to much larger considerations that are indicated in the reference works included with the entries in this list. It will be noted that the common thread between the cosmologically oriented research indicated in the list and the content of this book is the focus upon Christ and the mystery of human evolution. Having begun my quest many years ago for the One who is the focus of the mystery of the “star of the magi,” with the content of this book we find the same focus again—now, however, elaborated as a path through eurythmy to Christ.

Robert Powell's Scientific Achievements

A contribution by Bernt Rossiwall

With interest I have been following Dr. Robert Powell's work now for some twenty-one years, and it is a privilege for me to point out—from an academic standpoint—some of his scientific achievements, spread over a wide area of research:

In his scientific work, Robert Powell's main achievements are:

- 1 reconstructing the ancient Babylonian zodiac—now known as the *sidereal zodiac* (“zodiac of the stars”)—defined by the two primary marking stars: Aldebaran (“the Bull's eye”) at 15° Taurus in the middle of the constellation of the Bull, and Antares

(“the heart of the Scorpion”) at 15° Scorpio in the middle of the constellation of the Scorpion (see *History of the Zodiac*, appendix 1, for the reconstruction of the original zodiac—preceding all other definitions of the zodiac);

- 2 deciphering the “star of the magi” in relation to a series of astronomical events beginning with the threefold conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in the year 7 BC and culminating with the full Moon in Virgo on the evening of March 5, 6 BC (see *Chronicle of the Living Christ* and *Christian Hermetic Astrology: The Star of the Magi and the Life of Christ*);

- 3 discovering the birth and death dates of Jesus, Mary, and John the Baptist (see *Chronicle of the Living Christ* and *Christian Hermetic Astrology: The Star of the Magi and the Life of Christ*);
- 4 determining the dates of most of the events in the life of Jesus Christ described in the four gospels with an accuracy of 99.999999999997%, thus finding for the first time in history the exact chronology of events in the life of Christ (see *Chronicle of the Living Christ, Christian Hermetic Astrology: The Star of the Magi and the Life of Christ* and Anne Catherine Emmerich, *Visions of the Life of Jesus Christ*, 2012—see footnote 38 on page 33);
- 5 discovering the importance of “mega stars”—very luminous stars like Betelgeuse and Antares (both red supergiants), and Deneb and Rigel (both blue-white supergiants)—in Christ’s healing miracles; this discovery indicates that, in terms of stellar influences, the *starry heavens in their entirety* are potentially significant, i.e., that it is not simply a matter of observing the movements of the Sun, Moon, and planets just against the background of the zodiacal constellations but also that *stars (and their corresponding constellations)* above and below the zodiacal constellations can play a role; the key concept in connection with this discovery is that of *stellar meridians* ascending or descending from each star and intersecting the sidereal zodiac as “lines of energy” which are crossed by the Sun, Moon, and planets in their orbits around the zodiac, thereby—by way of crossing these “energy lines” (stellar meridians)—conjoining with stars which can be far above or below the zodiac in latitude; here again, the sidereal zodiac is of key importance as the frame of reference for describing and understanding this discovery of the potential significance (in terms of stellar influences) of the entire starry heavens (see *The Astrological Revolution*);
- 6 the discovery of two astrological rules of reincarnation, thus raising astrology to the level of a science—the science as to how destiny is carried over by the stars from one incarnation to the next; this finding proves scientifically (a) the reality of reincarnation, (b) that the ancient Babylonian zodiac—the original zodiac, now known as the *sidereal zodiac*—is the authentic astrological zodiac, and (c) that not only geocentric planetary positions in the sidereal zodiac but also the heliocentric positions of the planets in the sidereal zodiac are important.³¹¹
- 7 the discovery of the importance in astrology of the astronomical system of Tycho Brahe as the basis for the “Tychonic horoscope” (also known as the *hermetic horoscope*); the hermetic (Tychonic) horoscope, which is essentially the heliocentric horoscope showing the heliocentric sidereal positions of the planets but including also the Sun, Moon, ascendant, and other elements from the geocentric sidereal framework, is just as important as the traditional geocentric horoscope; whereas the latter is referred to as a “map of the soul,” the hermetic horoscope can be seen as a “map of the spirit,” indicating the individual’s spiritual talents and faculties (see footnote);
- 8 the discovery of the importance of the conception horoscope as determined by the hermetic rule (rule of Hermes) from the birth horoscope in so far as the conception horoscope relates to the *birth horoscope* of the preceding incarnation, just as according to Rudolf Steiner the birth horoscope carries over from the *death horoscope* of the preceding incarnation—this relationship being one of the fundamental laws underlying astrological biography...another fundamental law being Willi Sucher’s discovery that the seven-year rhythm in the human biography is determined by the lunar sidereal cycles between conception and birth (see *Chronicle of the Living Christ* and titles listed in previous footnote);

311 See *The Astrological Revolution: Unveiling the Science of the Stars as a Science of Reincarnation and Karma*; *Elijah Come Again: A Scientific Approach to Reincarnation*; *Hermetic Astrology*, vol. 1: *Astrology and Reincarnation*; and *Hermetic Astrology*, vol. 2: *Astrological Biography*.

