OPA'S QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

The Evolving Astrologer



RELATIONSHIP ASTROLOGY

A TAPESTRY OF LIFE CONNECTIONS

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2023

THE ORGANIZATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGY
opa

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THE ASTROLOGY OF RELATIONSHIPS

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p. 22
ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Features

OPA Live

21 **Introduction**

22 **ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE**
Love & Marriage in the (Sidereal) Horoscope
Alan Annand

28 **THE DANCE OF RELATIONSHIP CONSULTATIONS**
Kay Taylor

32 **UNINTEGRATED PLANETS IN RELATIONSHIPS Hearing the Unsaid**
Anne Sundell

The Astrology of Relationships

46 **RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH THE LENS OF TRIPLICITY RULERS**
Jenn Zahrt

52 **PASSION, SPARKS, AND MARS ZEST IN RELATIONSHIPS!**
Margaret Gray, MSW

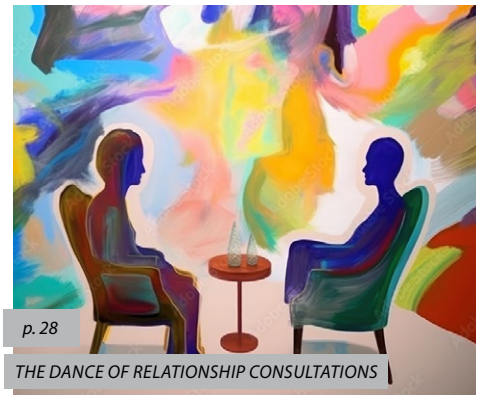
58 **BEYOND VENUS**
How Eris Restores Imbalanced Relationships
Rayner Jae Liu

62 **OUTER PLANET CONJUNCTIONS ON THE DESCENDANT**
Taylor Benjamin Burgess

66 **THE MYSTERIOUS SYNASTRY OF BEN AFFLECK AND JENNIFER LOPEZ**
Dorje Kirsten

70 **THE ASTROLOGY OF FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS**
Tarah Stevenson

74 **THE ASTROLOGY OF CO-HOUSING**
Kris Journey


p. 28
THE DANCE OF RELATIONSHIP CONSULTATIONS

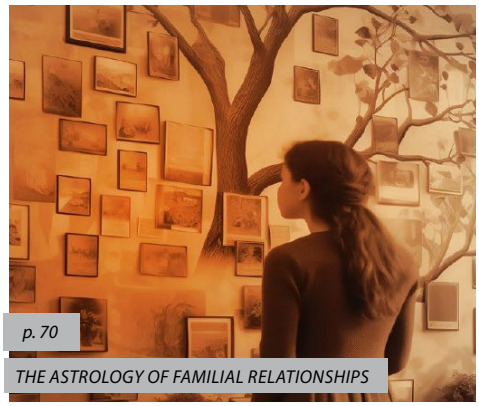
Columns

3 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
Kay Taylor

5 **EDITOR'S WELCOME**
Giulio Pellegrini

6 **COSMIC CURRENTS**
Contributors: Rachel Lang, William Sebrans, Shawn Nygaard, Peter Burns

94 **THE ART OF BUSINESS**
Eileen Mello


p. 70
THE ASTROLOGY OF FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS


p. 6
COSMIC CURRENTS


p. 74
THE ASTROLOGY OF CO-HOUSING



p. 38

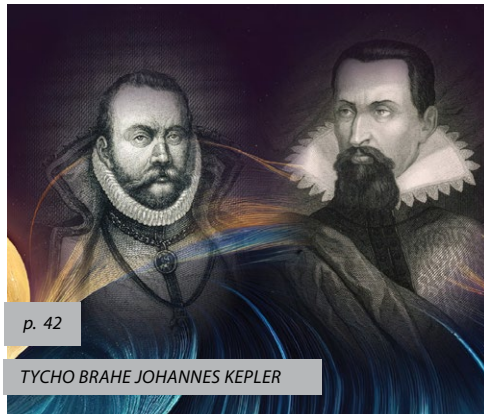
LUNAR NODES IN ARIES–LIBRA

Articles

38 **LUNAR NODES IN ARIES–LIBRA From Crisis to Equilibrium**
Rod Chang

42 **TYCHO BRAHE & JOHANNES KEPLER A Relationship of Competition and Cooperation**
Constanza Johnson

82 **THE NEW CONSCIOUSNESS PLANETS, A LOVE STORY**
Aureal Williams



p. 42

TYCHO BRAHE JOHANNES KEPLER

Horary Haven

90 **SHOULD I GIVE MY FRIEND MORE MONEY?**
Angela Alston

91 **THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE LOST EARRING**
Peter Burns

More

78 **PEMA CHÖDRÖN: A SATURN IN PISCES ELDER** *by Andrea Conlon*

86 **BOOK REVIEWS**

96 **WAVE GOODBYE TO SUMMER'S MILKY WAY** *by Rod Chang*



Dear OPA Members

As we breathe into the September Equinox season, we find ourselves amid a sweet yet challenging celestial dance. Now that Mercury and Venus are on their merry way, we are almost through our annual retrograde season.

Retrogrades encourage us to review our lives from every conceivable angle, to revise and restore. In the Northern Hemisphere, we stand at the harvest threshold, reaping our efforts' rewards. In the Southern Hemisphere, spring emerges, heralding new beginnings and growth. This harmonious balance in our global community reminds us of the beautiful tapestry of life connections we all share.

I am deeply grateful for the incredible collaborative spirit that thrives within our organization. The AFAN program, *Mercury Hour - Community Talks*, creates opportunities for emerging speakers to shine, share their knowledge, and gain broader audience exposure. Speakers for this program and our regular Speaker Series in 2024 will be announced soon.

In honor of Libra season, we usually feature relationship astrology. This year, our subheading is the Tapestry of Life Connections. When we think of relationship astrology, our minds often leap to romance and pursuing enduring committed partnerships. Yet, as we journey through life, we appreciate the multifaceted nature of connection.

Perhaps we prefer periods of sweet, quiet contemplation alone in retreat.

We discover that our lives are interwoven with friends, family, and various relationships that may have turned out to be much more—or sometimes, much less—than we initially envisioned.

It's this rich tapestry of connections that I've come to deeply appreciate during my time in the OPA community. The longer I swim in OPA waters, the more I find rewarding relationships in diverse avenues—from attending conferences and workshops to collaborating on projects with other dedicated volunteers. If you've been contemplating how to deepen your involvement with OPA, consider this your invitation. We'd love to hear from you if you have skills or insights you'd like to share—see application link below. We are thrilled to appoint Mallory Hasty to the newly created position of Satellite Director, honoring her excellent OPA work, and our support for the international OPA groups to expand and thrive, astrology world relationships building through translations across borders.

As we publish this edition, the 2023 Venus retrograde lingers in our collective consciousness, urging us to take a reflective glance into the rearview mirror of our hearts. It's a time to honor, complete, or find peace with past connections, recognizing that each interaction—be it fleeting or enduring—has left an indelible mark on our souls. Meanwhile, Mars forges ahead in Libra, amplifying our collective intent to correct imbalances and cultivate harmony.

So, here's to the many loves of our lives—romantic, platonic, familial-–and the serendipitous connections that shape our existence. May we continue to explore the intricate web of relationships defining our human experience and be guided by the wisdom of the stars.

In gratitude,
Kay

Application Link: *https://opaastrology.wufoo.com/forms/rrd89y203dk3ef/*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES WITH OPA

OPA'S *Annual* MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

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2024 Peer Group schedule will be announced in October.

opaAstrology.org

COMING SOON: OPA RETREAT 2024!



WELCOME
to the September 2023 Equinox Edition

by Giulio Pellegrini

As the new Publications Director of The Evolving Astrologer, I find myself filled with excitement for the future of astrological writing and our community's collective voice. It is an honor to build on the stellar foundation set by my predecessor, **William Sebrans**, and the magazine's founder, **Maurice Fernandez**. I also extend my deepest gratitude to **Kay Taylor** for entrusting me with this role.

In a twist of cosmic irony, I had planned to take a sabbatical from community service after my 4-year tenure at AFAN. However, when Kay approached me about this new opportunity, her offer set off bells in my 9th house. The allure of collaborating with talented astrologer-writers, editors, and artists, supported by the robust OPA infrastructure, turned out to be an irresistible proposition.

Also in the mix is the fact that I simply love magazines. From a young age, they were more than the information they presented—they were totems, physical symbols imbued with intricate meaning and limitless potential. **Whatever I was reading was who I was becoming**—and that still holds true today. One of my first loves was a magazine called ***Omni,*** a hybrid of science and science fiction. Its bold visual aesthetic and future-thinking articles (together with Carl Sagan's TV show *Cosmos*) captured my young imagination and enkindled an appreciation for strange new worlds and cosmic possibilities.

With the South Node in Libra, I'm drawn to acknowledge the sophistication and glamorous allure inherent in the act of magazine creation. It's not merely an academic affair but a glance toward art, a curated blend of intellect and aesthetics. Magazines at their best are sensory experiences, inviting us to connect with larger ideas and expand our understanding of the world and each other. With that in mind, I invite you to order a print copy of our magazine at the OPA website.

This September Equinox 2023 issue brings a new section to the magazine called **Cosmic Currents**. Inspired by *The New Yorker's Talk of the Town*, it's an amuse-bouche of astrological art-makers, cosmic culture, news, and commentary—It's what astrologers are talking about!

Rachel Lang's seasonal transit analysis expertly sets the stage for our moment in time, while **William Sebrans** takes us on a richly textured tour of artists and thinkers to nourish our hearts and minds. Further on, **Shawn Nygaard** profiles two titanic cultural forces, and Peter Burns provides a thought-provoking commentary on the pitfalls of composite charts.

Moving into the magazine's main entree, this issue focuses on the multivalent nature of relationships from a variety of perspectives and astrological techniques.

We might be reminded that Pluto, in Capricorn since 2008, has been in square and opposition, respectively, to Libra and Cancer, the two signs most closely associated with relationships. The very nature of how, when, why, and where we connect has undergone a seismic transformation over the last several years. The Libran and Cancerian energy fields—the collective body of living consciousness—have been under enormous pressure during this time. If you have planets in Libra or Cancer (or Aries for that matter), you will be well aware.

As we prepare for a more permanent Plutonian shift into Aquarian consciousness, the quality of our current time has the feeling of an epilogue before the next volume begins. With this in mind, we invite you to explore the offerings here and enrich your understanding of relatedness for the times ahead.

Each of our esteemed **OPA LIVE Panel** presenters—**Alan Annand**, **Kay Taylor**, and **Anne Sundell**—offers a different perspective on relationships and astrology.

From triplicity rulers to the outer planets and back, we delve further into the rich tapestry of relationships with contributions from **Jenn Zahrt**, **Margaret Gray**, **Rayner Jae Liu**, **Taylor Benjamin Burgess**, **Dorje Kirsten**, **Tarah Stevenson**, **Kris Journey**, and **Constanza Johnson**.



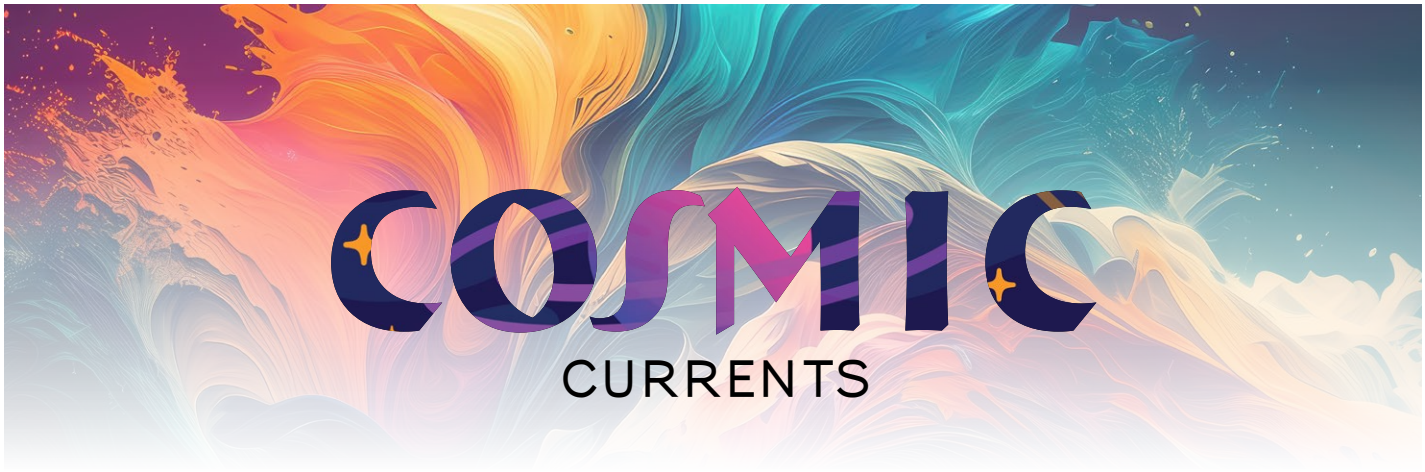
In this issue, **Rod Chang** takes us into the nuanced interplay between the mundane and personal in the nodal shift into Aries-Libra, while **Aureal Williams** acquaints us with an intriguing array of newly discovered deep space planets. **Andrea Conlon** offers a heartfelt tribute to spiritual teacher Pema Chödrön, beautifully complementing the current Saturn-in-Pisces backdrop.

Angela Alston and **Peter Burns** enlighten us on employing ancient horary techniques to tackle complex queries and riddles. Book previews from **Arlan Wise** and **Sara R. Diamond** offer a glimpse into fresh astrological literature, and **Eileen Mello's** column provides invaluable insights into the business of astrology. We culminate this issue with **Rod Chang's** striking astrophotography, bidding adieu to the Milky Way—or greeting it anew for our readers in the Southern Hemisphere.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to our Senior Editor **Denise Hancock**, whose guidance was invaluable in assembling a brand-new team. Our immense gratitude extends to our gifted designer **Sara Fisk**, who expertly navigated us through the intricacies of magazine production. Kudos to Managing Editor **Laura Campagna** for steering our editorial ship with aplomb, appreciation to **Mary Gaterud** for a splendid Libran image for our cover art, and a round of applause for our phenomenal team of editors: **Jen Braun**, **Cathy Gnatek**, **Kris Journey**, **Eileen Mello**, **Will Morris**, and **Enid Newburg**.

Lastly, our deepest appreciation goes out to the contributing authors from our vibrant community, and to you, our readers, for your continued engagement and spirited participation in OPA. Your support elevates this publication to the cosmic journey it is meant to be.

Giulio Pellegrini *is a Los Angeles-based astrologer specializing in esoteric, psychological, and evolutionay astrology, enriched by Jungian, aesthetic, and existential studies. He has studied with the School of Traditional Astrology and the Faculty of Astrological Studies, in addition to extensive self-guided research. A prominent lecturer, he's presented at major conferences and academic institutions like the Northwest Astrological Conference and the University of Michigan. Giulio is the Publications Director for OPA's Evolving Astrologer Magazine and previously led the Association for Astrological Networking. Contact him at* ***www.ethericastrology.com***



ASTRO WEATHER

TRANSITS OF THE SEASON

September Equinox – December Solstice

by Rachel Lang

We begin this quarter with the **Sun's ingress into Libra**. The balance of light and dark reflected in the sky offers rich symbolism for moving through the cathartic final season of 2023. Over the next few months, we could experience more polarization and personal growth through contrast. Any conflicts could help us grow, and we might consider them constructive in retrospect. As a result, we'll learn more about boundaries and the importance of letting go. We charge forth from the period feeling faith-filled and liberated from our perceived limitations.

A glance at the equinox chart on **September 22** shows where our scales could tip out of balance, but it also reveals the pathway to peace. The **Capricorn Moon** commands attention as it separates from a square to the Sun. It challenges us to assess our strengths and limitations before we are discouraged. Venus, the Sun's dispositor, conjoins Juno in Leo, showing relationship questions centered on commitment and trust.

Perhaps the most striking transit is the opposition from **Mars in Libra to Chiron retrograde in Aries**. Suppressed anger could reach a boiling point if not channeled through physical exercise or expressed in another way. As the Sun moves toward its opposition with Chiron retrograde, which perfects on October 10, it suggests reexamining our relationship and rejection fears. Here is where we find a pathway to peace, for in realizing our inherent lovability and worth, we neutralize inner conflict.

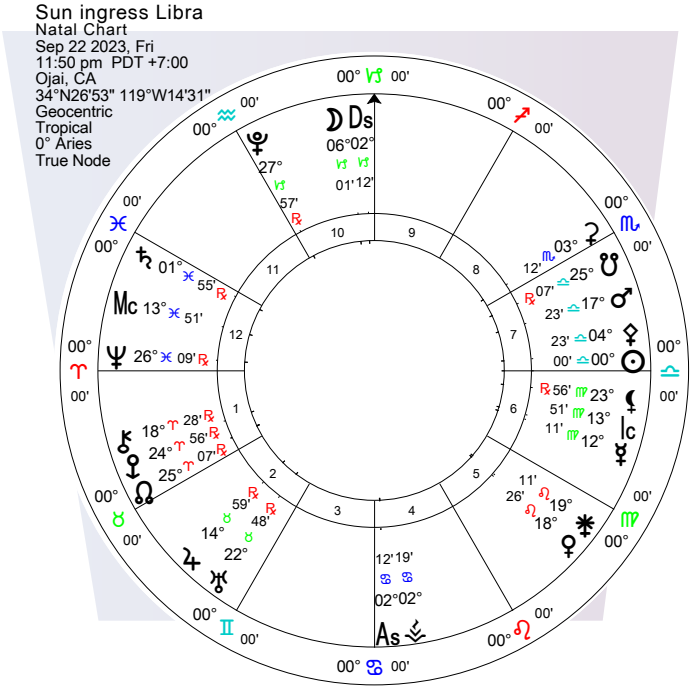
The **Aries Full Moon on September 29** at 2:57 AM PT is the final Supermoon in a consecutive of four—and we will feel the influence of the bright light in the sky. Emotions can swell and so can the fluids in our bodies during a Supermoon. The Sun is conjunct with Pallas, turning our attention to justice. This lunation illuminates our dedication to advocacy, and we could feel moved to speak up for ourselves, others, or a cause we hold dear. It's a Full Moon dedicated to peacemaking, but with the **North Node conjunct Eris** and the **South Node conjunct Mars**, we may move through conflict to get there.

Mars is a prominent player in this period's astrology, starting with the **Mars–Eris opposition** on October 4 and the **Mars–Pluto square** on October 8. These transits activate any restless urges and unfinished business from the 2020–2021 Pluto–Eris squares. As I write this, the ERIS variant of Covid is beginning to spread. Could we see another surge? Or can we find a different way to manifest the energy of that transit?

The eclipses will define this season with the **Libra Solar Eclipse on October 14** and the **Taurus Lunar Eclipse on October 28**. These are the first eclipses this year to fall on the Aries–Libra nodal axis line. We witnessed unprecedented fires as we began our nodal journey through this axis, and communities realize we can no longer delay action in the face of our climate crisis. We saw Hurricane Katrina and the fallout of the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in the 2000s during the last Aries North Node cycle. Heat is a quality we assign to Aries, a fire sign, and we will be thinking about that subject literally (as in the weather) and metaphorically (as in conflictual emotions).

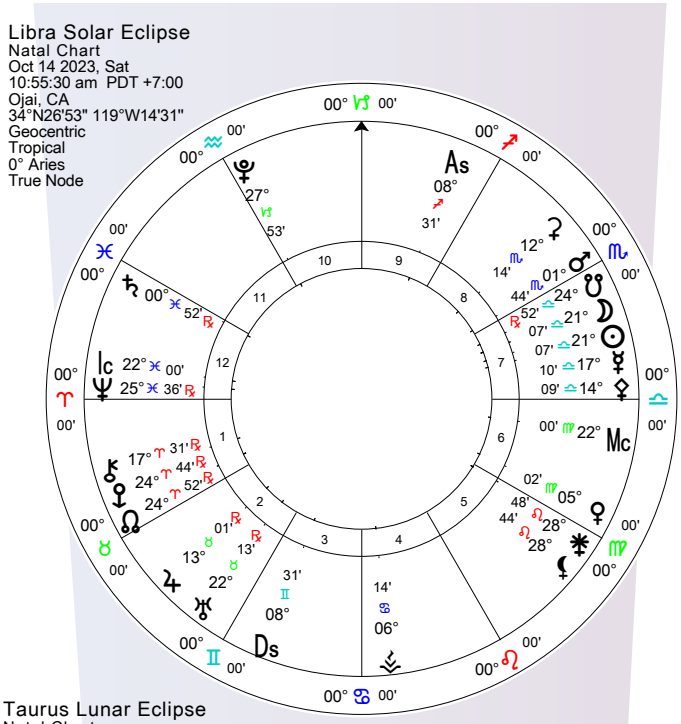
Now for a more optimistic take on the eclipses this quarter. Eclipses propel us into our futures and speed up the timeline of our lives. They catalyze change—sometimes the most welcome, extraordinary changes we can experience. They're healing. We can recontextualize our whole life with one breakthrough insight. We ride this potent wave of energy to the solstice.

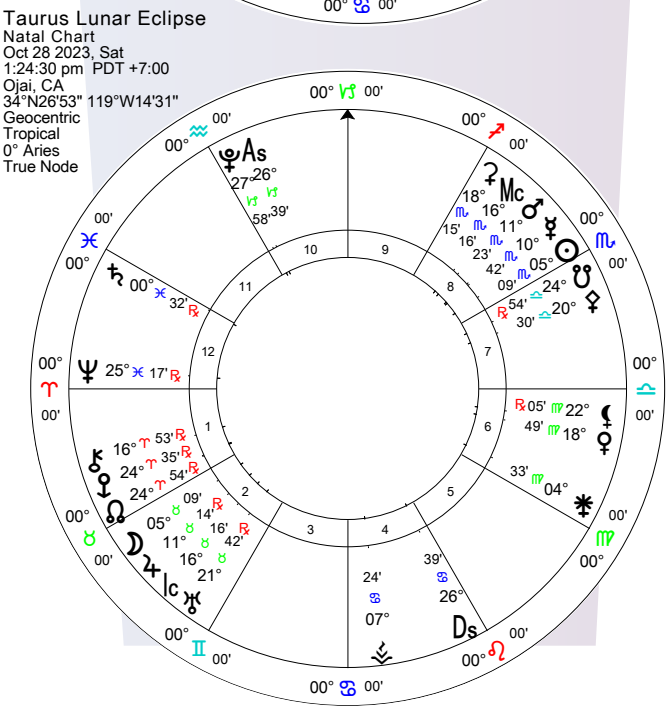
Mars is the star this month, first with the **Mars–Eris opposition on October 4** that carries us into eclipse season. Mars in Libra indicates we want to find a middle ground or a balance point



for our conflicts. It shows a thoughtful approach to decisions or actions that employ logic. Eris in Aries could jolt Mars, rekindling anger or dissatisfaction with how things are. It's a transit to watch, as it reminds us of the lengths we'll go to be the change we want to see in the world. Also on October 4, **Mars conjoins the South Node**, indicating we're not just righting wrongs or promoting change in the present time—we're dealing with karma, embodying the courage to disrupt outdated systems, and the vision to dream new ones.

On October 5, **Mars forms a quincunx to Neptune**, fogging our resolve to take determinative action. On October 8, a **Mars–Pluto square** shows a swell of passionate energy without a direct outlet. We may have an inner conflict about what's fair or just. This transit brings an opportunity to confront someone or something you've resisted. Remember to lead gracefully, and you could find a win–win solution.





We saw a similar pattern in 1950, when Mars in Libra was opposite Eris in Aries (January 13, 1950) and conjunct with the South Node in Libra (January 27, 1950). The Cold War influenced that time. In that month, there was a plane crash; diplomatic agreements and divisions between the People's Republic of China and other countries; an oil tanker explosion; and the green light on the development of the hydrogen bomb. Oh, and India formed a republic and created a constitution. There were similar transits in 1968 and 1987, for added reference.

We want to be thoughtful about our words and actions throughout October. On October 10, a **Sun–Chiron opposition** brings up past pain and adds to our sensitivities. **Mars enters Scorpio** on October 11; it moves from the sign of mediation to the sign of transmutation. Power motivates us, and the drive awakens aspects of our psyches that are usually safely in the shadows. Mars stays in Scorpio until November 24, and as the ruler of Aries, its influence colors our experience of the eclipses, especially the **Lunar Eclipse on October 28**.

The **Solar Eclipse on October 14** at 10:55 AM PT is at 21° Libra 07′. The Sabian Symbol for the 21st–22nd degree is *a child giving birds a drink at a fountain*. What a symbol for this time! The innocence and compassion it evokes are most needed as we move through this time of transition. It reminds us to care for all creatures, honor nature, and bring a child's curiosity into how we participate in life on Earth. The eclipse is conjunct the fixed star Heze, which indicates this lunation could offer a gift or blessing. The **North Node is conjunct Eris**, inspiring us with the courage to be true to our calling.

In *Predictive Astrology: Tools to Forecast Your Life & Create Your Brightest Future,* Bernadette Brady defines Saros Series 7 North as:

A very sensual family of eclipses, ranging from sudden sexual passions and lust to birth and procreative drives. This series is not subtle; it can catch people off guard and confront them with their own very deep passion, which may have been hidden for many years.[1]

We can add transiting Venus and Mars to the equation. **Venus** is in a **sextile aspect** to **Mars** and a separating **opposition to Saturn**. Mars in Scorpio is in a trine aspect to Saturn, showing this lunation draws us into contemplation about our relationships, which could lead to the realization of deep passion referenced above.

The **Sun and Mercury** are **conjunct** the **South Node** on October 18 and then meet in a conjunction the next day. We could reflect on the past and reframe some of our previous experiences, a process aided by a Mercury–Pluto square on October 20 and the Sun's square to Pluto on October 21. We feel a groundswell of change and a buildup of pressure that leads to a catharsis at the end of the month.

The **October 28 Lunar Eclipse at 5° Taurus 09′** is the last in the Taurus–Scorpio series, though the North Node remains in Aries. It helps us wrap up the storylines that have preoccupied us throughout the past 18 months. We are moving fast, and life offers some surprises and twists of fate.

The markets could be unsteady as the fallout from natural disasters puts pressure on individuals and communities. Remember to exercise caution. We could make financial decisions through rose-colored glasses through the end of October and until November 3 when **Venus opposes Neptune**.

The Lunar Eclipse also features a **Mercury–Mars conjunction** in **Scorpio** with both **opposing Jupiter**. Jupiter's influence could make trivial matters seem immense. Maintain a broad perspective. People could be more opinionated with the fixed-sign influence of these planets.

November's astrology promises excitement! Buckle up your seatbelt and prepare for a wild ride. Our **Scorpio** planets will oppose **Uranus**—one after another. Remember, anxiety is a close

cousin to excitement, and it can be easy to confuse the two. Lean into the thrill of the unknown.

On November 4, Saturn stations direct, and we can again focus on our goals and career endeavors. We can build pathways to success. **Mercury opposes Uranus**. Though we can apologize, we can never take back our spoken or written words. Think of that as you send an email or fight with your partner. **Uranus** is in **opposition** to **Ceres**, as well. There could be supply-chain or agricultural news. Watch to see what innovative products or discoveries happen around that time.

On November 8, **Venus enters Libra**, and **Mercury enters Sagittarius** on November 9, lightening our spirits for a few days before a **Mars–Uranus opposition** on November 11 disrupts our routine. On November 13, the **Scorpio New Moon** features this opposition. The combination of these transits suggests we feel a drive to take hold of our destiny. Our passion needs expression in a physical way with Uranus in a grounded earth sign. Make it a point to do one bold thing you've feared to do.

At the end of November, we need a break. Take a deep breath. If you've contemplated traveling for the holidays, know the end of the month offers a reprieve, and it's different from the earlier weeks. On November 17, a **Sun trine Neptune** transit opens our heart to love unconditionally, and its influence calls us into service volunteering at our favorite places. After that, the **Sun conjoins Mars** on November 17, and Mars forms a trine aspect to Neptune.

The influence of Neptune appears like a healing balm, soothing us with poetry and motivating us to see we're a part of a bigger picture than we can know. As the end of the year approaches, you will likely feel generous. It would be easy to find ways to contribute in meaningful ways, especially as the **Sun enters Sagittarius** on November 22.

Mars enters Sagittarius on November 24, and we crave adventure and freedom, making the end of November a favorable time to travel if you have the urge. Anger can burn inside if it's perceived we, or someone we love, have been treated unfairly. Our words have more punch with **Mars conjunct the Sun** and both in a square aspect to **Saturn**. These aspects indicate a level of pressure that keeps us from fluidly moving through life.

The **Gemini Full Moon** on November 27 reminds us of the importance of play. With a **mutable T-square** involving the Sun, Mars, and Saturn, this lunation offers an obstacle course to move through. Challenging circumstances let you decide whether to give up or keep going. Each choice is brave.

This **Full Moon** calls us into nature to plug into the energy, ideas, and support network around us. Hug a tree and tap into the *wood wide web,* the underground communication network that connects trees. What can you learn about communication? Mercury stands less than two degrees from the **Galactic Center**, opening our minds to ideas we'd never considered. You could be more tired leading up to this lunation, but you'll feel renewed and energized for a few days.

On December 1, **Mercury enters Capricorn** and brings out our inner editor. Choose your words carefully, and embody the mindset of the person you'd like to emulate. If you don't have a mentor, consider who could best help your career evolve during this time. On December 4, **Venus enters Scorpio** and pulls us inward for an emotional holiday season. Venus in Scorpio suggests we crave depth in our conversations, which could make small talk at holiday gatherings more challenging. The exception falls on December 9 with a **Venus–Jupiter opposition**. It's a transit for indulging your physical senses, and social activities could feel more carefree. Err on the side of caution when spending, eating, or drinking. Jupiter's influence suggests it may not be easy to turn down an offer for a second helping or a shopping spree.

The **Sagittarius New Moon** on December 12 at 20° Sagittarius 40′ encourages us to dream. The Moon moves out of a trine aspect to Chiron, revealing how loveable we are and illuminating how to boost confidence.

What timing, too! **Mercury stations retrograde** on December 12, rekindling emotions right in time for family gatherings. We close the season with a **Sun–Neptune square** on December 16, leaving us feeling that the ground beneath us doesn't feel solid. It's a welcome influence for a holiday break, especially to a destination by the water. Allow yourself to close the year with grace.

REFERENCES
Bernadette Brady, *Predictive Astrology: Tools to Forecast Your Life & Create Your Brightest Future,* (Newburyport, MA: Weiser Books, 2022), 277.

MUSE LETTER

ARTFUL COUNSEL FOR MODERN TIMES

LIBRA • SCORPIO • SAGITTARIUS

by William Sebrans

"Sell your cleverness and buy bewilderment." ~ Rumi

Do you have a personal Council of Elders you turn to for inspired guidance on life's challenges and opportunities?

These inspiring souls may be living or departed, elder or even chronologically young. Regardless, their reliable wisdom and generative wit will get you through the day and even transform it into a fertile adventure.

I was chatting recently with Giulio, our esteemed Publications Director, about the value of having a trusted treasury of savvy coaches in the wings, ready to upgrade our inner landscapes. They're like personalized sage banks we draw from when negotiating life's changing currents of challenge and opportunity.

For the Cosmic Currents section, we envisioned a Sun-sign-based zodiacal Council of Elders to inspire us who astrologize and counsel.

So, for this Autumn-Spring season, **let's meet nine ambassadors from the Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius tribes** and discover how their bon mots and creative offerings elevate us. We'll sleuth three representative horoscopes for the astrological underpinning of their gifts.

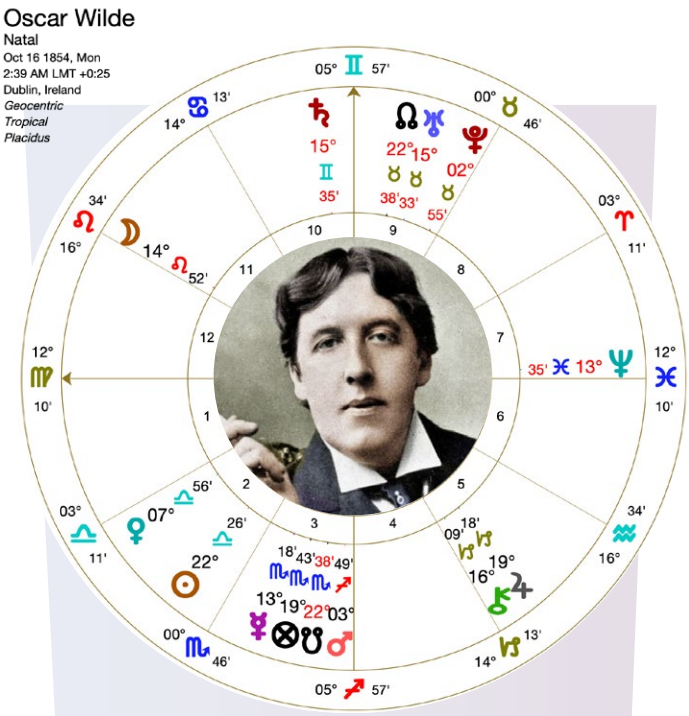
You can treat what follows as an astro-cultural smorgasbord. Sample and savor, according to your delight, as you would any fine spread.



OSCAR WILDE

"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."

Meet **Oscar Wilde.** Oscar marvelously represents the quintessential mix of wit and wisdom applied to the social arena. The







opening quote from him cleverly guides our inner Libra on how to deal with "the other-as-adversary…yet without the dreary sanctimonious tone of pious moralism. With his mastery of the pun and pithy aphorism, we could devote an entire journal to Wilde alone, but in deference to the other elders, I'll go briefly with Oscar, who reminds us that:

"Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future…"

ASTRO-NOTES

Sun and Venus in Libra confer on Oscar the relational nature we would expect. Jupiter square the Sun inspires flair and an appetite for the excessive gesture. For the complex action in the chart that signals his nuanced nature and destiny, look to the planetary forces in the 13-19 ° range.

The performative Leo Moon in the 11th House of the audience squares a Uranus-Mercury opposition, suggesting an edgy, irreverent storyteller and a wit of the highest order. Neptune trines Mercury, infusing him with a lyrical, poetic call that defuses the sharp Uranian edge.

The typically modest Virgo Ascendant is rendered larger-than-life in its Jupiter-Uranus trine. But restriction is afoot with Saturn square from the Midheaven, reflecting the unjust punishment he received at the hands of the repressive authorities in that Victorian era.

When an intimate relationship calls you or even catches you off-guard, Oscar advises:

"***Never love anyone who treats you like you're ordinary."***

RUMI

"Yesterday, I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today, I am wise, so I am changing myself."

Since his death in 1273 A.D., the Sufi world's most celebrated ambassador—Jalal ad-Din Rumi, has never been under wraps to seekers around the world. His prolific writings and universalist outlook, along with the ongoingly-practiced whirling dervish ceremonies inspired by his spiritual influence, have assured a marked level of notoriety throughout the centuries.

But it was with the 1980s' free and modern interpretation of his writings by scholar and poet Coleman Barks that Rumi posthumously rose to the status of an international rock star, with such eminently meme-worthy sound clips as:

"Let the beauty we love be what we do…There are a hundred ways to kneel and kiss the ground."

ASTRO-NOTES

Born on September 30, 1207 (Gregorian), he seemed to have been a dynamic fellow (with a Mars-Jupiter opposition) but constrained by a relatively conventional spiritual outlook until, at age 37, he met his teacher Shams, who evoked in him a generative "bewilderment" that transcended pedantic scholarship.

He sojourned with a Libra Sun and Capricorn Moon, birth time unknown. The mystic potential is reflected both in a Sun-Moon opposition to Neptune in Aries and in the exact Uranus-North Node conjunction square Mars in Scorpio. That would get a pilgrim spinning.

Take these parting words of counsel from the eminent poet-mystic:

"Stop acting so small. You are the universe in ecstatic motion."

PAUL SIMON

"I don't know a soul who's not been battered
I don't have a friend who feels at ease
I don't know a dream that's not been shattered
Or driven to its knees…"

If it's Libra's calling to add grace and harmony to the world, then Paul Simon has represented his tribe superbly well. After all, his signature 1986 album, introducing a blend of African beats and instrumentation with the engaging pop-rock ballad, is called Graceland (with homage to Elvis).

