

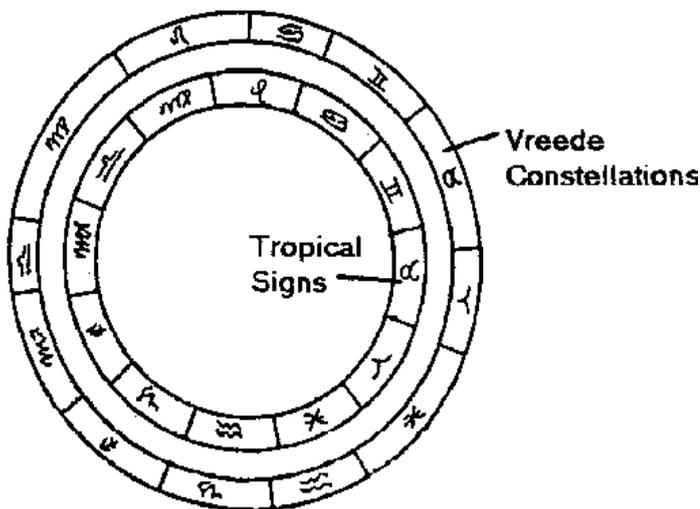
# The Signs and the Constellations?

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In the last issue of 'Harvest' (1) there were two articles attempting to bring some clarity to the ongoing question of the difference between the Tropical 'Sign' zodiac and the Sidereal 'Constellation' zodiac. In the 1980s I wrote a book on this subject, 'Spiral Astrology', which can be had for free on my website. (2) It appears the same old 'confusions' about this topic, that were around in the 80s, are still within our community. The problem appears to be we have two things that on the surface, look the same and use the same words, however they are very different in both their 'astronomical reality' and therefore their context of use. Given the Biodynamic community lacks competent Astrologers amongst their number, neophytes are left to make up somewhat odd stories.

Like everything in Biodynamics, we can undergo a 'Goethean observation' of the topic, to identify some truths about it. So first we must observe 'the issues'.



The Issue is, we have the 12 constellations in the sky, in front of which the Sun moves. These are based upon real stars. Then 2000 years ago, Ptolemy started talking about a very specific division of the Sun's path itself, using this 12 fold division of the constellations, as a reference. This division starts each year at the same specific point, the Spring equinox of the northern hemisphere. Over the years these two 'organisations', no longer line up. During this time the equinox event has moved along the constellations. The Signs therefore have broken free of the constellations at 1 degree every 72 years, so that now the spring equinox at the northern hemisphere is occurring at approximately 3 degrees of the constellation of Pisces.

## The Two Zodiacs

A clear definition of the difference between these two things appears to have eluded Biodynamics, even though I believe, Dr Elizabeth Vreede, gave clear indications in her 'Astronomical Letters'.

Another lingering issue for Biodynamics is their commentators, often do not clearly define the difference between Astronomy and Astrology. Astronomy is the study of the heaven, while Astrology is when any of those observations are then reflected back onto anything on Earth, to infer some 'meaning'. We are using the Constellations in planting calendars and the Signs as horoscopes for Humans. This topic therefore is primarily an Astrological conversation.

Given it is an Astrological question, and that the Universe and Astrology are a vast subject, I have found it useful to define the '**context**' within which one is operating. What is the **reality** of the phenomena you are observing? I have found, **the 'astronomical' context of something, defines its use, and its application.**

With this question we luckily have a firm reality to start from – **the Galaxy**. This is a real thing. However to get to US, the Humans, we need to take several steps 'AWAY', from this reality. Every time we take a step away, we change the context of the activity, and therefore we change its possible application.

We are going on a journey through the energetic onion of Creation. We are following one vibrational

strand – 12 foldness – but each time we change the context, it is as if we are moving one ring further inside the onion. We are going from the macrocosm – the Galaxy, to You and the exact spot you are on this planet. Quite a journey. One that takes us from the most extreme objective reality possible, to the most subjective reality possible, as our protagonists are at either end of this spectrum.

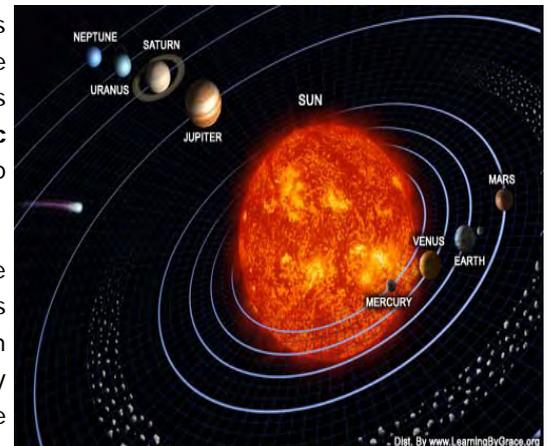
We start with **real stars** and real constellations in the sky. These are stars beaming real electro magnetic forces at us, for billions of years. However we are seeing them, and **experiencing them from our position** in creation.

