

THE MINOR PLANETS

and some esoteric considerations

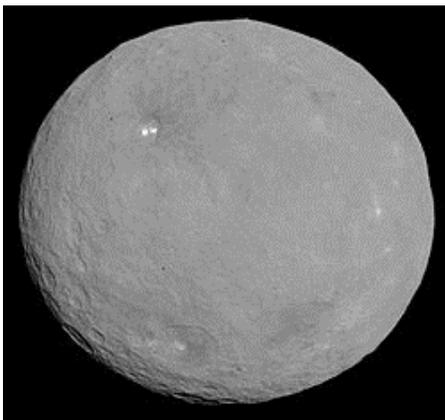
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(The above picture adapted from public domain 2006 NASA image file. Pluto is not shown. See picture later in text for comparison with Pluto.)

Protoplanets: A protoplanet is defined as a small body that attracts dust and debris and sweeps it into its collective mass as it orbits a young star. They are large planetary embryos that originate within the protoplanetary discs of solar systems and have undergone internal melting to produce differentiated interiors (There is great significance to this idea of internal melting. Internal heat is a condition and indicator of life within any system, occultly considered). That there is sufficient gravity and thus mass to produce such a differentiated interior esoterically implies that such planetary bodies act in a way that is more extensive and inclusive than simple asteroids, and there is a more defined consciousness aspect to be regarded with the use of such bodies in astrological interpretation. In short, protoplanets ‘carry more weight’ (pardon the pun, but it is true literally as well) in astrological interpretation than asteroids, but not as much as the dwarf planets or the major planets. There are four more or less confirmed or near-confirmed protoplanets, all within the main asteroid belt. Ceres is now classed as a dwarf planet, but was until recently considered as a protoplanet. The other four are listed below.

PROTOPLANETS [red text indicates ranking in size from the above diagram]



(9) 950 km CERES: smallest known dwarf planet in solar system and only one in asteroid belt, 590 mi dia, also considered a protoplanet. From Blavatsky: “Ceres was...the deity of fire, of Heat fecundating Nature..., the preserver and saviour – a holy virgin, along with Isis. She is thus associated with wealth, or with the reaping of harvest. She was also patroness of the Eleusinian mysteries, which rites were very secret, and which were finally shut down (interestingly enough) by the rise of Christianity. However, the vestiges of the rites stand to this day in the high mass of Catholicism, the ‘body of Christ’ being Ceres veiled.”



(530 km) PALLAS [Minerva]/Athene: remnant protoplanet, irregular shape. Pallas-Athene was the goddess of wisdom. She was patroness of the arts and trades, sprung fully and in full armor from the head of Jupiter. She was a war-like goddess, but it was purely defensive war that she patronized. She had no sympathy with the Martian love of violence and bloodshed. It has an orbital period of 4.61 years.



(530 km) VESTA: remnant protoplanet, Vesta was the divine anthropomorphic divine fire or Holy Spirit... She was the goddess of the fire of the domestic hearth, and presided over the central altar of family, city, tribe and race. It has an orbital period of 3.63 years.



(100 km) 21 LUTETIA: primordial planetesimal. Latin name for Paris, the second son of Priam and Hecuba. He eloped (or absconded) with Helen of Troy, which instigated the Trojan War. He awarded the apple of fairness to Venus (Aphrodite), who in return assisted him in carrying off Helen, for whom he deserted his wife Oenone. At Troy Paris earned the contempt of all through his cowardice. He killed Achilles with a poisoned arrow and suffered the same fate himself at the hands of Philoctetes when the city was taken. It has an orbital period of 3.8 years.



