

Rectification of the Birth Time

By Michael Huber

To ascertain the correct time of birth in the absence of accurate data, key events in life can be compared with the movement of the Age Point through the chart. The procedure is simple: we inquire whether or not the events coincide with relationships of the AP to certain planets or aspects. If they do not, the birth time must be wrong!

Not many birth times are correct, even when they have been taken from birth certificates. Therefore the house system must be moved clockwise or counter clockwise until its setting is exactly right.

Formerly, one had to juggle with progressed planets, solar arcs, and transits; calculating 10 to 20 moving points in the chart and comparing them with 8 to 15 dates in the life! With the AP, we keep track of only one moving point.

There is a big and important difference in the number of dates used: whereas traditional methods include literally all the available dates of significant events, in this new method we make do with some seven events that left their mark psychologically and altered the native's consciousness. This is because the AP describes the changes in consciousness that occur through life and indicates clear psychological themes. So, when you carry out a rectification by means of the AP, special weight must be given to internal experiences, and to the mental changes or decisions that paved the way for external events. In conclusion, we shall work out the exact AP aspects of the example horoscope, and so gain a better understanding of the course taken by the life. In the process, some interesting relationships will be observed which could prove very instructive to the native. We recommend to each person, even when the exact birth time is already known, to analyse his or her life in this way, using AP aspects that have already been formed.

The moments in which something happens inwardly are the cause of most of what later materializes. Take marriage for example: the decision to live together springs directly from the time when the two parties met and fell in love. Usually, the marriage opens their eyes to a new view of life. In that case, the AP is involved in a significant change of sign or aspect; otherwise, not.

Therefore, the thing to do, when experiences are being recounted, is to discover by careful inquiry which of them were the most intense, and most deeply affected the course of life. The accuracy of the rectification of a time of birth depends on three factors:

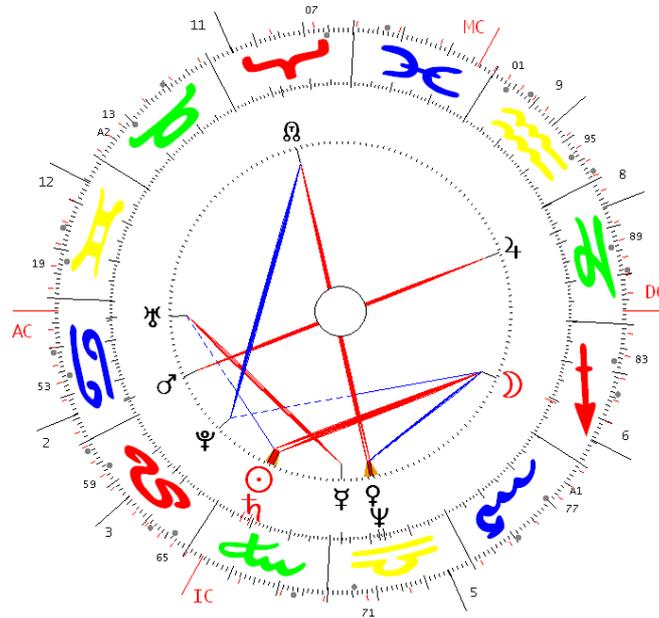
- 1) The available number of psychologically significant dates.
- 2) The accuracy of these dates.
- 3) The size of the margin of possible birth times.

The bigger the span of time we have to allow for the possible occurrence of the birth, the greater the need for exactly dated events. The dates should be accurate to within a month.

If the margin of error for the birth time is no more than thirty minutes, at least five dates are required. This is relatively easy to handle.

If the margin of error is greater – up to two hours – we require at least ten dates. Working with these is more time-consuming. And, for margins of error from two through a maximum twelve hours, the calculation has to be graphical.

Example Rectification



Female, 31.08.1949, between 0h00 and 0h30, Gurtellen, Switzerland, 46°44N 8°40E

The chart was rectified so that birth time was determined to be 0h12m30s.