**Step 1 - THE primary reality**, The stars we see as constellations, are part of the Milky Way galaxy, and their reality is always in response to the **Galaxy**, based upon its centre, and its overall activity. In the Galaxy, the stars in the constellations we see, are not in the same relationship to each other, as we see them. This is our view only. These Star forces are called Spirit forces by Dr Steiner, and the Galaxy can be considered the local representative of the overall **Cosmic Spirit** realm, which includes all the rest that is out there. This real cosmic activity, is the energetic holographic ocean we float within, and it acts as a very real energetic base note, under everything we experience.



**Step 2 -** The first step 'away' we are making is, to **see the constellations from our position**. So we now have a **subjective experience of the Cosmic Spirit**. We still experience the base note and now we receive it and have our experience of it. This is where the **Sidereal Constellational Zodiac** exists. Real stars, with our subjective experience of them. We experience those stars as formative clusters, beaming 'chords' of energy, that eventually manifest as the Species of Life.

**Step 3 -** So where are we? We are in a **Solar System**, which is only a very small speck, on one of the outer arms, within the Galaxy. It is based upon a Star, albeit quite a small one. This is our **World Spirit**, and from this context we draw **Heliocentric charts**. Willie Sucher (7) uses these charts to describe the deep spiritual intentions of individuals.



**Step 4 -** The next step is we are on a **planet** revolving around the Sun. This planet is a compost heap of substance, while the Sun is a nuclear reactor. Quite different, so we are moving away from World Spirit into the realm of the **World Astrality** – the planetary sphere. But also one step further towards physical matter. We are now on a planet.

Part of this move is when we look out from the Earth, we place the World Spirit Sun as part of the World Astrality. Dr Steiner uses the planets according to the length of their rhythms; Moon, Mercury, Venus, Sun, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn. These are real organic experiences for us.

In doing this though, we have subdued the **World Spirit as a possible 'captive' of the World Astrality**. We are empowering the World Astrality, which can easily overcome the World Spirit activity. This becomes mirrored the usual Human condition, of a Spirit, astrally possessed. **Geocentric charts** are made from this context. This is the **'What'** of our human journey. The planets tell us what the issues are.

**Step 5 – 'WE', The Lifeforms** Throughout this story it has been us Humans who are looking out. Yet 'we' are a complex creation. We share this planet with the other 3 kingdoms of nature, and in Dr Steiner's

stories of 'As Above , So Below' the kingdoms of nature arise by 'winding in' an extra external sphere. The Mineral kingdom just uses physical substance, while the plant kingdom, winds in the Earth's Atmospheric activities, we call an Etheric body, the Animals progressively wind in the Planetary sphere, to provide them with a Astral body, while we Humans have reached a stage where we are winding in the Star forces, we call Spirit. In doing this 'incarnation of the Spirit' activity we are taking the **World Spirit** activity of our Sun, and personalising it **into the Internal Spirit**. This is the part of us that allows for perceiving and discernment, leading to conscious decisions, and who is reading this. Hullo.

We need to reflect at this moment on Dr Steiner's evolution story, and how it was at the time of Christ, OAD, that the Individual Spirit began to incarnate more deeply into the average Human. So here we have an element of time. It is now 2000 years since the Individual Spirit began separating us from the tight 'cosmic strings'. We began our 'liberation' from nature, so that today, at the end of the Age of Pisces, there are many humans who do not see themselves as being part of nature, in general. They need to exist in a completely artificial environment. We need to also note that it was this period 2000 years ago, that the 'Signs' of the zodiac were proposed by Ptolemy.

**When the Signs were 'discovered' the Spirit begins to free Humans from the direct Cosmos.**

From this point onwards in our journey, it is **US Humans making conscious choices**, about what we focus upon. We are defining the context. Each step made from here on is mirrored by **a step inside of us**.

**Step 6 - The Signs of the Zodiac. This zodiac is not 'real'**. It exists only in the minds of humans. It is **based upon the Sun's path around the Earth**, and **starting from the spring equinox of the northern hemisphere**, upon which we mark off **12 equal divisions**.