HYGEIA: orbital period 5.56 yr., possible planetesimal. From the mythology, she was the personification of cleanliness, sanitation and health, more specifically the prevention of illness. Daughter of Asclepius, god of medicine. (Picture is an artistic rendition)

The Dwarf Planets

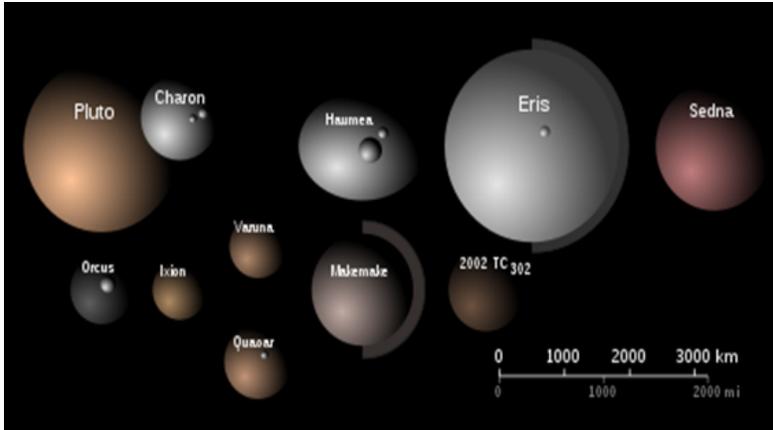
The International Astronomical Union (IAU) defines a dwarf planet as:

...a celestial body that

- (a) is in orbit around the Sun,*
- (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape,*
- (c) has not cleared the neighborhood around its orbit [of debris and other bodies], and*
- (d) is not a satellite [of another planet]*

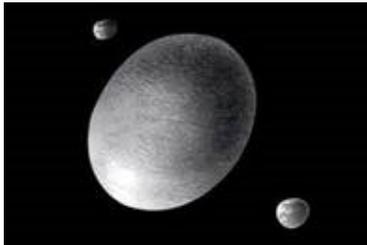
Most of these dwarf planets, with the exception of Ceres, are trans-Neptunians and lie in the Kuiper belt, while some are conjectured to lie in the Oort Cloud, a region of space normally associated with comets.

DWARF PLANETS



(2) 2300 km Pluto—discovered on February 18, 1930. Classified as a planet for 76 years. Reclassified as a dwarf planet by the IAU on August 24, 2006. 2:3 Neptune resonance. Pluto has three known moons – Charon (the largest by far), Nix and Hydra. Nix was the Greek goddess of darkness and night and the mother of Charon. The Hydra was the 9-headed serpent Hercules battled in the Greco-Roman myths. Charon was the ferryman

of the dead across the River Styx in Hades.



(3) 2000 km Haumea (2003 EL61) – discovered on December 28, 2004. Accepted by the IAU as a dwarf planet on September 17, 2008. KBO 7:12 resonance. Extreme elongation of diameter. The Hawaiian goddess of fertility and childbirth. Haumea has two known moons, Hi'iaka and Namaka. Both were daughters of Haumea. Hi'iaka was patron goddess of the big island of the Hawaiian island chain. Namaka was the goddess of the sea.



(5) 1600 km Makemake—discovered on March 31, 2005. Accepted by the IAU as a dwarf planet on July 11, 2008. KBO, 6:11 resonance. From the Easter Islanders, Makemake was the creator god of humanity, the god of fertility and the chief god of the bird-man cult.



(1) 2400 km Eris—the largest known dwarf planet, discovered on January 5, 2005. Called the "tenth planet" in media reports. Accepted by the IAU as a dwarf planet on September 13, 2006. SDO, 5:17 resonance. Eris is the personification of Strife. She herself is said to have given birth to Work, Forgetfulness, Hunger, Pain, Battles, Fights, Murders, Killings, Quarrels, Lies, Stories, Disputes, Lawlessness, Ruin and the Oath. Generally portrayed

as a female winged spirit, she threw the apple intended for the fairest of the goddesses, which Paris had the task of awarding; this was the origin of the Trojan War. Eris has one known moon, Dysnomia, Greek goddess of lawlessness.

(2)



(10) 750 km Varuna, triaxial ellipsoid, named after the Hindu deity Varuna, god of the waters of heaven and earth and guardian of immortality. From Blavatsky, “Varuna more specifically ruled over the water elementals. In the Vedas he is the most ancient of the gods – a personification of celestial space and the infinite sky, the creator and governor of heaven and earth, the King, the father and the Master of the world, of the gods and men. It is only much later that Varuna became associated with water. He was said to be a jealous and choleric god. Also called ‘the Eternal’. The supreme keeper of order and god of the law.” Varuna has no known moons.



