

# Quintiles, Septiles, and Moments of Mystical Illumination

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*“I saw eternity the other night.  
Like a great ring of pure and endless light.”  
- Henry Vaughan*

“Heavenly lightning’s passed and repassed in the depths of his being, and it seemed to him that he walked on air”

*- Heinrich Suso*

The best mystic moments are mostly lost. Mystics lose the date of their big moment; they forget when the great turning-point of their life arrived. After all, it does appear as “timeless” when it happens. We here seek for the moments of mystical illumination for which dates can be ascertained. And how do we recognise such a moment? It has to be in some way transcendent and to have involved an experience of *unity*. The experience of mystical illumination is not the same as having a vision, a near-death experience, an out-of-the-body experience, a religious conversion, even a joyful moment, or an experience of realisation, although it can involve any of these. It differs from scientific enlightenment in that the individual is *part of* that unity. Using the dated mystic moments here found, we endeavour to test certain theories of celestial influence; is there a celestial pattern that *predisposes* people to such an experience? I found seventeen such moments. (1) Here they are.

**1. Blaise Pascal** experienced a mystic illumination, on 23 November 1654, 10:30 pm to midnight. He kept an amulet with the memory of this inscribed upon it, which was discovered after his death as tucked into the fabric of his coat. On it was written:

FEU  
Dieu d’Abraham. Dieu d’Isaac Dieu de Jacob  
Non des philosophes et des savans  
Certitude joye certitude, sentiment, veue joye paix  
Dieu de Jesus Christ

Other mystical comments of a joyful nature were inscribed, e.g. “My God do not leave me. This is eternal life.” (2)

**2.** While journeying from Amsterdam to Delft, **Emanuel Swedenborg** had his first experience of enlightenment that was to change his life: “He had experienced emotional turmoil over the Easter weekend, but during his journey on Monday, he enjoyed a wonderful feeling of bliss. That night, he suddenly was seized with such trembling that he fell from his bed onto the floor,” and he then “felt that he had been divinely commissioned to do a special work.” (3) The date was then 7 April 1744.

**3.** The US mystic **David Brainerd** had been feeling thwarted in his religious endeavours, and wasn’t able to pray any more. Then, on the Sabbath, Sunday, 12 June 1739, as the Sun was setting, while walking in a thick grove:

Unspeaking glory seemed to open to the apprehension of my soul, I do not mean any external brightness, nor any imagination of a body of light, but it was a new inward apprehension or view that I had of God... My soul rejoiced with joy unspeakable.

This lasted about an hour, after which “everything about me appeared with a different aspect from what it was wont to.” (4) (NB, This date is 23<sup>rd</sup> July NS)

4. The Irishman **Paul Tyler** was living around New York in a Shaker community, when “In the early morning of 11 May 1895, came the crowning experience of my life.” His diary records how, that morning, his religious belief was confirmed:

... dissolving in happy tears, I sprang from my bed about five o'clock ... All this time the atmosphere of the room was vibrant with an intense white light. The presence which had been revealed in the first waking moments seemed now diffused and continuing throughout the universe. (5)

Some weeks later Tyler wrote: “There is a consciousness of a steady glow which is light and warmth in all my being. It is certain that ever since that morning I have had a larger and surer hold on life and have been able to work with a clearer and more attractive brain and body.”

5. The Danish dairy worker **Martinus Thomsen** was sitting down trying to meditate one evening, on the Tuesday of Holy week, when suddenly he felt “in the presence of something immensely sublime.” A being “made of fire,” of “dazzling white light spangled with blue,” came towards him and then entered into his “own flesh and blood,” so that “a sublime feeling thrilled me:”

The divine light that had thus taken up residence within me enabled me to take a sweeping look at the world. And I beheld continents and oceans, cities and countries, mountains and valleys - all bathed in the light now emanating from my own mind.