Here is an example of rectification where the uncertainty is 30 minutes. The woman whose chart appears here had the following information to share:

“When I was a girl some relatives teased me about my boyish appearance and behaviour. My future stepmother was particularly cutting when she visited us for Christmas 1955.

When I was 18, my stepmother had her first child by my father (July 15, 1967). This interested me in becoming a children’s nurse and I decided to enter training college. I did very well in the examination on March 15, 1968. College was really enjoyable and I felt very confident and self-reliant.

Easter Monday, 1969 (April 4, 1969), was the start of my first serious relationship with the opposite sex, and I married the man in question five years later (July 24, 1974). We lived together about two years, because shortly after the wedding I met the “man of my life.” He and I did not get to know one another properly until the end of October 1974; though it would be more accurate to say that I got to know myself properly, because he was constantly analysing me. These were the hardest years of my life, with many ups and downs plus the strain imposed on my “model marriage” by the pull of the new relationship.

From September through October, 1976, the heavily emotional separation brought me into conflict with my father: I was adamant over what I wanted to do and defied his patriarchal rule in the family. At this time I was already living with the man who is now my husband, and a year later, on October 3, 1977, our unplanned first child arrived. The delivery was two weeks early; because I had overexerted myself at work and generally, and my waters broke. The baby was very fine and delicate. Our second child was born February 16, 1981, and was a girl! She was deliberately conceived, and we knew from the start that a girl was on the way. Our wish was fulfilled.”

The above statement had been pruned of everything except the data necessary for rectification.