Simon's lyrics comprise a treasure trove of guidance for a full-bodied range of life situations, from how we are slugging in the trenches:

"A man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest (The Boxer)

…to how we can rise above the drama de jour:

"I get the news I need on the weather report
And I have nothing to do today but smile…" (Only Living Boy in New York)

…and creatively resolve confounding relationship conundrums:

"There must be 50 ways to leave your lover…"

ASTRO-NOTES

Simon debuted on October 13, 1941, in New York with a Libra Sun, Cancer Moon, and Virgo Ascendant.

These alone do not a zeitgeist-altering poet and a rock star make…Still, it's a fine beginning with Libra for beauty, Cancer for sensitivity, and Virgo for perfection of craft.

The penetrating emotional insight rendered in story form we credit to Scorpio Mercury trine a Cancer Moon.

For innovation in arts, letters, and music, he serves it up with Venus in Sag angular at the 4th House cusp and opposing Uranus angular at the Gemini Midheaven.

Sensitive in one dimension of the psyche and dynamic in the other, his Aries Mars opposing Libra Sun and square Cancer Moon, keeps it pulsing, active, and ready for change.

"These are the days of miracle and wonder
This is the long-distance call
The way the camera follows us in slo-mo
The way we look to us all
The way we look to a distant constellation
That's dying in a corner of the sky
These are the days of miracle and wonder
And don't cry, baby, don't cry
Don't cry…"

Other Libras on the Council: John Coltrane, Yo-Yo Ma, Jimmy Carter, Ursula Le Guin, Groucho Marx, Nicholas Roerich, Desmond Tutu, bell hooks.

GEORGIA O'KEEFFE

"I've been absolutely terrified every moment of my life and I've never let it keep me from doing a single thing that I wanted to do."

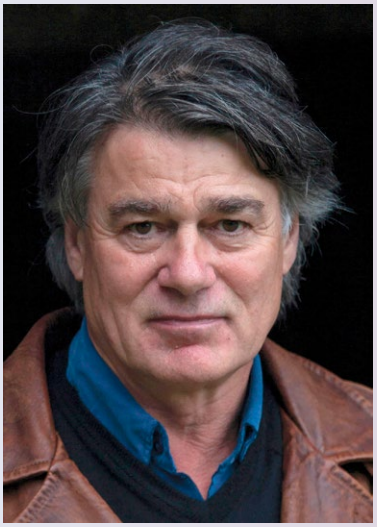
Master painter Georgia O'Keeffe had much to say in her life, and she accomplished it, in large part, silently through her art:

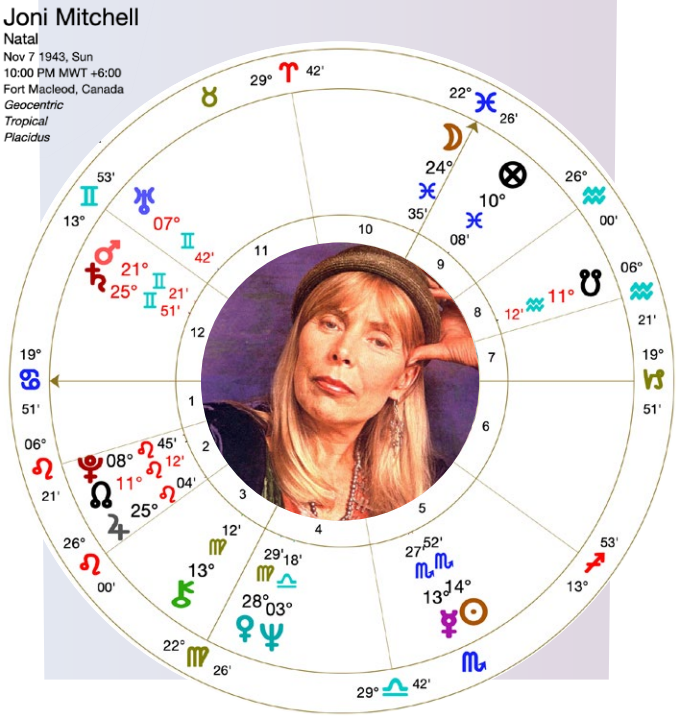
"I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way… things I had no words for."

Still, over her long life, she uttered numerous pithy comments we can take as guidance. More significantly, we can look to the resolute way she followed her Muse, despite internal and external resistance, as the ultimate counsel:

"I have already settled it for myself, so flattery and criticism go down the same drain, and I am quite free."







ASTRO-NOTES

Ms. O'Keeffe and Scorpio are one and the same with her Scorpio Sun, Moon, and Ascendant conjunction. Flanking that triumvirate is Jupiter in Scorpio, housed in the 12th, and Mercury in Scorpio, taking residence in the 1st.

The Sun-Moon-Mercury conjunction opposing Neptune represents the consummate, visionary storyteller, but her stories were in pictures more than sentences.

There's a compelling graciousness to her work, even when contemplating a favored Scorpio theme of death, signified by Libra Venus trine Pluto.

DAVID WHYTE

"Sometimes it takes darkness and the sweet confinement of your aloneness to learn anything or anyone that does not bring you alive is too small for you."

UK-born, Irish-lineaged, and U.S.-based David Whyte has carved out a unique niche, inspiring discerning travelers as a poet, contemplative, philosopher, cultural tour guide, and engaging public speaker. A worthy addition to your council of elders, Whyte offers this equation for your consideration:

"The price of our vitality is the sum of all our fears"

ASTRO-NOTES

Born in Yorkshire on November 2, 1955, David arrived with a Scorpio Sun, and in the solar chart, an 8th House Gemini Moon trine libra Mars, generating the constant call to transformational dialogue. In this chart, David, the private person, comes gregariously alive as the consummate storyteller via an exact Leo Pluto/Jupiter Leo in the public 10th House.

One of his favored expressions comes via his mentor, Jesuit Brother David Stendl-Rast, who counseled the then-exasperated non-profit director in his twenties:

"You know that the antidote to exhaustion is not necessarily rest?…The antidote to exhaustion is wholeheartedness."

JONI MITCHELL

"I've looked at life from both sides now, and still somehow, It's life's illusions, I recall, I really don't know life at all…"

Penned at a prescient 24 years of age, Joni Mitchell's lyrics captured the zeitgeist of a generation seeking a truth deeper than fossilized religion and a two-car garage.

I don't know how their challenging profundity lands on the current youth demographic without hearing over the airwaves the paradoxically gentle melody that accompanies them.

If the Scorpio's non-negotiable imperative is to plumb the depths of relationship and being–no matter what, then Joni has been faithful to her zodiacal tribe.

"We are stardust, we are golden…and we've got to get ourselves back to the garden."

ASTRO-NOTES

Water, water everywhere, and many drops to drink, represented by a Scorpio Sun, angular Pisces Moon at the Midheaven, and Cancer Ascendant.

The creative 5th House Scorpio Sun and Mercury trine the Ascendant, spawning her expressive, often edgy poetry and personal feelings to flow in effortless harmony. A Pisces Moon at the Midheaven and trine the Cancer Ascendant tells us how the world recognizes her—by her gifted musical and intuitive heart.

Venus in Virgo conjunct Libra Neptune ratchets up the poetic impulse, and the Moon-Venus opposition is the mark of an emotive storyteller, chronicling the dynamic tango of relationship life. The character-defining grit comes via the Saturn-Mars conjunction in the 12th, marking her early childhood infirmity and its square to the Pisces Moon and Virgo Venus informs us, as she readily attests to, that relationships don't come easy for her, nor does she gladly suffer fools.

Joni serves up a bite-sized morsel of wise counsel now relevant for the current self-revelatory social media universe:

"There are things to confess that enrich the world…and things that need not be said."

Other Scorpios on the Council: Adyashanti, Kurt Vonnegut, John Cleese, Brene Brown, Will Rogers, Hilma af Klimt.



BYRON KATIE MITCHELL

"Whenever you argue with reality, you lose, but only 100% of the time."

Byron Katie Mitchell (b. December 6, 1942) is a fresh wind from the California high desert who blows away the thinking and narratives that make us suffer.

Her internationally recognized method of deconstructing mind and belief is simply referred to as The Work.

"Peace doesn't require two people; it requires only one. It has to be you. The problem begins and ends there.

ASTRO-NOTES

Bryon Katie is a passionate, energetic, and charismatic woman who, as an evolved Sagittarius, looks at the roots of belief and opinion and then removes their scaffolding.

Her Mars-Moon conjunction in Scorpio will light the flame, and its trine to dignified Jupiter in Cancer will expand it into joy… or excess in its earlier versions.

Uranus opposes her Mars-Moon, mirroring her prior crucible of blurting anger, transformed into its ennobled expression as lightning-quick emotional intelligence, delivered unfettered without affectation.

MARK TWAIN

"If you tell the truth, you don't need a good memory.

Mark Twain (born Samuel Clemens), like many Sagittarians, was interested in the matter of **truth** and was spring-loaded to share his.

A master of wit, surprise, pithy commentary, and engaging narrative, he remains a beloved icon of arts and letters in the U.S. and worldwide.

ASTRO-NOTES

Sam, aka Mark, came by his literate, swashbuckling ways naturally. He touched down on Nov. 30, 1835, in the light of Halley's Comet, with a fiery Sag Sun and Aries Moon and a stinging, hot-water Scorpio Ascendant.

"A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes."

The Sun is dynamically energized by conjunction with Mars. His Aries Moon is intensified by its conjunction with Pluto, which trines Mars, guaranteeing the driver of this vehicle would speak his mind and readily claim his place in the world without apology.

"Never allow someone to be your priority while allowing yourself to be their option."

A Scorpio Ascendant can sting. With Sam, the sting is softened by a humanitarian infusion coming via Jupiter's trine from Cancer. Jupiter favorably trines his 1st House Mercury, as well, pointing to writing and publishing as a vocation. Check. Still, Scorpio's take-no-prisoner attitude found its way through his lips and fingers:

"Never argue with stupid people; they will drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience."

For the sake of our general well-being, we might hold this gem of Twain's counsel close as we move through life.

JANE FONDA

"It took me a long time to realize we're not meant to be perfect; we're meant to be whole."

Jane Fonda has lived a life of serial transformation, beginning Dec. 21, 1937. It has spanned her status from a 1960s bombshell beauty film star to anti-war activist protesting bombs, to aerobics pioneer and entrepreneur, from dramatic to comedic actress, and climate change activist. In her own words, her superpower is that she keeps changing.

"Ask questions. Stay curious. It's much more important to stay interested than to be interesting."

And from the look and sound of it, at age 86, she's changing for the better—ever authentic, surprising, perceptive, and vulnerable.

ASTRO-NOTES

Hers is a chart of paradoxical extremes. The fiery Sagittarius Sun, placed in the 12th House, is square Saturn, signifying the impactful, disempowering effect of her distant father, Henry. By contrast, buoyant Jupiter is conjunct a practical Capricorn Ascendant. They both oppose Pluto, indicating a life of serial transformation.

Jane's Leo Moon renews the celebratory theme and trines an 11th House Venus in Sagittarius—a configuration tailor-made for performance roles and feminist advocacy. For more tension to resolve, the 7th House Moon squares the Scorpio MC, seeking to express itself more in intimate connection rather than for all the world to see.

Neptune squares Venus, marking the projected-upon actress and the vulnerable dreamer.

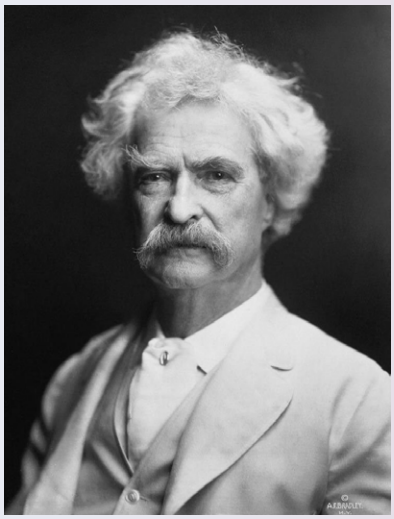
We note the number of placements in the 28-0-degree range as if something is being completed and started anew in this life.

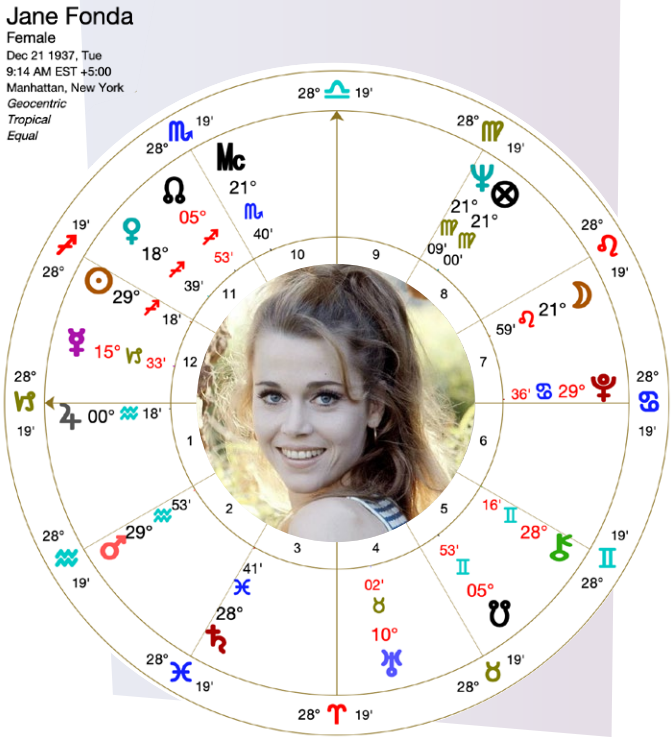
The exact Aquarius Mars-Ceres conjunction mirrors Jane's passionate advocacy for the earth in her recent decade.

Other Sagittarius souls on the Council include Milton Erickson, M.D., Carolyn Myss, Morihei Ueshiba (Aikido founder), Osho, Ranier Maria Rilke.

There you have it—nine eminent zodiacal ambassadors offering counsel for living the most artful, evolved, engaged, and humored life. Make them part of your Council of Elders, if not already, and be sure to share your own favorites!

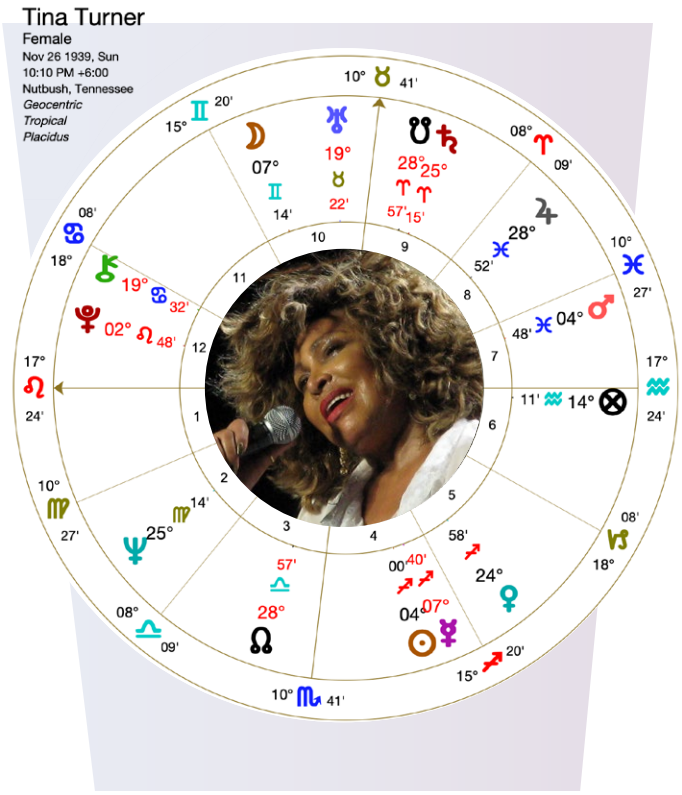






TINA TURNER
THUNDER & LIGHTNING

by Shawn Nygaard



Rock-pop singing legend Tina Turner passed away on May 24, 2023, at the age of 83. Tina was born with Uranus retrograde at 19° Taurus 12′, and on the day of her death Uranus was at 19° Taurus 46′. She died one week into her Uranus Return, just following the first of what would be three conjunctions total. To take a brief look at the life of this extraordinary woman from an astrological perspective, what does her birth chart reveal?

While Tina's chart is characterized by two t-squares, which we will look at separately, perhaps Saturn retrograde in Aries conjunct the South Node is the best place to begin. Here we can see that Tina, born Anna Mae Bullock on November 26, 1939, arrived about three months into World War 2, which began September 1, 1939. Tina Turner was born into a world at war. The global backdrop of fighting would prove to be quite personal too, as Tina says, "My mother and father – oh, they fought from the very beginning. But my mother always fought back."[1]

This fighting spirit emerged in Tina's infamous first marriage to rock and roll musician Ike Turner, an extremely violent man. Looking back to the time when she had left Ike and embarked on a solo career, very little ever came easily: "Considering my age, my gender, my color, and the time … everything was strong winds against me." Saturn in Aries comes through when she continues, "And you know what I say to the people? Keep going. You just don't stop." And Tina did not stop.

With Saturn in Aries ruled by Mars, we can open up Tina's chart more by looking to her Mars, which is placed in a t-square configuration featuring a Full Moon in Gemini (10th House) opposing a Sun-Mercury conjunction in Sagittarius (4th House), with both ends of the opposition squaring Mars in Pisces (7th House). This martial t-square rules not only her South Node and Saturn in Aries but her IC in Scorpio as well, at the base of her chart. Moreover, with each of these planets – including both luminaries (the Moon full, no less) – placed in angular houses, we can see Tina as a force to be reckoned with. She was often described as a force of nature, with boundless energy and strength, and she toured into her 70s with little sign of wear or tear. Speaking of Aunty Entity, the character she plays in the movie "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome," as a figure whose life paralleled her own in many respects, she says, "[Entity] had to go through so much when all was lost, when the world seemed to be coming to an end. She could not be anything else but very strong, and that's why I could really relate to her life."[2]

An altogether different t-square in Tina's chart features Jupiter in Pisces opposing Neptune in Virgo, with both planets squaring Venus in Sagittarius. Much "softer" characteristically in many ways than her martial t-square, this Venusian counterpart shows itself not only through her life as a singer but also as a woman in love. "When I am in love, I am totally vulnerable. I don't have shallow relationships. They're very much in depth. It's a waste of time for me otherwise." Perhaps unexpected to hear from a woman most famous for singing a song called, "What's Love Got to Do with It?" Speaking of love seems to bring out Tina's deeper spiritual life, given Jupiter-Neptune's presence in the t-square. She references past lives in her songs here and there, and once revealed in an interview that she could really only be with a man with whom she felt such a strong connection, as if evoking another lifetime.

To really see how these two t-squares operate on a larger level in Tina's chart, we can look to the MC/IC axis. It's already been mentioned that the martial configuration rules her Scorpio IC, and we can now add that her MC in the sign of Taurus is ruled by Venus. In other words, these t-squares and their tremendous power come to life via the MC/IC axis, the "spine" of her chart. Tina Turner had quite the backbone!

One last point to mention for now takes us full circle, returning to where we began: Uranus in Taurus, sitting atop Tina's chart in the 10th House. In discussing why she named her 1986 album "Break Every Rule," Tina says, "It seems I have broken all the rules." Uranus – true to character, through and through! As an inspiration to women, especially older women, Tina showed up to one performance at the Fairmont Hotel (a San Francisco venue famous for glittering balls, presidential visits, and political gatherings), where she describes, "I went in with a rock and roll band, wearing karate clothes with different color belts, and I took an old mini dress from a French designer, and I pulled my hair up in a punk style, and we had a standing ovation. And the reviews said, Tina Turner broke all the rules last night. She went into the Fairmont and pulled the cobwebs down from Nob Hill." She notes, "I've been breaking the rules for the last ten years."

For a more in-depth look at Tina's chart and the stunning set of transits that took place over a 10-year period of time and marked her transformation from a capable but struggling solo singer, singing mostly to pay off debts, into a renowned and beloved global superstar, you can check out Shawn's "Imagine That!" podcast episode: "Thunder and Lightning – A Tribute to Tina Turner."

[1] TINA. Directed by T. J. Martin and Daniel Lindsay. HBO, 2021.
[2] Tina Turner, *tina … that's my life*, Rizzoli, 2020, p. 54

All other quotes are from a 1986 untitled promotional radio interview supporting Tina's "Break Every Rule" album.

OLGA TOKARCZUK
LIVING IN BETWEEN

by Shawn Nygaard

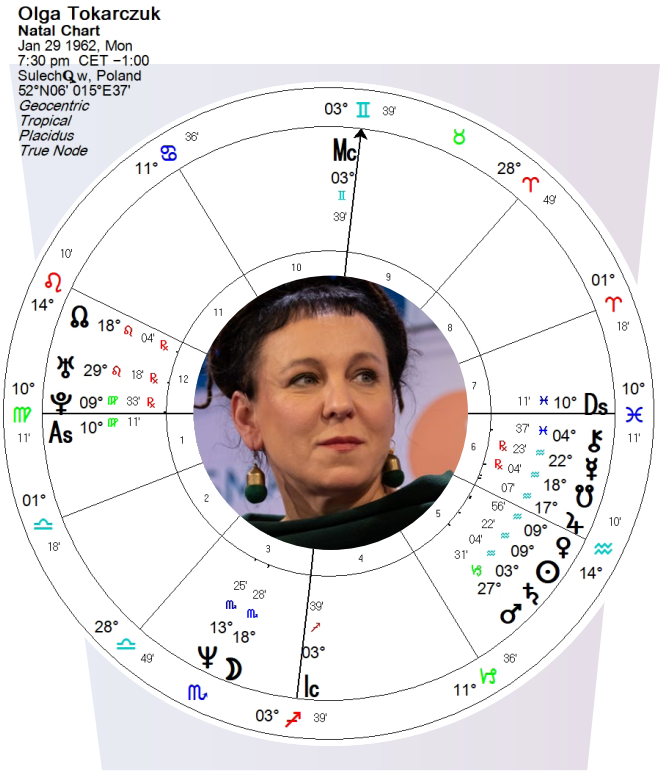
On October 10, 2019, Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk won the Nobel Prize in Literature , noted by the Swedish Academy for her "narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life." Olga is an important figure for the astrological community to be aware of, as her book "Drive Your Plough Over the Bones of the Dead" (translated into English by Antonia Lloyd-Jones) includes the main character Janina Duszejko, an elderly eccentric woman whose primary passions in life include the poetry of William Blake, animal rights, and astrology. The book is filled with beautiful and insightful reflections on astrology, a subject Olga clearly knows in depth to be able to craft such rich, substantive, and eloquent passages.

What does the birth chart of this Nobel laureate show us? Born on January 29, 1962, in Sulechów, Poland at 7:30pm, we see that Olga's chart includes five planets and a South Node all in the sign Aquarius, bookended by Mars in late degrees of Capricorn and Chiron in early degrees of Pisces. She was born with a Moon-Neptune conjunction in Scorpio, which with a generous range of orb degrees, squares her planets in Aquarius. Olga was also born with Pluto in Virgo on the Ascendant.

Perhaps a good entry point into Olga's chart is her chart ruler, Mercury, which falls in the 6th House, retrograde, in the air sign of Aquarius. Her Mercury is conjunct Jupiter in Aquarius, also in the 6th House. Often Aquarius brings an innate capacity for systems thinking, sometimes with an almost scientific mind. Aquarius can be the iconic "outside of the box" thinker, looking at things from different and unique perspectives, often like an outsider looking in. With Olga's abundance of planets in Aquarius, including Mercury, it's no surprise that she says, "I can boldly say that encyclopedias were my favorite literary genre throughout my childhood." Yet she did not stop there.

Olga read Greek mythology extensively, keeping track of the complicated relationships across the various versions of the myths, before expanding to read mythologies across other cultures. Creation myths and cosmologies fascinated her, as did fairy tales and fables from around the world. When her parents—both teachers—moved to the south of Poland, young Olga studied astronomy, cosmology, physics, and "everything that went beyond the ordinary, everyday world and crossed the borders of the here and now."

The 6th House is a rather complicated house, its meaning coming partly from its position at the twilight time of day, when the Sun has not set completely, and night has not fully taken hold. It's a murky, shady, mysterious, and often beautiful time of day. Nothing is just black or white, and planets in the 6th House can live in the ambiguous state "in between" this or that, between day and night. The 6th House represents a place and a time where borders become blurred. This seems to be a quality Olga consciously embraces with intelligence and insight, not only in her writing but as a way of viewing the world. Of this in-between zone Olga remarks, "There is so much more truth there than in the black and white. I try to see the world rather as a continuum, and not one thing or another.



Harald Krichel, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons

> Perhaps a good entry point into Olga's chart is her chart ruler, Mercury, which falls in the 6th House, retrograde, in the air sign of Aquarius.

Anyone who has experience with borders, not only national ones, sees the artificiality of people arbitrarily drawing them."

Olga's natural inclination toward this way of perceiving the world is enhanced by her connection to her birth country of Poland and its history of shifting national borders. Here we can bring in Olga's Moon-Neptune conjunction in Scorpio, which squares her Mercury-Jupiter conjunction in Aquarius. Neptune's powerful presence here resists secure and solid boundaries of any kind, preferring to stay open to the boundless possibilities of the imagination. As if embodying this essential nature of her country (and her chart) in her writing, Olga says, "I belong, like it or not, to the great land that is Central Europe. It's the space between the West and the East, the North and the South. Time flows differently here, not in a linear way, but by turning circles."

Olga's deep sense of shifting borders and blurred boundaries, along with this sense of circular time allows her to perceive unusual connections between things. The looseness Neptune brings seems to suit Olga quite well, especially when it comes to writing literature. In "Drive Your Plow" she deftly defies any single genre with a fluid combination of murder mystery, fairy tale, tribute to romantic poet William Blake, animal rights, and social critique, with philosophical insight woven throughout via astrology, no less. She says of her role as a literary author that her task is to "synthesize

and consolidate the world, looking for connections, both overt and hidden, and building an image of the world as a complex whole full of mutual relations." How apt for someone born with an exact (cazimi) Sun-Venus conjunction! Olga not only recognizes the differences between things but also their innate relatedness.

Olga's planets in the fixed sign of Scorpio are put to use via obsessive focus on her subjects at hand when writing a new novel, story, or article. For her tome "The Books of Jacob," often described as her magnum opus, she spent almost ten years researching and writing to accurately depict the titular character Jacob Frank, a Polish-Jewish religious leader in the mid-eighteenth century, from numerous perspectives.

As if all of this tenacity is not enough, Olga's path to becoming a writer was not straightforward, having first attended college to study psychology and immersing herself in the works of Carl Jung, Mircea Eliade, and James Hillman. Although she did not continue as a practicing psychologist (after feeling one day she was more disturbed than the patient in front of her!), she brings an undeniably rich psychological quality to her writing.

Quotes and various biographical information collected from https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/2018/tokarczuk/biographical/ (last visited Friday August 13, 2023)

COMMENT

THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF COMPOSITE CHARTS

by Peter Burns

This article is likely to be seen as a little controversial in some quarters and I present it here as my opinion with no intention to disrespect practitioners who use composite charts in their practice.

A brief history of composite charts

The history of composite charts can be sourced to midpoint theory and the Hamburg School in Germany in the 1920's, founded by Alfred Witte. This school was referred to later as *Uranian astrology*.

Cosmobiology, founded by Reinhold Ebertin, is a spin-off from the Hamburg school. It differs in its rejection of the hypothetical trans-Neptunian objects and places a greater emphasis on medical astrology. There is also a special focus on eighth-harmonic aspects.

In Chris Brennan's podcast,[1] John Townley speculated whether midpoint theory can be sourced to the idea of besiegement and the idea that if one planet is exactly at the midpoint of two others, then there's some **'translation of light'** to the planet at the center. He mentions the possibility that the idea may have come from Bonnati, although this cannot be verified.

There are two types of composite charts in everyday use: one developed by John Townley detailed in his book *The Composite Chart*, and the other was developed by Ronald Davison, and detailed in his book: *Synastry and Human Relationships*. I will discuss Townley's method first and refer to it as *the standard composite*.

A third type of composite is the coalescent chart where planet positions are derived from harmonics. The coalescent composite is not widely used and is beyond the scope of this article.

What is a standard composite chart?

Basically, a standard composite chart is comprised of the midpoints between the same pair of planets in each chart. For example, the midpoint between Venus in Chart A and Venus in Chart B is said to show the essence of Venus in that relationship. This is done for each pair of the same planets.

For example, if Venus in Chart A is at 10° Aries and Venus in Chart B is at 10° Gemini, the midpoint between the two is 10° Taurus. When this is done for each pair of the same planets the result is a third chart that is said to represent the essence or purpose of the relationship.

My own experience

When I began studying astrology in the 1980's I learnt about composite charts and used them extensively for relationship interpretation. Sometimes there were points that resonated with clients, but more often clients had trouble relating to these interpretations. After a few years, I stopped using them. They didn't 'work', in the sense that these interpretations often didn't resonate with clients.

Honesty and letting go

I understand how tempting it is to make an interpretation 'fit'. But I think it's very important to be honest. Over the last 40 years, I've had to let go of various techniques, traditional and modern, that didn't seem to be supported by logic or real-life experience.

My basic point is that composite charts don't relate to real life. They are based on the midpoint between planets, an attractive abstract idea. But I think it's important to check the facts.

The facts - 3 reality tests of the standard composite

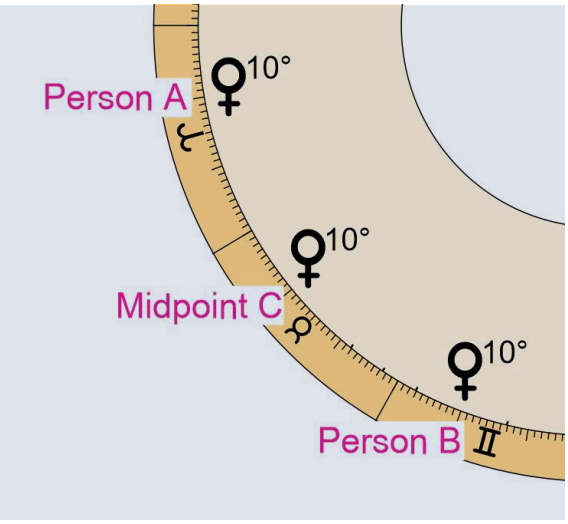
Quite often Mercury and Venus, which can only be 24 or 48 degrees respectively from the Sun, are found much further away or even opposite the Sun.

Planets opposite the Sun are always shown as direct. Experienced astrologers know that planets opposite the Sun can only ever be moving retrograde.

The major problem is that the standard composite chart does not correlate with any date—it's a fictional chart.

Example 1:

Consider the composite chart for Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, following page. There's no date in my ephemeris which matches these planet positions. The composite Sun at



24 Taurus correlates with May 15, so we'd expect the date to be May 14-16. Next, we look for Pluto at 10.18 Cancer for every year on May 15 between 1920-1928. May 24 is the closest fit but, alas, none of the other planets coincide exactly, and the Moon is in Aquarius, not Leo.

This chart does not conform to reality. It cannot reflect the basic principle of astrology: "As above so below". The "As above" part of this equation never existed.

Example 2:

On the following page is a composite chart for two clients, whose names have been changed for privacy reasons: Roberto, born Sept 12, 1987, and Olivia, born March 31, 1999. The outstanding feature is Mercury opposite the Sun, which is something that never happens. The Sun always keeps a tight leash on Mercury, never allowing it to roam more than 24 degrees. And again, you will not find planets in these positions for any date in your ephemeris.

The impossibility

My point is that standard composite charts are impossible. They don't occur in nature. And therefore, I see standard composites as something which is not based in reality. This opinion might offend a few people, and previously myself, who frequently used these charts.

And yes, you will always find, according to the laws of probability, something which appears to reflect a facet of the relationship in the standard composite chart, and from this we get the *it works for me* statements. But that doesn't validate standard composite charts. In Facebook discussions on the subject, some astrologers say it works for them and others say it doesn't. And others say that *if it works for you it's valid*. But does that mean it is good astrology, in the sense of being based on sound principles?

According to John Townley, the author of *The Composite Chart*

John Townley, who popularised composites in his 1973 publication says, "*Composite is not a real chart that exists, but an artifact; it doesn't reflect an actual chart with a time and location.*" That's the author speaking. I think the statement: "*is not a real chart that exists*" summarises my point: We are not dealing with anything real here—the standard composite is an impossible chart.

Davison charts

Davison composite (DC) charts are an interesting and different type of composite chart. Instead of plotting the midpoints between planets, which is the Townley method for standard composite charts, the midway point between both the date/time and the place of the two charts is used.

The DC chart was developed in England by Ronald Davison in the early 1970s, and he discusses it in his book: *Synastry and Human Relationships*.

The DC does not have the same astronomical reality issues as the standard composite. It produces a date with planets accurately plotted for that date. The distance of Mercury and Venus from the Sun is restrained within normal limits. And planets opposite the Sun will be shown as retrograde. In my mind, the DC chart is a big improvement on the standard, astronomically impossible, composite chart.

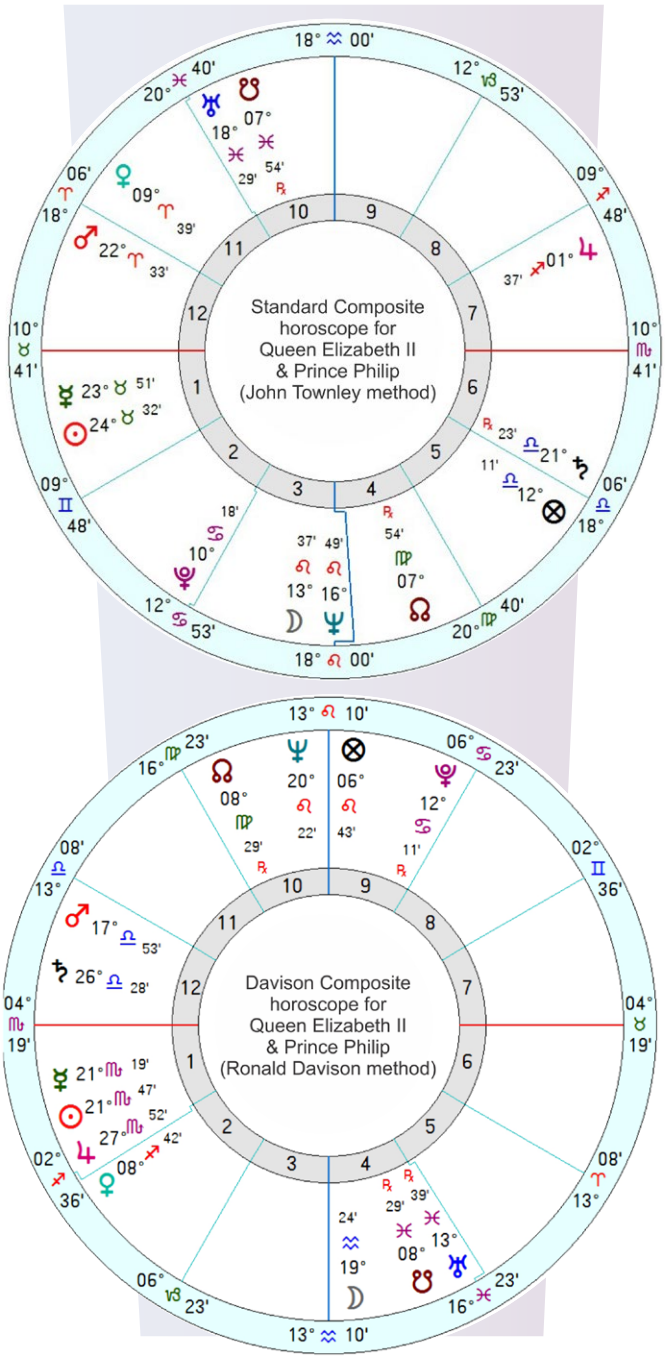
But the big issue is that no one in the conversation was born on that date or at that place, and therefore it's not a chart that relates to anything tangible. And is there any evidence that something at the midpoint between two planets is energized by those planets? I don't know of any. There appears to be an assumption that a midpoint is energized, but how do we know this is true? Some say that a midpoint offers a release of energy, a resonance, or a combined energy exchange.

An entity

Other astrologers suggest that the DC chart is like an independent entity, representing the purpose of the relationship. It 'speaks'. The claim is that it's not just an abstract mathematical construct but something which is organic and living. However, it's not clear to me why this would be true.

Like a natal chart

Some astrologers apply transits, progressions, solar returns, and other techniques to standard composites and DC charts in the



same way as these techniques are applied to a natal chart. This introduces a third level of abstract symbolism.

The first level of abstraction is a natal chart which represents how the celestial energies are integrated within the human being. Then from this is the creation, with another human being, of a separate entity called *the composite chart*. Then this abstraction is further extrapolated into solar return and similar charts. I question the validity of these successive abstractions. Perhaps they contain truth, but it seems to me like too many steps into the ether. I think there's more than enough material in the natal chart to understand.