The next morning he again had an experience of the “divine fire” in which he experienced holiness and perfection. He felt that he had been initiated into the “Divine Creative Principle” and for the rest of his life worked as Denmark’s mystic teacher, founder of the Martinus Institute. (6)

6. **Sri Aurobindo** was living in Pondicherry, South India, when he experienced what he called the descent of “overmind,” coming to dwell inwardly in his own being:

Then at last the great day ... arrived on 24 November. The Sun had almost set... There was a deep silence in the atmosphere after the disciples had gathered there. Many saw an oceanic flood of Light rushing down from above. Everyone present felt a kind of pressure above his head. The whole atmosphere was surcharged with some electrical energy... This momentous occasion carried its significance to all in the divine dynamism of the silence, in its unearthly dignity and grandeur and in the utter beauty of its every little act. The deep impress of divinity which everyone got was for him a priceless treasure. (7)

This event is commemorated as the so-called “Siddhi Day” on the 24th of November, 1926.

7. **Rajneesh** Chandra Mohan Jain was born on 11th December 1931, in Madhya Pradesh, India. He had a special experience on 21 March 1953, and described it as follows. He awoke from sleep around midnight: “The sleep was broken by something else. I felt a great presence around me in the room... I felt a throbbing life all around me, a great vibration - almost like a hurricane, a great storm of light.” He arose, and walked outside:

I reached to the garden where I used to go every day. The garden was closed, closed for the night. It was too late, it was almost one o'clock in the night. The gardeners were fast asleep. I had to enter the garden like a thief, I had to climb the gate. But something was pulling me towards the garden. The moment I entered the garden everything became luminous, it was all over the place - the benediction, the blessedness. I could see the trees for the first time - their green, their life, their very sap running, There was no time, there was no passage of time; it was the virgin reality - uncorrupted.... When I went back home it was four o'clock in the morning. (8)

8. At twilight on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, 1964, **Muz Murray** sat on the shore of Cyprus and

... within him, in a moment, a crack opened in the egg of cosmic understanding. His whole being became illumined with a sudden revelatory awareness sensed through every cell in his body which changed the course of his life, and ultimately, the lives of many who have come into contact with him. Those few moments of “cosmic consciousness” led him to intensify his studies into the why and wherefore of man’s relationship to the All.

This led him to found the hippie journal “Gandalf’s Garden” a few years later, and these quotes come from its first issue, May 1968. Thirty years later, as I had the back-issues, I checked the chart for this moment, and found that it had strong quintile aspects – which led to the present study.

9. Trappist Monk **Thomas Merton** was visiting an ancient Buddhist temple in Ceylon, when he had a “beautiful and holy vision” on Monday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, 1968, a mere week before his unexpected death:

Looking at these [giant, Buddha] figures, I was suddenly, almost forcibly, jerked clean out of the habitual, half-tied vision of things, and an inner clearness, clarity, as if exploding from the rocks themselves, became evident and obvious... The rock, all matter, all life, is charged with *dharmakaya* – everything is emptiness and everything is compassion.... I have now seen and have pierced through the surface and have got beyond the shadow and the disguise. This is Asia in its purity... (9)

10. While orbiting the Earth, astronaut **Edgar Mitchell** was watching how ‘the earth, moon, the sun, and the planets all went through the window every two minutes’ which he found to be a “powerful, powerful experience”:

What I experienced was a grand epiphany accompanied by an exhilaration. From that moment on, my life would take a radically different course ... I actually felt what has been described as an ecstasy of unity.... I perceived the universe as in some way conscious ... the restraints and boundaries of flesh and bone fell away.

This led him to found the Institute of Noetic Sciences (10). This happened two days after leaving the Moon and a day before landing back on Earth so we may place it at 8 February 1971 (they left the Moon, 6 Feb., 19hrs UT, and landed in the Pacific Ocean, 9 Feb., 21 hrs UT).