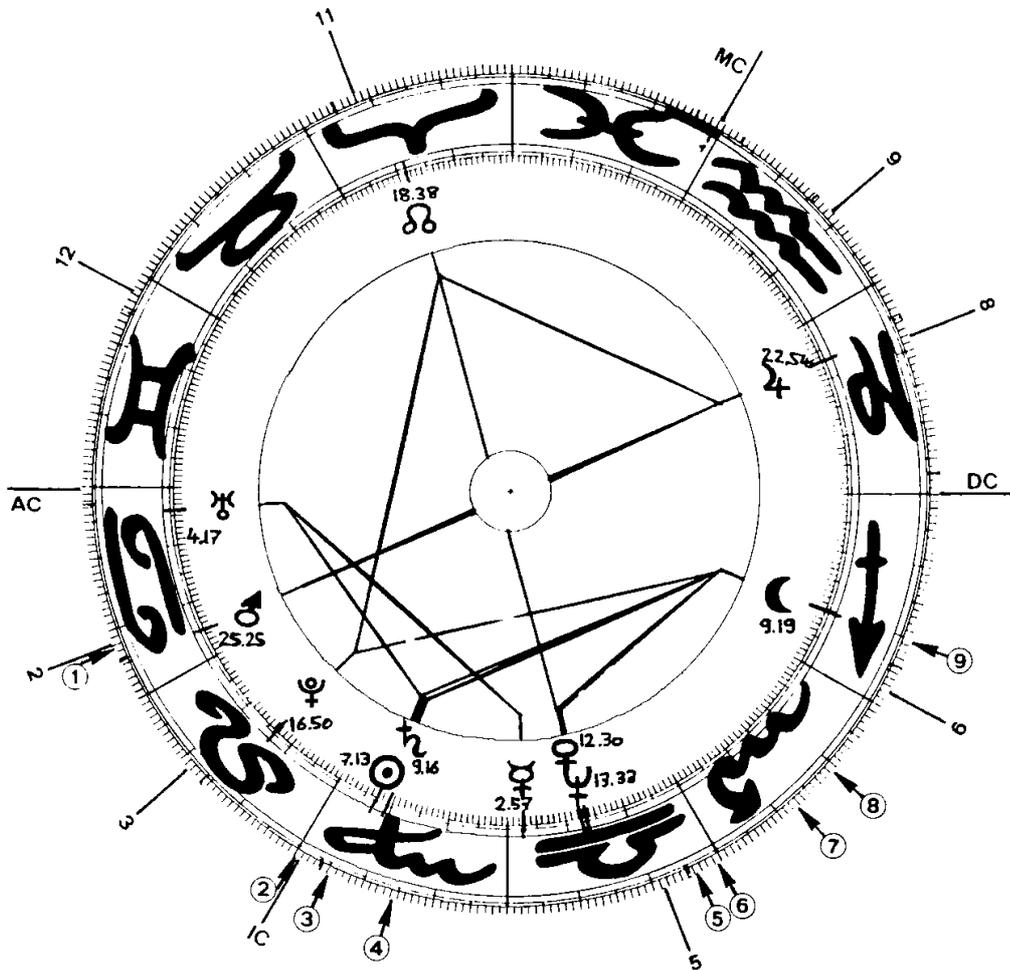
Preliminaries

1. All the horoscope details are calculated for the central time in the range of possible birth times: in this case 0h15.
2. After the signs, planets, and aspects have been drawn in, cut around the outside of the zodiac circle to obtain a disk with the signs, planets and aspect configuration on it.
3. With a needle through its centre, stick the disk onto a blank sheet of paper. The house cusps can now be entered on the paper while taking care that the disk does not slip. Afterward, the signs can be turned past the houses between the two MC positions.
4. In order to determine the limits within which the disk is to be turned, the MC has to be calculated for 0h00 and 0h30. Since the MC has a steady motion of 4° per 15 minutes, all that has to be done is to count 4° backward and forward from the calculated position of the MC. In the present instance, this means movements between $0^\circ 30'$ and $8^\circ 30'$ Pisces. This is the amount of play allowable for the possible AP aspects – which have to be calculated individually of course.
5. For this purpose, an AP-experience table is drawn up so that the necessary data can be seen at a glance during rectification work. Each experience is described in numbered chronological order in two or three key words. Additional columns give the dates and the house numbers. For example, the lady had a significant experience at age 19, and this falls in the 4th house; another experience at age 34 falls in house 6. So we know where to find the AP. To make the calculations easier still, the size of each house can be shown.
6. The position of the AP must now be worked out for each date, as described in *LifeClock*. The results are entered in the next column of the AP Experience Table.
7. In order to be able to enter the AP position correctly, we must give the MC its proper zodiac position, in this case $0^\circ 15'$ Pisces. The AP marks must be placed on the blank sheet; just like the houses, the cusps of which show where the AP is on every 6th birthday.

Calculation of Aspect Positions

We start the rectification with the MC at $0^\circ 30'$ Pisces and examine each of our nine AP positions in turn, asking our-selves which of them are in close conjunction or opposition to planets or have arrived at any of the cusps.

We turn the zodiac slowly and note significant positions of the AP arrow. With the MC = 1° Pisces, we are close to four such positions: AP 1 is in opposition to Jupiter, AP 2 is on the cusp of Virgo, AP 3 is 1° from the Sun, AP 6 is $1/2^\circ$ from the cusp of Scorpio, and AP 9 is $1/2^\circ$ away from the Moon. See Chart 1 on the next page.



AP experience table (Birth Aug. 8, 1949, 46°44' N 8°38' E)					
AP No.	Brief description	Date	House No.	House size	Hypothesis AP aspects
1	Called a tomboy	24.12.55	2	29.8°	♂ 4
2	Stepmother's first child	15. 7.67	3	19.2°	♂ / ♀
3	College exam.	15. 3.68	4	51.7°	* ♀ ~ ♂ ⊙
4	1st man-friend	4. 4.69	4	51.7°	—
5	Marriage (in name)	24. 5.74	5	40.2°	~ □ ♂
6	2nd man-friend	22.10.74	5	40.2°	♂ / ♀
7	Divorce/quarrel with father	1.10.76	5	40.2°	∨ ♀
8	1st child, son	3.10.77	5	40.2°	—
9	2nd child, daughter	16. 2.81	6	27.2°	♂ ☾
MC degree used				1°00' x	

Chart 1: The MC at 1° Pisces

So we now have sufficient information to be able to test the hypothesis that MC = 1° Pisces. The aspects studied below are set out in a separate column of the AP experience table. The same method will be used for the second and third hypotheses.