Synastry

I stopped using composites about 25 years ago. My preferred method is synastry, either with both charts side-by-side or as a bi-wheel, with one chart overlaid over the other. Synastry is more time-consuming because it forces the astrologer to think and consider the various planet combinations and how they interact. It's not laid out in one convenient chart. There are dignities and receptions to consider, the nature of the planets, applying and separating aspects, and more.

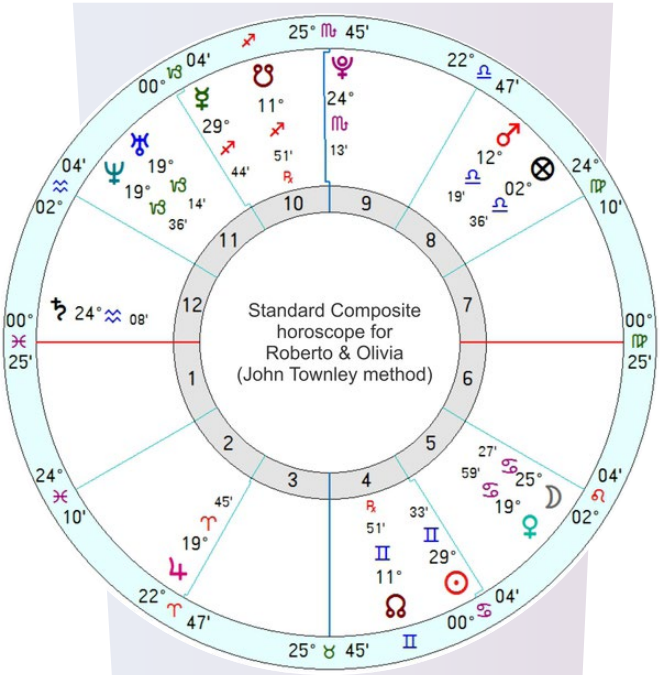
Staying real

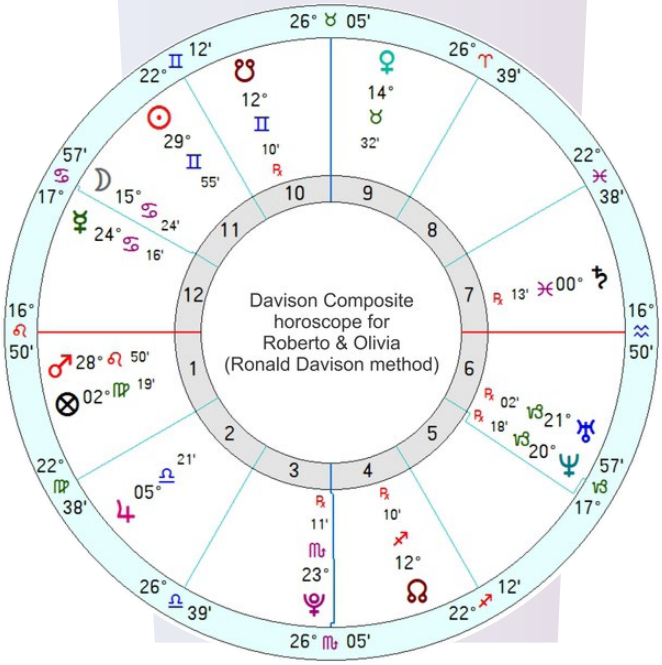
I think astrology is already esoteric enough without including impossible horoscopes. Astrology, in my opinion, needs to stay real and relevant. It is after all a study of nature, nature in the heavens, and how nature in the heavens correlates with events on earth.

ENDNOTES

1 Chris Brennan, in his Ep. 128 Podcast, interviews John Townley, author of The Composite Chart.

References:
'The Composite Chart' by John Townley.
'Planets in Composite' by Robert Hand.
'Coalescent Horoscopes' by Lawrence Grinnell and David Dukelow.





CONTRIBUTORS



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Will Sebrans *is a leadership and life coach leveraging astrology, Human Design, and clear belief methods to change lives for the better. He had a successful technology recruiting firm in the SF Bay Area, got started in the early days of the coaching profession, and continues integrating spiritual practice in the trenches of daily life. Astrology and Will found each other decades ago in the Gurdjieff work, with* Rodney Collin's Theory of Celestial Influence *as the prime first influence. For three years, he served as OPA's Publications Director. Will is convinced that figs, guitars, and golden retrievers are proof of a benevolent cosmos and acts accordingly. You can find him at www.otherwiseworld.com on Facebook as W. Seth Sebrans and subscribe to the twice-monthly Astro-cultural museletter: Practical Astrology for Artful Types:* ***https://tinyletter.com/wsebrans***



Shawn Nygaard *is a professional astrologer based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He produces and hosts the "Imagine That!" podcast focusing on astrology and archetypes. He is a Tutor for MISPA (Mercury Internet School of Psychological Astrology) and has been a speaker at the AA, NCGR, UAC, SOTA, and NORWAC conferences, as well as the Minnesota Jung Association. His writing has been published in WellBeing Astrology Guide (Australia) and The Mountain Astrologer. Shawn is a graduate of the CMED Institute in Chicago, where he studied archetypes and symbolism with Caroline Myss. Shawn's website is* ***www.imagineastrology.com.***



Peter Burns *took up astrology in the 1980's, received his Astrology Diploma (FAA) in 1997; was president of the Victorian Astrology Association 2006-2008; national editor of the Federation of Australian Astrologers Journal 2000-2015; guest speaker on ABC radio in Western Australia and 3RRR in Melbourne; published The Palmistry Textbook in 2011, has lectured in Australia and USA. Peter is dedicated to integrating the wisdom gained from modern astrology with traditional astrology and establishing a bridge of open-mindedness between the two points of view. Peter is a dedicated astrologer, lecturer, writer and teacher. Peter runs online courses in horary astrology and hand analysis. Email:* ***peterburnsastrology@gmail.com***

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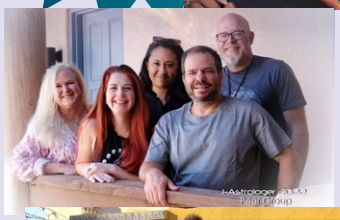



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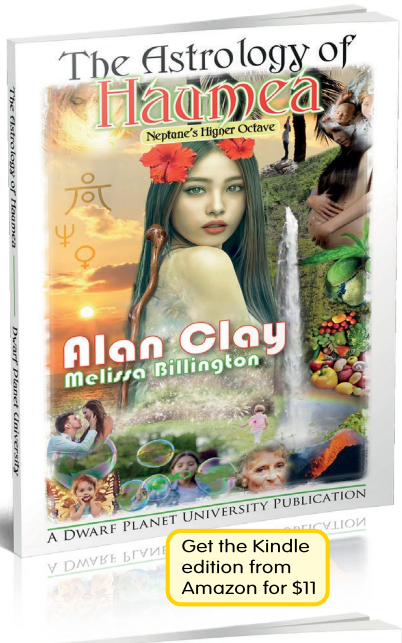

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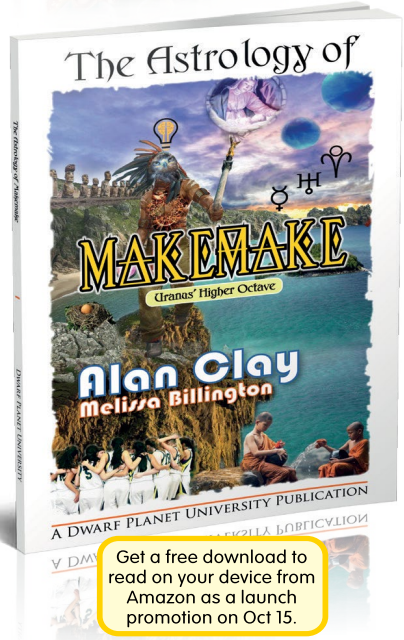

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Courses led by Alan Clay

We're exited to announce the publication of our first two textbooks on the new planets, ***The Astrology of Haumea, Neptune's Higher Octave*** was launched in May and ***The Astrology of Makemake, Uranus' Higher Octave*** will be launched on October 15th. Here's a review of the Haumea book from the ISAR Journal.

"The information on Haumea, comprehensive and systematically organized in one book, with chart examples, is priceless. The book tells us about the features of the dwarf planet, the discovery of Haumea in 2004 and the events manifesting her arrival into our consciousness, and the myth - a story of the Fire and Earth Goddess of Hawaii, who combines the explosive energy with nurturing, creation, rebirth and regeneration and ensures a never-ending supply of food and spiritual nourishing.

From the myth, discovery events, and the astronomy of Haumea, arises her astrological meaning: gracefully surrendering the old when we collide with the reality, to make a space for a new growth; regeneration and rebirth; creating life and nurturing the growth; deepening our connections to the oneness of life, to the psychic unity that exists across space and time; living in the present with trust, playing and creating.

As it often happens, the synchronicity brought the book of Haumea into my life when I most needed her energy of letting go and experiencing regeneration, to pull me out of a rut, challenge the foundations of my life, open me up to the growth and creation of a new, more spiritual and esoteric meaning of the world. With the appropriate position and aspects in my natal chart, her arrival offered support and new understanding of a life transition. Haumea was firmly introduced into my astrological practice, and the book was placed on my "frequently used" shelf in the "astrology" book case, with an ample space for the next books from the series."

- Reviewed by Olga Rozzell in the 2023 August ISAR Journal

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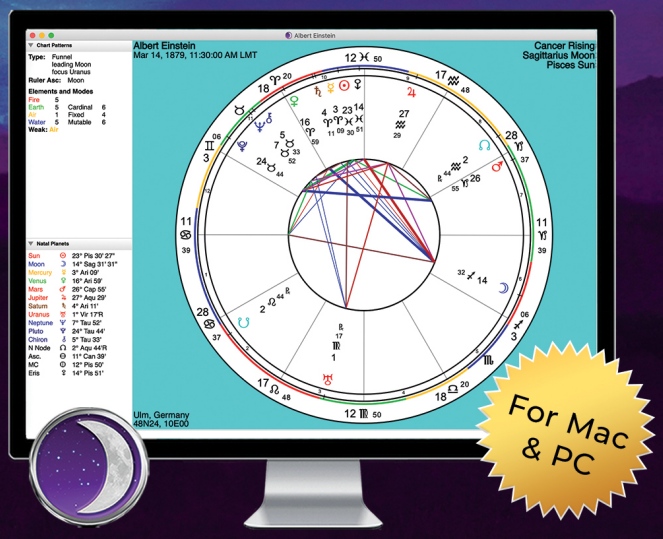

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THREE ASTROLOGERS DISCUSS

RELATIONSHIP ASTROLOGY

A TAPESTRY OF LIFE CONNECTIONS

ALAN ANNAND
ANNE SUNDELL
KAY TAYLOR

Introduction to OPA LIVE

It is the threads of relationship that weave the colorful tapestry of our lives. Some threads are tightly spun and vibrant, while others are frayed and broken. As we seek to understand ourselves, we deeply desire to understand each other and how our unique fabrics are woven. September's OPA Live panel webinar features three veteran astrologers who illuminate the complex dynamics of relationship astrology, enriching our tapestry with the wisdom of celestial guidance.

Alan Annand, an astrologer with a deep understanding of both Western and Vedic astrology, offers a lens through which to view love and marriage in the Sidereal horoscope. His accompanying article is a distillation of his latest book, "The Passionate Planets," a work that encapsulates two years of rigorous research. He presents a system designed for astrologers to deepen their self-understanding and illuminate the relationship statuses of family, friends, and clients.

Kay Taylor addresses the sensitive and ethically complex arena of relationship consultations in her article, "The Dance of Relationship Consultations." Kay delves into the ethical considerations and challenges astrologers face when navigating these delicate discussions. After all, relationships often tread on potent territory, and an astrology reading has the capacity to profoundly change someone's life. Her article encourages astrologers to develop excellent consulting skills, with a focus on avoiding unconscious bias, maintaining empathy, and being culturally sensitive.

Finally, **Anne Sundell**, OPA's Finland Satellite leader, casts a spotlight on a less discussed but highly influential area: unaspected or unintegrated planets in relationships. Her article, "Unintegrated Planets in Relationships: Hearing the Unsaid," peels back the veil on these celestial entities, revealing their pivotal roles in areas needing healing, personal growth, or creative energy integration. Her insights invite us to listen to the unsaid, to recognize the nuanced oscillations that these celestial bodies bring into our lives.

As we navigate the intricate fabric of relationships that constitute our earthly experience, the wisdom imparted by these seasoned astrologers enriches our understanding and lends clarity to the complex dynamics at play.

As we seek to understand ourselves, we deeply desire to understand each other and how our unique fabrics are woven.



ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

LOVE & MARRIAGE IN THE (SIDEREAL) HOROSCOPE

by Alan Annand

After decades as a consulting astrologer, and my readings for thousands of clients, I've observed that more than half of them had approached me seeking perspective on their relationships—past, present, or future. And as I've repeatedly told my many students over the years, if they could just gain competency in the astrological analysis and compassionate discussion of two life themes—relationships and career—they would be able to address the two most dominant concerns of clients seeking insight or counsel. Admittedly, for some clients, there are other topical issues—children, creative pursuits, education, family matters, finance, health, legal matters, spirituality—that bring them to an astrologer. Still, these are typically sidebar themes that pale in comparison to relationships and careers.

As a species, we are, for the most part, hard-wired to pair and bond. Pairing is essential for procreation and the propagation of human life. Bonding, arguably, is essential for the creation and preservation of family units and, by extension, social communities, political movements, and nations.

This article is a highly condensed introduction to the astrology of relationships, which I have addressed in detail in my latest book—*The Passionate Planets*—whose research and writing consumed almost two years of my time. And yet it has been time well spent, for not only have I reinforced my understanding of what makes people tick in or out of relationships, but it has also created a "system" that any astrologer can apply, for their self-understanding, or to illuminate the relationship status of family, friends, and clients.

Note: All horoscopes presented in this article use the sidereal zodiac. Although the principles presented herein generally work with the tropical zodiac, it is the author's experience over a 40-year period of comparison-and-contrast that sidereal renders superior results.

Bias versus outcome

How many people want to get married yet never do? How many people have no interest in getting married and yet end up at the altar? Life doesn't follow the script of a Tony Robbins seminar. Just because you desperately want it and do all the right things to get it, there's no guarantee of success. If you don't already doubt the fallacy of "Want it, work it, win it," consider any popular get-rich-quick seminars that induce wannabes to adopt the "millionaire mind" necessary for financial success. Chances are, less than 5% ever achieve their lofty financial goals.

If I were to paraphrase one of the core lessons of the *Bhagavad Gita*, it says, *You have every right to pursue your passion, but God is under no compulsion to reward you for your efforts*.

So, what's the problem? Why can't we have everything we want? Or, more realistically, *why can't we have at least some of what we work so hard to get?* Life is so ironic. Cynics could well be justified in saying half of all people don't get what they deserve, while the other half don't deserve what they get.

Bias and outcome are two radically different things, and yet both can be teased out of the horoscope. Personal *bias* (i.e., desire) for one thing or another—love, wealth, fame—is contingent upon the disposition of the *planets*. Planetary dignities, their inter-relationships with other planets, and their positions in the horoscope determine the nature and scale of psychological impulses—conscious or unconscious—that drive us to do what we do. *Outcome*, on the other hand, is contingent upon an assessment of *houses* topical to the matter at hand. House occupation by, and aspect from, benefics vs malefics, along with the condition and placement of the relevant house lord, will indicate what karma lies in store for the horoscope owner.

To wed or not to wed, that is the question

In the interests of brevity, we can perform a forced distribution among the planets, sorting them into three camps—pro-marriage, anti-marriage, and no bias either way.

The romantics are the Moon and Venus. The Moon is domestic, emotional, and nurturing. Venus is aesthetic, pleasure-loving, and romantic. If either of these two influence the Ascendant or the 7th House, or their lords, they reflect a psychological bias for pairing and bonding.

The anti-romantics are Mercury and Saturn. Mercury is adolescent, fickle, and too immature for a serious relationship. Saturn is old and cold and too distant to sustain a relationship.

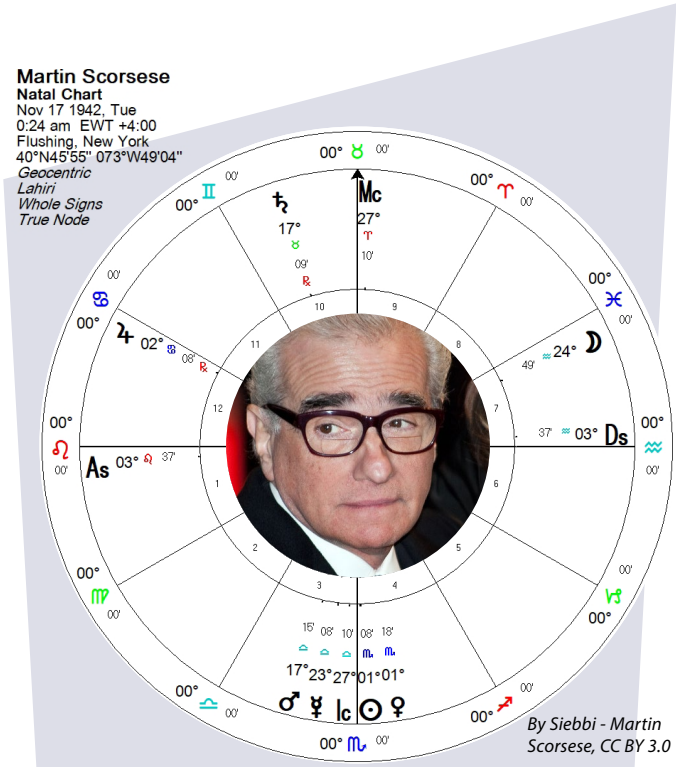
In the interests of brevity, we can perform a forced distribution among the planets, sorting them into three camps—pro-marriage, anti-marriage, and no bias either way.



The remaining planets are neutral in this matter but generally supportive of the status quo endorsed by society. Thanks to its steady motion, the Sun is a model of regularity, as are the Nodes in this respect. Mars exerts control but is disruptive. Jupiter is the epitome of dharma, doing the right thing.

When we examine a horoscope for marital inclination, we look for:

- a link between the 1st and 7th lords or their houses, and
- the influence of the Moon or Venus on the 1st and 7th Houses or their lords.



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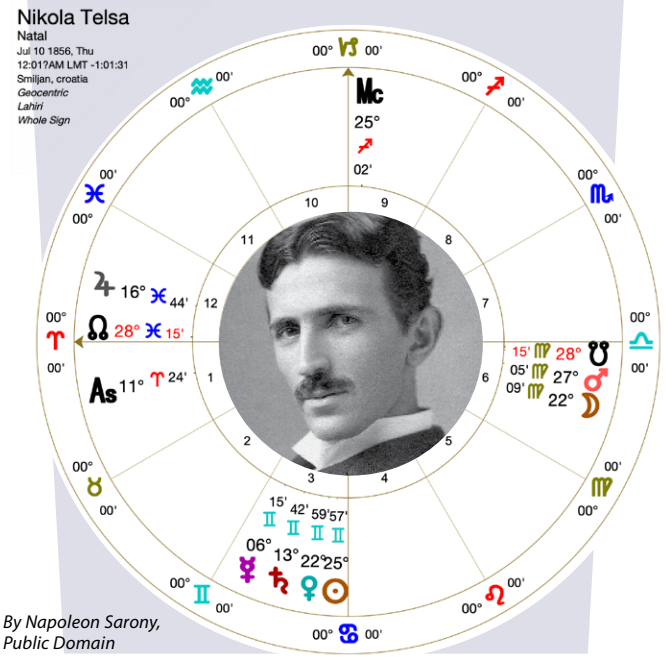

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Such influences strengthen when two or more links are simultaneously in play—via association/aspect, mutual reception, or disposition—thus rendering the two planets "coupled." For example, see the following horoscope.

MARTIN SCORSESE (17 November 1942 –) is an American film director, producer, screenwriter, and actor, winner of an Academy Award, three Emmys, a Grammy, and multiple other film industry awards. He has been married to five women (including author Julia Cameron and actor Isabella Rossellini) and divorced from four.

His Ascendant lord Sun is conjunct pro-marriage Venus and in mutual opposition by sign with 7th lord Saturn. His 7th lord Saturn is in mutual opposition by sign with both Ascendant lord Sun and Venus. Since Venus also disposes Saturn, this offers an example of strong coupling. The Moon occupies the 7th House from whence it aspects the Ascendant. Meanwhile, 7th lord Saturn is in a degree-based square with 7th House occupant Moon which it also disposes, thereby rendering them strongly coupled.

When we examine a horoscope for marital reluctance, we need more evidence, since going against the tide of social "norms" requires greater critical mass. In this case, we look for:

- weak dignity or poor house placement of the 1st or 7th lords,
- the influence of Mercury or Saturn on the 1st and 7th Houses or their lords, and
- a troubled Venus in the form of weak dignity, poor house placement, or influence from the anti-marriage planets.

Again, multiple influences suggest formidable resistance to marriage. For example, see the following horoscope.

NIKOLA TESLA (10 July 1856 – 7 January 1943) was a Serbian-American inventor best known for designing the modern AC electricity supply system. Although attractive and much sought-after by the high-society salons of New York, he was a lifelong bachelor who claimed that marriage would only distract him from his work.

His Ascendant lord Mars is in the "evil" 6th House, and occupies a sign of Mercury. His 7th lord Venus also occupies a sign of Mercury, where it associates with both Mercury and Saturn. Venus does double duty here, functioning primarily as the 7th lord, and secondarily as the generic indicator for relationships. The influence of Mercury is formidable in this horoscope. It enjoys power in its own sign, disposes both the 1st and 7th lords, and exerts double influence (association and disposition) over dual-role Venus.

Domestic and foreign affairs

Another aspect of relationship dynamics is an individual's readiness to plunge headlong into love, with or without the prospect of marriage. For instance, this might identify the love addict, the

The influence of Mercury is formidable in Tesla's horoscope. It enjoys power in its own sign, disposes both the 1st and 7th lords, and exerts double influence (association and disposition) over dual-role Venus.

ANNAND

"player," or the candidate for elopement, all of whom defy to some degree the conventions endorsed by family, friends, and society.

In such horoscopes, we expect passion to be in evidence. Astrologically, the Moon plays a significant role in arousing emotions, while Mars does the same in provoking desire. Therefore, one pro forma for falling in love requires:

- the 1st House or its lord linked to the Moon or Mars,
- the 7th House or its lord linked to the Moon or Mars,
- relationship significator Venus linked to the 7th House or its lord, and, for bonus points, contacts with the Moon or Mars.

As always, repeated coupling strengthens the case. For example, see the following horoscope:

LARRY KING (19 November 1933 – 23 January 2021) was an American television and radio star, who hosted over 50,000 interviews on his syndicated shows. Over 60 years, starting at age 19, he was married eight different times, including two marriages to the same woman.

In King's horoscope, the Moon and Mars occupy the 1st House. His 7th House is aspected by both the Moon and Mars, while 7th lord Mercury occupies a sign of Mars. Meanwhile, relationship significator Venus associates with both the Moon and Mars, and also aspects the 7th House.

Although falling head-over-heels in love isn't a transgression of contemporary social mores, such a disposition can qualify an individual for more overt examples of social defiance in the realm of relationships. For instance, within India, this could mean falling in love with someone outside one's caste. In other parts of the world, it could imply a relationship with a "foreigner," i.e., one of different ethnicity, language, or religion. It might also embrace a significant disparity in age or social status. Last but not least, it can also reflect same-sex relationships or any other arrangement that defies tradition.

The previous pro forma for passion (primarily engaging the Moon and Mars) provides the requisite foundation. To pursue an "unconventional" relationship, we also need to find links with Saturn or Rahu, who are associated with foreigners and strangers. Specifically, we look for Saturn or Rahu's links to:

- the 1st House or its lord,
- the 7th House or its lord, or
- relationship significator Venus.

See the following horoscope for example:

PRIYANKA CHOPRA (18 July 1982 –) is an Indian actress, model, and singer, one of Bollywood's highest-paid and most popular actresses. Winner of the Miss World 2000 pageant, she is cited by multiple media outlets as the world's sexiest Asian woman. In 2018, she married American pop singer Nick Jonas.

First, note the indications for passion in her horoscope. Her 1st House is occupied by an exalted Moon and receives a sign-based trine from Mars. Her 7th House receives a sign-based sextile from its lord Mars, as well as an aspect from the Moon.

Meanwhile, we find several signatures for unconventional relationships. Her Ascendant lord (and relationship significator) Venus is associated with Rahu and in a sign-based square with Saturn. Meanwhile, Saturn conjoins her 7th lord Mars, and casts a sign-based sextile on the 7th House.

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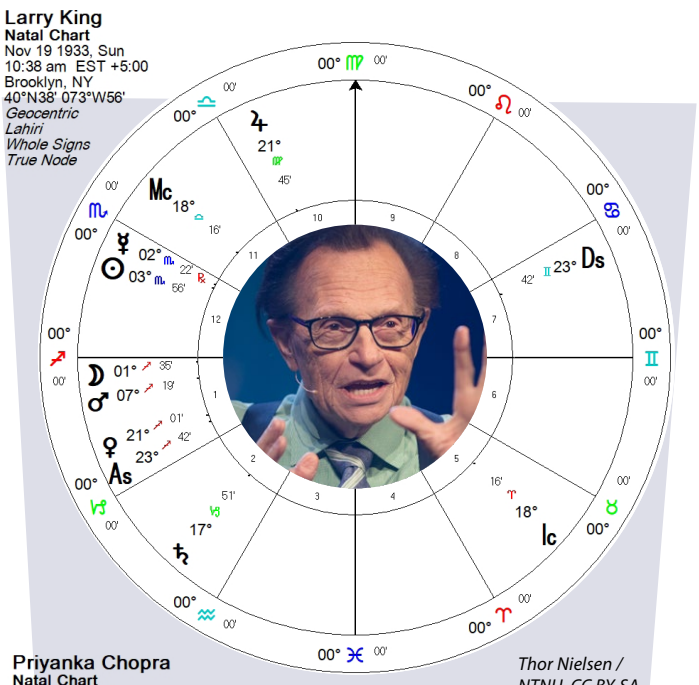

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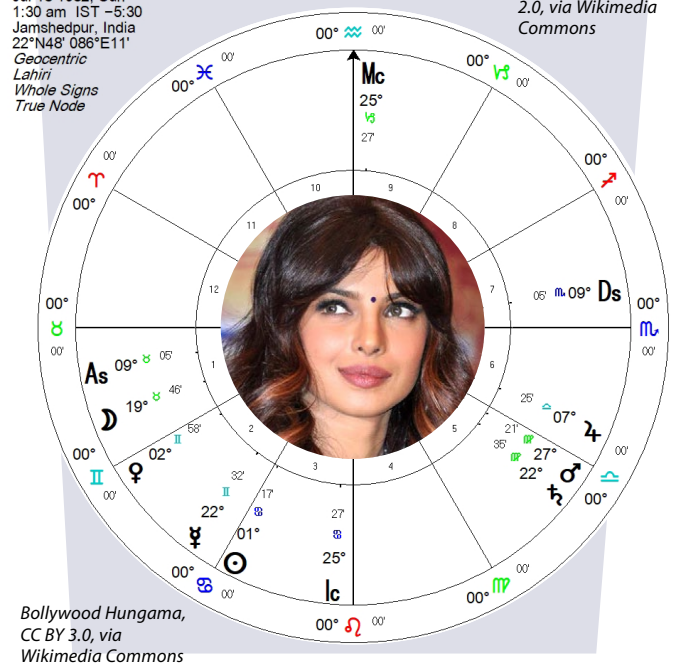


Bollywood Hungama, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Marital ups and downs

Shakespeare said, "*The course of true love never did run smooth.*" Meanwhile, what appeared to be true back in the 17th century is even more evident today when half of all marriages end in divorce. And yet, despite the 50/50 odds, many marriages are a great success, not just because the partners dedicated their best efforts to making it work, but also because they have the karma to succeed in relationships.

And at this juncture of astrological protocol, we segue from the domain of *bias* (assessed via planetary analysis) to the realm of *outcomes* (assessed via house analysis). Therefore, with respect to relationship outcomes, we must turn our attention to the status of the 7th House, its lord, and Venus the significator of all intimate relationships. More specifically, for marriage to succeed, we want:

- The 7th House or its lord free of combustion or planetary war (two true planets within one degree of longitude), meanwhile linked, preferably via coupling, with the Sun, Moon, Mars, or Jupiter. These planets support marital harmony because the Sun is regular, the Moon nurturing, Mars passionate, and Jupiter benevolent.
- The 7th House or its lord in a sign of the Sun, Moon, Mars, or Jupiter, so long as the lord of the 7th House is dignified in such a sign.
- Venus is free from combustion or planetary war and linked with the Sun, Moon, Mars, or Jupiter.
- Venus is in a sign of the Sun, Moon, Mars, or Jupiter, provided Venus is dignified in such a sign.

For example, see the horoscope of Paul Newman:

PAUL NEWMAN (26 January 1925 – 26 September 2008) was an American actor, film director, race car driver, entrepreneur, and winner of multiple film industry awards. After his first marriage ended, he wed Joanne Woodward, and their marriage became a model of longevity in a Los Angeles film community notorious for short-lived romances.

His 7th House is strengthened and stabilized by the aspect of four benefics versus two malefics. His 7th lord Mercury is in the 1st House where it enjoys directional strength. Furthermore, Mercury is associated with two benefics: Venus and a powerful Jupiter in its own sign. Relationship significator Venus enjoys a similar status: occupancy of an angular house, stabilized by a strong Jupiter.

Jupiter's role as a dharmic planet is critical here since it aspects the 7th House, and Jupiter associates with and disposes both 7th lord Mercury and marital significator Venus. Because Jupiter is strong, it tends to bring out the best regarding relationships.

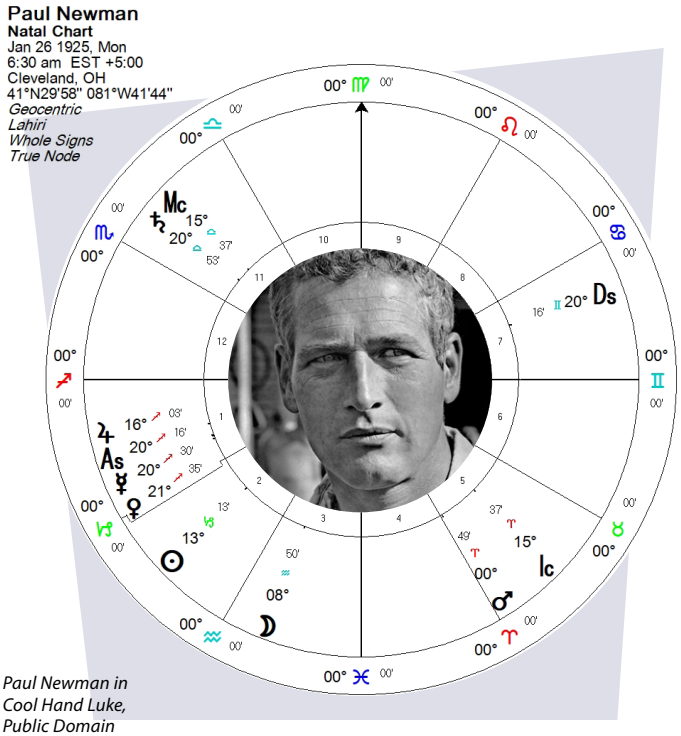
Although Mars and Saturn both aspect the 1st and 7th Houses and their lords, their sextile and trine aspects are never as problematic as squares or oppositions. Likewise, since both malefics are strong in their own and exalted signs, respectively, they act in a more controlled manner than would a planet in debilitation, which can sometimes turn rogue and provoke negative outcomes.

However, as the divorce statistics demonstrate, for every Newman, there is another man/woman for whom marriage was unsuccessful.

The astrological combinations for marital conflict are similar to those discussed earlier under marital disinclination. Thus, an inherent reluctance for marriage, if aggravated by karmic patterns for friction, becomes a signature for conflicts and disagreements that spell incompatibility.

The separative planets Saturn and Rahu are the typical villains. They can be directly involved, e.g., when Saturn rules the 7th House, or Saturn or Rahu occupies the 7th. They can also be indirectly involved, e.g., when Saturn associates with or aspects the 7th lord. The following patterns could plague one or both horoscopes in a marriage:

- The 7th House, its lord and Venus all under the influence of natural malefics.
- Three natural malefics flank the 7th House or its lord, especially when unrelieved by the association or aspect of natural benefics.
- A debilitated planet in the 7th House, especially when associated with or aspected by a natural malefic. (A common but potent example is a debilitated and combust Mercury in the 7th House, a frequent occurrence for a sunset birth with a Virgo Ascendant.)
- An exalted planet in the 7th House, or the 7th lord exalted, while Saturn associates with or aspects that relevant planet.
- Saturn debilitated when it's lord of the 7th House, at the same time lacking the remedial influence of a strong natural benefic.
- Saturn combust or debilitated in the 7th House, while the 7th House lord is poorly placed.



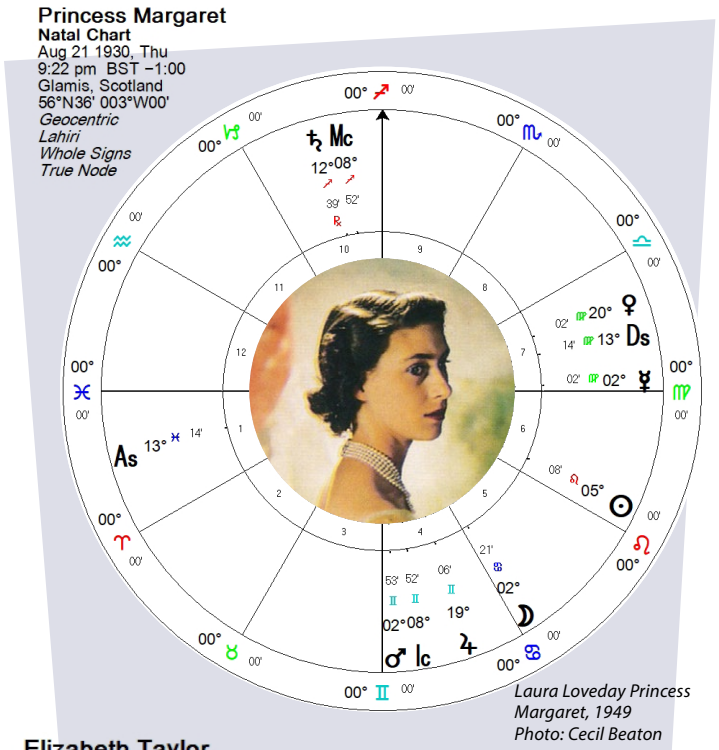
Paul Newman in Cool Hand Luke, Public Domain

After his first marriage ended, Newman wed Joanne Woodward, and their marriage became a model of longevity in a Los Angeles film community notorious for short-lived romances.

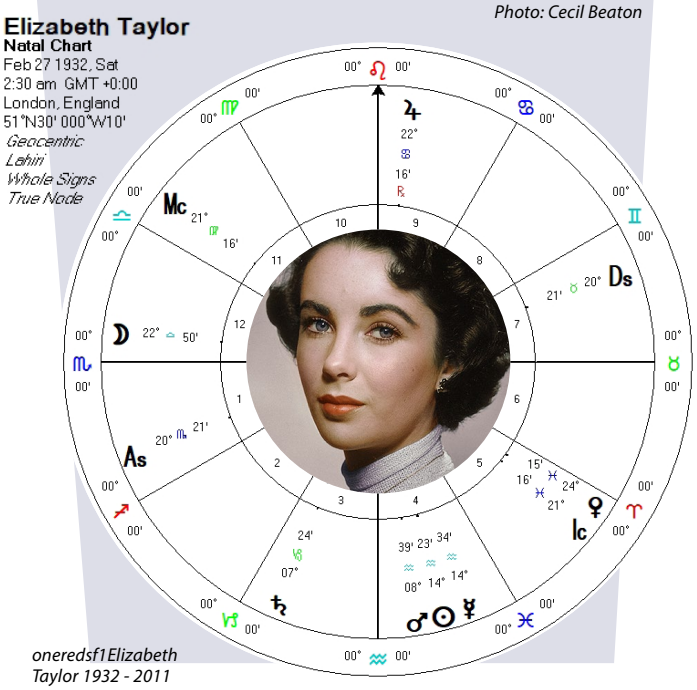
ANNAND

For an example of some of these afflictions in one horoscope, consider that of Princess Margaret:

PRINCESS MARGARET (21 August 1930 – 9 February 2002) was the younger daughter of King George VI and only sibling of Queen Elizabeth II. Her desire to marry divorcé Peter Townsend was thwarted by the Church of England, and her marriage to Antony Armstrong-Jones ended in divorce, after which her controversial affairs fueled tabloid scandals.



