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**The Astrology of the Legacy of Harriet Tubman: A Magical Mercurial Figure**  
**Thea Anderson | [theanichelle.com](http://theanichelle.com)**  
**Saturday, June 19, 2021**

**Suggested Donation:** \$12 - You can support this work via Cash App \$JasmyneGilbert or Venmo @Jasmyne-Gilbert

**Knowledge Level:** Advanced - foundational knowledge of astrological planets, houses, and aspects required. The lecturer does not spend significant time outlining basic concepts.

**Lecturer Bio:** Thea Nichelle Anderson (she/her) is a practitioner of traditional astrology, tarot, and ritual whose goal as an astrologer is to create an exchange that allows you to attain insight into your life and soul purpose. Thea is Assistant Editor at Triangle House and Production Director at CHANI app. [Learn more about Thea Nichelle Anderson and book a reading on her website.](#)

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**Introduction (00:00 - 05:23)**

Anderson shared that she finds joy in looking at history with an astrological lens using traditional techniques. She also shared a little about her background and perspective on Juneteenth - as a native Texan, she grew up celebrating Juneteenth and was grappling with appreciation that the holiday had been recognized federally and frustration with the Texas legislature erasing and restricting access to education that will help people be more widely aware of the history that informs such a holiday. She invited readers to settle into the dual truths of joy and rage as they prepared for the discussion of Harriet Tubman.


**Polaris and Mama Moses (05:24 - 13:53)**

The presentation was based on the [article Anderson wrote for the June/July 2021 edition of The Mountain Astrologer.](#)

The North Star (Polaris) guided enslaved people from the south to the northern US and Canada

- Polaris is circumpolar - it never sets so it was in the sky year-round for people who were seeking their freedom
- There were no maps or street lights, so people escaping enslavement were led by the sky and faith

Born Araminta Ross around 1852 in Dorchester, Maryland, by age 6 Harriet Tubman was laboring as a night maid for the plantation owner's wife.



Anderson spent time combing through the narrative, first-person interviews of enslaved people and learned how the mere knowledge that “Moses” existed was inspirational to many during her time. Anderson then shared many common nicknames for Harriet Tubman, including Moses and General Tubman.

Anderson asserted that Tubman was a child of Mercury - a pathfinder, a thief, a waymaker. She became captivated by Tubman as the only Black woman to outsmart a national network of enslavers by making multiple trips to help free people who were enslaved.

### **The Prophetess (13:54 - 22:28)**

In combing the archives in Texas, what stood out to Anderson was how Harriet Tubman was a diviner/seer with the gift of prophecy and how that mysticism is what served her during her freedom quests.

Anderson shared an anecdote about how Tubman suffered a major head injury when she was a teenager from which she never recovered. Eventually, due to the injury, her enslaver made preparations to sell her further south.

When Harriet Tubman was young, she learned of trade routes from her father who was a mariner. From his stories, she worked out that Saturday would be the best day to leave since she noticed that the wanted ads for runaways wouldn't be published until the following Tuesday, giving her the largest window of time to get as far away as she could.

About a year after she escaped, Tubman's loneliness lured her back to Maryland to see her family. The “fits” she developed after the injury she suffered as a teenager were her mechanism for consulting with the divine. Harriet Tubman used this divine guidance to make multiple trips back to the American South to free others over the course of her life.

### **Conjure Culture (22:29 - 24:29)**

During slavery, freedom-seekers would turn to conjure culture to help aid their escape, often gathering in secret to channel the divine using a synthesis of the Christianity they were forced to assimilate and their folks spiritual practices. Tubman relied on similar knowledge during her freedom journeys.



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### **Celestial Messenger and the Combahee River Raid (24:30 - 43:59)**

Unfortunately there is no documented birth data for Harriet Tubman, so pulling a verified natal chart is not possible. Throughout her research, though, Anderson was stricken by Tubman's mercurial nature, pointing specifically to her facility with using code, functioning as a trickster, and serving as a spy.

Anderson recommended that the audience watch the Drunk History episode about the Combahee River Raid, which features an accurate and humorous depiction of Tubman's role as the first Black person to lead a military operation in U.S. history. She then recounted the story of Tubman's involvement and walked through detailed delineations for the chart of the Combahee River raid, asserting that the eclipse that occurred nine hours before the raid served as the catalyst for the ensuing events. Highlights are as follows. Reach out to Anderson to order a copy of the lecture to see the full chart:

- Acquiring knowledge through subterfuge as representative of Mercury
- Heightened Mercurial significations with planet retrograde at the time of the raid
- Crumbling hegemony with debilitated Saturn
- Mercury approaching Uranus intoning the archetype of Prometheus the liberator

### **Harriet in the Sky Today (44:00 - 51:15)**

While conducting her research, Anderson began looking at the asteroid named for Harriet Tubman (asteroid 241528) in her own transits and mundane charts. She offered delineations based on the position of the asteroid at the time of the workshop.

She closed the lecture by sharing that Tubman dictated her biography, Harriet: The Moses of Her People, to a woman named Sarah Bradford. The story contains many direct quotes that offer insight into the life of Tubman and contributed to Anderson's research and assertion of Tubman as a mercurial figure. Her last words were, "I go to prepare a place for you." Harriet Tubman died on March 10, 1913.

**Archivist's Note:** Fresh Voices in Astrology ceased operations in 2022 so this lecture is no longer available for purchase on their website. Please reach out to Thea Nichelle Anderson to order a recording of the lecture, hear additional stories about Harriet Tubman and audience questions, and review sample charts.