1st Hypothesis

AP 1 = opposition Jupiter: the child was jeered at for being too boyish, and she resented this as unfair.

AP 2 = entry into Virgo, which contains a Sun-Saturn conjunction. Her divorced father gave her a stepmother and a half-brother.

AP 3 = sextile to Uranus and conjunction with the Sun: the young lady passed an important examination and became more self-confident.

AP 4 = no aspects at the 14th degree $\pm 1^\circ$ tolerance.

AP 5 = at ca. 26° Libra; there is a square to Mars. This is rather too strong for a wedding that was not very important!

AP 6 = entry into intercepted Scorpio. The young woman met the man by whom she was later to have children. This AP is too weak!

AP 7 = semi-sextile to Venus: this would fit the divorce from the first husband but not the conflict with the father.

AP 8 = 1° after the aspect to the lunar node, but 4° before the next aspect, a sextile to Jupiter: the first child?

AP 9 = conjunction with the Moon at the birth of the wanted child.

Next the results have to be assessed. Only three of the aspects fit well: AP 1, 3, and 9. Poorer fits are AP 4, 6, and 8.

The time has now come to consider which of the nine experiences held most significance for this woman. One would expect that the birth of the first child and the initial romance with this child's father would coincide with prominent AP aspects. In addition, her divorce and the resulting dispute with her father are very important, because this is where she appears to have been able to break free from patriarchal influences in general and to get her own way. Therefore we need to give special weight to APs 6, 7 and 8. But there is another point of considerable interest for chart interpretation. A little girl with such a Venus/Neptune/Moon formation reaching out to the You and to the feminine Sun/Saturn component in the 4th house would be very upset at a scolding for being boyish! What was involved was her masculine side, for which we must look to Mars. The latter is under great tension on the 2nd cusp; and, what is more, it is in the region of AP 1. So it looks as if it might be a good idea to turn the disk until AP 1 is in conjunction with Mars.