Laura Loveday Princess Margaret, 1949
Photo: Cecil Beaton



oneredsf1Elizabeth Taylor 1932 - 2011

In her horoscope, malefics Mars and Saturn simultaneously square all three key factors: the 7th House, 7th lord Mercury, and Venus. Both 7th House occupants are in an "altered state" – Mercury exalted, Venus debilitated—and both are profoundly destabilized by a retrograde Saturn. Both the 7th House and its occupants are flanked by malefics—the Sun in the 6th, South Node Ketu in the 8th. Although a sextile from the Moon might seem to relieve the 7th House and its occupants, this Moon isn't robust. Although in its own sign, it's dark in its waning cycle and therefore reflective of merely ephemeral, as opposed to lasting, relief.

Multiple marriages

Even though half of all marriages end in divorce, many of us are willing to give it another shot. Some of us hope we'll have better luck next time around and believe our soulmate could be just around the corner, or a right-swipe away from eternal love. Others of us might acknowledge our own previous failings but are now committed to putting more effort into the next relationship. In either case, there's typically something in our horoscopes that suggests love is not only a many-splendored, but also a multi-faceted, thing.

The most common signatures for multiple relationships involve astrological themes of duality or emotionality, and when the two combine in a single horoscope, this can represent a powerful karmic bias for a revolving door of relationships. Here are the primary factors that signal a variety of relationships, including not only serial monogamy but also some prospects for infidelity:

With any mutable Ascendant, the 7th House is naturally a dual sign as well, and there's the rub. Duality manifests as ambivalence, doubt, juggling, etc. Such people, in the spirit of keeping their options open, surrender to the seductive promise that *Variety is the spice of life*. Via similar logic, the same bias appears when the 7th lord or Venus occupies any of the mutable signs.

By extension, the mutable sign lords Mercury and Jupiter are also likely to provoke restlessness or instability in relationships when they influence the 7th House by occupation or aspect, and similarly by association or aspect upon the 7th lord or marital significator Venus.

Finally, water signs evoke emotional responses, and when water is abundant, a flood of emotions can sometimes sweep us off our feet. Therefore, take note when water signs occupy the 7th House, or when the 7th lord or Venus is in a water sign.

Some of the most famous names of Hollywood, that infamous gene pool of infidelities, offer examples of these principles. Zsa Zsa Gabor, with nine marriages to her credit, has a Virgo Ascendant, making Jupiter (god of plenty) her 7th lord. Larry King, with eight marriages, has both his Ascendant and Venus in mutable Sagittarius, while his 7th lord Mercury is in Scorpio. Hedy Lamarr, with six marriages, has Virgo rising, while Venus is in Scorpio. Rosanna Arquette, with four marriages, has a Sagittarius Ascendant and 7th lord Mercury in Cancer. But for a more detailed example, let's consider the chart of Elizabeth Taylor:

ELIZABETH TAYLOR (27 February 1932 – 23 March 2011) was a British-American actress whose five-decade career made her a legend of Hollywood. Meanwhile, her torrid love life commanded great media attention and public disapproval. She was married eight times to seven men, including hotel heir Conrad Hilton, actor Michael Wilding, singer Eddie Fisher, Senator John Warner, and actor Richard Burton whom she married twice.

In her horoscope, 7th lord and marital significator Venus are one and the same. Therefore, since Venus occupies a water sign, this creates a two-fold bias for multiple relationships. Meanwhile, Venus's exaltation in dual-bodied Pisces lends even more momentum to the promise of multiple relationships.

Since mutable sign lord Jupiter both aspects and disposes Venus—an instance of strong coupling—this again suggests a bias for multiple relationships. Jupiter's own exaggerated condition, i.e., both exaltation and retrogression, as well as its own occupancy of a water sign, further substantiates its effect.

Summary

Love is a many-splendored thing, as the saying goes, but it's also a multi-faceted thing, as even casual observation of life will affirm. Consequently, people don't conform to Sun-sign clichés, where fire signs are burning with passion, earth signs are eternally faithful, air signs are rational even in love, and water signs are emotional sponges. Every horoscope is unique, we know, but do we understand the extent of that uniqueness? As individuals with free will, we pursue our life goals with certain psychological biases, but we're also subject to the vagaries of fate, and ultimately surrender the outcomes of our endeavors to karma. Nowhere is that more evident, it seems, than in the realm of human relationships.

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CHART DATA *as per Astrodienst (Astro.com):*
Martin Scorsese, 17 November 1942, 00:24 (12:24 AM), Flushing, New York [Rodden A]
Nikola Tesla, 10 July 1856, 00:00 (12:00 midnight), Smiljan, Croatia [Rodden B]
Larry King, 19 November 1933, 10:38 (10:38 AM), Brooklyn (Kings County), New York [Rodden A]
Priyanka Chopra, 18 July 1982, 01:30 (01:30 AM), Jamshedpur, India [Rodden A]
Paul Newman, 26 January 1925, 06:30 (06:30 AM), Cleveland, Ohio [Rodden AA]
Princess Margaret, 21 August 1930, 21:22 (9:22 PM), Glamis, Scotland [Rodden AA]
Elizabeth Taylor, 27 February 1932, 02:30 (02:30 AM), London, England [Rodden AA]

Alan Annand *is an astrologer, palmist and author. He's a graduate of both the British Faculty of Astrological Studies and the American College of Vedic Astrology. His non-fiction books, on both Vedic and western sidereal astrology, have been praised for the quality of their research and writing. Meanwhile, his New Age Noir crime novels feature an astrologer protagonist whom one reviewer has dubbed "Sherlock Holmes with a horoscope." His website is:* ***https://www.navamsa.com/***





THE DANCE OF RELATIONSHIP CONSULTATIONS

by Kay Taylor

Will I ever find a partner?
Are we compatible?
Should we split up?
How long will this relationship last?
I just need to understand this person!

If you're an astrologer, you've heard these questions numerous times. If you're a human, you've probably asked them more than once—to your astrologer, to your therapist, or at least to yourself.

Ethically, should we answer these questions?

Realistically, is there always a definitive answer?

In this article, I will explore challenges and ethical considerations as we navigate relationship astrology.

A skillful astrology reading has the potential to change a person's life. The sense of being "seen" clears away confusion and empowers soul-centered choice. When relationships are the focus, we tread on even more potent territory. We are talking to virtual strangers about the most intimate aspects of their lives. They confide in us, sharing the truth about their romantic relationships, how they feel about their children and in-laws, or how they hate their boss but stay for the money.

Sometimes, we're the first person they've been this vulnerable with.

Excellent consulting skills are always beneficial in a session or even talking to your friends about astrology. In relationship discussions, they are essential. Fateful pronouncements, unconscious bias, a lack of empathy, or cultural insensitivity can all cause serious harm.

Offer Possibilities, Not Pronouncements

The whole chart speaks of relationship potential. Every house offers some type of relationship with others. However, primary planetary emphasis comes from Venus and the Moon and their aspect patterns to other planets. The relationship houses are highlighted as the 5th, 7th, and 8th. We can gain nuance by adding asteroids.

We will assess the likely expressions of these many factors. Yet, the skillful astrologer will tread carefully and learn from the initial conversation how the client's consciousness and past healing work have allowed them to work through the chart patterns.

Every planet and sign can operate through a highly evolved consciousness, from an average perspective, or a place of dysfunctional shadow. Given a multitude of choices in a complex relationship structure, we can best use our synthesis analytical tools with a dash of intuition.

Philosophically, I use a simple formula to understand planetary possibilities:

karma + childhood Imprinting +/- healing + consciousness = result

That is, the chart you are analyzing is the result of karma. Karma can be defined as unresolved thoughts and feelings that cloak the soul's pure expression of being. This energy is coming to fruition in this life. It may feel good to us, the fruits of our positive action, or it may feel challenging, offering lessons to learn and highlighting erroneous beliefs limiting our essential truth.

In relationship discussions, excellent consulting skills are essential. Fateful pronouncements, unconscious bias, a lack of empathy, or cultural insensitivity can all cause serious harm.

We can think of karmic patterns of potential forming a roadmap described in the horoscope. These energies are imprinted upon us via our early experiences. If we receive healing and support, we can transform the planet/sign complex to a higher expression. If we don't have the privilege to receive healing, the negative karmic pattern cycle continues. We are a hamster on a stress wheel, choosing the challenging possibility over and over.

Consciousness—the soul working through the human vehicle– may be able to transmute the relationship patterns into a higher expression. Dane Rudhyar said that consciousness was the one thing we couldn't see in a chart. We need to know a little about the client to understand their potential to live through their chart in an evolved way and that it is not the chart of a dog, a cockroach, or the initiation of a business!

How old is the client? We tend to embody the less optimal possibilities in our younger years—but not always. *Have they done psychological or spiritual work?* You might pick up clues to the client's level of consciousness in your intake form, and you'll hear indicators as they ask questions.

An astrologer joked with me, "*With Neptune opposite Venus… if you're not cheating, your partner is!*" Another astrologer pronounced that with an upcoming eclipse on Venus/Neptune, I would likely find out my partner was cheating on me. These cavalier statements can elicit fear and be harmful.

More than one client has come in for a session distraught because an astrologer told them they would never have a relationship or get married because they didn't have any planets in the 7th house of partnership. That is astrologically incorrect, and a fateful, cast-in-stone prediction is also a major consulting error.

I was taught that Pluto in the 4th House indicates deep wounding in the family. Yet I've seen this placement show parents who are strong and do Plutonian work, like surgeons and psychiatrists.

The bottom line is we can see a planetary pattern embody a particular meaning four times out of five, but the fifth time, we see a different result due to other aspects or the client's level of consciousness.

These examples are meant to illuminate the need for the language of possibility and probability, empathy, and listening skills as you interpret a person's

natal relationship potential. Allow the client to receive your objective assessment, and then confirm if it resonates perfectly, operates slightly differently for them, or is something they don't yet see in their personal experience. You have astrological expertise; they are the experts on their lives. Somewhere in the middle lies the client's choice.

Key Points in Natal Relationship Consulting

No Assumptions. Do not assume everyone wants relationships or the same types of relationships. Be objective as you understand the chart's relationship indicators, removing your personal preference lens. A person who is married is not necessarily heterosexual. Married people may or may not be monogamous. You don't know from looking at someone where they fall on the LGBTQ spectrum. Listen carefully to the questions and language of the client. Speak in a gender-neutral way as much as possible until you are sure about the client and their partner/s. Follow their example in using pronouns, and ask if you are unsure what pronouns the client or their partner/s use. If you misgender someone, apologize and move on.

Educate yourself. It helps to learn about non-traditional relationship choices, such as polyamory, where a couple chooses to be non-monogamous ethically and honestly. Many people are diagnosed or consider themselves to be neurodiverse. They do not interact interpersonally in typical ways and appreciate astrologers who understand their unique relational needs without judgment.

Listen. Many of us learned astrology without the benefit of consulting skills training. We imagined we should be a fortune teller, dazzling the client with our brilliance, waxing on eloquently in a wisdom-filled monologue. The client often wants that too, gushing, "OMG—you hit the nail on the head!" This probably feels good when it happens, but when it doesn't happen, when you've missed the complexity of a planetary structure, or when the client is working with the highest expression or lowest shadow of a planet, and you're illuminating the middle energies, not really "seeing" them, then you're set up for failure. There is a fine art to learning the balance between listening and speaking. Skillful consulting offers specific and unique wisdom, letting go of an ego-based agenda. In a dance of mutual learning, we meet the client where they are.

Empathy. This is the ability to feel where a person is coming from and imagine what it is like to walk in their shoes. It is not sympathy, where we feel sorry for someone as if we are superior. When we are in empathic resonance with the client, they feel safe to share their deepest concerns, allowing us to do our best transformative work.

Answer the Real Questions. You can respond to questions like "*When will we split up?*" in a deep and meaningful way without answering directly. You might think there's a good chance of a breakup with certain transits, based on your studies and experience, but there may also be healing outcomes that are not about splitting up. Astrology can be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Avoid disempowering the client by feeding their insecurities and desire for a yes/no/date-specific answer.

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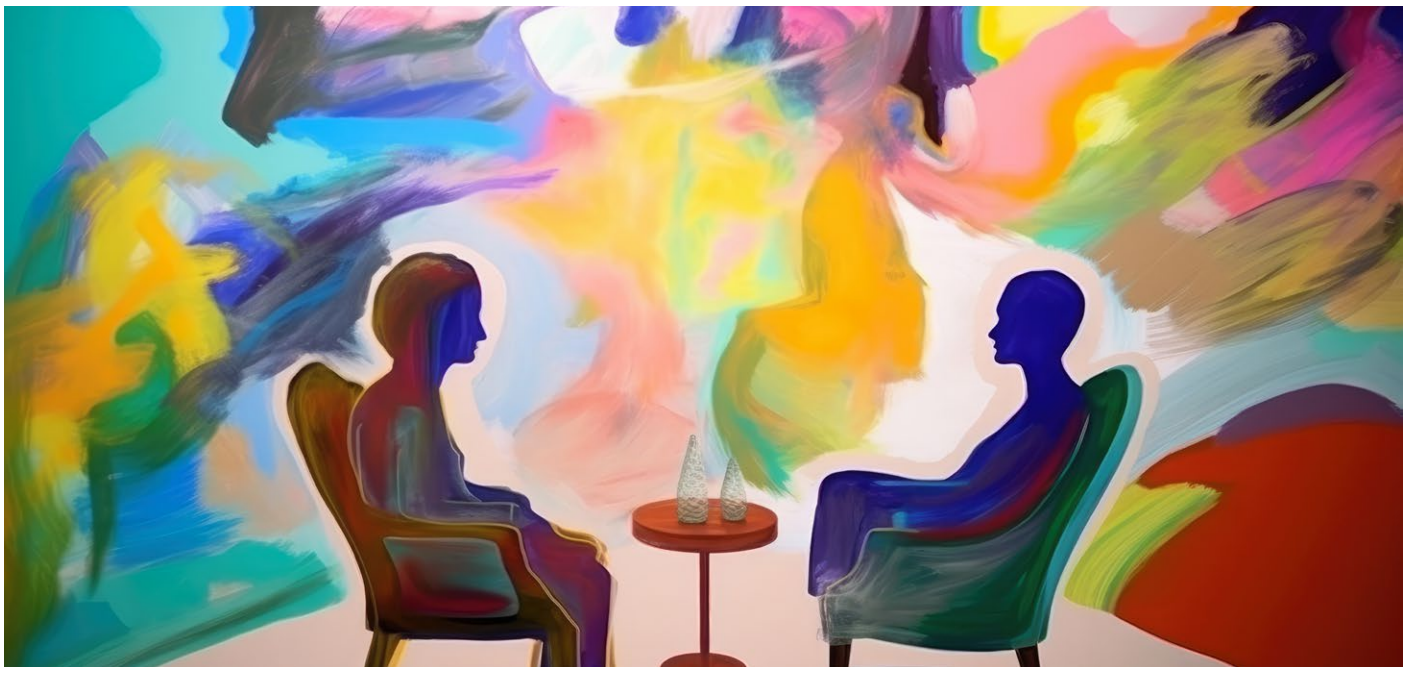


TAYLOR

Outer planets entering the 7th House of marriage/partnership are often interpreted as a divorce or break-up but fundamentally represent the potential for a healing turning point:

- **Saturn:** End of relationship—or working hard to commit and be in the relationship more maturely, setting the foundation for longevity.
- **Uranus**: A shocking revelation or breakup—or a need for more essential freedom and authenticity for both partners
- **Neptune:** The relationship dissolves—or a deeper spiritual, compassionate energy emerges. The connection is re-imagined.
- **Pluto:** Catastrophic break-up or loss—or the relationship deepens into a conscious container for psychological growth for both partners.

Sensitive Topics. Be mindful of your agenda if you feel compelled to explore sensitive, traumatic topics, especially with a new client. If they bring something up, offering empathy and astrological understanding is okay. If you see something in the chart that indicates trauma, you might mention it in a general way as past difficulties and then proceed only if they choose to go deeper. Every astrologer should have a trusted referral list for psychotherapists and other specialists.

Objectivity. A person is doing the best they can at the moment. Minimize extreme judgment. There is a soul-level reason anyone is in a relationship. It's our job to provide the most objective, clear information possible in a supportive, unconditional manner. The client knows their deepest truth. The validation of the chart and a virtual stranger describing their personality and current dilemmas clears away the confusion.

Check in regularly. As stated earlier, relationship astrology is a particularly sensitive territory. Even if the person looks like they're receiving the information, they may be feeling stress, anxiety, shame, or fear. Many people are afraid of abandonment and imagine they will end up alone if their current relationship doesn't work out. They might be afraid they'll be owned, permeated, and blocked from a free life and can be terrified of commitment, even when asking about a relationship. Give the client ample opportunity to express their feelings.

Domestic violence or contested divorces. Objectivity and careful wording are extremely important in abusive relationships. If you make a recording, assume the other person could find it. No matter how bad the relationship sounds, your client may stay in it, so your ability to be objective and empowering to the client is the best policy. Use your referral list liberally.

The Relationship Reading

When the client asks us to look at the charts of their partner, friends, and family members, our job becomes more complicated. All of the above applies, and now there are extra synthesis techniques to learn, multiple factors to assess, and ethical issues to consider. You may be asked to look at two people's synastry and composite charts, or a couple may ask to come together to discuss their relationship. Assuming you're skilled enough in relationship astrology and willing to do this work, the ethical issues are particularly important.

Looking at the Chart of Another Person. One of the most critical ethical questions in relationship consulting is whether to look at another person's chart who is not in the session. The International Association for Ethics in Astrology (IAEA - www.ethicalastrologers.org) suggests in their guidelines that ethical astrologers will not look at another person's chart without expressed permission. Some astrologers won't look at others' charts even with permission, believing they can get everything they need from the client's chart. Even if a person gives permission, they may be naive about astrology and not know the depth available from their chart. This strong boundary keeps the relationship consultation directly related to the client's needs and challenges. OPA's guidelines suggest it is best practice to have the permission of any person whose chart you are looking at. If you agree to look at another person's chart who isn't in the room, keep your language clear, objective, and compassionate, no matter how "bad" you think their chart is or what the client is telling you about them. Focus on the person in front of you. What are their projections? What are they learning? What actions are suggested in their chart? Let the other person's chart show you where to look in the client chart to see what is being triggered for them. Again, assume this person you're talking about is ultimately going to hear the recording--or even worse—your client will give their interpretation of what you said about the other.

> Uranus rules the ankles and our electrical system or meridians within the body. If the electrical flow of energy gets suppressed, we have circulatory problems, or the desire to rebel or change our situation.

Brand New Relationships. Sometimes, people dating online want to bring the chart data of everyone they're considering. If you consider doing this, remember that you usually don't have the birth time, as many people lie about their birthdate online. The client probably doesn't have permission to share the chart, and there are many ways this person may be living their chart. You are also setting up certain expectations that will influence the unfolding of the relationship. Taken to an extreme, after one date, the client is in love with their "soulmate" because you said the chart connections were good, and the other person thinks, "That was a nice date. Maybe I'll see them again." The astrology reading has created a power/expectation imbalance. When a new relationship is healthy and comfortable, often the client doesn't even want a reading about it. The better use of astrology is to help the client understand their attractions and impulses, given their natal chart and current cosmic patterns.

Ethics of Reading Children. Do you feel comfortable giving readings to parents about their young children? Explaining a child's general nature to a parent and the kind of nurturing environment they would thrive in compared to the client's natural nurturance tendencies can be constructive. It's essential to do this without setting up unrealistic expectations or limitations. The ideal is to help the parent "see" the child

more clearly, but well-meaning parents could also use the information to manipulate the child. Depending on the legalities where you live, once a child is 14-18, you may not want to give information to the parent about them, and you may need permission from the parent to consult with a teenager. Beyond 18, we're back to helping the parent understand their own motivations, being careful to have permission from adult children to look at their charts.

Relationship Consultations for Two People. The greatest challenge in couples readings is when one partner is dragged along, doesn't believe in astrology, and doesn't want the session. Worse, they don't want to be in the relationship. If you do couples sessions, maintain objectivity and balance, and be prepared for an occasional blow-up on your office couch. Counseling skills training or referring your couples to an astrological psychologist can be best.

Confidentiality. This is a given in our work, especially when working with more than one person in a relationship. We can take a cue from psychotherapists, who generally only work with one person in a relationship. When you work with individuals in a relationship, it is challenging when one person asks a question, and you've already discussed it with the other. You can't be a keeper of secrets, and you need to be confidential! It's impossible. If you go this route, your rules and boundaries need to be clear from the beginning.

The bottom line is it's not always what you say; it's how you say it.

In skillful hands, astrology is an incredibly helpful tool for helping people navigate their relationships. Ethically, there are questions we shouldn't answer, charts we should not look at, and potential clients we should refer to experts. We have a lot of great teachings on relationship astrology, plus our own consulting experience, yet we need to allow for the application of free will to the fate-filled blueprint of the astrology chart. We can interpret the patterns and determine likely outcomes, but we can't be 100% accurate given multiple variables. Consulting skill expertise ensures we empower the client to make informed decisions using our most accurate assessments.

Kay Taylor *is a soul-centered astrologer, author, and teacher who has been integrating evolutionary astrology with intuitive mastery, psychosynthesis, yoga philosophy, and a wealth of healing wisdom for almost 40 years. Kay is President of OPA and is on the Board of Kepler College. Her Soul Path School offers a certificate program for Evolutionary Astrology and also teaches ongoing classes in intuitive mastery. Publications include Soul Path Way (2016) and chapters for the anthologies "The Professional Astrologer" (2015) and "Essential Astrology" (2024). Certified by OPA, ISAR CAP, and NCGR Level II, she maintains a thriving full-time consulting practice based in the SF Bay Area.*
https://www.kaytaylor.com/



UNINTEGRATED PLANETS IN RELATIONSHIPS

HEARING THE UNSAID



by Anne Sundell

In modern astrology, major aspects often serve as the framework for planetary interactions, enabling planets to connect and cooperate. However, unaspected or unintegrated planets—those making no major aspects—are equally compelling. These celestial entities play pivotal roles in our lives, often revealing areas needing healing, personal growth, or creative energy integration. Despite their limited mention in most educational materials, they wield significant influence, particularly when activated by transits or within relationship charts.

Unintegrated planets operate on the principle of selective engagement. Rather than being consistently active or attuned to group dynamics, they choose specific moments to exert influence, often guided by subconscious mechanisms. This unique behavior allows them to manifest their power in a raw, unfiltered form sometimes while seeming to recede at other times. This oscillation can be likened to a Uranian vibe—an unpredictable rhythm not aligned with the surrounding environment or the chart holder's conscious intent.[1]

At times, the influence of an unintegrated planet can become so pronounced that it begins to mirror or even dominate the qualities of its corresponding zodiac sign. For instance, an unintegrated Virgo Sun might display Leo traits, while an unintegrated Sagittarius Moon could exhibit Cancerian characteristics. While seemingly impulsive, this behavior often stems from deep, innate wisdom. It reflects the individual's ability to tap into inner talents and insights aligned with the planet's governing zodiac sign, suggesting deep integration.[2]

Unintegrated planets offer rich opportunities for personal growth and learning, often becoming key players in relationships and undergoing significant developmental phases during longer transits or synastry activations. This article will further explore these patterns and highlight the role of unintegrated planets in interpersonal relationships and generational family dynamics.[3]

Defining Unintegrated Planets

The first problem we might face when investigating these planets is how to define them astrologically. Any planet could be unintegrated in the chart, and these planets are more common than you might think. British astrologer Janis Huntley explored 400 natal charts and found unintegrated planets in 65 of them. The Sun was unaspected most frequently and Pluto the least.[4]

What is considered an unintegrated planet?

I generally define unaspected planets as those that make no Ptolemaic aspects (also called the big five) given an orb of 4 degrees or less. This includes the conjunction, opposition, square, sextile, and trine. Minor aspects and patterns are not generally counted. I use only planetary aspects and ignore aspects with angles, asteroids, or calculated points.

Craving Attention – The Unconscious Takes the Stage

Unaspected planets often exhibit a blend of neediness and childlike purity in their expression. These planets tend to amplify their inherent qualities, taking them to extremes and manifesting them in ways that feel "out of sync" with the overall rhythm of the chart. They may symbolize the more rebellious or charismatic aspects of an individual's astrological profile.

These planets operate to the beat of their own drum, creating a sense of isolation that can feel like life is delivering harsh lessons without clear explanations. In such moments, leaning into faith becomes essential. These planets' enigmatic nature has led astrologers to describe them as the "Jekyll & Hyde" of the chart, embodying a mysterious duality. These planets often highlight specific family issues or appear as recurring themes across generations.[5]

Unaspected planets can be catalysts for breaking entrenched family patterns, sometimes to the extent that the individual becomes the family's black sheep or disrupts the established order. This disruptive quality has a Uranian flavor.[6] People with such planets in their charts are not destined for smooth sailing; they are often on a greater mission driven by internal restlessness and external faith. For instance, someone with an unaspected Saturn might find it impossible to follow in their family's footsteps by joining the family business. Such decisions could evoke feelings of existential questioning, like "Why is life punishing me?" or "Why is this happening to me?"

Unaspected or unintegrated planets are complex, multifaceted elements within an astrological chart, often driving significant personal and familial transformations.

It´s All About You – Planets at Play in Relationships

Focusing on planetary aspects with the inner planets is most valuable when exploring the unintegrated planets in relationships. These highlight the personality structures and are essential as key figures in relationships.

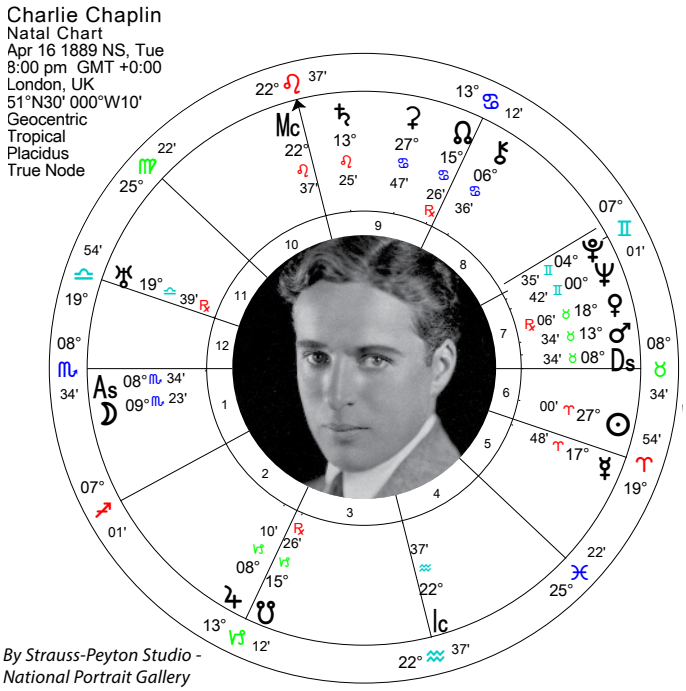
We might argue that an unintegrated planet points to themes that need to be developed or practiced in the chart, but it can also indicate inherited gifts and talents waiting for full expression. We can't be sure which of these is in question without knowledge of the personal history of the chart holder.

The following case study might shed some light on interactions between one person's unintegrated planet(s) and aspects with the partner's planets. Even though it might seem like the planet will act according to its own rhythm independently of other factors, the interaction in synastry might show some difference.

Unaspected planets often exhibit a blend of neediness and childlike purity in their expression. These planets tend to amplify their inherent qualities, taking them to extremes and manifesting them in ways that feel "out of sync" with the overall rhythm of the chart.

Unaspected planets can often amplify feelings of self-doubt or unease. When a partner's planets aspect or integrate with these unaspected planets, it can initially create a sense of relief or even salvation. However, this comfort can be deceptive, leading individuals to mistake the feeling of ease for genuine love. Relationships involving unaspected planets often have an undercurrent of unpredictability and restlessness triggered by internal and external factors.[7]

While these planets may thrive in more relaxed or unstructured situations, sustaining such energies over the long term is challenging. This can result in periods of stress and pressure, complicating the relationship dynamics. Unaspected planets introduce a complex layer of emotional and psychological nuances that require careful navigation, especially in romantic relationships.



By Strauss-Peyton Studio - National Portrait Gallery

Charlie Chapin - Example of an Unintegrated Sun

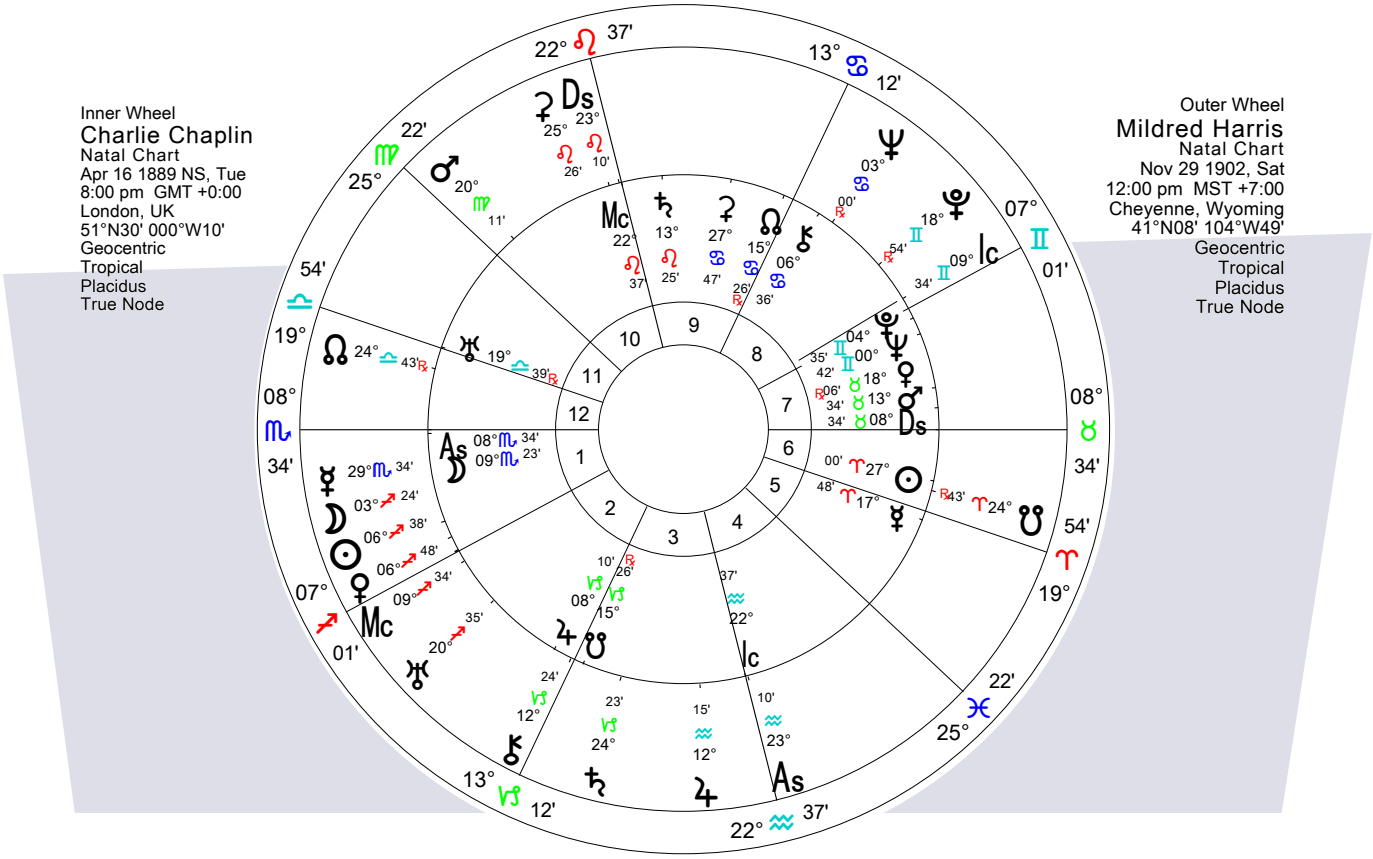
Charlie Chaplin was a famous English actor in the silent film era. He was born April 16, 1889, at 8:00 p.m. in London, England (B-rated chart) and was married four times, fathering 11 children. His story is remarkable as an illustration of unintegrated planets in a relationship. All four of his wives have planets that form a strong connection to Chaplin's unintegrated planets, especially the **Sun**.

The Sun's placement in the otherwise modest 6th House would not traditionally be seen as outstanding. However, because of its unintegrated nature and the planet involved, it stands out and makes itself seen.[8]

The aspects between his partner's planets and his unintegrated planets show that each of his relationships was remarkably colored with the dynamics of that planet.

Marriage #1

Chaplin's first wife, Mildred Harris, met him at a party. She married him at 16 after announcing that she was pregnant. This later turned out to be a false alarm that Chaplin blamed her for. They later had a child who sadly died a few days after birth, and their marriage only lasted two years.



SUNDELL

I don´t have an exact birth time for Harris. Still, according to her birthdate, her retrograding **Ceres** is conjunct Chaplin's unintegrated **Sun,** and her **Sun** opposes both his **Pluto** and unintegrated **Neptune.** What is noticeable is that Harris' Sun also seems to lack aspects. This can be seen in their rocky situations, eventually leading to public disgrace.

Marriage #2

Chaplin remarried four years later to actress Lilita MacMurray, who was also 16 and pregnant. Chaplin was 35. Because of the circumstances involved, their marriage was secret. It lasted three years, and they had two children.

McMurray's **Sun** makes one main aspect to **Pluto** in her natal chart, and Pluto usually adds to a rather magnetic attraction. It might have led to some power struggles or manipulative behaviors down the line.

Unaspected planets often exhibit a blend of neediness and childlike purity in their expression. These planets tend to amplify their inherent qualities, taking them to extremes and manifesting them in ways that feel "out of sync" with the overall rhythm of the chart.

Her **Sun** is conjunct Chaplin's **Sun**, and her **Moon** and **Ceres** oppose both Suns. McMurray's **Mars** also connects to an unintegrated **Neptune** in Chaplin's chart. These rather harsh connections involving Pluto, Mars, and Ceres might have something to do with the fact that McMurray was the one to shed some light on his behavior toward young girls. She accused Chaplin of pulling a gun on her and forcing her to have an abortion, and this allegation was exposed to the public. Their 1927 divorce (during Venus retrograde in Virgo close to Chaplin´s MC) was a Hollywood scandal that harmed Chaplin's reputation.[9]

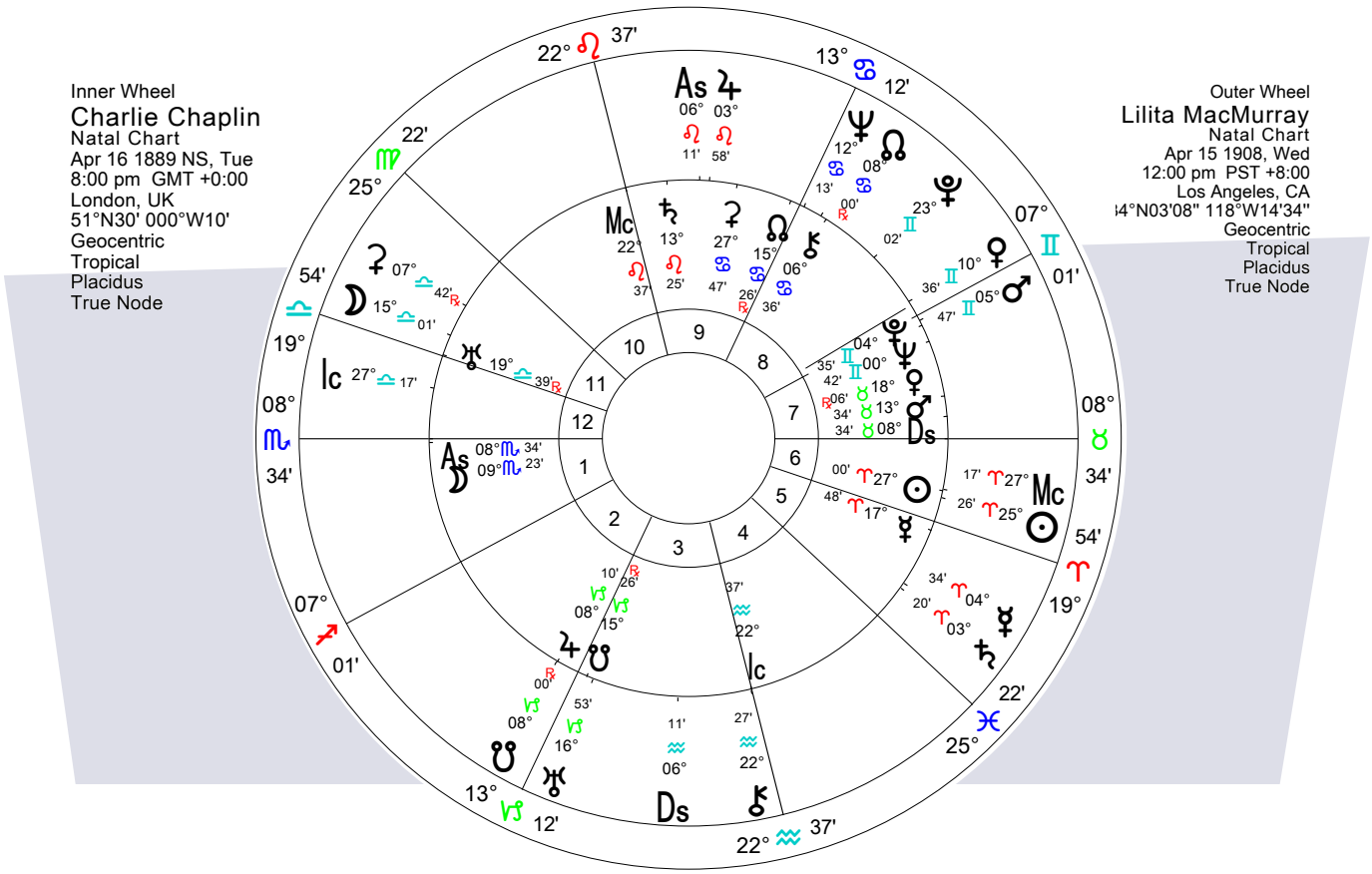
Marriage #3

Chaplin described the meeting with his next wife as the happiest day of his life. Paulette Goddard (born Marion Levy) was 21 when they met. Chaplin was 43 years old, and this marriage lasted six years.