11. US Astronomy professor **Victor Mansfield** had been practicing yoga, when he had an “intense and blissful” Kundalini-awakening experience (in Pine City, New York) at 3 am in the night. He did not mention this in the books he published, but fortunately he told the story to Dutch astrologer Karen Hamaker-Zontag, who published it, in Dutch. (11)

12. The science fiction visionary **Philip K. Dick**, whose stories, e.g. *Blade Runner*, *Total Recall*, and *Minority Report* keep turning into films, went through a mystical process that lasted several months, having a “gnostic” slant to it:

In February and March of 1974, Dick experienced a series of visions and auditions including an information-rich “pink light” beam that transmitted directly into his consciousness. A year after the events, in March 1975, Dick summarized the experiences that would pervade his writing for the final eight years of his life:

“I speak of The Restorer of What Was Lost, The Mender of What Was Broken.

March 16, 1974: It appeared - in vivid fire, with shining colors and balanced patterns - and released me from every thrall, inner and outer.

March 18: It, from inside me, looked out and saw the world did not compute, that I - and it - had been lied to. It denied the reality, and power, and authenticity of the world, saying, ‘This cannot exist; it cannot exist.’

March 20: It seized me entirely, lifting me from the limitations of the space-time matrix; it mastered me as, at the same time, I knew that the world around me was cardboard, a fake. Through its power of perception I saw what really existed, and through its power of no-thought decision, I acted to free myself. It took on in battle, as a champion of all human spirits in thrall, every evil, every Iron Imprisoning thing.” (12)

13. On 8 April 1998, **Hazel Courteney**, while walking into Harrods, started having a “divine encounter” that changed her life:

As I walked into the turnstile at the entrance to the bread stall, it stuck, and during those few seconds of feeling trapped I felt as though a volcano of energy was erupting inside me, my chest and head felt as though they were going to explode. Within seconds, I could hear voices in my head, which I knew had not emanated from my brain. Within 15 minutes I was rushed to my doctor, who believed I might have suffered a heart attack. As he applied the heart monitors, I began to “feel” my doctor’s thoughts in my head. Believe me that was an awesome moment for both of us. Several hundred more were to follow.

As my experience accelerated, the physical effects became almost intolerable and on the Easter Sunday with a medical doctor present I underwent a near-death – an out of the body experience during which I truly understood that human consciousness survives physical death. Within days I was forced to leave my *Sunday Times* post. {She worked as an alternative health columnist] due to the sheer amount of phenomena happening around me. My energy field became so powerful that light bulbs and computers would crash. By concentrating on our TV I could change channels using the power of the mind...

She has written books on the subject, but her health is now quite fragile. It is valuable to have the time of this event, which gives us the lunar quintiles, in a “golden triangle” expressing the golden ratio, present in the sky. (13)

**14. Matthew de Looze** had climbed up a ladder with a bucket of water to clean out an industrial centrifuge, at 12 noon, when a “traumatic spiritual awakening” happened to him. It seemed that an electric shock passed up his spine:

The force I met up the ladder, though, my life has improved. It’s been 11 years now. There’s been a force that’s been pushing me. Now I’m on stage. Before I would have been too scared. I’ve just come back from Colombia. I’ve been to Egypt, things I would never have done before... I regained conscious memories of some strange events that took place throughout my childhood and I also gained direction from a powerful spiritual force that has literally sent me on a journey of truth.”

This mystic moment has in common with that of **Philip Dick** a rather stressful and strange quality. It happened on 10 October 1998. (14)

**15. David Oshana** had been asleep when his enlightenment started to occur, at 5 am, in London, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June:

I first started teaching, soon after my life irrevocably changed in June 2000..., Everything was the same but strangely something was different.

He called it a “perspective shift.” Oshana described the experience of this enlightenment as being “outside of, and watching, the life of David, which included thoughts, emotions and physical sensations.” Previously, he felt that he was trapped inside their confines, now he felt free and spacious. “Enlightenment is where consciousness experiences itself directly without the mediation of the mind and sense,” he explained. (15)

As with the Paul Tyler moment, a sunrise chart is gloriously irradiated with quintile and septile aspects touching a multiple-conjunction dawn-ascendant.

