

Sedna

by Cindy Sullivan and Ray White

Astronomers from Cal Tech, Gemini Observatory and Yale University set the solar system in a tailspin on March 15, 2004 by announcing the discovery of the coldest, most distant object known to orbit the Sun. The object, originally discovered on the Samuel Oschin Telescope at the Palomar Observatory on November 14, 2003, was found at a distance 90 times greater than that from the Sun to the Earth -- about 3 times further than Pluto, the most distant known planet. Of special note is the extreme elliptical orbit of the object which takes a whopping 10,500 years to circle the Sun.

Because of its frigid temperatures, the team has proposed that the object be named in honor of Sedna, the Inuit goddess of the sea from whom all sea creatures were created. The story of Sedna is one of rebellion, rage, betrayal, and transformation. What Sedna may mean in an astrological chart is still an area for research. Its eccentric orbit may symbolize the extremes that human beings will go to in order to protect themselves. If we look at the myth, then certainly Sedna would have something to do with family betrayal.

When Sedna entered Aries in 1865, the US Civil War, in which brothers sometimes fought each other, was just coming to a close, and President Lincoln was assassinated. Though it would take many years, the country began the long road back to being one nation. In fact, it would take until after Sedna entered Taurus before a candidate from one of the rebellious Southern states (Jimmy Carter) would be elected President. (Though Woodrow Wilson was born in Virginia, he rose to political power in New Jersey.)

Sedna is now part of the regular planet set in Solar Fire Gold. Its glyph is like the glyph for Saturn, with a small circle added at the top.