(8) 980 km Ixion Ixion was a Thessalian king who ruled over the Lapiths. He made large promises to King Deioneus for the hand of his daughter Dia in marriage, but when said King came seeking his compensation, Ixion threw him into a ditch of burning coals, immolating him. The horror caused by the crime was so great that no one would purify Ixion. Zeus took pity on him and purified him, delivering him from the madness that had overcome him, but Ixion showed extreme ingratitude to his benefactor by lusting after Zeus’ wife and trying to rape her. Zeus formed a cloud in the shape of Hera, his wife, and Ixion mated with the phantom, which bore a son Centaurus, father of the Centaur race, out of the union. In punishment, Zeus fastened Ixion to a burning wheel that rotated continuously, often said to have been placed in Tartarus, the place of punishment for the worst criminals. Zeus also gave him a potion that made him immortal, so that Ixion would have to bear the punishment for eternity. Ixion has no known moons.



(11) 480 km Huya, name of the rain god of the Wayuu people of Venezuela and Colombia. It has no known moons.

Brown's list (see chart at end of article) identifies four other objects as "nearly certainly" being dwarf planets, including the following:



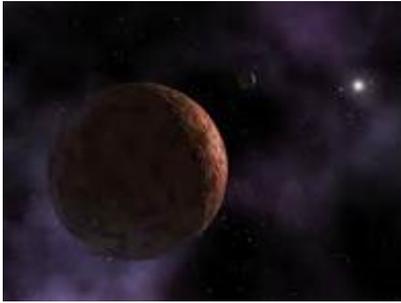
(7) 1100 km Orcus [also sometimes called ‘anti-Pluto’] – discovered on February 17, 2004. Neptune resonance. Orcus was a god of the underworld, the god of oaths and punisher of perjurers. Orcus has one known moon, Vanth, an Etruscan goddess who guided the souls of the dead to the underworld.



(6) 1290 km Quaoar – discovered on June 5, 2002. TNO Also known as ‘Chingichngish’, from the aboriginals of southern coastal California. There is precious little known about the mythology because the peoples

were Christianized early in Western settlement and the myths were lost. Chingichngish was said to preside over the initiatory rites of adolescent boys, where the hallucinogenic Datura (Jimsonweed) plant was ingested. Also, apparently, there were a set of ‘Chingichngish avengers’, which spied on human beings and enforced the moral codes. These were totem animals, like the bear, the rattlesnake, etc. Chingichngish was variously described as a creator god, a prophet, a lawgiver or even a cultural hero. Quaoar has one known moon, Weywot, the son of Quaoar, and a sky god.

(6a) dia. somewhere between Sedna and Quaoar 2007 OR10 – discovered on July 17, 2007. 3:10 Neptune resonance.



(4) 1800 km Sedna – discovered on November 14, 2003. TNO, conjectured by some scientists to be a member of the Oort Cloud. Named after an Inuit goddess of the sea, the mistress of sea animals, the patron of fishermen and hunters, said to live at the bottom of the cold deep of the Arctic Ocean, since its orbit is at the furthest and thus coldest reaches of the solar system. In most of the Inuit myths, Sedna is portrayed as having been thrown into the sea from her father’s kayak for a variety of reasons – having angered her father, in attempts to rescue her from bird creatures, in

hopes of appeasing the sea gods. In each of the versions her father throws her overboard and severs her fingers, which then become the larger sea creatures, and she the goddess of the deep. She is generally considered to be a vengeful goddess who must be appeased by hunters in order to receive their quarry. There is much in the way of conjecture about this dwarf planet, speculations including that it may have been captured from another solar system, and that it may provide evidence for another large planet outside the orbit of Neptune. One of the reddest objects in the solar system, Sedna has no known satellites.