**16. Manjir Samantha-Laughton** was sitting on an oak-tree branch with her dog, when suddenly

It was if I had been thrown into the very fabric of the universe and caught a glimpse of its secrets. Everything seemed to be made up of the most exquisite geometry and mathematics, which was at the same time both infinitely complex and ever so simple. And I suddenly understood how black holes work and it wasn’t at all how we had previously theorized.

She is Indian, and explained to me how her experience was “a blend of mystical and science - in me the two are combined without conflict,” and “The exact date was 30th September 2003, I do believe. Why do you ask for the particular date? ... It was around 2-3 pm in the afternoon.” Her two books *Punk Science* and *The Genius Groove* both describe this moment.

**17. The British pagan Yvonne Aburrow** reported on how, “I did have a moment of seeing the ineffable light permeating reality, also ... Yes, approximately between 2 and 3 pm, on 8 July 2007. on the Pennine Way. Walking along looking at the plants and trees and everything seemed to glow with an inner glow of divine presence. Nebulously numinous.” (16) That moment was irradiated with *seven* septile aspects.

The 17 Dated Mystical Moments  
U.T.+ timezone

1.	1654	Nov 23	22.30	Blaise Pascal
2.	1739	July 23(NS)	19h + 5h	David Brainerd
3.	1744	April 7	22h	Emanuel Swedenborg
4.	1895	May 11	5h +5h	Paul Tyler
5.	1921	March 22	20h	Martinus
6.	1926	Nov 24	15h -5.30	Sri Aurobindo
7.	1953	March 21	24h -5.30	Rajneesh
8.	1964	January 15	16h -2h	Muz Murray
9.	1968	December 2	15h -5.30	Thomas Merton
10.	1971	February 8	19h	Edgar Mitchell
11.	1972	August 15	12h +4h	Victor Mansfield
12.	1974	March 16	12h +8h	Philip K. Dick
13.	1998	April 8	11h -1h	Hazel Courtney
14.	1998	October 10	12h	Matthew de Looze
15.	2000	June 19 <sup>th</sup>	5h -1h	Dave Oshana
16.	2003	Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	14.30 -1h	Manjir S.-Laughton
17.	2007	July 8	14.30 -1h	Yvonne Aburrow

The above table gives the date plus my best estimate of time from the story as given, GMT unless specified (I took 12 noon where no time was given, here in italics). An account of each experience has been published, in print or on the web.

### Quintiles and Septiles

In 1988, a hypothesis was tested for Eureka Moments, these being times of historic scientific inspiration, later published in in *The Eureka Effect* co-authored by myself and Mike O'Neill, namely that there would be an excess of quintile and septile aspects (17). The 23 eureka-moments located in that study were found to have a distinctive excess of fifth and seventh harmonics, 17% for quintiles and 51% for septiles. The same hypothesis was here tested, with the same orbs as before.

	<u>Quintiles</u>	<u>Septiles</u>
Totals for the 17 charts:	55	57
Average per chart expected:	2.2	2.4
Expected for 17 charts:	36.3	40.9
Percent Excess:	<b>51% quintiles,</b>	<b>39% septiles</b>

This shows a massive excess of these *very same aspects* in the mystic moment group, as were earlier found for the Eureka group, significant at around one in a thousand ( $\chi^2 = 11.4$ ). (18)

### The Chance-expected levels

Recorded, dated mystic moments are increasing in frequency: there appears to have been only one in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but ten in the 20<sup>th</sup>. I therefore generated two different sets of chance-expected frequencies for the harmonics 3 - 10 (using the "Jigsaw" astro-research program): one sampling at equal intervals over three centuries 1630-1930, and the other, for more recent experiences, over the sixty years 1950-2010. In both cases ten thousand times were sampled. Six of the moments fell in the first set, eleven in the second. Thereby, a mean "expected" frequency per harmonic was obtained for the whole group.