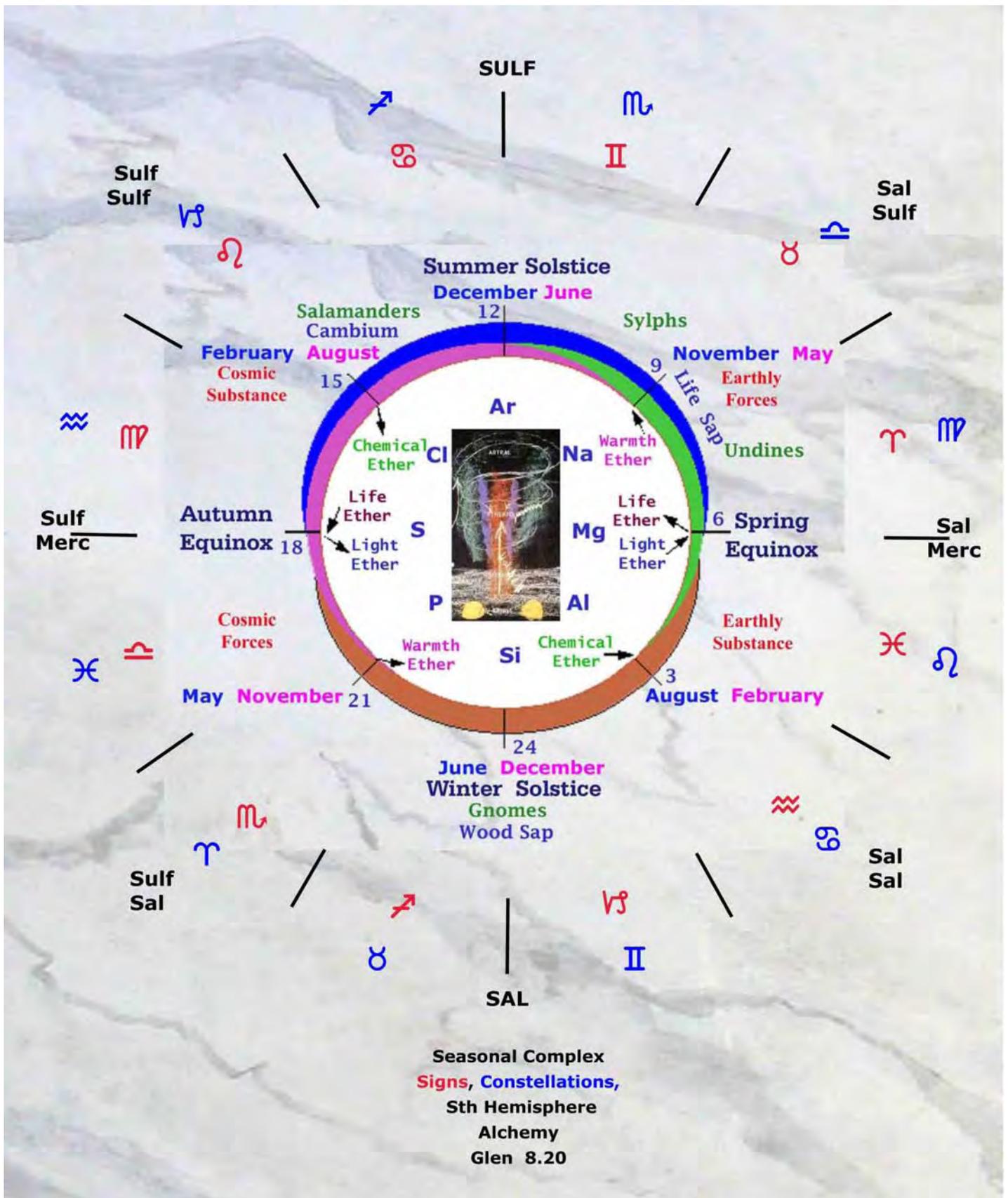
So lets 'unpack' this

In step 4 we put the **Earth in the middle**, and have the **Sun moving around it**. In step 6 we are focusing our attention upon the **northern hemisphere and the spring equinox** of the Earth. The spring equinox is a real thing, and nature responds to it, and by choosing this Earth based phenomena we take another step towards the physical or 'personal' spheres.

This is the **World Etheric** sphere. The Atmosphere within which the seasons occur and the living physical reality all lifeforms exist within.