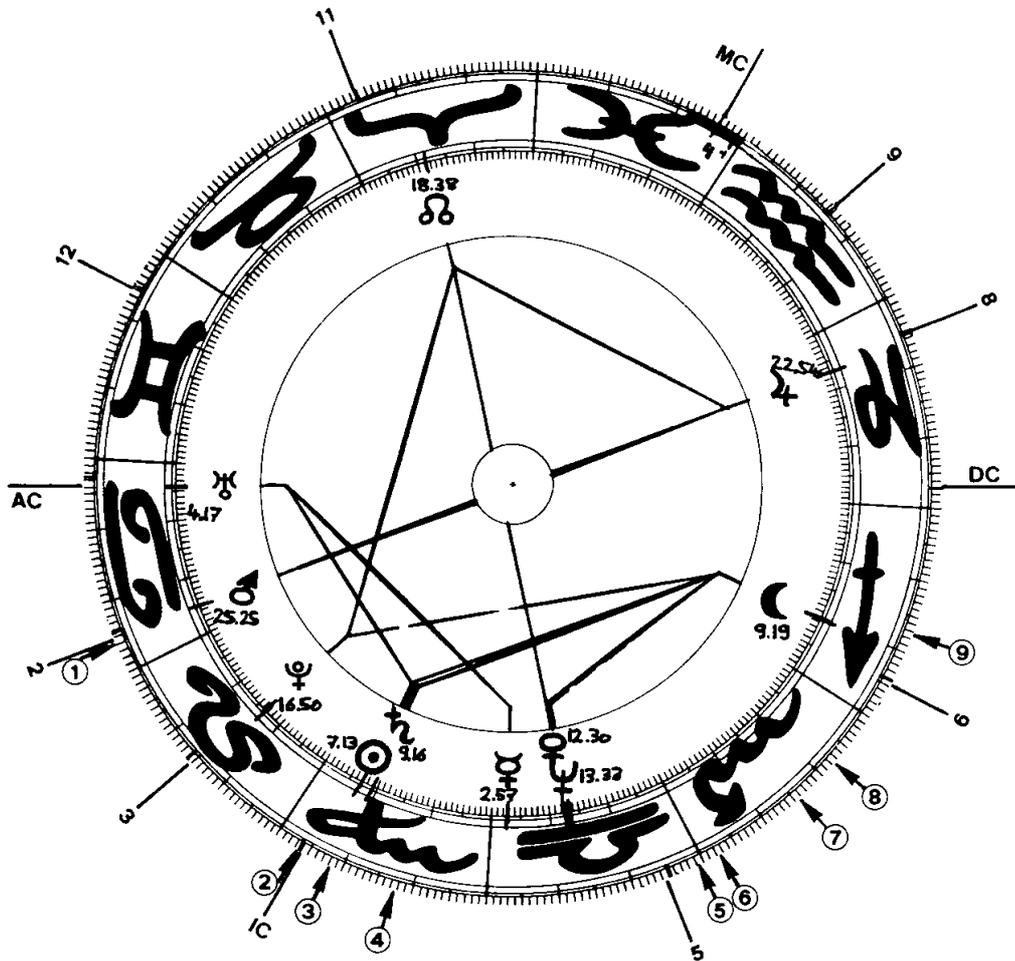
2nd Hypothesis

The MC of our new hypothesis is about 4° Pisces, and the new AP aspects 1-9 immediately spring into view. See Chart 2 on next page.

AP 1 = conjunction Mars.

AP 2 = semi-sextile Mercury and sextile Uranus. The native's mind receives new information giving rise to new, original ideas. The experience of having a baby half-brother makes her think, and she decides to teach in a kindergarten after graduating from college.

AP 3 = conjunction with the Sun and Saturn (possible mid-point): passes entrance examination of teacher training college.



AP experience table (Birth Aug. 8, 1949, 46°44' N 8°38' E)					
AP No.	Brief description	Date	House No.	House size	2nd Hypothesis AP aspects
1	Called a tomboy	24.12.55	2	29.8°	♂♂
2	Stepmother's first child	15. 7.67	3	19.2°	♃♀↔*♆
3	College exam.	15. 3.68	4	51.7°	♂☉↔♂♃
4	1st man-friend	4. 4.69	4	51.7°	♃♀↔♃♁
5	Marriage (in name)	24. 5.74	5	40.2°	29,5° ♃♁
6	2nd man-friend	22.10.74	5	40.2°	♃♀↔♁♁
7	Divorce/quarrel with father	1.10.76	5	40.2°	☐♀
8	1st child, son	3.10.77	5	40.2°	*♃
9	2nd child, daughter	16. 2.81	6	27.2°	*♀
MC degree used				4°00 ♃	

Chart 2. The MC at 4° Pisces

AP 4 = semi-sextile to Pluto and quincunx to Moon Node. A fateful meeting led to what society saw as an ideal marriage.

AP 5 = marriage in the last half degree of Libra. The expectations of the family or group were fulfilled by the marriage.

AP 6 = making the acquaintance of the more compatible husband in the semi-sextile to Mercury followed by a trine to Uranus. The young woman writes in her biographical notes that this man was constantly analysing her at the time, which fits in quite well with Uranus on the ascendant – self-investigation!

AP 7 = $1/2^\circ$ before the square to Pluto, which has only a blue aspect in the radical horoscope. Thus this is a significant new aspect, and it releases energetic forces of change: she defied her father and left the husband she had met at the semi-sextile to Pluto! (The second hypothesis gives us a cross-connection here.)

AP 8 = sextile to Jupiter, which is further linked to Mars. The first child is a boy – she could have had a very physical experience of motherhood, or had she now gained a role in society? Jupiter just before the 8th cusp.

AP 9 = sextile to Venus and also to Neptune. The planned child was a girl. She was conceived nine months earlier, when the AP was conjunct the Moon!