Of the known dwarf planets, then, Pluto, Haumea, Eris, Makemake, Orcus and 2007OR₁₀ are all locked into synchronous orbit with Neptune. The protoplanets are all within the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. The remaining unnamed dwarf planets, upwards of 50, their relative sizes and orbital data, and their relations to the other planets, from Michael E. Brown’s data:

<http://web.gps.caltech.edu/~mbrown/dwarfplanets/> Red text indicates named dwarf planet.

name	average distance from sun (km)	estimate d size (AU)
Mercury	0.39	4880
Venus	0.72	12,100
Earth	1.0	12,700
Mars	1.5	6780
Ceres	2.8	950
Jupiter	5.2	139,800
Saturn	9.6	116,500
Uranus	19.2	50,700
Neptune	30.0	49,200
2004TY364	38.72	540
2002KX14	39.01	560
2002XV93	39.22	430

2003VS2	39.27	610
1999TC36	39.27	440
2001QF298	39.30	490
<u>Orcus</u>	39.34	1100
<u>2003AZ84</u>	39.45	710
<u>Pluto</u>	39.53	2300
<u>Ixion</u>	39.65	980
<u>Huya</u>	39.76	480
2005RN43	41.53	740
1995SM55	41.64	470
2002MS4	41.90	740
2004SB60	41.97	560
2004GV9	42.23	680
2002UX25	42.53	810
<u>Varuna</u>	42.90	780
2002TX300	43.11	800
1996TO66	43.19	540
2003OP32	43.24	650
<u>2003EL61 (Haumea)</u>	43.31	2000
<u>Quaoar</u>	43.58	1290
2003QW90	43.65	560
1999CD158	43.69	410
1997CS29	43.87	410
2000CN105	44.65	430
1998WH24	45.56	450
<u>2005FY9 (Makemake)</u>	45.66	1600
2004PR107	45.75	520
2003MW12	45.94	740
2002CY248	46.18	410
2002KW14	47.08	510
2002AW197	47.30	940
2002WC19	47.67	410
2003QX113	49.56	450
2003FY128	49.77	430
2001UR163	51.40	620
2002TC302	55.02	710
1999DE9	55.72	490
2004XR190	57.36	540
2000YW134	57.77	430
<u>Eris</u>	67.69	2400
2005RM43	89.73	560
<u>Sedna</u>	486.0	1800

MOONS IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM

This listing would not be complete without mentioning that there are many moons orbiting planets within the solar system that would qualify as dwarf planets, except for the fact that they are orbiting the planets, i.e., do not have their own independent orbits. The moons of the gas giants could likely

be captured dwarf or protoplanets from early in the evolution of the solar system. Our own Moon is conjectured to be the result of an early collision between the Earth and a hypothetical protoplanet Theia.

From Wikipedia: “Nineteen moons are known to be massive enough to have relaxed into a rounded shape under their own gravity. These bodies have no significant physical differences from the dwarf planets, but are not considered members of that class because they do not directly orbit the Sun. They are Earth's moon, the four Galilean moons of Jupiter (Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto), seven moons of Saturn (Mimas, Enceladus, Tethys, Dione, Rhea, Titan, and Iapetus), five moons of Uranus (Miranda, Ariel, Umbriel, Titania, and Oberon), one moon of Neptune (Triton), and one moon of Pluto (Charon).”

See: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protoplanet>

Blavatsky Collected Writings, (henceforth designated as ‘*BCW*’) Theosophical Publishing House, Wheaton Ill., Vol III, pg. 460

ibid Vol. II pg. 164

ibid Vol.XI pg. 69

ibid Vol. XII pg. 214

See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleusinian_Mysteries

BCW, Vol. XI pg. 69.

ibid Vol. 10 pg.278

Bullfinch's Mythology, Thomas Bullfinch, Gramercy Books, NY, NY, 2003 ed. (designated henceforth as ‘*Bullfinch*’), pp 107, 927

BCW Vol. III pg. 460

Bullfinch, pp. 10, 954

ibid pg. 935

See: http://www.iau.org/static/resolutions/Resolution_GA26-5-6.pdf

See: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makemake_\(mythology\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makemake_(mythology))

The Concise Dictionary of Classical Mythology, (henceforth designated as ‘*DCM*’) Pierre Grimal, Basil Blackwell Pubs, 1986, pp 142-143.

BCW Vol 5 pg. 302

ibid Vol XII, pg. 180 fn

ibid, pg 181

DCM, pg. 228.

See: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quaoar_\(mythology\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quaoar_(mythology))

See: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sedna_\(mythology\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sedna_(mythology))

See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/90377_Sedna

See: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theia_\(planet\)#Theia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theia_(planet)#Theia)

See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwarf_planet