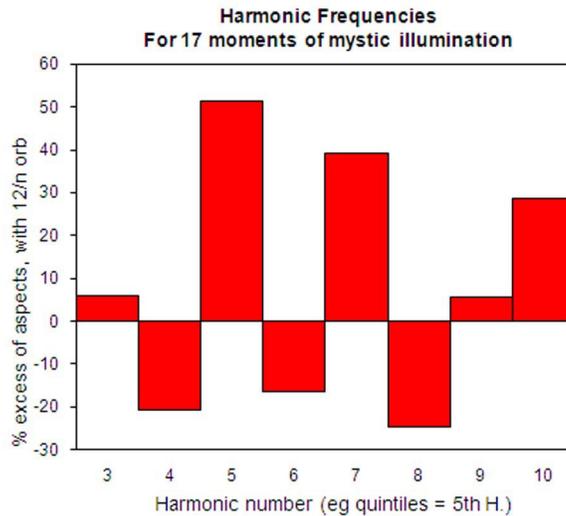
As before, the orbs used for different harmonic aspects were defined by  $12^\circ/n$ , where "n" is the harmonic number. That was an orb suggested by John Addey in his *Harmonics in Astrology*, and was the one we used in *The Eureka Effect*. What he called the "fifth harmonic" (quintile + biquintile aspects) will have an orb of  $2^\circ 20'$  ( $12/5^\circ$ ); while the "seventh harmonic" (septile, + bi- and tri- septiles) orb was  $1^\circ 43'$ , i.e.  $12/7^\circ$ . The "Jigsaw" program counted the harmonic aspects using the "Addey orbs" excluding the conjunction:

Harmonic analysis of Mystic Moments

Harmonic	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total of aspects	33	27	55	35	57	33	46	56
Expected 60 years	1.65	1.94	2.1	2.6	2.42	2.51	2.5	2.53
Expected, 300 years, per chart	1.93	2.04	2.16	2.39	2.42	2.61	2.6	2.58
Excess in the 17	+6%	-20%	+51%	-16%	+39%	-25%	+5%	+29%

Its only for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> harmonic that we get an appreciable difference between the two sets of expected values, owing, I suggest, to very slow trines and sextiles that formed between outer planets in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Quintiles had a *fifty percent excess* at these Mystic Moments and septiles had a *forty percent excess*: the two strongest effects. The thirty percent excess of deciles (10<sup>th</sup> harmonic) is a kind of echo or after-effect of the large 5<sup>th</sup> harmonic excess; re-counting the quintiles but at half the orb. Quintile and decile aspects have a connection with the golden ratio.



We note how harmonics to do with *firm structure* are in deficit: squares are lacking, so is the 8<sup>th</sup> harmonic (semisquares, squares and oppositions), the number 8 being associated with the cube and thus 3-D space. The 6<sup>th</sup> harmonic is in deficit: a hexagon lattice makes a firm structure, e.g. in a beehive. It seems that the more inward, mystical moments did not want these firm structure harmonics, and rather tuned in to the mould-breaking primes five and seven.

The number five is absent from the mineral realm, and is found in the burgeoning of plants and in sea-creatures, and the orbit of Venus. Seven is absent altogether from Mother Nature, and so has classically been *the* mystic number.

I claim to have refuted the words of that most careful investigator Michel Gauquelin, that the effect of celestial aspects cannot be proved. My Eureka study showed this and it now looks as if this collection of mystic moments is showing a very similar effect. I should be grateful for any further such moments that readers can find, or any advice for improving the time-definition of the moments.

## References

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13. *Kindred Spirit*, Vol. 81, July/Aug 2006.
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15. <http://oshana.org/daveoshana.html>
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18. <http://faculty.vassar.edu/lowry/tabs.html#csq>

**Nick Kollerstrom**, MA Cantab., PhD has always been interested in Hermetic matters, as you might expect with his mother being a chemist and his father a psychoanalyst. For thirty years he has produced Britain's Moon-gardening calendar. In 1996 he co-authored 'The Eureka Effect' with mike O'Neill, which (some say) put quintiles and septiles on the map, for moments of inspiration. For 11 years he was a research fellow in history of science at University College London and specialised in the discovery of Neptune. With Neptune rising he should never have invested in property, but he did and lost loads of money in the recent crash. For various articles of his see <http://www.astrozero.co.uk/astroscience/koll2indx.htm>