Goddard's **Venus** and **Saturn** are placed close to Chaplin's unintegrated **Sun**. These planets integrating his Sun might prompt Chaplin to feelings beyond love and security, almost like a savior entered his life.

Goddard´s retrograding **Mercury** connects to Chaplin's unintegrated **Neptune**, which might have opened communication pathways between the two. Possibly, Goddard's Mercury helped Chaplin find clarity in Neptunian-influenced spaces, but it also may have led to confusion at times.

Their Mercury-Neptune conjunction also reflected the foggy legal status of their marriage. The couple reportedly married abroad in secret, and no paperwork was provided. Goddard's Sun seems



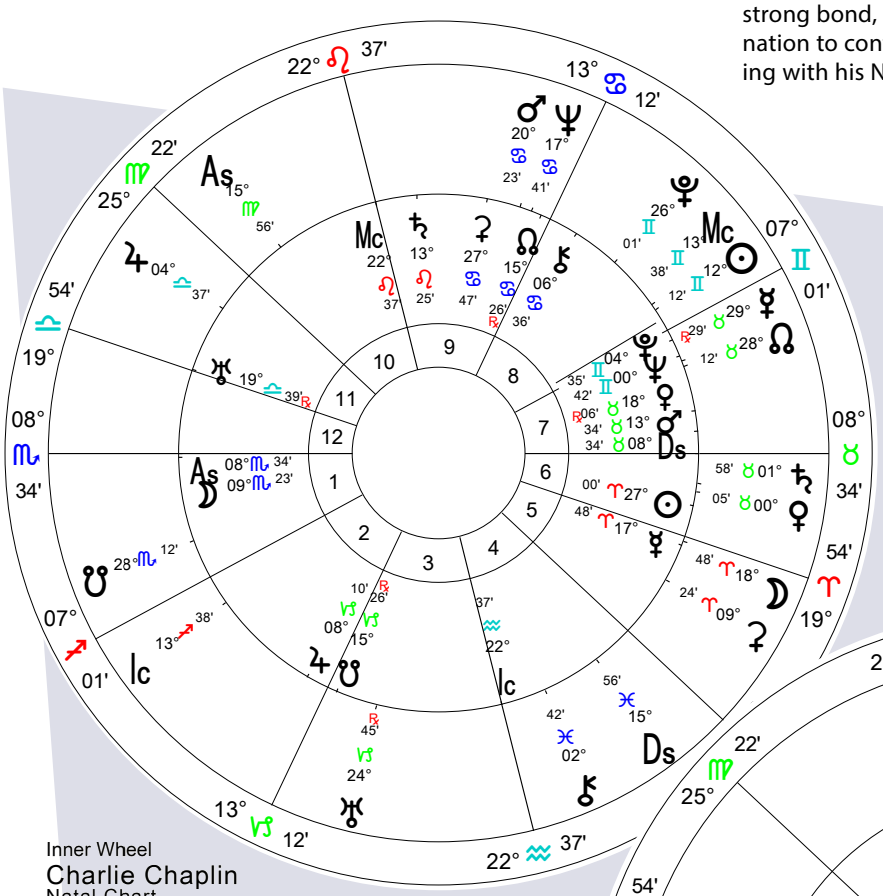
unintegrated, while her Mercury is well-integrated. There´s a possibility of mirroring Sun themes in the relationship, with one of them taking center stage at a time and learning how to balance competing needs during the relationship. Their divorce ended on friendly terms.

Marriage #4

Chaplin's last wife was Oona O'Neil. She was only 18 when she met the 53-year-old Chaplin. Their marriage lasted until his death on December 25, 1977.

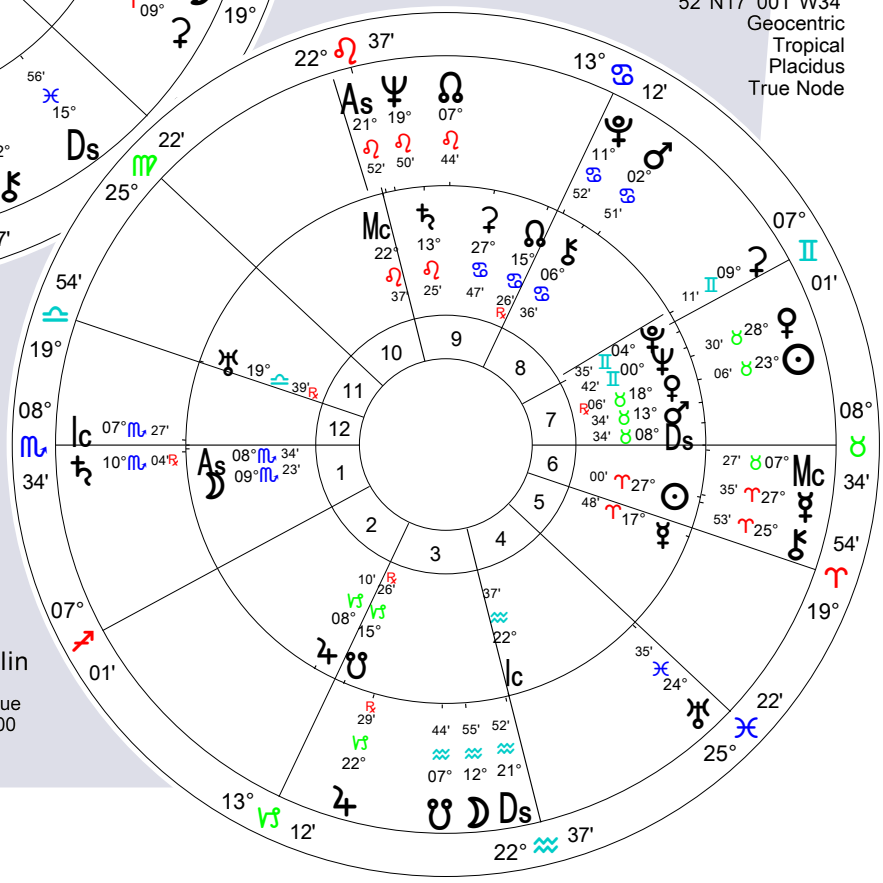
O'Neil's **Chiron** and **Mercury** are conjunct Chaplin's **Sun,** and her **Venus** connects to his unintegrated **Neptune**. With Chiron and Mercury involved, there is a possibility the relationship will provide understanding and healing for his unintegrated Sun. O´Neil came from a broken home, and their age difference might indicate that she was looking for a father figure. However, her marriage to Chaplin created difficulties with her father.

O'Neil gave up her acting career (her place in the Sun) for their family life. Strong Saturn connections between them might have symbolized the age difference. Saturn can also cement a strong bond, offering stable ground for the couple and determination to continue the relationship. Her Venus in Taurus connecting with his Neptune might provide some grounding and healing



Outer Wheel
Marion Levy
Natal Chart
Jun 3 1910, Fri
12:00 pm EST +5:00
New York, NY
40°N42'51" 074°W00'23"
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

Inner Wheel
Charlie Chaplin
Natal Chart
Apr 16 1889 NS, Tue
8:00 pm GMT +0:00
London, UK
51°N30' 000°W10'
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node



Outer Wheel
Oona O⚹Neil
Natal Chart
May 14 1925, Thu
12:00 pm BST −1:00
Warwick, England
52°N17' 001°W34'
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

Inner Wheel
Charlie Chaplin
Natal Chart
Apr 16 1889 NS, Tue
8:00 pm GMT +0:00
London, UK
51°N30' 000°W10'
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

of earlier wounds, adding a feeling of soul unity and leading to disillusionment.

Chaplin's connections

All these relationships had themes involving Chaplin's unintegrated planets. Through connections to his partners' placements, Chaplin's planets could evolve, mirror, and fulfill their destiny. This does not mean that the partnerships were easy. Several of his wives also possessed unintegrated Sun placements, resulting in turbulence–especially in the first two marriages and the divorces, which were accompanied by troublesome legal matters.

Another interesting dynamic can occur when the native meets a person with the same unintegrated planet or the native connects with a partner's unintegrated one. In this case, there might be a mirroring of themes. One partner might express the planetary energies in a full-phase manner, but the other is still struggling with finding its place or field expression. The mechanism involved in such a relationship might show periods of *stagnation vs. harmony,* stress *turbulence,* or provide a lightning strike of faith. With this kind of discrepancy, there are lessons of balance, learning where to express the planetary energy freely and where to withhold it.[10]

Huber's Four-Part System

Swiss astrologer Bruno Huber suggested that an unintegrated planet could be examined using a four-part system:

1) **On a purely material level.** Here, we assume the planet's existence is unknown to the native. It operates entirely autonomously through automatic mechanisms and is therefore seen mainly as an outsider.

2) **On the emotional level.** The planet is perceived as a failure or fault that shows up or activates by conflicting situations. Something is missing, and if the native gains awareness of the gap, the integration process can begin.

3) **At a mental level.** There is enough information about the planet to be used freely without being influenced by other parts of the chart.

4) **On a spiritual level**. The ability to use the information and deeper knowledge of a detached planet to achieve a greater good. Once reaching this stage, a person knows how to use the higher power of an unintegrated planet.[11]

While the examples above focus heavily on the Sun, one of the most important factors in forming relationships and providing our basic motivation to do so is the Moon. Huber thought of the unintegrated Moon as an indicator of the inability to form relationships easily. It may be connected to situations in early life where it was not possible to develop intimacy and other deep forms of social interaction. The relationship with the primary caregiver might have been strained for some reason, leading to feelings of rootlessness or isolation.[12]

Huber thought of the unintegrated Moon as an indicator of the inability to form relationships easily.

Sinead O'Connor—Example of an Unintegrated Moon

I´ve concluded that a planet needs more than one **aspect** to be defined as integrated. With this additional demarcation, there is an unintegrated Moon in the natal chart of recently decreased musician Sinéad O´Connor, born December 8, 1966, at 7:37 am in Dubin, Ireland (C-rated chart). The **Moon**'s only aspect is a semi-sextile to **Mercury**.[13] This might not be enough to provide for integration.

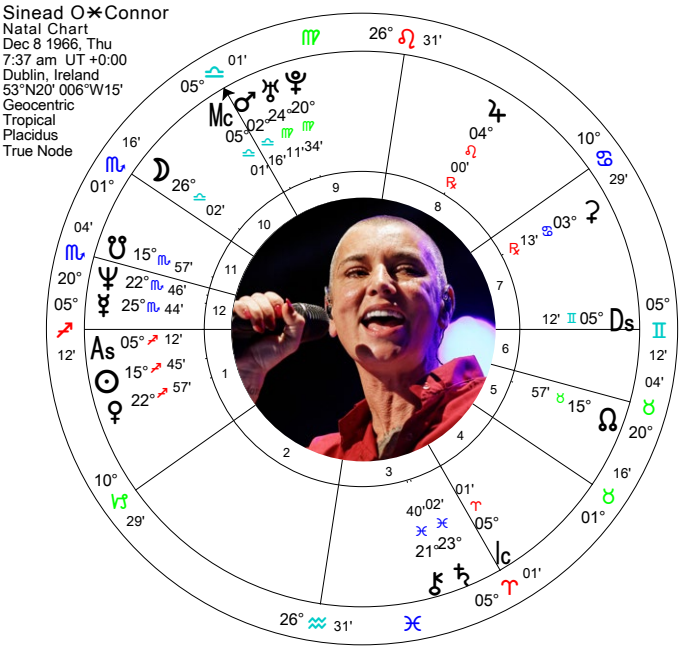
O´Connor claimed that her mother was abusive. The lyrics of her piece "This is to Mother You" from the album Gospel Oak 1997 are revealing, possibly evoking the emotional dynamics of an unintegrated Moon and her experience of the childhood environment.

She had a colorful life with several short relationships and fast commitments, resulting in four children. The longest of her four marriages lasted four years.[14]

The Unintegrated Composite

The interaction between one person's unintegrated planet and their partner's planets can be significant in relationships. Astrologer Hamaker-Zondag suggests that the individual's early life experiences influence how these planets express themselves. Essentially, if someone was "forced" to engage with the themes of an unaspected planet during their upbringing, they might develop an idealized view of that planet's traits. Any characteristics that don't fit this ideal are often suppressed, leading to internal tension and discomfort. Finding external outlets for this tension

Sinead O'Connor had a colorful life with several short relationships and fast commitments, resulting in four children.



Sinéad O'Connor in concert on the Gradlon stage during the 2014 Cornouaille festival. Thesupermat, CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons.

can be beneficial, especially since these individuals often struggle with relational pressures.[15]

People with unintegrated planets may not align with typical relationship or family expectations, and they often experience a sense of unfulfillment or insecurity that drives them toward new goals. In composite relationship charts, unintegrated planets can still be disruptive. For example, an unintegrated Mercury could exacerbate communication issues, while an unintegrated Sun might sow confusion about the relationship's core values. Understanding the role of these unintegrated planets can offer insights into specific relationship challenges and should be a focus for further exploration and awareness, especially during relevant transits.[16]

Conclusion

Individuals with unintegrated planets often exhibit a strong sense of independence and individualism. Accustomed to channeling this planetary energy on their terms, they may prefer to keep it that way. This autonomous approach can manifest as a robust fighting spirit or a "me against the world" mindset. These individuals often display unique traits or standout qualities from a young age, sometimes beyond their control.

While the presence of an unintegrated planet might initially puzzle astrologers, it's crucial to explore its significance. These planets may not align with conventional expectations and often resist conforming to the influence of other planets in the chart. Instead, they operate based on their unique perspectives. Despite this, unintegrated planets offer valuable insights into the diverse expressive possibilities within a natal chart.

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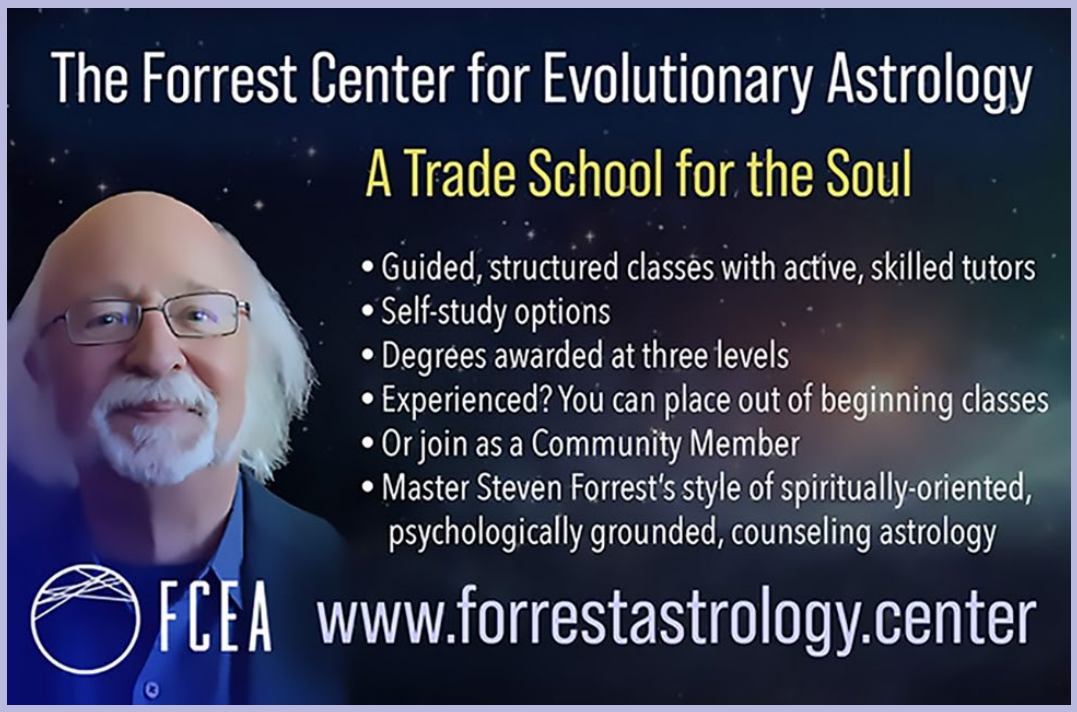




LUNAR NODES IN ARIES–LIBRA

From Crisis to Equilibrium

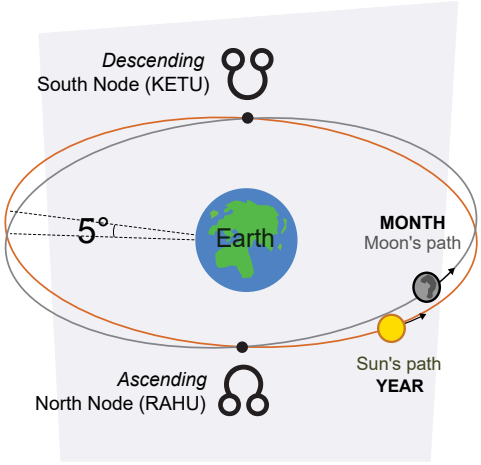
by Rod Chang

As markers of change, the Lunar Nodes possess a profound influence on societal and cultural tides. In July 2023, a significant shift occurred as the North Node transitioned from the grounded realm of Taurus to the fiery spirit of Aries, while its counterpart, the South Node, moved into justice-minded Libra. This article delves into the meaning of the Moon's Nodes, drawing from mythology and historical narratives, to explore the potential impact of this transition on societal dynamics and individual behaviors.

In an individual's chart, the Lunar Nodes indicate the direction of their life path and the balance between physical and spiritual growth. In mundane astrology, the sign and aspects of the Lunar Nodes highlight societal trends and can suggest our current position in the global economic cycle.

What are the Lunar Nodes?

The Lunar Nodes, often simply referred to as the "Nodes," are two points in the sky where the Moon's orbit intersects the Earth's orbit around the Sun. They are not physical bodies like planets or stars; instead, they are mathematical points that have significant astrological meaning.



Although they cannot be directly observed by eye, the Lunar Nodes have long been calculated by astrologers because they are directly related to Solar and Lunar Eclipses.

In an individual's chart, the Lunar Nodes indicate the direction of their life path and the balance between physical and spiritual growth. In mundane astrology, the sign and aspects of the Lunar Nodes highlight societal trends and can suggest our current position in the global economic cycle.

Although they cannot be directly observed by eye, the Lunar Nodes have long been calculated by astrologers because they are directly related to Solar and Lunar Eclipses. The magical phenomenon of the Sun suddenly disappearing during the day or the Moon turning blood red at night, caused great shock to people who did not understand astronomy. Even today, we are still amazed by such phenomena even though we understand the astronomical principles of Eclipses and the New and Full Moon occurring around the Lunar Nodes.

As astrologers, the connection between Lunar Nodes and Eclipses is essential. Because of this relationship, the Lunar Nodes are depicted in the legends of many different cultures as monsters or giant

dragons devouring the Sun and the Moon, and we may still call the North Moon Node 'The Dragon's Head' and the South Moon Node 'The Dragon's Tail.' Perhaps the most famous of these stories is the Samudra Manthana - the legend of the churning of the milk ocean in Hindu mythology, which also illustrates the relationship between Solar and Lunar Eclipses and the Lunar Nodes, Rahu & Ketu.[1]

The Lunar Nodes in Hindu Mythology

The demigods and demons worked together to obtain the nectar of immortality and create the cosmos. They used the Divine Snake (Vasuki) as the rope and Mount Mandara as a rod to churn the milk ocean of immortality. The churning took a thousand years, causing pain and suffering. The pain caused Vasuki to throw up some lethal poison that would have destroyed the World had Shiva not swallowed it.

Once the nectar of immortality was ready, the demons and demigods did not want to share it. An alert demon, Rahu disguised himself as a demigod and drank the nectar. The Sun and Moon, seeing this, told Shiva, who immediately cut off Rahu's head. But Rahu had already begun drinking the nectar, immortalizing his head. Thus, his upper half was still Rahu (the North Node), and the lower half became Ketu (the South Node). Rahu knew that the Sun and Moon devas had ruined his plan, so he chased them across the sky, trying to devour them.[1]

The Astrological Meaning of the Lunar Nodes

The meaning of the Lunar Nodes in traditional Western astrology is different: the North Node symbolizes increase and goodness, while the South Node symbolizes decrease, illegality, and immorality.[2] However, let's look at the astronomical phenomena. The two Lunar Nodes are the intersection of the orbit of the Moon and the orbit of the Sun, and thus bring the meaning of "meeting," "encounter," and "gathering." These characteristics can be interpreted as how we encounter people and attract, and are attracted by, other people. In mundane astrology, it can describe why people come together or the characteristics of social movements and shared experiences of the masses.

For many modern psychological astrologers, the Nodes describe the back-and-forth related to growth paths. Observing the Lunar Nodes (True Nodes) along the ecliptic, we see that these two points do not move in zodiacal motion along the path of the signs like other planets. When using the True Node, they move retrograde for a few days (or weeks), stop and change direction for a short time, then stop and go retrograde. This kind of movement is very similar to the process of people stopping and correcting their actions to deal with challenges in life, and the retrograde movement of the North and South Moon Nodes describes our inner spiritual experience more deeply.

Just as the North Node is called the dragon's head, or Rahu (devouring the Sun and the Moon), then swallowing, absorbing, incorporating, and learning are the more prominent characteristics of the North Node, and it is also related to the adventures of the growth process. We are used to calling the Moon's South Node 'the Dragon's Tail', from where the swallowed Sun and Moon are released, and just like after we eat food, that which remains unabsorbed is eliminated by our body, so the South Moon Node symbolizes release, effect, result, manifestation, application, and often describes things and environments that we are more familiar with.

Nodal Axis in Aries-Libra 2023-2025: Economic Downturn

From the view of the tropical zodiac, the North Lunar Node entered (moving retrograde) Aries on 17 July 2023 (UT) and will leave on 11 January 2025, while the South Node is in Libra at the same time. This highlights the change in the atmosphere of society. During this some 18-month period, individuals and groups are likely more attracted to Aries themes such as striving, competition, self-righteousness, attack, and protection. We learn and grow through these themes and even come together with others because of the Aries traits of action, conflict, survival, and self-expression.

At the same time, we will also have more interactions with others related to Libra themes such as personal relationship, partnership, law, fairness, justice, and harmony. Compared to the influence of the Lunar North Node in Aries, the Lunar South Node in Libra makes it easier for us to observe the results of our past efforts on the themes of relationships, justice, equality, and fairness. Alternatively, the effects of neglecting these themes could manifest in partnership and marriage at an individual level.

The two Lunar Nodes are the intersection of the orbit of the Moon and the orbit of the Sun, and thus bring the meaning of "meeting," "encounter," and "gathering."

Financial astrologer Louise McWhirter (1896 - 1957) study of the North Node with the business cycle suggests that business activity reaches a normal level when the North Node is in Taurus, but the trend is downward.[3] When the North Node moves into Aries, business activity begins to fall below normal levels until the North Node moves into Aquarius and reaches the bottom of the cycle. As an example, financial crises occurred in the United States in 1819 and 1837 when North Node was in Aries. In the United Kingdom, British Pounds depreciated dramatically in 1931 and 1987 also when North Node was in Aries.

Further, McWhirter's theory can be seen the last time the North Node moved from Taurus to Aquarius, the global economy declined in 2005 when the North Node moved into Aries. In the United States, a housing bubble led to the financial crisis in 2007-2008, and the World economy reached the bottom in 2009 when North Node moved into Aquarius. When the North Node moves into Aries, the economy will likely drop. Financial astrologer William Gann (1878 - 1955) also suggested that this period was marked by a cycle of economic downturn, panic, high unemployment, and strikes.[4]

The Fight for Justice

When we mentioned that the North Node in Aries appeared to cause the masses to fight for their rights, it was not an astrologer's conjecture. If we look at history, we will see that some major social movements have occurred when the North Node is in Aries: the British miners' strike in 1911, the British dockers' strike in 1931, and the first wave of the feminist movement in the same period. In 1968, major global demonstrations against war, major student unrest in France and Japan, and the Prague Spring activities against the Soviet Union. Then, in 1986-1988, there were democratic movements in Taiwan, South Korea, and Brazil, as well as extreme and radical independence movements in Northern Ireland and the Basque Country in Spain.

It is interesting that when the North Lunar Node moved into Aries this year, it coincided with the strike of the Hollywood screenwriters and actors. We see once again how the North Lunar Node in Aries awakens people to act against unfairness and to protect their own interests.

While the North Node in Aries can sometimes be synonymous with conflict, it isn't always the case. Take, for instance,

LUNAR NODES IN ARIES–LIBRA

the recent spotlight on the film 'Barbie.' This movie narrates Barbie's journey from her idealized world to the realities of the real world, symbolizing personal evolution. Intriguingly, Barbie made her debut at the American International Toy Fair in New York City on March 9, 1959. During this period, the North Node was in Libra, and the South Node was in Aries. If we grasp the manifestations of these astrological symbols, the emergence of such products and phenomena won't catch us off guard. Instead, it provides deeper insights into harnessing these qualities in our daily lives.

Harmonizing with the Nodal Axis

During this period, we can consider the Aries-Libra axis's characteristics when making personal life plans or business activities to resonate with the rhythm of the Universe.

The South Node in Libra indicates that society maintains harmony, an instinctive balance and non-extremism. As an air sign, Libra is related to humanistic values, communication, rational thinking, and education. So, when the South Node is in Libra, we can apply these skills when we face a challenge and avoid being too extreme.

The North Node in Aries brings a robust social dynamic, and people take more significant positive actions towards it but may also be more aggressive. The North Node in Aries reminds us that social harmony and the happiness of a few people are often based on the sacrifices of certain minority groups or individuals. These people could learn to stand up and fight for their rights during this time. On a personal level, the Aries North Node reminds us that we should think for ourselves and fight for our rights and that a certain amount of conflict may be necessary.

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The North and South Node will have important aspects to Pluto and Mars during these eighteen months. Until the end of 2023, Pluto will always square the North and South Node, which means that people generally feel anxious and under pressure. We feel that our lives are threatened, and we must rely on strong willpower to protect ourselves. Most people may choose to hide for safety. Pluto has a notable characteristic of burying and digging, so we can also use this time to dig deeper into specific issues.

In the first two weeks of October 2023, Mars will conjunct the South Node. From December to January 28, 2024, Mars will square the Lunar Nodes. From the 13th to the 26th of May 2024, Mars will conjunct the North Node. Then, in September 2024, Mars will square the Lunar Nodes. On the one hand, it can bring angry actions and conflict; on the other, it can bring powerful energies that help us actively pursue our plans.

Finally, on 20 December 2024, before the North Node enters Pisces, the North Node will conjunct Neptune. Under Neptune's influence, people are generally optimistic about the future or full of fantasy. A magical, realistic atmosphere may be felt through social media. We could give full play to our imagination, creativity in our work, and empathy in our interactions.

Transiting Lunar Nodes describes the environment of our physical and spiritual growth paths. When they move into Aries and Libra, we may focus more on self-preservation, justice, fairness, and relationship with others. We may see the results of areas we have put effort into but also feel the effects where we could have put in the required effort, especially in relationships. Whereas the Lunar Node in Aries is more active, and society may have more conflict–but we can apply it and fight for justice and fairness.

On a personal level, the Aries North Node reminds us that we should think for ourselves and fight for our rights and that a certain amount of conflict may be necessary.

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TYCHO BRAHE & JOHANNES KEPLER

A RELATIONSHIP OF COMPETITION AND COOPERATION

by Constanza Johnson

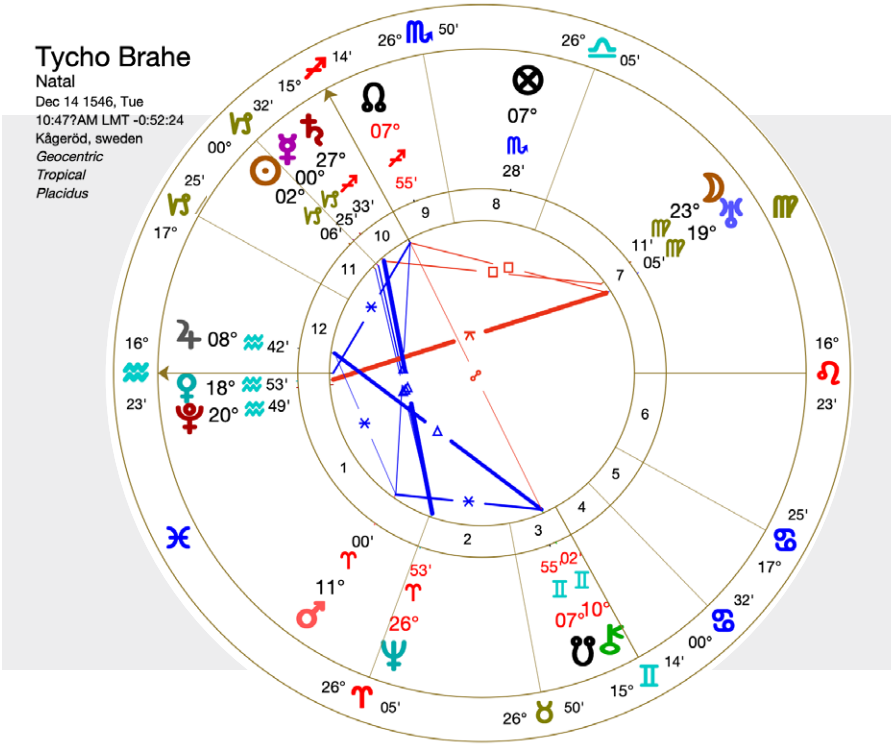
In the mid-15th century, Nicolás Copernicus introduced a revolutionary idea—that the Sun, not the Earth, was the center of our solar system. This bold assertion was detailed in his publication "On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres" in 1453, where he presented a heliocentric model of the cosmos. Yet, it would take nearly 200 years for this sun-centered theory to gain widespread acceptance.

By the late 16th century, the long-standing geocentric view, which placed Earth at the center of the universe, championed by Ptolemy and the Catholic Church, faced increasing scrutiny. New astronomical observations and mathematical findings began to challenge this Earth-centered model. At the forefront of this astronomical shift were two pivotal figures: the Danish nobleman Tycho Brahe and the German mathematician Johannes Kepler. Despite their distinct backgrounds and often tense collaboration, their combined efforts played a crucial role in advancing the understanding of planetary motion and setting the stage for the eventual acceptance of Copernicus's heliocentric model.

A Renowned Astronomer of Noble Origin

Tycho Brahe was born on December 24, 1546, at 10:47 a.m., according to the Gregorian calendar, in Knutstorp, Denmark. His astrological birth chart reveals the Sun at 2 degrees of Capricorn, the Moon at 23 degrees of Virgo, and an Ascendant at 16 degrees in Aquarius.

Brahe developed a unique astronomical model that diverged from Copernicus's system. In Brahe's model, all the planets orbited the Sun, while the Earth remained stationary at the center, with the Sun also revolving around it. He articulated this system in his work "An Introduction to the New Astronomy," written between 1587 and 1588. The model gained considerable recognition among his contemporaries, to the extent that one even plagiarized it, claiming it as their own. During this time, Brahe rigorously observed the trajectory of the planet Mars for 40 years, maintaining detailed notes under strict confidentiality, to which no one else had access.



Following the death of Danish King Frederick in 1588, Brahe lost his royal patronage and was forced to leave Hven Island, along with his observatory. He relocated to Prague, taking all his observational instruments with him. There, he served as the court mathematician and astrologer to Emperor Rudolf II until 1599. The Emperor even allocated part of a castle for Brahe's celestial observations, where he continued his work using the instruments he had brought from Denmark.

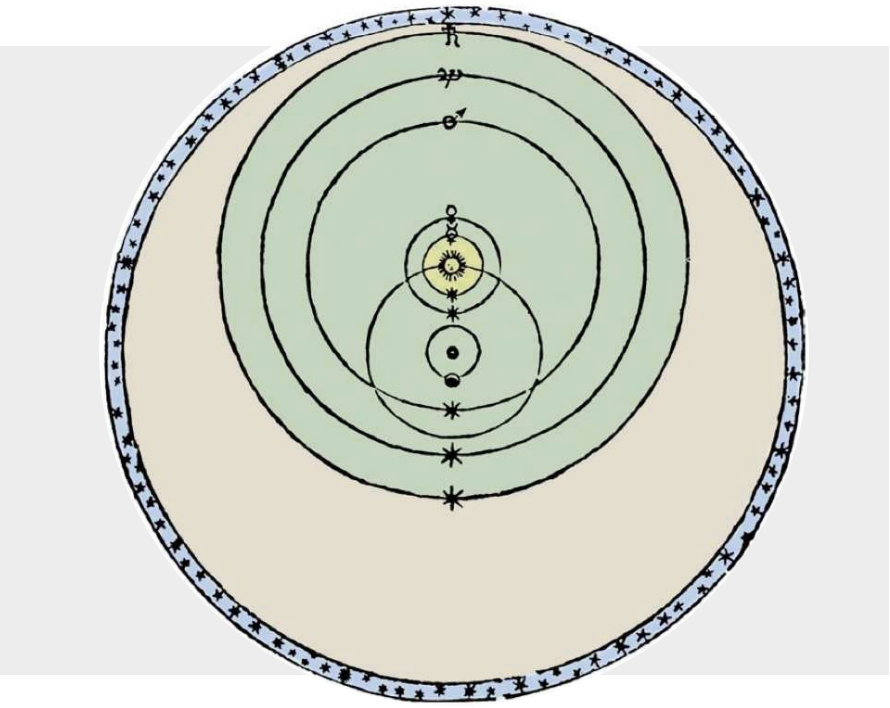
In contrast, Johannes Kepler faced a different set of challenges. He abandoned his mathematician role in Graz, Germany when a new governor required all citizens to convert to Catholicism. Committed to his Lutheran faith, he chose to leave the city with his family. He also felt obligated to his mentors and the Duke of Württemberg, who had funded his studies at the Lutheran University of Tübingen.

Although Tycho Brahe was a renowned and esteemed astronomer, he recognized the indispensable value of Kepler's expertise in geometric and mathematical theories related to planetary motion. For Kepler, the urgency of finding stable employment was heightened by his recent departure from a mathematician role in Graz, Germany. Despite his sense of intellectual superiority, he reluctantly accepted the seemingly subordinate position as Brahe's assistant in Prague, a decision tinged with a measure of humiliation.

It was during this period in Prague that Brahe hired Johannes Kepler as his assistant. The two eminent scientists maintained a relationship fraught with tension and conflict. This was largely due to their contrasting personalities: Kepler was a reserved and introverted German mathematician, while Brahe was an outgoing Danish nobleman who enjoyed socializing with the aristocracy. Known for his eccentricities, Brahe had lost part of his nose in a youthful duel and wore a prosthetic made of bronze, a detail he often boasted about, claiming it was made of gold.