There is however one problem with the Spring Equinox, this is NOT the beginning of the seasonal year. Any gardener will tell you it begins at the winter solstice. Nature begins to move outward from mid winter, with a big leap forward being made about one month after mid winter, when the 'chemical ether' pushes bulbs to flower, shots to burst, and grubs to move upwards. The Spring Equinox is when we see all this activity burst fully above the soil. This is the time when the 'light ether' gains strength and the plant life generally begins to make harder stems and begin growing fruit. The 'Life Sap' processes take over. So **Spring Equinox** is a very specific position, and one quarter of the way through the annual seasonal cycle. (3) It is **when things come to the surface and can be seen**.

Even so, this is only real for half the planet, at a time. The southern hemisphere is experiencing



something opposite to what is occurring at the northern hemisphere. We are making a choice. Initially because our culture developed in the northern hemisphere, but also due to the very real physical Earth's magnetism and its predominant focus upon Magnetic North, no matter where you are on the planet. It does give this point some 'archetypal' relevance. We are making a 'subjective and rational' choice, and thus another step towards the Human.

It is this consideration that led Hermann to suggest in his article, we might explore a Signal zodiac beginning at the Southern hemisphere spring equinox. This is not a new suggestion, however finding how this might have relevance for plant growth, other than seeing the seasons in a 12 fold division, is hard to determine. How can this be used in plant management. The real constellations will still be a strong influence on beings embedded in the Cosmic ocean.

Note we have moved a long way from the Cosmic Spirit and the constellations, which are Step 2.

**Step 7 – 12 equal divisions.** The third part of this statement is the equal 12 fold division of the Sun's path. There are 12 constellations generally and historically accepted within the Sidereal zodiac, however they are all of unequal size, so again we are making a human choice. We are taking the real 'archetypal' rhythm of the 12 constellations, and we are defining them to 'equality', and then we are placing this 'Cosmic Spirit' activity, onto the very physical northern hemisphere seasonal cycle. This is all a Human activity, we are setting these 'limits'. Thus more steps towards the personal.

In my studies of chemistry I found that the uses of the individual elements, provided a useful images of their inner qualities. So with the Signs, how are they used. Originally, 2000 years ago the human body parts were seen in relation to Signs. Aries governs the Head, Taurus the Throat and so on. These influences are still accepted today, as there is ample proof that Pisces often have difficulty with their feet, while Libras are very prone to kidney problems and so on. However as time has progressed, by far the greatest present use of the **Signs** of the Zodiac, are to describe **Human psychology**. The common 'horoscopes' in magazines describe indications of emotions and personal interactions and how you are going to feel about things. My mother, Judy, was a very competent Sun Sign astrologer. Indeed modern western Astrology has evolved Jungian inspired Humanistic Astrology, where the 'inner life' of the Human is all they consider, and by consciously knowing this inner Astral dialogue, one can exert some free will, essentially **freeing the Spirit from its Astral prison**.

So in keeping with the 6 steps away from reality we have taken, once we arrive at the Signs, we have moved to this very abstract thing called **Human Psychology**, in general.

**Step 8 – The Birth Chart**, This is based upon a persons Birth time, date and place. This final step to YOU sees these considerations find the exact place and time of a persons birth, within the cosmos. This personalises everything one step further, so that we can talk exactly about the individuals specific psychological issues and predict the events of their lives.

These exact details also allow for the placement of the **Houses**. So while we place the Signs at the Spring equinox, a similar action is taken by beginning the 12 Houses, from the Eastern Horizon at the time and place of Birth. This is called the Ascendant. Using this very physical reference, we are able to define the '**Where**' of a persons life. Where will their psychological emphasis' manifest physically throughout their lives. Work, Home or Politics etc. The Ascendant is seen as '**how we appear to others**'. This is our persona, our presentation, **what is seen first**. It is us at our most superficial, 'what comes to the surface first'. Just like at Spring.