By and large, we can feel satisfied with our second hypothesis: APs 1, 3, and 5 are conjunctions or on the borders of signs, APs 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8 are new aspects for the planets concerned, and AP 9 is the fulfilment of a conjunction with the Moon, which means that in this case the conception of the child was more important than its birth, as far as the native was concerned (it was a planned child).

It is interesting, too, that she has mentioned nothing associated with the transiting of Mercury, Venus and Neptune. Now these three planets are the only ones near Low Points! Low Point periods are not readily recalled. Most of what is experienced at such times happens inwardly. Wishes, ideals, missed opportunities, and guilt feelings can cloud the memory.

In spite of the gratifying results of the 2nd hypothesis, we shall test the remaining MC space through $8^\circ 30'$ Pisces in case there is another favourable position of the disk where the greatest possible number of AP arrows form interesting aspects.

3rd Hypothesis

The most fruitful position of the MC is 8° Pisces.

AP 1 = border between Cancer and Leo: first taste of patriarchal authority?

AP 2 = Conjunction with the Sun: the arrival of a baby half-brother gives more self-confidence.

AP 3 = semi-sextile to Venus: college entrance exam = femininity and harmony?

AP 4 = 1° before the trine to Jupiter.

AP 5 = semi-sextile to Mercury: marriage of the head rather than of the heart.

AP 6 = sextile to the Sun: meeting the second husband brought harmony to the self-awareness.

AP 7 = 20° Scorpio: no aspects within $\pm 2^\circ$!

AP 8 = 1° after the trine to Mars. The first child was a boy.

AP 9 = trine to Pluto. A personality ideal fulfilled in the second child.

Age Points 4, 7 and 8 do not supply exact aspects. The aspects for Age Point experiences 1, 2, 3, 6 and, truth to tell, 9 too, are unsatisfactory, especially from a psychological viewpoint. The motivations suggested by the aspects are too superficial, and the four most important experiences – 1, 6, 7 and 8 – make a very poor showing.

We shall dismiss this hypothesis; even though, with careful calculation, the aspects of APs 4, 7 and 8 could be given greater accuracy. Our intention is to find the proper time of birth on the basis of the 2nd hypothesis.

Fine Tuning of the 2nd Hypothesis

What we have to do now is to calculate the house system exactly, in order that the aspects made by the AP experiences are correct to within 10 minutes of arc. The first question requiring an answer is which, if any, of the nine events can be dated to the day. In fact there are several:

AP 1: because, in the full account of what happened, the visit of the aunt is said to have been at Christmas 1955, and this is what made the strongest impression = the conjunction with Mars.

AP 4: the meeting with the first husband was on Easter Mon-day 1969 = the link between the semi-sextile to Pluto and the quincunx to the Moon's North Node.

AP 8: With the birth of the first child, personal freedom was reduced and material existence gained a new perspective = sextile to Jupiter (new aspect!).

Our calculations will be based on AP 8, using AP 1 as a control.

Calculation of the Corrected House System

The starting point can be formulated as follows: Jupiter at 22°54' Capricorn is sextile to 22°54' Scorpio, the position of AP 8. In addition, we have one more known quantity: the time span separating the event from the 5th cusp or 24th birthday, August 8, 1973. This time span "Z" is the difference between October 3, 1977, and August 3, 1973 = 4 years, 1 month and ca. 3 days. Using the AP table and the house size (5th = 40° 10') we convert "Z" into the corresponding degree distance "X," which is then subtracted from the fixed AP position. The formula for the calculation is in two parts as follows:

- 1) HS° divided by 6 years and multiplied by Z years = X°
- 2) $AP^\circ - X^\circ = HC^\circ$.

A pocket calculator simplifies the arithmetic, which looks like this: 40.167° divided by 6 (years) and then multiplied by 4.086 (years) = 27.35°, or 27°21'. Now the AP position is smaller (22°54'), so we must first add 30° (of Libra) before we can subtract "X," 22°54' Scorpio + 30° = 52°54' Libra - 27°21' = 25°33' Libra.