In October 1601, Brahe fell seriously ill following a banquet hosted by Baron Rozemberk, likely due to a bladder infection. He passed away on October 24, 1601, and received an elaborate burial at Týn Cathedral. According to Kepler, who later wrote about the event, Brahe had refrained from leaving the table to urinate during the banquet, possibly to avoid appearing rude, despite having consumed a large amount of drink.

Kepler was a reserved and introverted German mathematician, while Brahe was an outgoing Danish nobleman who enjoyed socializing with the aristocracy.



The Tychonic system created by Tycho Brahe (1546-1601). The Moon and the Sun revolve around the Earth, which stands still at the center. The other planets revolve around the Sun. Image from Siebert (2006)

Initially, it was believed that Brahe died from a bladder stone that prevented him from urinating. However, when his remains were exhumed in 1995, high levels of mercury were found in his hair. This led to speculation that he could have been poisoned or that the mercury exposure resulted from his own alchemical experiments, perhaps in an attempt to treat his infection.

One theory, proposed in the book "Heavenly Intrigue" by researchers Joshua Gilder and Anne Lee Gilder, suggests Johannes Kepler as a potential suspect in Brahe's death. Kepler, who was reliant on Brahe's Mars observations to advance his own theories, stood to gain the most from the Danish astronomer's demise. Forensic investigations conducted in 1991 by Bent Kaempe and in 1996 by Jan Pallon confirmed high levels of mercury in Brahe's hair, adding another layer of mystery to the circumstances of his death. While Kepler undoubtedly benefited from Brahe's passing, gaining unparalleled access to his Mars data, it remains speculative to definitively label him as the perpetrator. Nonetheless, his career experienced a significant boost following the loss of his renowned Danish collaborator.

Johannes Kepler: Humble Beginnings

In contrast to Brahe, Johannes Kepler was born in Weil der Stadt, Germany, on December 27, 1561, at 2:30 p.m., according to the Julian Calendar. His astrological birth chart reveals the Sun at 15 degrees of Capricorn, the Moon at 4 degrees of Gemini, and an Ascendant at 24 degrees of Gemini.

Born into a family of Lutheran peasants, Kepler displayed early signs of intelligence and was subsequently enrolled in the Latin school in Leonberg, followed by attendance at a seminary university.

At the age of six, his mother Katharina took him up a hill to observe a comet in 1577. At nine years old, his father Heinrich guided him through the observation of a lunar eclipse. These formative experiences deeply influenced young Kepler's destiny. Despite suffering from poor eyesight due to a childhood bout of smallpox, he was unable to directly observe planetary movements or stars with the naked eye.

Kepler's early years were tinged with melancholy and hardship. His father abandoned the family when Kepler was still

young, and his mother later left to search for him. This led Kepler to live with his grandparents, who were reluctant to care for him and his brother Heinrich. Even his father had once attempted to sell his younger brother. Kepler's relationship with his father was virtually nonexistent, and he viewed him as a harsh, abusive, and alcoholic man.

In 1577, Kepler enrolled in a Latin school in Leonberg, where he studied Latin, classical rhetoric from authors like Caton and Cicero, and Lutheran catechism. His education was interrupted when he had to return home for farm work, extending his studies to five years instead of the typical three. Afterward, he received a scholarship from the Duke of Württemberg and went on to study at the University of Tübingen. There, he was mentored by Michael Mästlin, who encouraged him to favor the Copernican system over the Ptolemaic system.

Upon completing his studies, Kepler was assigned to Graz as a community mathematician. Although his true ambition was to become a Lutheran minister and remain at the university, he found himself at odds with many of his peers, leading to a number of enmities.

Later, an edict from Archduke Ferdinand forced him to choose between converting to Catholicism or leaving his teaching position. Unwilling to abandon his Lutheran faith, Kepler chose to leave Graz with his family. He then sought employment with Tycho Brahe and eventually became his assistant in Prague.

Synastry

In their professional collaboration, Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler had a complex relationship marked by both animosity and rivalry. Given Kepler's precarious financial situation and lack of alternative employment, he had little choice but to remain as Brahe's assistant, especially since Brahe was under the patronage of Emperor Rudolf II of Prague.

Their synastry charts offer intriguing insights into this dynamic. Brahe's Mars in Aries directly opposes Kepler's Mars in Libra, indicating a high level of tension and likely contributing to Brahe's dominant role—a situation that Kepler found difficult to accept.

Both men had their Suns in Capricorn, making submission to one another a challenging endeavor for both. It was likely Kepler, with his Mars in Libra, who found himself in the more subordinate role. However, it's worth noting that Kepler's Mercury is in conjunction with Brahe's Sun, suggesting some level of intellectual synergy despite their differences.

Another sign of their strained relationship could be that Kepler's Saturn at 13 degrees Scorpio squares Brahe's Ascendant at 16 degrees, Venus at 18 degrees, and Pluto at 20 degrees in Aquarius. Given these fixed signs, reaching agreements was likely difficult for them. Additionally, Brahe's Saturn at 27 degrees Sagittarius squares Kepler's Gemini Ascendant at 24 degrees and his Neptune at 23 degrees, leading to many misunderstandings and deceptions in their collaborative work.

Undoubtedly, Brahe's meticulous research on Mars' trajectory later enabled Kepler to validate his theories on planetary motion being elliptical rather than circular, as Ptolemy and Copernicus had proposed. Intriguingly, both had Mercury in conjunction, which may explain how Kepler's legacy was significantly shaped by Brahe's work.

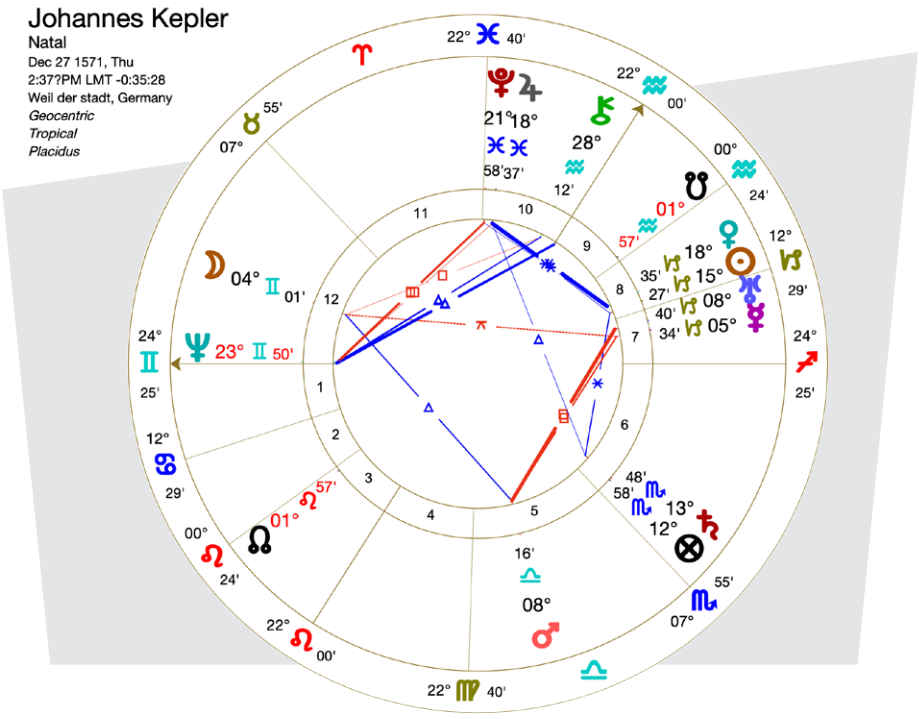
In his self-analysis, Kepler describes himself in his own words: "This personality (Kepler's) is very well suited for every kind of pretense. This arises from the excellence of personality. But there is also a lust for pretending, for deceiving, for lying… Mercury causes this, stimulated by Mars."[2]

Kepler was obsessed with getting information from Brahe. He even reached out to two renowned astronomers, his mentor Mästlin and the Italian Magini, to see if they could acquire Brahe's collected information on his behalf. Neither responded. At this time, Kepler wouldn't have considered the planet Neptune, which was discovered in 1846, but in their synastry charts, his Neptune at 23 degrees of his Ascendant in Gemini makes an exact square to Brahe's Moon at 23 degrees and Uranus at 19 degrees in Virgo, indicating unpredictable and emotionally deceptive interactions between the two.

Kepler urgently wanted to publish his book "Harmonices Mundi" 1619, (The Harmony of the World), which was eventually released after Brahe's death. He was held back because the Ptolemaic and Copernican tables didn't align with his geometric or mathematical calculations, causing him significant impatience (Mercury at 5 degrees and Uranus at 8 degrees of Capricorn). He knew that Brahe had not yet published his astronomical observations. Both of these planets are conjunct Brahe's Sun at 2 degrees and Mercury at 0 degrees of Capricorn in his natal chart.

Furthermore, Kepler's Uranus in Capricorn is also in conjunction with Mercury and Brahe's Sun in Capricorn. This astrological alignment suggests how

Kepler's early years were tinged with melancholy and hardship. His father abandoned the family when Kepler was still young, and his mother later left to search for him. This led Kepler to live with his grandparents,



Brahe's unexpected death ultimately benefited Kepler.

Kepler eventually succeeded Tycho Brahe as Emperor Rudolf II's court mathematician. After complex negotiations with Brahe's heirs, he published "The Rudolphine Tables" in 1627. This publication was made possible only because he gained access to Brahe's tightly guarded 40-year observations of Mars. Initially, Brahe's descendants denied Kepler access to this invaluable data, but after lengthy discussions, he managed to publish these ephemerides. In an extensive prologue, he expressed gratitude to the Brahe family and the esteemed Danish astronomer.

Both Kepler and Brahe had Moons ruled by Mercury—Kepler's in Gemini and Brahe's in Virgo. However, Kepler's more abstract intelligence eventually garnered him long-term recognition, while Brahe's technical and practical expertise led him to invent sextants and rigorously document Mars' transits.

In their lifetimes, the two astronomers experienced contrasting levels of recognition. Brahe enjoyed considerable fame, whereas Kepler lived with little acknowledgment for his contributions.

Posthumously, it is Kepler who has been celebrated as the great astronomer and mathematician, a recognition perhaps indicated by his natal Jupiter in Pisces being adjacent to Pluto.

While the question remains as to whether Kepler had a hand in Brahe's death, it's crucial to honor both figures. Brahe, who died at 58, made significant contributions that should not be overlooked. Kepler's astronomical model (and his three famous laws of the motion of celestial bodies) owes much to Brahe's meticulous observations, and any recognition of Kepler should also include acknowledgment of the Danish astronomer's foundational work.

In their lifetimes, the two astronomers experienced contrasting levels of recognition. Brahe enjoyed considerable fame, whereas Kepler lived with little acknowledgment for his contributions.

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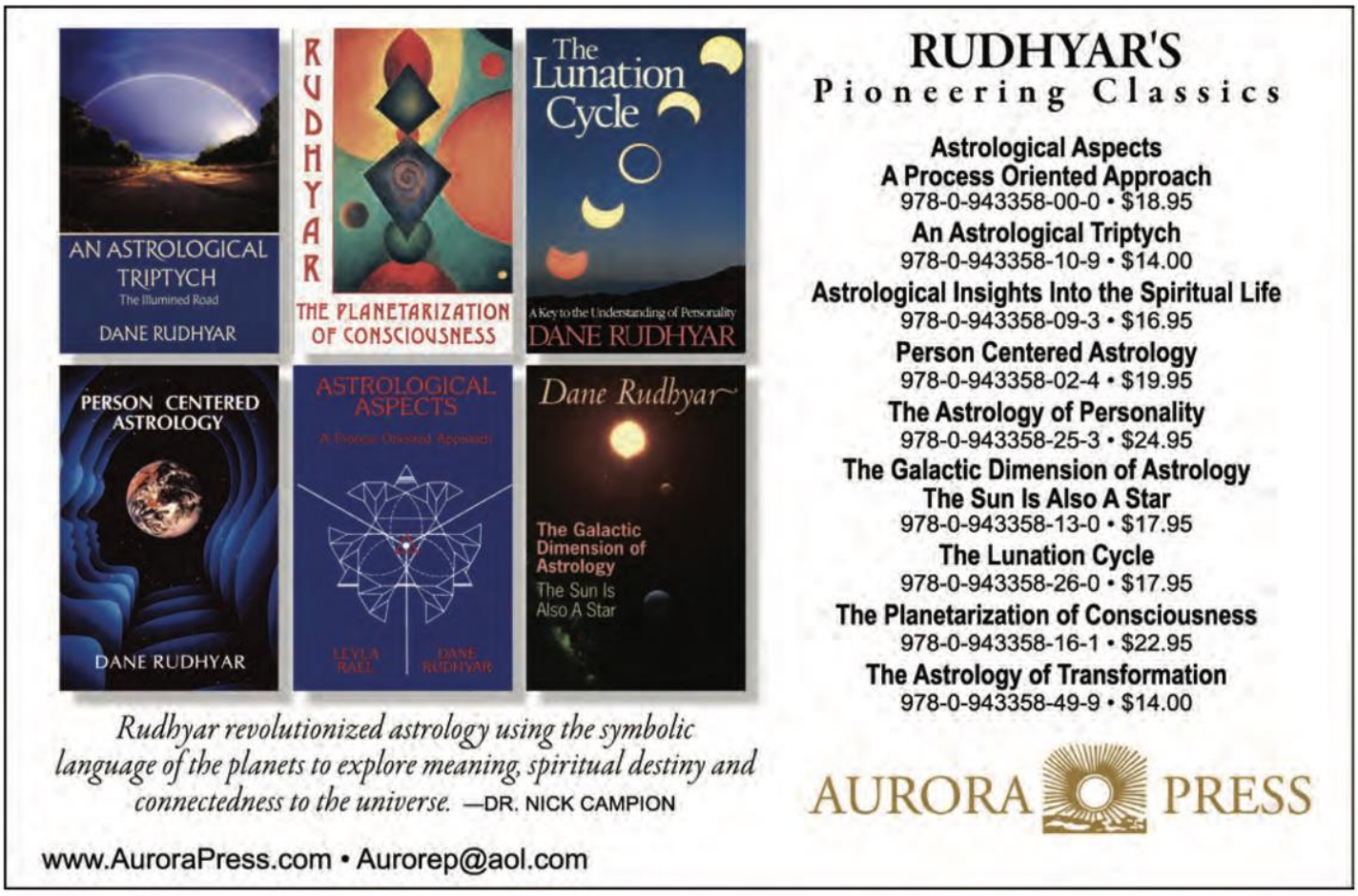
Constanza Johnson, *is a researcher with a major in philosophy who has devoted her knowledge and experience to the study of astrology as a discipline. Conscient that astrology is a way to help people in the orientation of their lives as well as a better understating of the past, has been since 2012 the elaboration of Natal Charts on a continuous base, both in her native country (Chile) and outside. The orientation of her work is based on traditional Hellenistic and the new Astrology Schemes. She holds a full diploma on astrology delivered by OPA on 2023. Constanza can be reached at* ***www.astrologica.cl***





THE ASTROLOGY OF RELATIONSHIPS



RELATIONSHIPS
THROUGH THE LENS OF TRIPLICITY RULERS

by Jenn Zahrt

How often have you had a client come into your practice and ask you to look at their sweetheart's chart, but you don't have their sweetheart's explicit consent? The tropical Western tradition provides an ethical way to work around this conundrum. By applying a technique known as "triplicity rulers of the houses," you can delineate nearly any relationship in someone's life *from their vantage point*. This means you never have to see their sweetheart's (or whomever's) chart. You can uncover what is going on with any relationship from the client's own chart and help them explore their significant relationships from the perspective of *their own* life experience.

The universal significations of the planets form the bedrock of the early stages of learning astrology. We learn that the Sun and Saturn signify fathers, the Moon and Venus, mothers (Ptolemy, *Tetrabiblos*, III.4), and so on. And yet this isn't universally true for everyone. According to the rules of traditional astrology, the Sun can also indicate someone's wife, or Saturn, their mother. How does this work?

> We can finally discover why the Moon doesn't always indicate mothers and the Sun is not always representative of fathers.

In Book 21 of his *Astrologia Gallica* (1661), Jean-Baptiste Morin, the last of the great French court astrologers, shows how the "accidental" determinations of the planets are the key to successfully delineating the specifics in a chart: "*Each planet must be considered from the point of view of* ***its local determination*** *in the nativity of a given individual*."[1]

People born on the same day will have planets in their charts that have the same *essential* dignity, with the exception of the Moon, which moves 13 degrees per day (on average) and can change signs within the span of 24 hours. But the degree rising on the Eastern horizon changes roughly every four minutes. This means that the "accident" of birth (that is, the older meaning of the word as *happenstance*) arranges these celestial factors in ways that summon additional and very specific roles for the planets, which may stand in stark contrast to their universal significations.

When we learn how to identify the triplicity rulers of the houses and assign planets to specific "topics" of those houses, we start to formulate precise interpretations, and even predictions, regarding the relationships in our lives (relative to us) with bespoke accuracy, leaving off-the-rack generalities behind. We can finally discover why the Moon doesn't always indicate mothers and the Sun is not always representative of fathers, my big brother, and, most importantly, which planet represents my precious cat. Here's how you do it.

1. Identify the sect of the chart; that is, whether the chart is a "day" chart, with the Sun located above the horizon (the Ascendant/Descendant axis), or a "night" chart, with the Sun located below the horizon. This allows you to select the correct table of triplicity rulers (see Table 1, "Dorothean Triplicity Rulers").
2. Select the triplicity table that matches the sect of the chart.
3. Identify the element of the house cusp of the topic you wish to illuminate. This step carries a few implicit steps with it. Firstly, you'll need to study the list of topics that the houses rule (see Table 2, "Triplicity Rulers of the Houses"). The 6th House, for example, shows the planet that rules your capacity for illnesses, anyone who works for you, and your pets. The 7th House shows your main squeeze (spouse or anchor partner), your "open enemy" (a.k.a., soon-to-be-ex-spouse in family court), and your business partners. All of these relationships are contractual. Your 3rd House will show your siblings (old to young, or vice versa, whether you are following, respectively, Guido Bonatti or Omar of Tiberias).[2]

Once you have identified the element of the house cusp in question, you can reference the table, sort the rulers, and find your planet! Let's go through an example.

Example Chart

"Bianca," December 17, 1964, 23:19 PST; Oakland, CA (37N48 122W16); RR: AA, BC in hand. Name changed to protect the innocent.

For this example, we'll evaluate the 7th House cusp. First, identify the sect: with the Sun in the 4th House, this is absolutely a night chart. Use the night triplicity ruler table.

Check the sign on the 7th House cusp**: Pisces,** a water sign. The ruler of Pisces is Jupiter in Taurus in the 9th House. But we want to locate the triplicity rulers to get a sense of 1) which planet shows potential spouses; 2) which planet shows open enemies; and 3) which planet shows potential business partnerships.

The chart owner is shown by the planet ruling the Ascendant, so Bianca here is represented by an angular Mercury combust and retrograde in Sagittarius, which rules both Mars (in Virgo) and the Moon (in Gemini).

The first triplicity ruler of a water sign by night is **Mars**, here appearing in Virgo on the Ascendant. Mars will indicate Bianca's main spouse-style relationships.

The second triplicity ruler of a water sign by night is **Venus,** cadent here in Scorpio in the 3rd House. When her spouses become ex-spouses, they go from being signified by an angular peregrine Mars to being signified by cadent Venus in detriment. Business partnerships, of which Bianca had many, are shown by the Moon in Gemini conjunct the Midheaven. Any business partners who chose to oppose her also turned into being signified by that Venus in Scorpio.

The chart owner is shown by the planet ruling the Ascendant, so Bianca here is represented by an angular **Mercury** combust and retrograde in Sagittarius, which rules both Mars (in Virgo) and the Moon (in Gemini). When spouses and business partners engage with her, it's on Bianca's turf, and when those relationships break up, aversion ensues (Venus in Scorpio is in aversion to Mercury in Sagittarius).

Working with Delineations

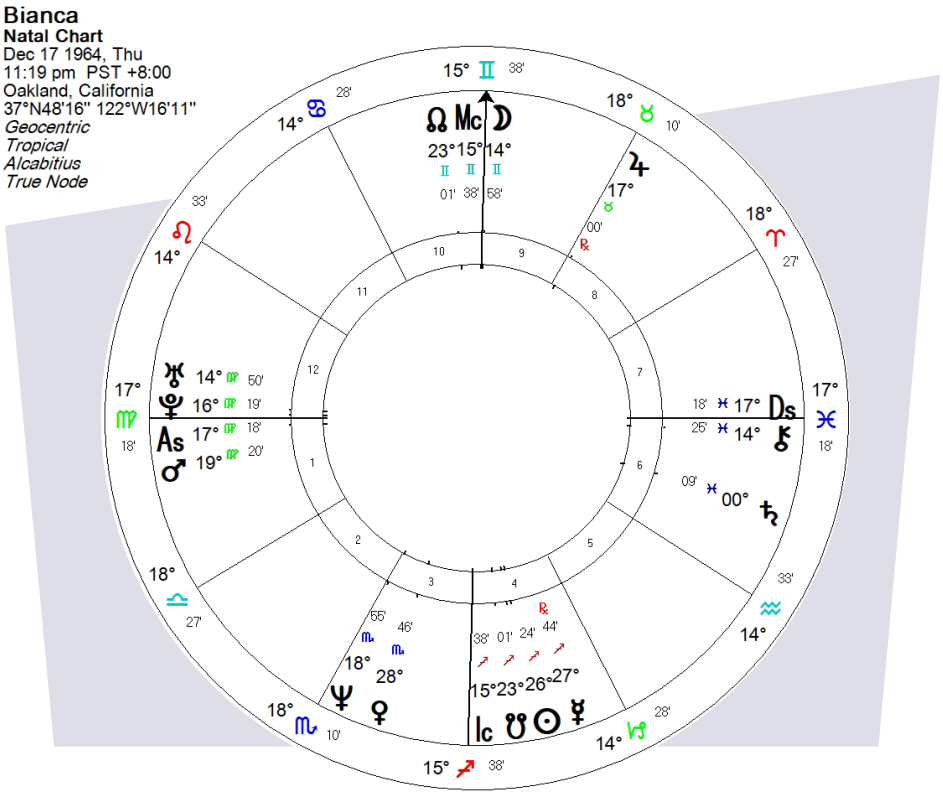
Now that you've identified the planet that rules the relationship you wish to examine, various interpretations come to the fore: you can see how the people who fill that role relate to you, how various people in your life relate to each other from your vantage point (by analyzing the aspects between those triplicity rulers to each other in the natal and secondary progressed charts), and, using timing techniques, you can predict when various relationships will shift, become center stage, or exit stage left. Here are a few more ways to work with this technique.

You can interpret the placement of the planet in relationship to the planet that rules you. The aspect, or lack thereof, can show how people who tend to fit into this category relate to you. From your vantage point, no matter what that person's chart is like, you will eventually come to see and engage with them in ways shown by the planet that rules that role in your life. As Morin stoically claims, "*someone who must be unhappy in marriage will always find the woman necessary for this*" (p. 107).

You can look at how that planet relates to another person's role in your life, shown by a different triplicity ruler. Another example: Bianca's mother is shown by **Mercury** (first triplicity ruler of the 10th House), while her father is shown by **Jupiter** (first triplicity ruler of the 4th House), and they are not only *not in aspect* to each other, but in aversion. They have nothing to do with each other in the chart, or in the native's life. Or, say you have another chart, and those triplicity rulers are conjoined but in the native's 12th House – mom and dad are thick as thieves and totally not accessible to the native, as though just out of sight, in a blind spot.

You can use the triplicity ruler to understand when this relationship will be activated by transit or time-lordship. A new example: Imagine, during a 3rd House profection year with Aries on the cusp of the 3rd, and the native's mother shown by Mars in their chart, that transiting Mars is stationing direct in Aries in their 3rd House. The mother gets in a minor car

Using timing techniques, you can predict when various relationships will shift, become center stage, or exit stage left.



LENS OF TRIPLICITY RULERS

accident in the native's neighborhood. The native was unharmed; it was not even the native's car. The annual profected time-lord (Mars) of a cadent house indicated an incident, but it was removed from the native (cadent) and involved the mother (time-lord Mars also indicates the native's mother by triplicity rulers of the house cusps).

I'm not suggesting you go around telling your clients when their parents are going to get into fender benders. What I do aim to show is that you can use triplicity rulers to see how other people literally fare in your world, as shown through *your* chart—and how, sometimes, an upcoming transit or direction will point to someone in your life having something happen to *them* versus you directly. From a traditional perspective, our charts are absolutely and entirely relational.

A Few Technical Points

Over the millennia, various systems for assigning essential dignity have arisen.[3] When it comes to triplicity rulerships, I use Dorothean rulers. Some horary practitioners who work in the lineage of William Lilly will swear by Ptolemaic triplicity rulers. Try it for yourself. I get a lot of good mileage out of using the Dorothean rulerships.

A note on house systems. In general, I advocate using something called the "Open" house system. That's a term I coined a few years back to offer a friendly invitation to be polyamorous, or ecumenical, with your application of house system. Just as a professional carpenter does not build with a single tool, a professional astrologer should not evaluate all celestial data using a single house system. An adept of any art will know which tool to use when, and I suggest that the house system historically employed by those who perfected the technique at hand should be applied when we engage that technique today. So, if reading a horary chart using Lilly's methods, cast the chart with Regiomontanus. If employing Hellenistic techniques, look to Whole Sign Houses or Porphyry. To most successfully identify the triplicity rulers of the houses that will produce accurate results, use the Alcabitius house system.

What about interceptions? That's an awesome factor that shows up when you do this! Sometimes a planet covers a multitude of relations in our lives, and other planets are just not as important. You'll start to see certain planets taking on a lot of roles, and leaving other planets off the hook, when it comes to determining the relational foci of a life.

Now, you can get different results when you use a quadrant-based house system versus a symbolic one (Whole Sign or Equal), and all of these results should resonate on some level. If we liberate the planets from their universal significations and accept that they can accidentally

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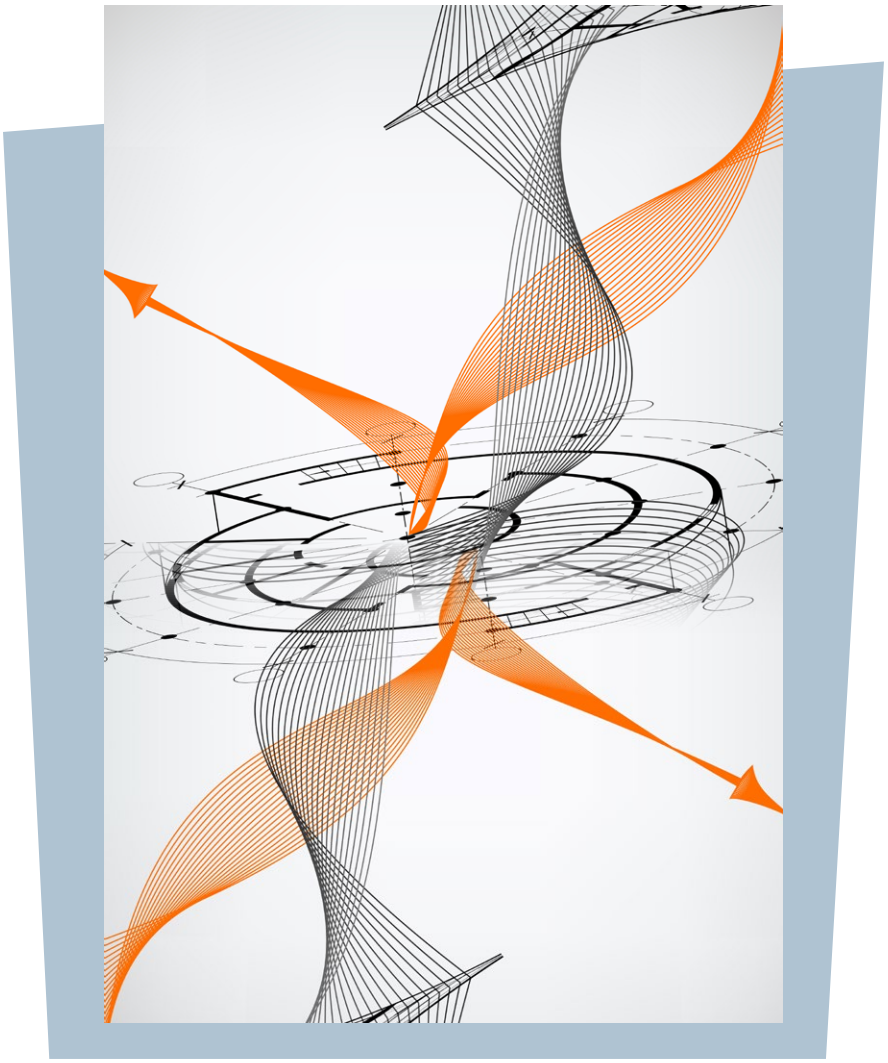



TABLES

Table 1: Dorothean Triplicity Rulers

DOROTHEAN TRIPLICITY **BY DAY**

Fire: Sun, Jupiter, Saturn
Air: Saturn, Mercury, Jupiter
Earth: Venus, Moon, Mars
Water: Venus, Mars, Moon

DOROTHEAN TRIPLICITY **BY NIGHT**

Fire: Jupiter, Sun, Saturn
Air: Mercury, Saturn, Jupiter
Earth: Moon, Venus, Mars
Water: Mars, Venus, Moon

Table 2: Triplicity Rulers of the Houses

1ST HOUSE: Circumstances of life in the…
1. First part of life
2. Second part of life
3. Third part of life

2ND HOUSE: Source(s) of money in the…
1. First part of life
2. Second part of life
3. Third part of life

3RD HOUSE:
1. Youngest siblings
2. Middle siblings
3. Older siblings
(Omar reverses these; the 3rd House can also refer to the authority of coworkers or other people near you)

4TH HOUSE:
1. Father
2. Home/land; inheritance from the living
3. Endings, how you finish things

5TH HOUSE:
1. Children and their lives
2. Sensual pleasures
3. Honors you may receive

6TH HOUSE:
1. Illness
2. Servants and employees
3. Success from one's efforts; small animals and pets

7TH HOUSE:
1. Intimate partner(s)
2. Open enemies, conflicts
3. Associations, partnerships

8TH HOUSE:
1. Nature of one's death
2. Interest in ancestors
3. Money from others; inheritance from the dead

9TH HOUSE:
1. Journeys, pilgrimages
2. Relationship to religion
3. Wisdom; augury, astrology

10TH HOUSE:
1. Work and status
2. Leadership skills
3. Stability of position

11TH HOUSE:
1. Faith, trust, fidelity
2. Friends and their nature
3. Success of collective ventures

12TH HOUSE:
1. Hidden enemies (frenemies!)
2. Slavery; labors, hard work
3. Powerlessness; beasts of burden (animals that are ridden)

Carefully and sensitively exploring the external/consensus view versus the internal/felt sense can by itself be a huge healing moment in your work with someone.

signify other types of things, we can also accept that more than one planet can indicate mom, or a sibling, when seen from different house systems.

Here's what I've found to be the interpretive difference between symbolic and quadrant applications of this technique: the results you get from a symbolic house system show what the consensus appearance of a situation/relationship looks like in that person's life, as though a biography were being written about them. The information gleaned from a quadrant-based house system reveals what the situation feels like from the inside out, of that person's individual, real, lived experience, as though they are writing an autobiography. The gaps between those two vantage points can explain a lot of the friction someone encounters when trying to communicate about the relationship to others. Carefully and sensitively exploring the external/consensus view versus the internal/felt sense can by itself be a huge healing moment in your work with someone.

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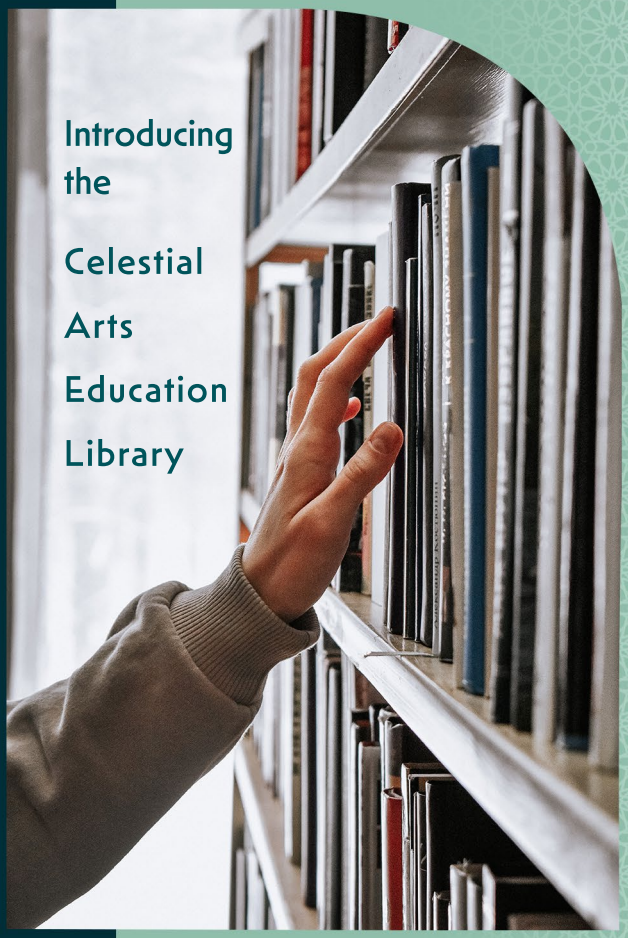

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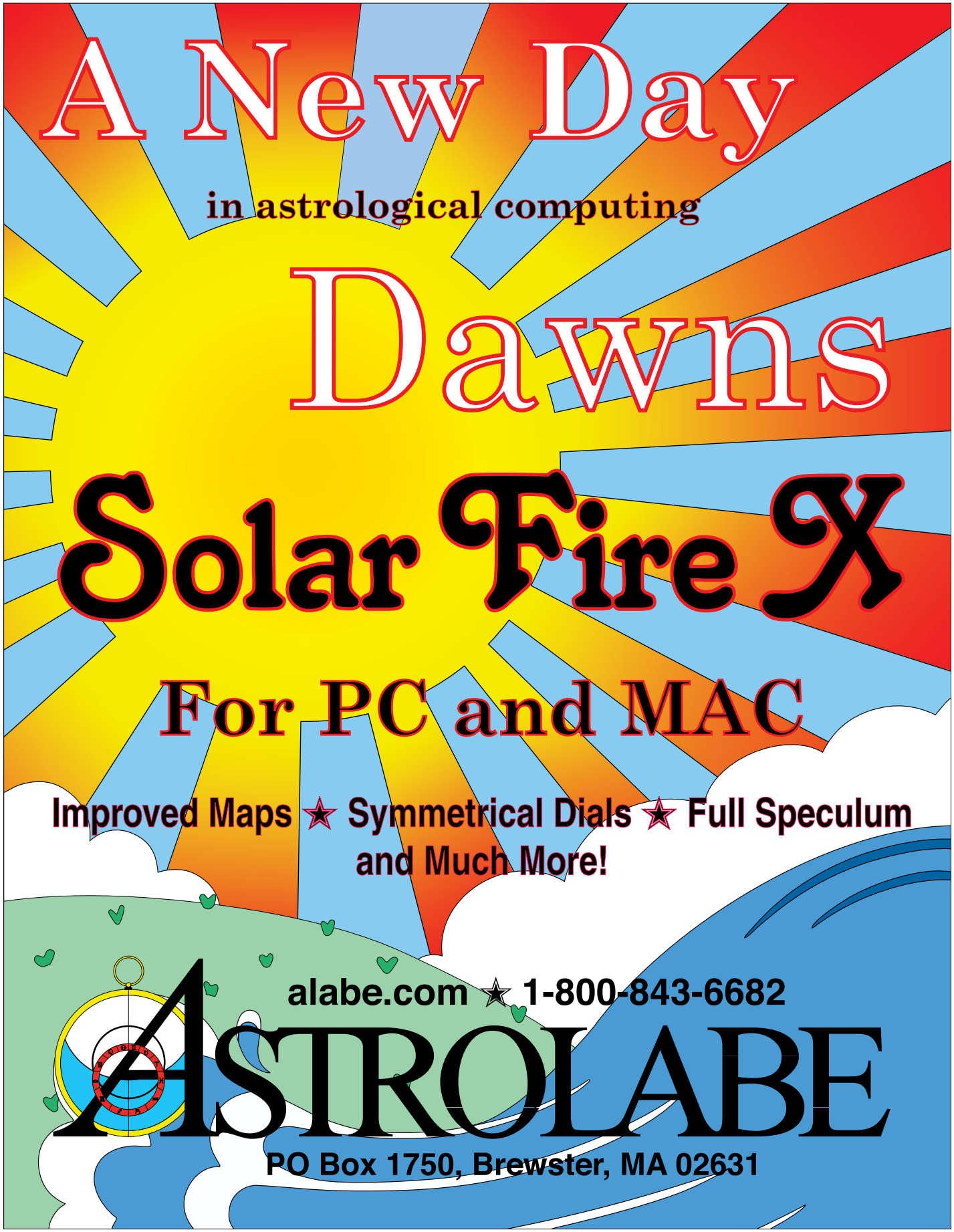
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PASSION, SPARKS, AND MARS ZEST IN RELATIONSHIPS!

by Margaret Gray, MSW

In my relationship astrology and couples therapy practice, a common issue people in a relationship bring to the table is how to maintain or revive emotional and sexual passion. A wide range of underlying issues come to light on deeper exploration, including feelings of depression, exhaustion, a lack of fulfillment in work, an inability to connect with a sense of joy in life, and difficulties in resolving conflicts.