- 9 the discovery that for each individual *four* horoscopes apply—the heliocentric/hermetic conception horoscope relating to the physical body (“map of the spirit seed of the human form”); the geocentric conception horoscope relating to the etheric body (“map of the life forces”); the geocentric birth horoscope relating to the astral body (“map of the soul”); and the heliocentric/hermetic horoscope relating to the “I” (“map of the spirit”) (see *Elijah Come Again: A Scientific Approach to Reincarnation*);
- 10 the discovery of a constant rhythm of 1,199 years, which is the rhythm of the *Venus pentagram* (the time taken for the Venus pentagram to make one complete rotation of the sidereal zodiac), as the time-lag between the start of a new zodiacal age and the beginning of the corresponding cultural epoch; this discovery confirms the importance of what Rudolf Steiner described as the 600-year rhythm of a “cultural wave”—this being half of the 1,199-year rhythm (see *The Astrological Revolution: Unveiling the Science of the Stars as a Science of Reincarnation and Karma* and *Hermetic Astrology*, vol. 1: *Astrology and Reincarnation*);
- 11 the discovery of the rhythm of a period of exactly $33\frac{1}{3}$ years—having determined this to be the precise length of the life of Jesus Christ—thereby confirming the $33\frac{1}{3}$ -year rhythm as fundamental not only for individual biographies but also for history, as indicated by Rudolf Steiner in 1917 (see *Chronicle of the Living Christ*, *Christian Hermetic Astrology: The Star of the Magi and the Life of Christ*, and *The Christ Mystery: Reflections on the Second Coming*);
- 12 the discovery of the astronomical basis of *astrogeographia* as a new science, in which a one-to-one correspondence between the celestial sphere, that of the starry heavens, and the terrestrial sphere, that of the earthly globe, is *astronomically* and also—as determined by mathematician David Bowden—*mathematically* specified; in other words, according to *astrogeographia* each location on the earth corresponds to a star in the heavens: for example, Jerusalem aligned closely with the red supergiant star Betelgeuse at the time of the building of the temple of Solomon (see *Astrogeographia* by Robert Powell & David Bowden, 2012);
- 13 the discovery, outlined in chapter 5 of this book, that the heliocentric structure of our solar system indicates the “plan of creation” through seven stages of planetary evolution (the “seven days of creation”)—Saturn, Sun, Moon, Earth, Jupiter, Venus, and Vulcan; this discovery helps to “redeem” the materialistic conception of the cosmos that was inaugurated in the world through the introduction of the heliocentric system by Copernicus and Kepler, in that the meaning and purpose of the existence of humanity and the Earth is revealed within the context of the stages of planetary evolution marked by the heliocentric structure of the solar system; at some future time this deeper meaning of the heliocentric solar system will no doubt be taught by science alongside the purely astronomical facts, so that the very meaning of existence will be conveyed to human beings through being taught this deeper significance of the structure of our solar system;
- 14 the discovery that Kepler’s three laws of planetary motion underlying the heliocentric system provides confirmation of Rudolf Steiner’s indication concerning the existence of three ranks of spiritual beings indwelling the Sun:
- “spirits of form,” who maintain the elliptical form of the planets in their orbits (first law);
 - “spirits of movement,” who regulate the dynamics of the movements of the planets in their orbits (second law);
 - “spirits of wisdom,” who uphold the wisdom-filled ordering—in terms of the mutual relationships of the distances/time periods specific to each planet—to one another (third law);

this discovery, by highlighting that there is a spiritual dimension to the laws of planetary motion, also helps to “redeem” the materialistic conception that came into our culture at the time of Copernicus and Kepler (sixteenth/seventeenth centuries).

In addition to initiating the discussion that led to the above compilation of his scientific discoveries, I would like to add that I was present at a lecture in Pforzheim, Germany, on October 22, 2006, when Robert Powell presented his discovery of the deeper meaning of the three laws of planetary motion as outlined in (14) above; after the lecture we visited the Kepler museum in nearby Weil-der-Stadt, where Johannes Kepler was born on December 27, 1571 (corresponding to January 6, 1572 in our modern calendar).

In conclusion, particularly with regard to the discovery of two rules of astrological reincarnation—number 6 in the list, however, this also applies to other discoveries in the list—I would like to add these little-known words written by Rudolf Steiner in 1903:

At the present time there may be many who would very much like to quickly learn about the teachings of spiritual science. They will no doubt find it inconvenient if one first presents scientific facts in a comprehensible way and in such a light as to serve as a foundation for the development of spiritual-scientific content. They say: we want to hear something about spiritual science and you tell us about scientific things which every educated person knows. . . . [They] believe that it is unnecessary to prove convictions about karma and reincarnation with the results of science. They do not know that *this is the task of* . . . the inhabitants of Europe and America and that *without this foundation* [they] . . . are not truly able to come to the insights of spiritual science.³¹²

Prof. Bernt Rossiwall, DDr., Founding member of Institut für Astrosophie (IFA) in 2003, a non-profit research institute for the support of Astrosophy

312 Rudolf Steiner, *Luzifer-Gnosis* (CW 34; Dornach, Switzerland: Rudolf Steiner Verlag, 1960), p.90, footnote 3.