This result is the 5th cusp, and by referring to the table of houses we can discover the MC and the other cusps.

22 ^h 23 ^m 35 ^s 335° 53' 38"						22 ^h 27 ^m 21 ^s 336° 50' 21"				
M 4° X						M 5° X				
XI	XII	A	II	III	N LAT	XI	XII	A	II	III
22 52	2 39	☾ 0 37	23 06	13 43	44°	24 06	3 39	1 28	23 57	14 37
23 51	3 46	1 27	23 40	14 00	45°	25 05	4 45	2 18	24 30	14 54
24 55	4 57	2 21	24 15	14 18	46°	26 10	5 56	3 11	25 05	15 12
26 05	6 11	3 16	24 50	14 36	47°	27 20	7 10	4 06	25 40	15 30
27 20	7 31	4 13	25 27	14 54	48°	28 35	8 29	5 03	26 17	15 48
∇ 28 42	8 54	5 12	26 05	15 13	49°	∇ 29 58	9 51	6 01	26 55	16 06
♁ 0 13	10 22	6 13	26 44	15 32	50°	♁ 1 28	11 18	7 02	27 33	16 26
1 54	11 55	7 17	27 24	15 52	51°	3 09	12 50	8 05	28 13	16 45

An extract from *Tables of Houses* by Dr W. Koch and E. Schaek

Opening the table of houses to the MC in Pisces, we look for 11th/5th houses cusp 25°33' at N. Lat. 47°, and find that the nearest to it is 26°05' under MC 4°. See extract on next page.

However, the birth place is at 46°44' north latitude. That is to say, it is at a certain proportional distance between 46 and 47 degrees of latitude; to be precise, at a forty-four sixtieth from 46°. In decimals, $44/60 = 0.733$. We now take the degree difference between the 9/5 cusps for 46° and 47° north latitude and multiply it by this factor. The difference is $26°05' - 24°55' = 1°10'$, and $1°10' \times 0.73 = 51'$. This is 44/60 of the 5th cusp of 46° N. Lat. So if we add 51' to the cusp value for 46°, we obtain the exact 5th house cusp for MC 4° Pisces: $24°55' + 51' = 25°46'$ Libra. The deviation from the required value is so slight that we can treat the MC as if it were exactly 4° Pisces.

As a control, we shall examine AP 1, for which purpose we need to know the size of the 2nd house as given under our newly established MC between 46° and 47° N. Lat. The distance between cusps 2 and 3 is 20°03' at 40°N. Lat., and only 19°46' at 47° N. Lat. For calculating the monthly motion of the AP, it is sufficient to use a house size of 20°; in which case the AP moves through the 2nd house at a rate of 16°40' per month. The time gap between AP 1 and the 6th birthday (2nd cusp) is four months, so the AP is $4 \times 16.7 = 66.8'$ from the 2nd cusp.

The latter is at 24°35' Cancer (by interpolation), and by adding the degree distance from AP 1, we obtain the AP position 25°42' Cancer. Mars is posited at 25°25' Cancer, therefore the AP transited it 17' earlier. Since this transit has already been found to be extremely precise, we ought in theory to move the MC back a little to 3°50' Pisces.

In the tables of houses, local sidereal time (LST) is given at top left above the MC. But we have reduced MC 4° Pisces by 10'. Now, when the MC travels 60' = 1°, the LST changes by 226 sec.! So the reduction by 10' amounts to $226 \text{ s.} \div 6 = 38 \text{ s.}$, which has to be subtracted from the LST: 22h23m35s - 38s is exactly 22h22m57s.

To rectify the time of birth, all we need is the difference between the local sidereal time for 0h15 and the corrected LST: $22h25m27s - 22h22m57s = 0h02m30s$. The corrected LST is smaller, so the time of birth is 2.5 minutes earlier than 0h15. The rectified time of birth is 0h12m30s.

Ends