My attention immediately goes to Mars in the individual and composite charts, including signs, houses, and aspects, to get clarity on the essential nature and requirements of their natal Mars, both individually and relationally. I then look at the synastry of Mars between their charts to see how they are awakening each other's Mars and what each can learn about themselves in the process, ideally helping them to integrate and heal unfinished childhood natal Mars issues.

Mars from a Relational Perspective

Mars plays a critical role on multiple relationship fronts. These include *libido,* courage, triggering of the survival instinct, passion, and intimacy.

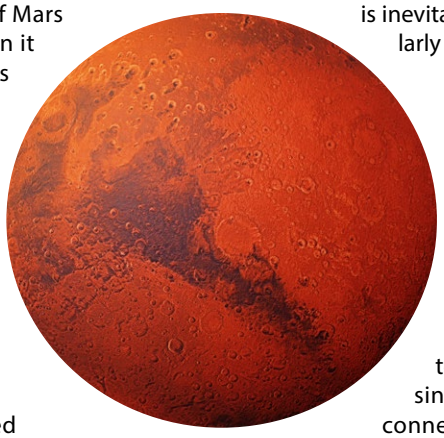
Love or hate them, Freud and Jung shaped our understanding of *libido.* Freud coined the now commonly used term, which was later adopted by Jung. Whereas Freud confined its meaning to sexual energy, Jung expanded the idea of *libido* to include our overall life force energy, which is more akin to the astrological understanding of Mars.

> Mars plays a critical role on multiple relationship fronts. These include libido, courage, triggering of the survival instinct, passion, and intimacy.

A functional and creative connection to natal Mars enables us to find the courage to discover and be our essential individual selves. And, most importantly, to not lose one's sense of self in relationships.

Without a functional connection to the primal survival instinct of natal Mars, we will likely struggle to develop and hold onto that essential self in close relationships, especially in a strongly Neptunian chart. It, therefore, becomes challenging to fully let go into passion and intimacy, even in the initial stages of falling in love.

The importance of Mars is easier to notice when it is not functioning at its best and our life force feels unavailable. Experiencing any semblance of joy and desire in life can feel increasingly challenging as we struggle to connect with that core vitality within ourselves and others. Medically, this is sometimes described as *depression,* which literally means our life force is *depressed* or pushed down. As astrologers, we view this, in part, as a disconnection from natal Mars. Until we reconnect with our natal Mars and our life force resurfaces, it can feel challenging to experience any semblance of connection or passion in relationships.



With my psychotherapy hat on, I am aware that expressing anger can often be one of the first signs that an individual is re-surfacing from a period of depression. Anger, associated with the Mars survival instinct, is a live expression of energy moving in the psyche and body. While its method of expression impacts relationships, the fact that the individual's energy is now moving makes a relationship more viable.

> Recognizing what matters enough to stand our ground and expressing this in a way that asserts and helps us define who we are to another, without falling into either avoidance or aggression, is a critical part of our Mars relationship skills.

Ironically, anger also contains passion, as we need to be passionate about something to feel angry about it! However, when Mars malfunctions, rage can be mistaken for passion. Whereas passion is *creative* at a personal and collective level, often inspiring much-needed change, rage is inevitably *destructive,* particularly in close relationships.

Without a functioning Mars, it is challenging to connect with our desire nature and know who or what we are attracted to. Even if we know, the ability and motivation to pursue a relationship may feel temporarily unavailable since reaching out and connecting requires Mars's movement, action, and courage. A well-functioning Mars can help us navigate the territory of negotiation and conflict resolution, which is part of all connection and necessary to maintain passion in a relationship.

Recognizing what matters enough to stand our ground and expressing this in a way that asserts and helps us define who we are to another, without falling into either avoidance or aggression, is a critical part of our Mars relationship skills. How we each do this depends on our natal Mars and the aspects to it.

Childhood experiences also shape how a person expresses Mars energy. Children learn from observing the behavior

of adult role models and from adult reactions to their early attempts at assertion.

The Mars Return

This brings us to the importance of the first Mars return, individual and in relationships. Our experience of our first Mars Return at age two is critical, as it's the juncture where we become fully aware of Mars as an active force in our chart and our psyche. Often described colloquially as the 'terrible twos.' In the developmental stage, toddlers learn to assert their right to say *No* to perceived external restrictions and as a way of saying *Yes* to themselves.

With the full force of their natal Mars emerging, children rely on the adults around them to support them in finding safe and creative ways to express, harness, and contain this powerful energy. Caretakers who struggle with their own Mars energy may be inclined to suppress and repress the child's Mars, with potentially unhelpful consequences for developing the child's natal Mars energy. These patterns may get acted out unconsciously later in life, particularly when expressing passion and attempting to resolve relationship conflicts.

The two-year stage in a new relationship is also important. It marks the shift from the *in love, very passionate stage,* also known as *the euphoric stage,* to the *early attachment stage,* which is about developing a more settled period of deeper intimacy. Astrologically, this is the Mars return to the *First Meeting Chart*. The initial merging experience is ideally replaced by negotiating the process of individuation within the loving container of the relationship. If the natal Mars is working effectively, the individuals can more easily respect and admire differences in each other and find constructive ways to negotiate disagreements while maintaining passion based on differences and similarities.

Passion and intimacy cannot co-exist without space for individuality. Each person engages their natal Mars to ensure that the compromise required for the relationship's well-being does not infringe or erode their personal boundaries. If natal Mars is not working well in the individual charts, this can easily result in a breakup.

Each person engages their natal Mars to ensure that the compromise required for the relationship's well-being does not infringe or erode their personal boundaries.



Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt at Cannes, by Georges Biard

Mars Aspects in Synastry

I remember Liz Greene saying many years ago that seeking to resolve early childhood issues through our adult relationships is not pathological! In fact, it is our natural attempt to heal and re-balance unresolved wounds in our psyche. The triggering effects of synastry contacts can help us with this process, acting as a wake-up transit to our natal chart. Planetary transits, however, are short-term, while synastry aspects impact our chart for the duration of the relationship. Mars synastry aspects force us to pay attention to how we experience Mars in our chart. The more unconscious we are of natal Mars, the more likely we will project it onto another person.

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt

Angeline Jolie and Brad Pitt, a divorced celebrity couple, provide an example on the topic of Mars and passion since both have busy natal Mars, and there are multiple Mars synastry aspects between their charts.

Brad and Angelina's Natal Mars

Their natal Mars are in different elements—hers in Fire (Aries), and his in Earth (Capricorn)—describing different speeds and manner of operating.

Angelina

Angelina's natal Mars in the 9th House of travel and learning is part of a stellium with Moon and Jupiter in Aries, sextile Sun in Gemini, trine Neptune in Sagittarius, and in opposition to Pluto in Libra! This enormously powerful Mars is clearly deeply embedded with Angelina's emotions and her sense of meaning. Her identity needs the support of natal Mars while the Solar light illuminates Mars in Aries requirements of courage, directness, adventure, individu ality, and action. These are all expanded by the Jupiter conjunction.

In relational terms, a key aspect to look for is a **Mars-Pluto opposition.** First, it is a powerfully passionate and transformational

Angelina and Brad have busy natal Mars, and there are multiple Mars synastry aspects between their charts

MARS ZEST IN RELATIONSHIPS

aspect, and secondly, oppositions are easily projected onto others. It is often easier to identify and integrate the side of the opposition we are most conscious of, and that feels most comfortable with the overall nature of our chart. Meanwhile, the opposite side often remains in shadow, unconsciously appearing when least expected. Ideally, over time, we integrate both planets.

Exploring this opposition with Angelina would be helpful, starting with questions about how she experienced it as a child. *Were there issues with siblings? What was school like?* (More on this in the synastry part below). Also, look at the Moon/Mars conjunction in her chart, indicating Angelina's strong need to find active ways to express her emotions.

Brad

Brad's natal Mars is in his 1st House and part of a stellium in Capricorn with South Node and Mercury (in the 2nd House). His natal Mars is also sextile Neptune in Scorpio, trine the Uranus/Pluto conjunction in Virgo, and sextile Chiron in Pisces. The stellium naturally makes an opposition to his North Node in Cancer.

With Mars conjunct the South Node, one of Brad's main tasks is to find ways to use his Mars in Capricorn skills (resilience, integrity, tenacity, and endurance) to help him move into the North Node in Cancer qualities of self-love, creativity, and nurturing. He is likely to benefit from relationships that can help him do this.

I would like to know more from him about how he experienced the natal Mars/Chiron aspect as a child. *What was it like expressing his Mars energy growing up, particularly with themes of loneliness and not feeling heard or understood?*

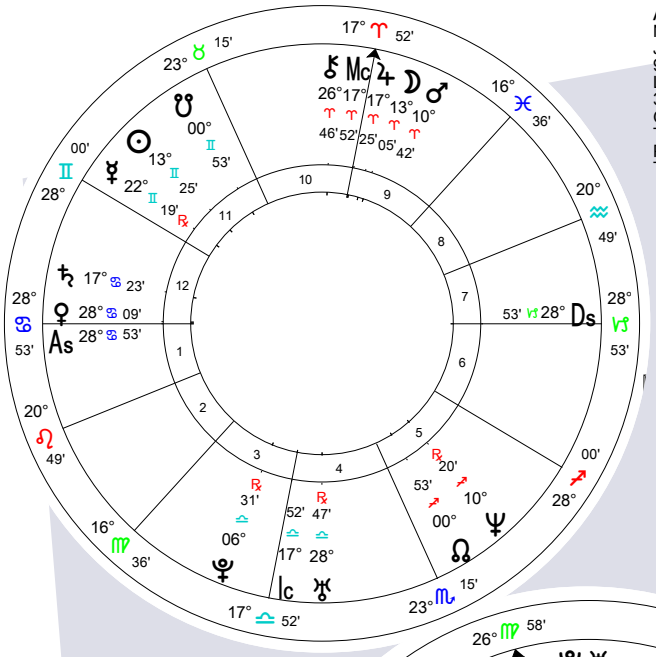
Mars in Synastry

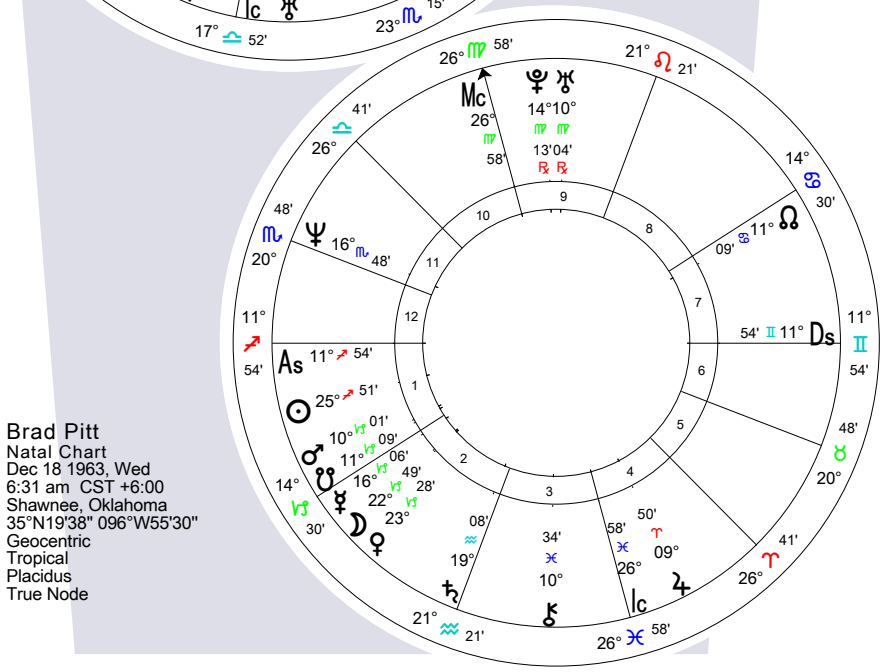
Angelina and Brad's natal Mars square each other, reinforcing how they are likely to deal with Mars-related issues differently. That includes how and when to act; conflict resolution approaches, and their essential *desire* nature. The Mars synastry in their charts has multiple layers.

Angelina's Mars/Moon/Jupiter stellium squares and activates Brad's Mars as well as his Nodes. This can awaken his use of South Node skills to move into his North Node requirements. However, there is a risk that by squaring Brad's Mars/South Node, the Mars synastry connection with Angelina's Aries stellium (passion, conflict, action) might feel for Brad like it is pulling him back into his South Node. Not to mention that her (lunar) emotions awaken and potentially trigger his Mars/Nodes!

For Angelina, Brad's Mars squaring hers awakens and potentially triggers any unresolved lunar issues, including how she deals with emotions, attachment issues, self-nurturing, and her relationship with her body.

Additionally, her Saturn in Cancer in the 12th is conjunct his North Node, which





In relational terms, a key aspect to look for is a Mars-Pluto opposition. First, it is a powerfully passionate and transformational aspect, and secondly, oppositions are easily projected onto others.



Angelina's Saturn may sometimes feel restrictive to Brad's already duty-bound Mars in Capricorn. Plus, when he expresses his Mars, her Saturnian ancestral sense of inadequacy may get triggered.

opposes his Mars/South Node! On the one hand, her Saturn can help him manifest his North Node in Cancer qualities to do with feeling lovable and loved, particularly if she is conscious of her own Saturnian inadequacies. This could be immensely helpful in the relationship because the more lovable he feels, the more he can bring that quality to the relationship.

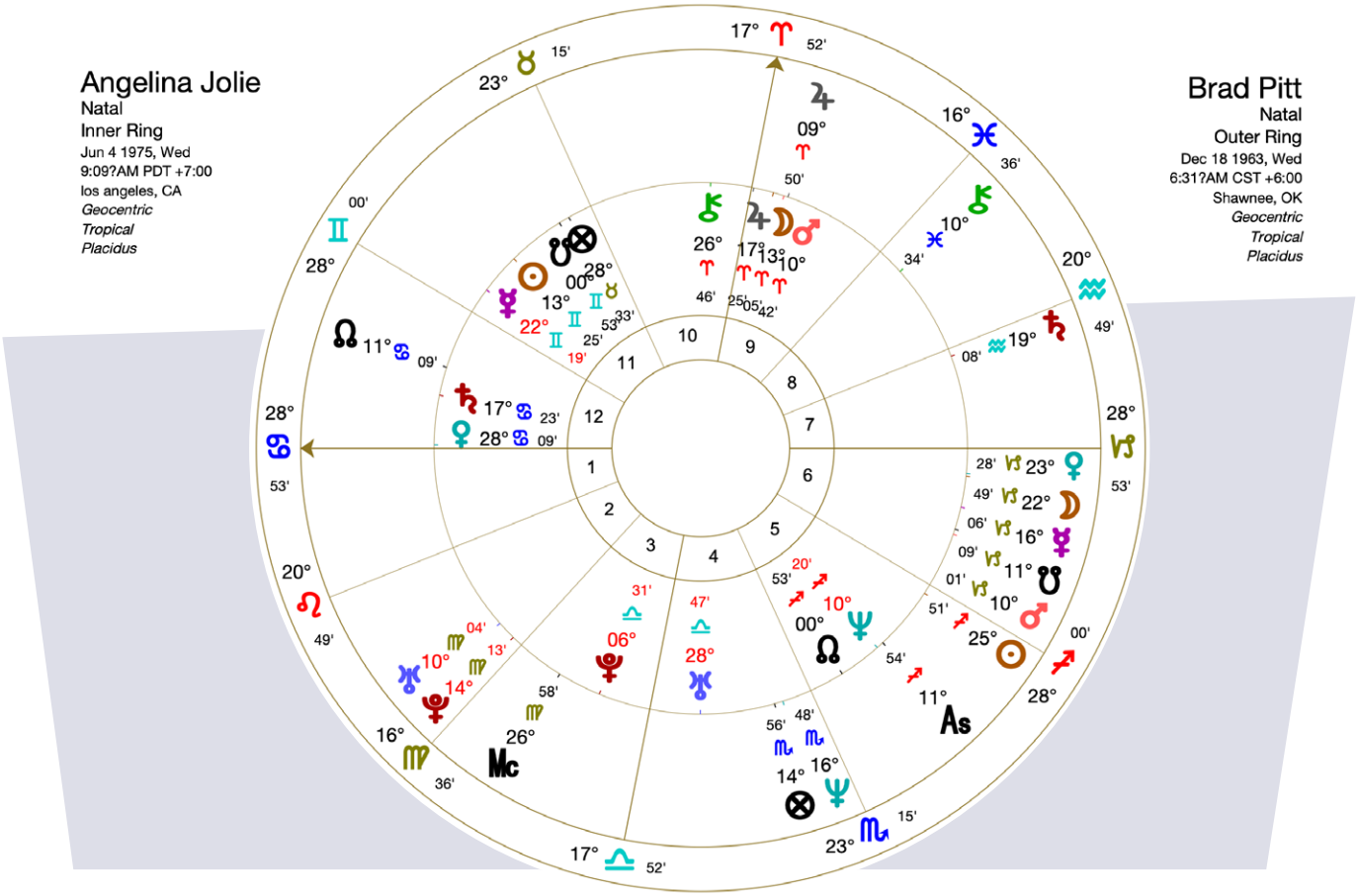
On the other hand, her Saturn may sometimes feel restrictive to his already duty-bound Mars in Capricorn. Plus, when he expresses his Mars, her Saturnian ancestral sense of inadequacy may get triggered. Saturn tends to mature with age, so with time his Mars could help her integrate Saturn more fully, and her Saturn could help him manifest his Mars goals.

Another major synastry aspect I want to mention is Brad's Mars squaring Angelina's Pluto. This potentially passionate aspect activates Angelina's natal Mars/Pluto opposition. As I mentioned earlier, there is a risk that if her natal Pluto feels uncomfortable, it may be easier for her to own her Aries stellium and project her natal Pluto in Libra onto Brad. If this happens, any Mars expression by Brad could be interpreted as a Plutonian (passionate, obsessive, transformative, overpowering) experience by Angelina.

It's important to mention that this couple was well-known for their generous philanthropic funding of practical projects, as well as their public displays of passion and affection. Brad's Mars in Capricorn and Angelina's stellium with Mars in Aries in the 9th House were on display for the world to see.

They also have a large and diverse family that includes birth children and adopted children from around the world. (His Mars opposite natal North Node in Cancer and her Saturn in Cancer square natal Mars). This couple is an interesting example of how Mars passion, ignited in a relationship, can continue to create passionate change in the world even after the individuals in the relationship decide to no longer share their passion in an intimate way.

Saturn tends to mature with age, so with time Brad's Mars could help Angelina integrate Saturn more fully, and her Saturn could help him manifest his Mars goals.



MARS ZEST IN RELATIONSHIPS

The Mars Return in Relationships!

The Mars returns stands out as follows... When the couple allegedly met, fell in love, and Mars was exactly at 10º Aries in Jan. 2004, it was Angelina's **Mars Return** and transit Mars squared Brad's Mars! Plus, transiting Saturn was at 9º Cancer opposing Brad's Mars and square Angelina's natal Mars/Pluto opposition The time had come to powerfully awaken and work on both their Mars!

In Closing

Without a conscious connection to natal Mars, our passion is, at the very least, likely to remain dormant. With an innate requirement for passion, intimate relationships inevitably awaken and demand that we engage with our natal Mars at multiple levels. Synastry can clarify the manner of the awakening, with transits adding an additional layer. It is our choice whether and how we take on this unique challenge and opportunity to heal and integrate unfinished Mars issues from our past.

I will leave you with words from Martha Graham. *"Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance. Great dancers are great because of their passion."*

With an innate requirement for passion, intimate relationships inevitably awaken and demand that we engage with our natal Mars at multiple levels.

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1 I am aware as a psychotherapist that there are many types of depression and not all of them are solely or predominantly connected to Mars. My description here refers to a general malaise. If you are experiencing symptoms of depression, it is always advisable to contact your medical practitioner.

2 If you are not familiar with the publicly passionate nature of this divorced couple's relationship, you will find ample information on them online.

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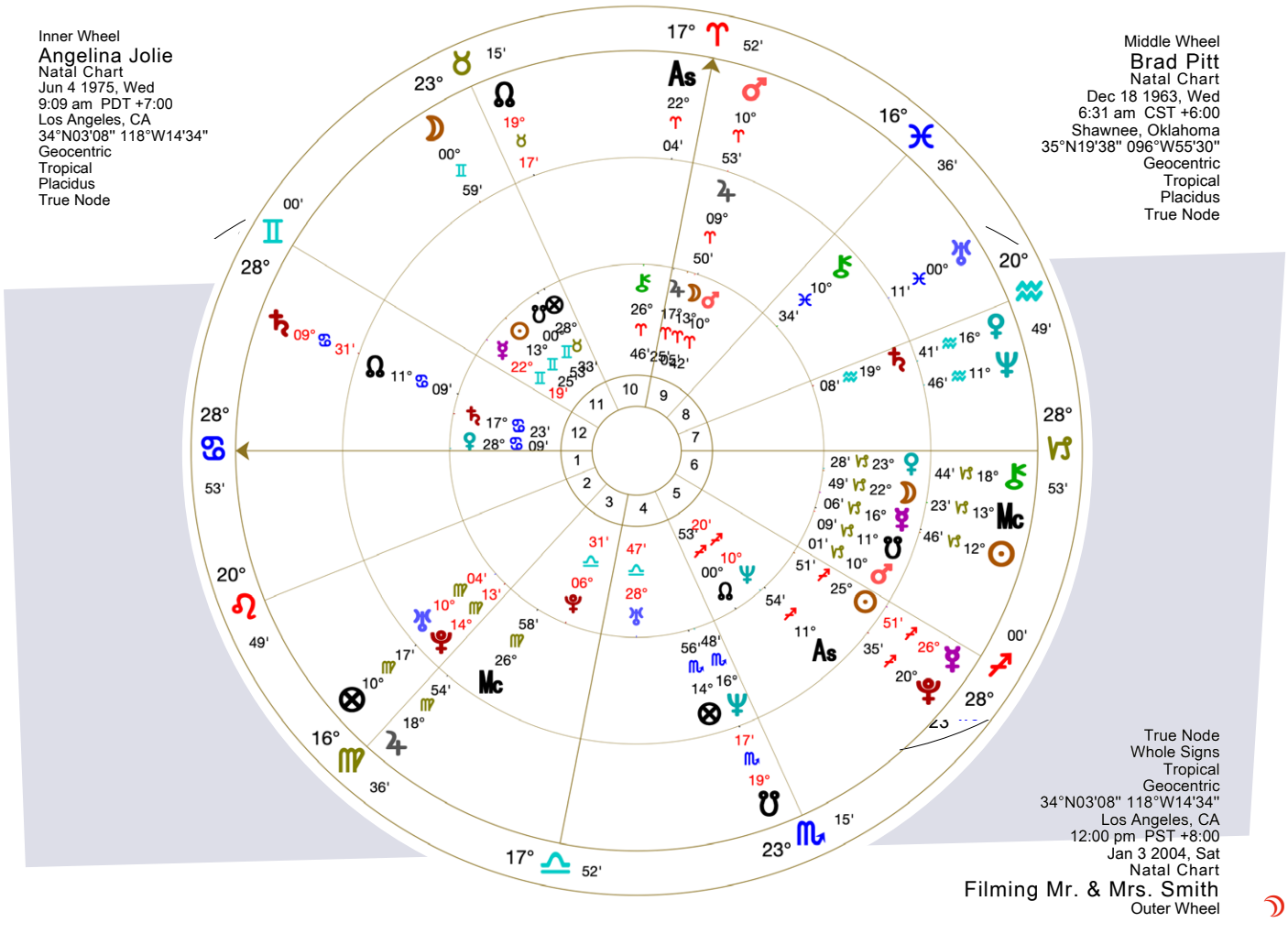
www.relationshipsandastrology.com



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BEYOND VENUS
How Eris Restores Imbalanced Relationships



by Rayner Jae Liu

Throughout much of the current retrograde, Venus has been the star of the show. It is her retrograde, after all, through the sign of Leo, and she is a major archetypal indicator of our relationships. Still, as she descends into the underworld to re-emerge as a morning star, and I watch the culture, another thing is becoming clear: *Venus does not rule all relationships!*

For me, nowhere has this been more apparent in popular culture than in Greta Gerwig's film *Barbie*. To be sure, the movie is significant. Besides being a main event in this retrograde cycle and having the biggest opening weekend for a woman film director in history, nearly two-thirds of *Barbie* viewers say they're now more aware of patriarchy in the workplace.[1] There is a lot that Venus is showing us through this retrograde, especially as it pertains to gender, patriarchy, and how much more acknowledgment is required around persistent social inequities that have for too long been accepted as the status quo.

Still, there have been numerous critiques of the *Barbie* film, and the reaction seems split between those awakening to patriarchy's influences and those who were already aware and want solutions to bring an end to the inequity. American political commentator Briahna Joy Gray and experts in the field of diversity, equity, and inclusion contend that much of *Barbie*'s success rides on mainstream feminism, suggesting there is a hunger for an understanding of relationships beyond what Venus alone can provide.[2]

Venus has had an eventful retrograde, leading many to take the journey of the goddess Inanna through the underworld and recognize how power is brokered in patriarchal systems. B*ut is she up to the task to change the system and facilitate the evolution of culture and consciousness? While Venus may help facilitate some level of justice through social consensus and the institution of law, and, increasingly, through the arts, what happens when consensus is not enough? Where can we look for a deeper sense of harmony?*

Introducing Eris, Goddess of Pluralism

There's another planet that helps us form a more holistic picture of our relationships. She joins Venus in creating the social realm in which we live, and she's not afraid to cut through the window dressing and expose inconsistencies, righting the balance when it comes to the systems we live in and evolving those systems toward equity and justice. Her name is Eris.

Traditionally, Eris was known as the goddess of strife and discord. When understood correctly, it's an accurate designation. Eris "creates" discord by revealing underlying conflicts that are latent within any given situation in order to create a more just and equitable arrangement. But in many instances, the "strife and discord" label can be used as a projection to reinforce misogyny. Those who understand and embrace Eris would view strife and discord as neutral or positive, as they are, in many cases, a necessary part of social change. Beyond being the goddess of strife and discord, she's also the goddess of diversity, equity, inclusion, and pluralism, cutting through our illusions to bring deeper harmony to our relationships.

Eris is a small planet with a big effect. Through much of the retrograde, Venus is trining Eris, with Eris in the overcoming position—and while Venus is retrograde,

Those who understand and embrace Eris would view strife and discord as neutral or positive, as they are, in many cases, a necessary part of social change.

As Venus descends into the underworld to re-emerge as a morning star, and I watch the culture, another thing is becoming clear: Venus does not rule all relationships!



the Lunar Nodes have shifted into Aries and Libra, with the South Node in Libra, the sign of Venus' rulership, and the North Node in Aries conjunct Eris. More astrologers have been talking about Eris recently, and there's even a new strain of COVID called Eris. She's the reason why some are critiquing the political shortcomings of the *Barbie* film. Eris takes a more fundamental and intersectional analysis that recognizes how nobody's free until everybody's free, or, as activists have been saying for decades, echoing a similar remark by Frederick Douglass, "no justice, no peace."[3]

A Good Relationship Begins with Equity

Whereas Venus might be called a peacemaker who specializes in social rules and consensus, Eris is a different kind of harmony goddess, and often appears at first to have the opposite effect. As a metaphysician and a master at reading the room, Eris disrupts social situations when the peace is surface-level—what the American poet Langston Hughes called a "lousy peace" and what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called "negative peace"—to bring about genuine harmony and evolve the culture. Venus has gotten a lot of attention in our culture as recent discussions around patriarchy have occurred. Eris is still waiting for her place on the stage.

Eris knows that equitable relationships require more than Venusian diplomacy. When the system is rotten to the core, Eris steps in and disrupts where diplomacy fails. Discovered in 2005 and thus connected with the current ecological crisis, Standing Rock, the Black Lives Matter and Me Too movements, and the COVID-19 pandemic, Eris recognizes that our social disharmony is not a result of not being able to follow societal rules, but because society's rules are out of balance with cosmic order and what lies inside us. When we are too focused in one arena, Eris responds; where there is patriarchy, Eris pushes back and will fight until there is equity and balance. It's one of the reasons the symbol commonly used for Eris in astrological practice, developed by Henry and Asia Seltzer, is a combination of the symbols for Venus, Mars, and Pluto. Eris has a unique signature with connections to the functions of these three other planets.

Speaking of equity, we compare Eris and Venus not only because they have different approaches to relationships, but also because they both correspond to the

Eris knows that equitable relationships require more than Venusian diplomacy. When the system is rotten to the core, Eris steps in and disrupts where diplomacy fails.

sign of Libra: Venus by rulership and Eris by archetypal correspondence. Each of the three outer planets—Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto—are said to correspond to Aquarius, Pisces, and Scorpio, respectively. Many astrologers, including Keiron Le Grice, have linked Eris to the Libra archetype, and I include Eris as one of the transpersonal planets, even though she is more commonly considered a dwarf planet (a story for another time). Regardless of the rulership system or planetary designations you may use, the archetypal association, and the correspondence of both Eris and Venus with Libra, is noteworthy.

Venus might think of equity in the context of attempting to be equal in her treatment around diverse perspectives, as a successful rule-follower does. By contrast, Eris approaches equity from the perspective of assessing whether the underlying assumptions in a relationship or the social order are equal to begin with, rather than assuming the current rules are the correct rules to follow. Whereas Venus often coheres to existing paradigms and is an expert in social rules, working within a given paradigm to create a certain level of harmony, Eris is often shattering those paradigms themselves to create a deeper, more sustained level of harmony.

Wicked: A Tale of Two Sisters

Since *Barbie* and Venus are so present in the cultural imagination right now, let's use another example from the performing arts to understand the distinctions between Venus and Eris and the way they approach relationships. For a simple, memorable way to understand the key differences between Venus and Eris, look no further than the Broadway musical *Wicked*.

Wicked tells the story of two unlikely friends in the Wizard of Oz universe. Elphaba is a smart, misunderstood, and



fiery girl with emerald-green skin who becomes the Wicked Witch of the West. Her friend is Galinda, a pretty, blonde, popular girl who becomes Glinda the Good. The two clash like no other as roommates in college. Glinda, who might be thought of as the "Barbie" or "Venus" of *Wicked*, gives Elphaba a makeover, singing:

> *Popular!*
> *You're gonna be popular!*
> *I'll teach you the proper ploys*
> *When you talk to boys*
> *Little ways to flirt and flounce*
> *Oooh! I'll show you what shoes to wear*
> *How to fix your hair*
> *Everything that really counts to be...*
> *Popular!*[4]

Elphaba, the "Eris" of *Wicked*, understands relationships very differently. After her teacher, Doctor Dillamond, begins to suffer from discrimination as the school's only animal teacher and announces he is leaving the school because he is no longer permitted to teach, Elphaba is the only person who stands up for him. Her anger becomes uncontainable, and chaos ensues as a result. After Elphaba discovers that the Wizard is behind the oppression of the animals, she becomes cast as the Wicked Witch of the West. As she says goodbye to Glinda and leaves the Emerald City to align with her values and do what's right for her, she sings:

BEYOND VENUS

Something has changed within me
Something is not the same
I'm through with playing by the rules
Of someone else's game
Too late for second-guessing
Too late to go back to sleep
It's time to trust my instincts
Close my eyes and leap
It's time to try defying gravity
I think I'll try defying gravity
And you won't bring me down[5]

Eris and Venus have two profoundly different approaches to harmony, and both are needed. Still, all of this suggests Eris is equipped on another level to address issues of equity, without which our relationships can never be truly harmonious. If you're looking to take a broader view of relationships, don't just look at the 7th, 3rd, or 11th Houses and their rulers; the Descendant; or even Venus, who is undeniably important. We live and operate within a set of socially constructed systems, and Eris is one of the few with the insight and gumption to challenge and evolve our systems to enable a real sense of justice, equity, and genuine interconnectedness.

While both planets value fairness and care about arranging the pieces correctly, they behave very differently. Venus thinks: *how can I make my relationships better by embracing diplomacy and convention?* Eris thinks: *which conventions must be disrupted altogether in order to make our relationships better?* Eris reminds us that there is as much truth, beauty, and goodness in chaos as in apparent order. She is a goddess of equity and inclusion and a key instigator of right relationship, beyond what many of us imagine. Evolution isn't always pretty, but it is beautiful, and it's why I'll always offer the things we're not looking at—so we can achieve real harmony.

We live and operate within a set of socially constructed systems, and Eris is one of the few with the insight and gumption to challenge and evolve our systems to enable a real sense of justice, equity, and genuine interconnectedness.

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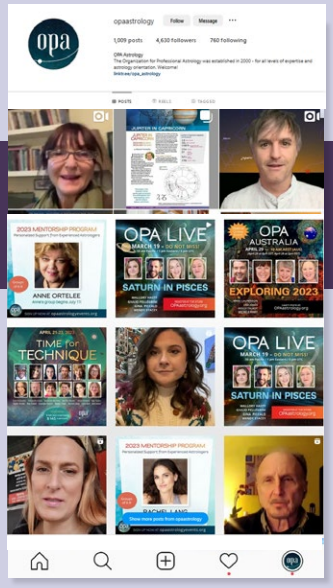
[5] "Defying Gravity," performed by Idina Menzel and Kristin Chenoweth, *Wicked* (original Broadway cast recording, 2003).

Rayner Jae Liu *uses traditional and modern astrology to help people tackle the converging crises of the late modern era. An Integral Coach, he helps people build awakened businesses and organizations that address the crises of the 21st century. Rayner is a recipient of the AFAN Professional Development Award. He is also the creator of Woman Warrior, an experiential course on the crucial role of Eris in 21st-century justice, equity, and systems change amid the metacrisis, available at* ***www.spokengeneration.com.***



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OUTER PLANET CONJUNCTIONS ON THE DESCENDANT

by Taylor Benjamin Burgess

Through the 1980s and 1990s, there were a series of rare outer planets conjunctions in late Sagittarius and Capricorn. Those children who were born during this period when Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune were close are now in their early 30s – a prime time for making serious choices about relationships.

Astrologically and collectively speaking, this is also a time that we all are focused on relationships as the Moon's Nodes move through Aries and Libra. The duality of these two signs speaks about the individual versus the relationship, and so July 2023 to January 2025 will be a time when everyone is thinking about shaking up their relationship, or shacking up if they're single.

However, those born in the mid-1980s to mid-1990s may be asking themselves especially deep questions about relationships. This is naturally because of the stage of life they are in, but also since the Moon's Nodes will be squaring and activating these great outer planet conjunctions.

Throughout my consulting practice, I have had multiple clients with these great conjunctions on their natal Descendant (DSC) and I have noticed a theme. When **one outer planet is conjunct the client's DSC**, it is easy to talk about the client's expectations of relationships and their associated patterns. Often, the client's partner takes on the qualities of that planet via the client's projections.

Although the client constantly seeks qualities represented on the DSC in other people, they are the one who possesses these qualities.

When **more than one outer planet is conjunct the DSC,** it is more difficult to parse out. The partner may not always take on all the correlating qualities of two or more planets. Over the course of discussions with a client, the partner may take on the archetypal role of one planet at some times, and then assume the (seemingly contradictory) role of the other planet at other times.

The DSC is the *second most personal* point of a chart, after the Ascendant (ASC). Although the client constantly seeks qualities represented on the DSC in other people, they are the one who possesses these qualities. It's typical human behavior to project the opposing DSC qualities onto someone else, to search for a compliment to the more effortless expression of identity through the ASC.

The three great conjunctions are listed below, with the average time between conjunctions in their cycle.