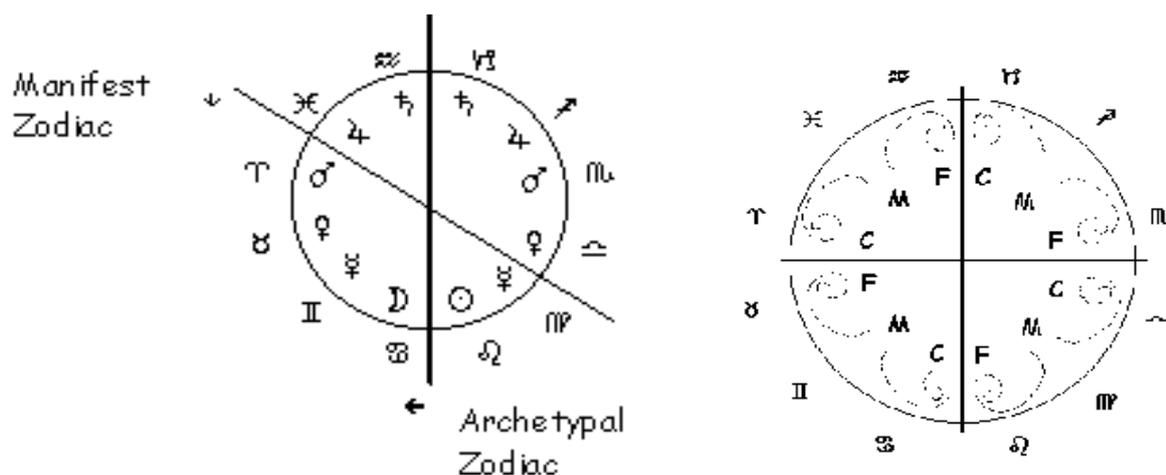
The 'When', of this story, is found by moving the planets in the sky, over the Birth positions.

All this movement from the Constellations to the Signs has occurred within us, because over the last 2000 years the individual Spirit has incarnated, breaking us free of the 'cosmic' reality, and bringing rational objective choice into play.

### The Constellations

**How are the constellations used?** This movement of the equinox through the constellations, is very widely appreciated to accurately describe the development of humanity, through its historical periods. Even the most hardened materialist historians appear to accept this cosmic influence upon our destinies. What is described here is a very deep unconscious, unfolding of human evolution, imperceptible to the average Human in their daily life. These are the great currents history beyond any one civilisation, let alone any individual.

We can then note that the Indian culture have long used the equal constellations, as the basis of their Vedic Astrology. Their focus is very fatalistic and focused upon the prediction of physical events in a persons life. There is no free will, there is no escape from the Astral prison. As the star prescribe, so it shall be.



Eugen Kolisko used them to outline the evolution of the animal kingdom, (4) while I showed how Chemistry organises according to the planets that rule the various constellations. (5) These are – archetypal organisations, that show a deep cosmic 'base tone' that effects evolution and the organisation of matter itself. These studies of the constellations also show, that they do not follow the Aries to Pisces track. The Equinox moves backwards through the Zodiac, and its starting point is Cancer. RS places the first post Atlantean period with Cancer, while the planetary rulers of the constellations, also point to Cancer as the Moon 1, beginning of the natural cycle with The Protozoa, running backwards, Gemini, Taurus etc and finishing with Leo as Moon 2 / Sun finale, The Mammals.

So a straight jump from the Constellations to the Signs, that people like to make, is not really valid. They do not start in the same place. Aries is not the first constellation, it is the fourth.

When looking at the planetary order and rulerships, one has to wonder why any zodiac would start at Aries.

## Conclusion

This difference between the Constellations influence and the Signs is described in the journey we have taken. The closer to the cosmological reality we are, the more 'collective' and unconscious the influences will be. While the further we travel down the road of Human induced subjectivity, the more we move towards the internal reality of the Human.

Planets and animals do not have an incarnated Spirit, and so they do not walk the 'internal subjectivity' we Humans can, and so they remain embedded in the forces of the constellations.

The Signs of the zodiac are not directly relative to Biodynamics, they are a Human thing. Biodynamics rightly uses the constellations and all of the plant trials, I am aware of, carried out to look at celestial influence has found no relationship whatsoever to the Signs. Yes 'sloppy' people like to take Ms Thun's findings and place them over the Signs, however there is no proof of this effect. It is a purely commercial convenience by lazy people.

Through this journey I trust it is clear the Signs talk of very subjective human manifestation, that the rest of nature knows nothing about, while the Constellations transmit real formative, yet deeply unconscious vibrations through space, that fully influence the lower forms of Life. These are very different things.

(1) Harvest – the BDANZ magazine vol 72, No2

(2) Spiral Astrology <http://old.garudabd.org/books/book4.html>

(3) Seasonal Complex <http://garudabd.org/wp-content/uploads/Seasonal-Complex-Nth-copy.jpg>

(4) What is the Birthchart. [http://old.garudabd.org/books/4\\_6.html](http://old.garudabd.org/books/4_6.html)

(5) Twelve Groups of Animals E Kolisko

(6) Glenological Chemistry G Atkinson

(7) Star Journals 1967 W Sucher

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