- Saturn and Uranus in 1988, in late degrees of Sagittarius (45 years)
- Saturn and Neptune in 1989, in Capricorn (36 years)
- Uranus and Neptune in 1993, in Capricorn (once in 170 years)

Depending on the orb you choose, it is possible to see all three planets influencing the DSC. I have found clients responding to these associations with an 8-degree orb, or even a bit more.

The influential strength of the two (or more) planets will be determined by how close each planet is to the DSC. Other chart factors, like ruler of the Sun, Moon, and ASC signs, can also determine which planet the client most closely identifies with.

Saturn and Uranus

A combination of Saturn and Uranus in the chart leads to an intensely focused study of all matters of the spirit. This is a combination that the Surrealists recognized and celebrated, as the founders Breton, Aragon, and Eluard were all born under this conjunction's influence in the late degrees of Scorpio. In their work, the Surrealists were often striving for the liberation of the mind and spirit from the bourgeois and religious structures in place, and they used occultism and astrology to do so.

In a footnote to the *Second Manifesto of Surrealism*, Breton quoted astrologer Paul Choisnard, saying this conjunction "*would reasonably seem to signify a deep attachment to the sciences, an inquisitive interest in the mysterious, and a profound need to learn.*"[1] Anyone familiar with the Surrealists' work knows their studious and prolific nature, despite what might seem some rather absurd and silly artworks.

The second-to-last conjunction of these two planets was in the last degrees of Taurus in 1942. This combination saw the birth of many celebrated musicians, including Bob Dylan, Paul McCartney, Jimi Hendrix, Aretha Franklin, Cass Elliot, and many more. The heavy hitters behind these movements of psychedelic and political music really blew the minds of their generation. Liz Greene notes that this Saturn-Uranus conjunction was picking up a trine from Neptune, and their use of music was indicative of these three planets, and how incredibly serious it was; "The music-politics combination was more than just fashionable. It changed lifestyles in an irrevocable way."[2]

What can one expect from someone with this combination of planets on the DSC, which represents our relationship with a partner?

In *The Outer Planets & Their Cycles*, a 1980 seminar, Liz Greene discussed this combination on the DSC.[3] She said, "*I don't know whether you're liable to project Saturn on your partner, and blame him for restricting you, or whether you're likely to project Uranus, and blame him for being uncommitted. But you've got a nice dilemma between the need for secure, traditional structures and the need for exciting new encounters.*"

The trends of the generation with Saturn-Uranus in Sagittarius are not as obvious (yet). However, the singer Adele is an example of someone with this conjunction who has managed to capture the hearts of the general public. Her Saturn and Uranus are only a handful of degrees away from her DSC, which is interesting because nearly all of her songs are about intimate relationships. She keeps the details of her relationships largely private, resulting in tabloid speculation. We may never know how

much of her songs consist of reality and how much is artful creation.

However, we do know that she revisits themes of wanting to express intense love (articulating the ineffable), needing security, and breaking away when relationships end suddenly. This may sound like the stuff of typical pop music, but Adele has a fiercely loyal fanbase and receives consistent praise for ingenuity and authenticity. These are truly the qualities of the Saturn-Uranus person. When that conjunction is on the DSC, it is apparent how much relationships mean to this individual's identity. What's more, those relationships might help to liberate others' spirits.

Saturn and Neptune

The combination of Saturn and Neptune directs a person to desire structure in their intense acute sensibilities. While Neptune is highly aware of subtle differences, Saturn looks for form. This combination leads to someone capable of sorting through artistic palates, or perhaps fine wine and food. If this combination is strong in a chart, it may reflect traits of seriousness and aloofness, with a tendency to dissociate from demanding situations.

A client with Saturn on the DSC is likely to be an authority figure or constantly looking for that archetype in a partner, someone who is dutiful, responsible, and in charge. In *Aspects in Astrology*, Sue Tompkins says that the Saturn DSC person will "*often look to other people to live out these qualities, although they will usually be very responsible about relationship matters and, in their way, also very much in control.*"[4] The client may appear to be giving power to the partner but remains the one truly running the relationship.

Neptune on the DSC is usually a strong indication that the client is prone to taking care of their partner. When the Moon conjoins the DSC, it represents caretaking (or being taken care of) in a pseudo-parent-and-child relationship. Neptune on the DSC is more likely to show a relationship where one partner has a caretaking role for the other because of addictions or delusions. One partner finds reality too much to bear, and Tompkins says that "being saved" is a key feature of the relationship.[5]

One client of mine knows this type of struggle all too well. With Saturn and Neptune about 20 minutes apart, and seven degrees away from DSC, she says that she ends up in caretaking roles in most areas of her life; her job, her personal life, and her family. She's also able to recognize her relationship with authority; "*I am attracted to authority figures, as I'm attracted to someone who is capable. However, I also am capable in those positions of authority.*"

My Saturn-Neptune client would find her partner overextending his authority in areas of their lives where she actually had experience, leading her to second guess herself.

She was in a serious relationship in her twenties with a teacher, an authority on academic issues. My Saturn-Neptune client would find her partner overextending his authority in areas of their lives where she actually had experience, leading her to second guess herself. "*He assumed he knew more about things than I did, and then when I would assume my authority, that's when the clash would happen.*" Fortunately, she was able to recognize this pattern and act to protect herself by removing herself from the relationship.

When it comes to this combination, it may be helpful to remind the Saturn-Neptune client of their capabilities and authority. Likewise, we can remind them to stay grounded and to have some sort of artistic or sensory outlet for their finer sensibilities.



Uranus and Neptune

When a client has Uranus and Neptune on the DSC, there may be relationship patterns where the partner exhibits tendencies of freedom-seeking, constant change, and escape from the drudgery of everyday life (with possible use of drugs or alcohol). Initially, the client might be willing to go along for the ride, aroused by the excitement. However, when the crash-and-burn comes from endlessly being on the go, or when delusions finally come face-to-face with reality, the client may question why they fell for this same song-and-dance again.

As with all planets on the DSC, the Uranus-Neptune characteristics were in the client the entire time, and they were looking for a partner who would enable these qualities. The fallout of caretaking for a Neptunian person might result in the client responding with their own delusions or escapism. Spending time with a Uranian person's multiple changes, lives, and personas may prompt the client to make radical changes, such as suddenly leaving the partnership or other drastic moves.

This rare conjunction has birthed idealists like Karl Marx (1818) and Charles Baudelaire (1821), so someone with the Uranus-Neptune conjunction on their DSC may be gifted with unique insights about the collective spirit of relationships.

OUTER PLANET ONJUNCTIONS

Creative and innovative ideas will likely emerge from people born around the 1993 conjunction.

Charli XCX is a pop star born in 1992 with this conjunction about 10 degrees away from the DSC. She often sings about love that's found, sustained, and lost, while partying in a live-fast-die-young sort of mindset. This mindset is expressed most dramatically in her song "Crash," where she alternates between delusions of grandeur and feelings of mutual destruction.

The Aries/Libra Nodal Transit

Astrologers will want to take note that the Moon's Nodes are transiting Aries and Libra from July 2023 to January 2025 and will activate the rare conjunctions covered above. First, the Nodes will square the 1993 Uranus-Neptune and 1989 Saturn-Neptune conjunctions in Capricorn. As the Nodes move into Pisces and Virgo in 2025, they will square the 1988 Saturn-Uranus conjunction in Sagittarius.

If your client has these outer-planet conjunctions on their ASC or DSC, the Nodes will square this important personal axis which represents their personality and their relationship with the other. In short, this may be when your client feels at odds with other people, as though every little thing they say and do is questioned. With placements on the DSC, the client may feel especially challenged in relationships. Fissures of this sort may force them to take actions that are sudden but feel natural and align with their values.

Conclusion

The astrologer's role is often to calmly remind a client that all transits serve a greater purpose, and challenges from the Nodes are ultimately to help them along their karmic life path.

If the client has any planets on the DSC, you can remind them that these qualities have been in them the whole time, although they may have chosen to project onto others. You can encourage them to seek out better outlets for these qualities (aided by looking at which houses the DSC planets rule over).

When one planet is on the DSC, the client may be prone to simply projecting those qualities onto their partner. When there are more planets on the DSC, it may be more confusing for clients. You will want to carefully discuss situations with the client to find out which roles might be assumed or projected.

> The Moon's Nodes transiting Aries/Libra may be when your client feels at odds with other people, as though every little thing they say and do is questioned. With placements on the DSC, the client may feel especially challenged in relationships.

Those born in the late 1980s and early 1990s will have to wrestle with these sometimes-contradictory ideas and feelings brought on by the conjunctions of these three planets discussed above. If any combination of Saturn, Uranus, or Neptune is on the DSC, clients may see some resistance to their rigid values, rebellious arguments, or lofty ideals (respectively). Although the conjunction may be playing out in a certain relationship, the placement is part of the individual's natal chart and life path.

Notes

André Breton. *Manifestoes of Surrealism* (Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1972), 182.
Liz Greene. *The Outer Planets & Their Cycles: The Astrology of the Collective* (Sebastopol, California: CRCS Publications, 1996), 45.
Liz Greene. *The Outer Planets & Their Cycles: The Astrology of the Collective* (Sebastopol, California: CRCS Publications, 1996), 153.
Sue Tompkins. *Aspects in Astrology: A Guide to Understanding Planetary Relationships in the Horoscope* (Rochester, Vermont: Destiny Books, 2002), 278.
Sue Tompkins. *Aspects in Astrology: A Guide to Understanding Planetary Relationships in the Horoscope* (Rochester, Vermont: Destiny Books, 2002), 284

***Taylor Benjamin Burges**s has studied the occult for over a dozen years, but he has been intensely studying astrology for the last seven. He also has keen interests in philosophy, psychogeography, and (especially) music. He has previously worked as an arts & culture writer and editor, and he continues to make music and to DJ. He has been taking his weirdly encyclopedic knowledge of album release dates and applying it to planetary conjunctions and ingresses. He has been a part of the Astrology Toronto community for the past few years and serves on its board. He can be contacted or booked at **www.taylorbenjaminburgess.com**.*

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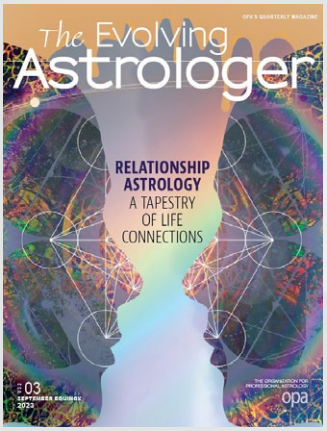



Mary Gaterud

*Mary resides in the wilderness of Northern California, on the banks of the Eel River—the ancestral territory of the Sinkyone. She holds a BA from New College of USF in Psychology and French Literature, and an MA in Counseling Psychology grounded in Existential/Phenomenological philosophy through Seattle University. She has been the grateful recipient of scholarships for continued astrological studies through OPA and ISAR. Mary currently serves the astrological community as a staff member for Kepler College, a member of Kepler Astrologers Toastmasters, and as the Ad Coordinator for OPA's The Evolving Astrologer. Homesteading and cultivating cannabis for many years, Mary incorporates Permaculture principles, plant spirit medicine, and an animistic world view into her astrological practice. She expresses this unique perspective in her art—"whimsical Luciferian surrealism"—and DJ sets. Experience her quintessential musings on Instagram @_purazuma_, and her website, **www.purazuma.com.***



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THE MYSTERIOUS SYNASTRY OF BEN AFFLECK AND JENNIFER LOPEZ



by Dorje Kirsten

There are a few basic inquiries that comprise an astrologer's bread and butter. One of the top three questions must be *"Is this a good relationship?"* Honestly, my eyebrows furrow when I hear this question.

Don't get me wrong. I am always inquisitive to find the answer and excited to evaluate the charts. The furrow forms because the client usually has an agenda and wants a "*Yes*." Unfortunately, the answer may not be what the client wants to hear.

As an astrologer who reads synastry charts, I have a mental list of what makes a good relationship. Identifying good synastry is the easy part. The astrologer's challenge is how to guide the client.

For a relationship to last, I want to see a Sun/Moon conjunction, sextile, or trine. This ensures lasting harmony and friendship between the natives. When harmonious luminaries aren't present, look for a hot Venus/Mars conjunction, sextile, or trine: aspects indicating great sex and even better makeup sex. *What better glue for a long-term relationship than the pleasure of good sex?*

When there are good contacts between the luminaries and between Venus and Mars, I am confident as a Matchmaker. These two people can form a family, stay together long-term, survive, and thrive through the misfortune that life throws at all relationships.

For a relationship to last, I want to see a Sun/Moon conjunction, sextile, or trine. This ensures lasting harmony and friendship between the natives.

Alas, it is rare to see such a chart combo. When clients come to an astrologer asking if a relationship will work, they are in the pheromonal throws of eros. The client or clients, unless of a strong stoic nature, will not want to hear how the relationship will fail.

Eros typically melts away after one and a half to three years. If the relationship is to last longer than that, it will show up in the synastry chart. The astrologer's role is to offer guidance that helps the client see the strengths, the challenges, and the strategies that will help them overcome relationship difficulties.

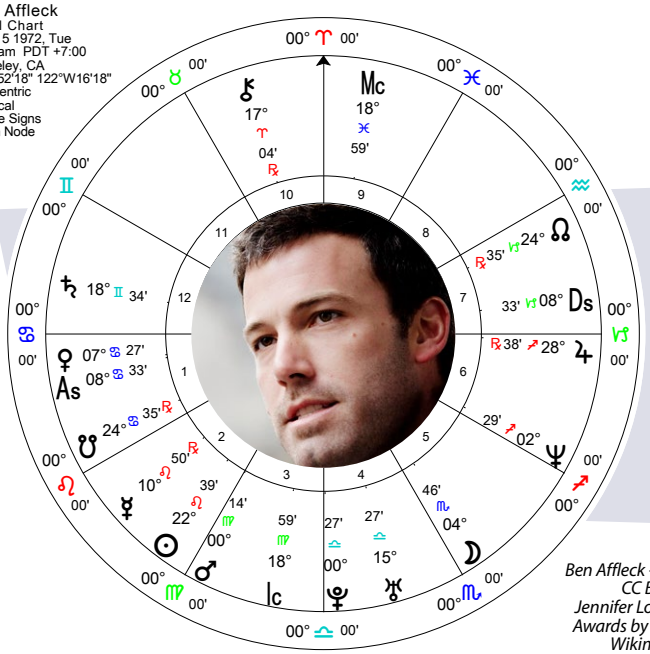
Ben & Jen

Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez provide an excellent example of complex relationship astrology. The famous lovers have been together off and on for almost two decades. They almost married, then broke up, had children with other partners, and reunited 20 years later in marriage. Ben and Jennifer lack typically positive synastry aspects, yet they endure.

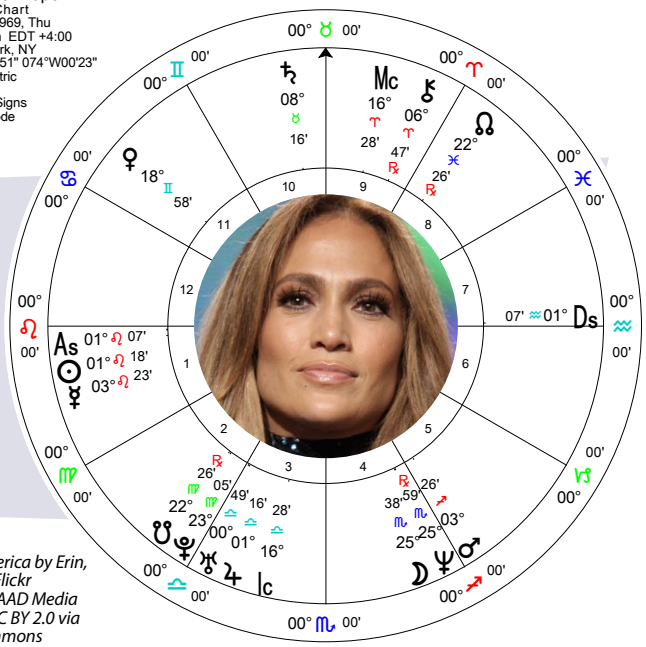
Ben Affleck was born on Aug 15, 1972, at 2:53 am in Berkeley, California.

His lifelong soulmate, his twin flame, the immaculate Jennifer Lopez, was born July 24, 1969, in New York City. The recorded time is 5:49 am, but her chart is not rated. Unrated charts can be used in synastry, with a focus on how planets and signs interact between the two natal charts.

Ben Affleck
Natal Chart
Aug 15 1972, Tue
2:53 am PDT +7:00
Berkeley, CA
37°N52'18" 122°W16'18"
Geocentric
Tropical
Whole Signs
Mean Node



Jennifer Lopez
Natal Chart
Jul 24 1969, Thu
5:49 am EDT +4:00
New York, NY
40°N42'51" 074°W00'23"
Geocentric
Tropical
Whole Signs
True Node



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Jennifer Lopez at GLAAD Media Awards by dvsross, CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

On a bi-wheel chart, place the confirmed natal chart on the inner wheel and the unrated chart on the outer wheel. The dynamic energy of the planets is more important to show how two people will interact than the Ascendant, marking the individual personality or horoscope.

Imagine that Ben and Jen strolled into your Zoom meeting for a synastry reading 20 years ago with passionate love declarations.

Congratulations!

All astrologers should be so lucky to have elite ultra-wealthy clients.

Now, how to guide them?

In hindsight, you know there are challenges without even looking at the charts, but there is also glue. *Could you help them navigate those challenges based on their synastry?*

Chart Analysis

What are the aspects between the Sun and Moon?

When an individual's Sun aspects another's Moon by conjunction, trine, or sextile, it indicates potential for a lifelong friendship. Harmony between the Sun and Moon shows people harmonizing and synthesizing each other's worldviews.

Ben's Sun squares Jennifer's Moon.

Ben's Moon squares Jennifer's Sun.

> The Sun person will push the emotional boundaries of the Moon person. This causes both to alter who they are, for better or worse, to accommodate what they see as the other person's needs.

Squares between one person's Sun and another's Moon reflect stress between the individual's way of being and their emotional nature. The Sun person will push the emotional boundaries of the Moon person. This causes both to alter who they are, for better or worse, to accommodate what they see as the other person's needs.

(Further analysis on the luminaries will be forthcoming, because there is a harmony here, and you may have already spotted it.)

What are the aspects between Mars and Venus?

The aspects between Venus and Mars will show if there is a sensual passion that can glue the couple together. The aspect we have in this chart is an inconjunct between JLo's **Mars in Sagittarius** and Ben's **Venus in Cancer**. JLo's Mars needs to explore freely and passionately, and Ben's Venus needs sensual comfort and nurturing.

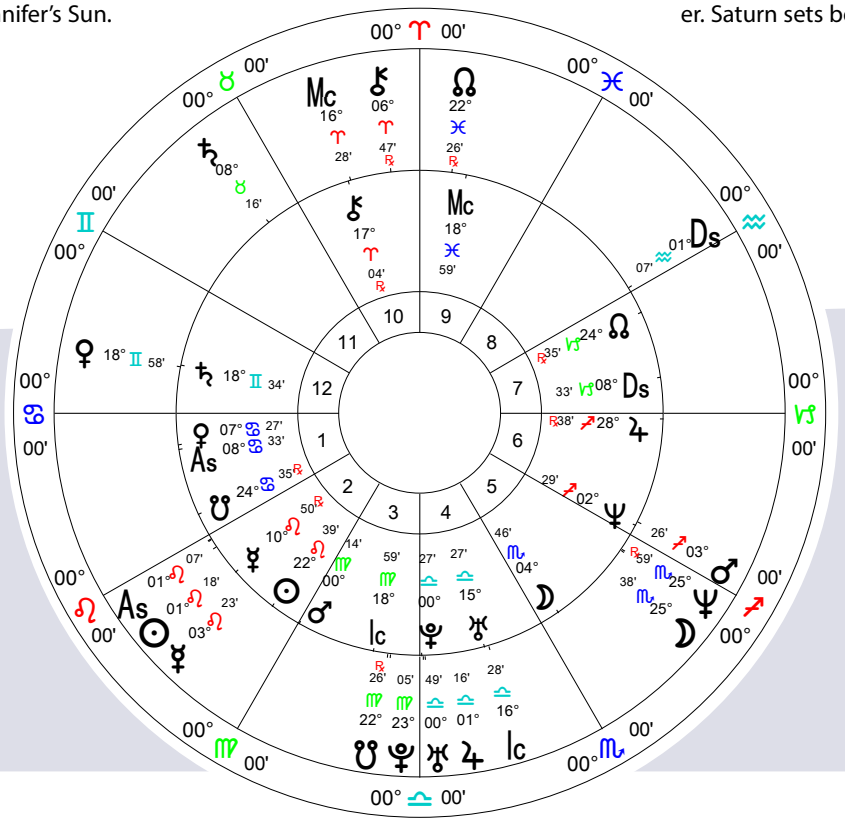
Ben's **Virgo Mars** seeks physical perfection. I guess he found that, but JLo's **Gemini Venus** wants to be intellectually stimulated and playful. The Virgo Mars can certainly be intellectual as it too is ruled by Gemini, but Virgo is not known for being playful.

Jennifer Lopez has adventure-seeking humorous planets driving her passions and Ben Affleck has conservative comfort-seeking planets driving his passions. Their sensual compatibility is lacking, and it will not be the glue of this relationship.

Saturn as Karma

The way I look at synastry charts was informed early on by the works of Stephen Arroyo, whom I admire immensely for his psychological insights. In his works, Saturn is an expression of karma and attachment in a relationship.[1] With dual Saturn connections, this superstar couple has serious shared karma. JLo's **Saturn in Taurus** opposes Ben's **Moon in Scorpio**. In **Gemini**, his **Saturn** is conjunct her **Venus.**

One of Saturn's gifts is being a container. Saturn sets boundaries by which people



Inner Wheel
Ben Affleck
Natal Chart
Aug 15 1972, Tue
2:53 am PDT +7:00
Berkeley, CA
37°N52'18" 122°W16'18"
Geocentric
Tropical
Whole Signs
Mean Node

Outer Wheel
Jennifer Lopez
Natal Chart
Jul 24 1969, Thu
5:49 am EDT +4:00
New York, NY
40°N42'51" 074°W00'23"
Geocentric
Tropical
Whole Signs
True Node

AFFLECK AND LOPEZ

must live. Ben's Saturn creates boundaries for Jennifer's exploratory Venus. One perspective is that Ben can have a beneficial influence on JLo's experience by helping to contain her experience of the world. A quality of a relationship that can help it last is if we feel "held" by the other person. This means that we feel protected by their presence. A harmonious Saturn contact with a personal planet can do this, with the result ideally being an enduring bond.

On the downside, a Saturn-Venus conjunction can be expressed as one partner controlling a person's sensual expression. Even with other aspects being favorable, it is the nature of a Saturn aspect that the native receiving Saturn will at times feel as if their personal experience is being limited, no matter how good the relationship is. Any negative effects from this can be worked through with open communication, mutual understanding, or personal maturity.

Ben's Moon rules his 1st House, so JLo's Saturn is opposite his 1st House ruler. If the relationship becomes too stressful and he no longer feels supported, he will feel controlled and limited in his expression by Jennifer. If things go well, this will manifest as her support in setting boundaries with his own self-destructive emotional tendencies that the Scorpio Moon in the 5th House can express.

On closer examination, the Saturn-Venus conjunction in the bi-wheel is strengthened because Mr. Affleck's **Saturn** is also on the bends of Mrs. Lopez's **Lunar Nodes**. This partnership strikes a note on the instrument of her soul journey to find balanced relationship values. Her **Nodes** sit on his **Midheaven** axis propel his sense of purpose in the world. When we engage in the practice of synastry astrology, the Nodes stand out as indicating relationships that are deeply fated.

Ben Affleck has a notoriously difficult time with the attention of the paparazzi press and their unwanted and unneeded eyes and cameras intruding on his private life. With his Saturn in the 12th sitting on her Venus, Ben has publicly confronted, expressed discomfort, and scowled at the media to protect his beloved.

After all, Ben is a **Cancer Rising** and deeply protective of what he loves. Yet she shines in the spotlight and her legendary beauty is one of her great strengths. One reason their first engagement was called off due to excessive media attention.

What to advise this couple, then? Every astrologer will approach that differently. I approach it as looking at how these two people experience fulfillment as souls together, considering the "karma" and challenges the combo chart pose.

What is it that keeps them coming back to one another? The first time around, Jennifer left her then-husband to be with Ben. This was back in 2002. They worked on a film together called Gigli, and the North Node crossed over their Saturn-Venus conjunction in Gemini during filming. She dropped her second husband like a mangy dog, and soon after, Ben and JLo were kissing in a Bentley for the world to see.

They worked on a film together called Gigli, and the North Node crossed over their Saturn-Venus conjunction in Gemini during filming. She dropped her second husband like a mangy dog, and soon after, Ben and JLo were kissing in a Bentley for the world to see.

This nodal transit illustrates that the synastry chart can light the fuse for couples (vs. a composite or Davidson chart.) Significant relationships are accompanied by life-changing transits for both people involved in the synastry chart.

The couple was engaged by November 2002 as eros burned fast and furious. Despite a flurry of commitment chatter between the two, things cooled as the transiting Nodes passed over her Saturn and his Moon on the Taurus/Scorpio axis. The couple hurt each other badly, as a hard aspect between Saturn and the Moon might predict.

Ben was accused of having affairs and going to strip clubs while they were engaged. Ben and Jennifer both have **Chiron in Aries,** so they could both be wounded by unchecked passions. His Gemini Saturn with wandering ways is conjunct her Venus. It must have harmed her Venusian self-image during this time. The public pressure and his wandering eye symbolized by a 5th House Scorpio Moon proved too much, and the wedding was canceled by Spring 2004.

Jennifer's **Chiron** is square Ben's **Ascendant**. When she called off the wedding and publicly denounced his immaturity, that must have stung, creating a deep wound for him. Her Saturn opposes his Moon, and Saturn teaches boundaries. Meanwhile, his Saturn sits on her Venus and she has since said that she was deeply emotionally hurt by the wedding with the "Love of her life" being called off.[2]

One might think the story ends here. Yes, they separated, married other partners, and had children. C'est la vie. It seemed the synastry could not hold past eros.

Not so fast, my dear reader, for the charts had karmic glue even if the eros had burned out.

These two are both eros-driven and emotional people. Both have the **Sun in Leo** and the **Moon in Scorpio.** Ben is a night sect chart, so the Moon takes the throne as the main luminary and drives him with a scorpionic passion that does not want to be controlled. Ben's Scorpio Moon is trine Venus in his Cancer 1st House. Beauty and sex are his emotional comfort zones, and although Scorpio is fixed, the Moon wanders. It could be described as fixed lust with a wandering eye.

Jennifer's Scorpio Moon is conjunct with **Neptune,** indicating high sensitivity and a vulnerability to romantic illusion, disillusion, and deception. With Ben's Sun square her Moon and Neptune in Scorpio, she surely must captivate his imagination.

In examining the synastry, we see that because these two souls have a similar makeup with matching Sun and Moon signs, in their brief bout with eros, they discovered a kindred spirit in each other. They understand one another.

Both have **Mercury** and the **Sun in Leo**, so they communicate in a way that the other understands, and this brings us to the understanding that tight orbs are not necessary when judging harmony when planets are in the same sign in a synastry chart. With Mercury, the Sun, and the Moon placed in the same signs, these two have the essential component for an enduring friendship that one wants to see in a synastry chart.

Each person's Sun exists in a square to the other's Moon. They must irritate each

other at times, but they do so in a familiar way since both have this square natally.

When Ben and Jennifer reunited as a couple in 2021, they announced that they remained friends all along, despite the dramatic breakup and separate marriages. Now in their 50s, eros is no longer the prime driver. Instead, each seeks a partner who understands them at a deep intimate level, beyond million-dollar wedding rings and star-filled passionate romps.

The reunion occurs as both experience their Chiron return, healing the past relationship wounds they afflicted on themselves and each other. Each has Saturn opposing the natal Sun and square the natal Moon. Saturn's hard aspects to the luminaries can result in a confrontation with mortality and increased maturity. It seems Ben and Jennifer have each tempered their passion in search of greater comfort, with the desire to commit to someone they know and can count on as a friend.

The reunion occurs as both experience their Chiron return, healing the past relationship wounds they afflicted on themselves and each other.

Older and wiser, Jennifer Lopez reportedly seeks a pre-nuptial agreement in case they do not remain together. Her asset-conscious Saturn still seeks individual stability.

Are they meant to be married? There are rumors they may divorce again, but if we examine the chart, we can understand they are meant to be friends and will be for life.

Here then, is the beauty of the synastry chart. Aspects between individuals and the transits to those aspects can explain how relationships come together and fall apart–and sometimes, come back together again. Synastry can also be used to examine what two souls are teaching each other and learning from one another in the relationship process.

As a compassionate and reasonable astrologer, my advice to a couple like Ben and Jennifer, in the throes of early youth, would be as follows:

Try to be a good friend to each other. Forgive one another's passions. Only commit once you are confident you can contain your excess and have the dedication it takes to learn, live, and love one another freely, that is the alchemy of this relationship.

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THE ASTROLOGY OF FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS



by Tarah Stevenson

Relationships are an important aspect of our lives, and the quality of those relationships can deeply influence our sense of well-being and happiness. Relationships with our family of origin differ from relationships with partners or friends and merit special attention as we reflect on our relationship patterns. As noted in a recent article surveying the genesis of trauma, "*many forms of psychological trauma are known to develop interpersonally within important relationships, particularly familial*".[1] Understanding the charts of people within your family of origin can offer tools that help you understand your children or other family members on a deeper level, helping you to become a better parent, or support system for siblings, parents, or other relatives.

The Dictionary of Family Psychology and Family Therapy defines family as *"[a] basic unit of society characterized as one whose members are economically and emotionally dependent on one another and are responsible for each other's development, stability, and protection. The family serves as the basic unit of socialization to teach cultural values and adaptation to society."*[2]

This definition places a lot of pressure on the need or desire to have the ideal family while emphasizing the importance of what happens when those responsibilities are not met. Statistically, those raised in a stable and loving environment are less likely to be negatively influenced by poor mental and physical health in their adult life because "*for better or for worse, early childcare experiences can have a pervasive and persistent influence on a child's development and relationships throughout the lifespan.*"[3] And yet, our history is not our fate. As astrologer Brian Clark observed, we cannot wholly blame our parents or our planets for where we are in our lives; we participate in our destiny and have a personal responsibility to engage with our fate using whatever resources we receive from our family of origin.[4]

We inherit more than DNA from our parents; exploring birth charts, you can see that the ancestry and heritage of our family tree, temperament, interests, and values are woven between us and among us; astrological patterns that appear in our parents or extended family's charts can appear in our chart. Moreover, the circumstances surrounding our birth often reflect our parents' lived experiences, forever imprinted within us, exemplifying the adage that the fathers' sins are visited upon the children.[5]

Astrology attributes certain planets, houses, and aspects to represent our parents, family, childhood, and ancestry. Having studied numerous charts and observed my astrological family dynamics, I have learned that not only do our parents often show up loudly in our charts, but we often share astrological placements or connections. For example, a line of fire runs through the charts of the women in my family; my Leo Sun grandmother had my Sagittarius Sun mother, who gave birth to me, her Leo Sun, Sagittarius Moon daughter. And I, in turn, gave birth to a daughter with a Leo Moon.

This article explores the astrological significators for family members in a chart. It also describes how our notions

Exploring birth charts, you can see that the ancestry and heritage of our family tree, temperament, interests, and values are woven between us and among us.





of abandonment, belonging, and emotional attachment that we learned from our families might be expressed astrologically through aspects between the Moon and Pluto.[6]

Astrological Significators in the Chart

It has long been agreed that the Moon represents the mother or other nurturing figures in our lives.[7] The Moon represents our subconscious and soul, inner emotions, and how we experience our feelings. It shows us where we seek refuge to feel safe and nurtured in our environment.[8] The relationship between mother and child is complicated, and there are many ideas in the collective regarding the role a mother should play in their child's life.

For example, we expect mothers to provide nourishment, show unconditional love, and care for children in a nurturing and instinctive way. But life is not always that simple, which is why our early years are considered formative and why it is so important in giving us a sense of safety and security that we rely upon our parents to provide.

The father's role can be represented by either the Sun or Saturn, depending on what sources you read. I recently saw an interesting Tweet that said the Sun represents the father in a "Day Chart" and Saturn represents the father in a "Night Chart."[9] In traditional astrology, a Day Chart is when a person's Sun is found above the horizon in houses 7-12. A Night Chart is when a person's Sun is found below the horizon in houses 1-6. Perhaps this sentiment comes from the fact that Saturn is the "malefic out of sect" for those with a Night Chart.[10]

However, both significations ring true. The Sun relates to our identity, our goals, and our spirit. Due to its ancient association with masculinity, it has been linked to important masculine figures in our lives, the father being one of them. The Sun is powerful, authoritative, and creative and can represent someone whom we desire to emulate.[11]

Saturn is known as a cold, dry planet and, as such, is authoritative and concerned with responsibility and discipline. Historically, the father's role was instilling structure and hard work, representing the *"head"* of the family. In a broader sense, Saturn can represent any authoritarian in our life, such as a teacher or leader of our faith. In Roman mythology, Saturn castrated his father, Uranus, to free his mother and siblings from the hate and power Uranus wielded over them. Ironically, Saturn then ate his baby sons as soon as they were born so that he could remain in power. How we experience power dynamics, high standards, and our perception of status is often derived from the key authority figures in our lives.

Prominent houses related to family are the 3rd House of siblings, the 5th House of children, and the 9th House of grandparents. Sometimes, the Ascendant can signify the condition of the actual birth.

The 4th and 10th Houses

The 4th House is the house concerned with our family, home, roots, and ancestry, and in the Whole-Sign House System, it is often, but not always, the place where the Imum Coeli ("IC") is found, which is the lowest part of the natal chart. This is why the 4th House can also be about our inner consciousness and the deepest part of who we are, tracing back through our ancestral lineage. The 10th House is linked to our career, social status, public recognition, and achievements. In many charts, this is where the Medium Coeli ("MC") lies, the highest point in our chart, that relates to our reputation, soul purpose, and life path direction.[12]

Importantly, the 4th and 10th Houses are delineated as the parental axis. However, there is some debate about which house represents the maternal figure and which signifies the paternal figure in our lives. In Modern and Vedic Astrology, the 4th House is ruled by Cancer and the Moon and linked to nurturing, thus connecting the 4th House to maternal figures. Some astrologers suggest the 4th House represents the parent with whom we have the closest relationship. In Modern Astrology, the 10th House is ruled by Capricorn and Saturn, reinforcing the idea that the 10th House is linked to our social standing and reflects the paternal figure in our lives.

In Traditional Astrology, the 4th House represents the father because it is hidden below the horizon, and the father is the less obvious parent, in the sense that we can always determine the mother of a child. Still, it is not always clear who the father is. In contrast, the 10th House is prominent, high in the sky, and obvious to the world, much like traditionally, the mother would be the more obvious parent, often seen with their children in public. In the past, the mother would spend more time at home, especially during early childhood, and would be the parent most likely to set and enforce rules and boundaries.

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In the world we live in now, we have single parents, co-parenting, stepparents, and same-sex parenting, so it is important not to become too rigid about assigning one house to a particular parent. It is also useful to look at the condition of the house rulers to gain further insight. For example, the cusp of my 4th House is ruled by Scorpio, and its planetary ruler, Mars, is in fall in the 12th House. In my case, the Traditional Astrology idea of the 4th House relating to my father fits; my father was absent for much of my life, representing the 12th House Mars ruling my 4th House. Pluto is also conjunct the 3rd house IC, which represents the power and control my father exerted when he was present, which I witnessed from a young age.

As for my mother, the cusp of my 10th House is Taurus. Its planetary ruler, Venus, is in fall in Virgo, my 2nd House. When a planet is "in fall," it is in a sign of "depres-

FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS

sion," which comes from the Greek meaning to lower or depress something.[13] Planets in fall tend to struggle in those signs because the archetypes of the planet and sign are not harmonious. Venus in fall in the 2nd House is represented by my mother's role as the sole caregiver; she provided me with all the necessary resources and sense of security and safety that I needed as a child, but at great cost to herself, fitting with the sometimes sacrificial and service-oriented nature of Virgo. Interestingly, my mother has a Virgo Moon.

Moon-Pluto

The Moon-Pluto aspect is quite a powerful connection in a natal chart.[14] Of all the planets in our chart, the luminaries represent our soul (Moon) and our spirit (Sun), the essence of our being and the core part of who we are, as well as our parents. The Moon is nurturing and emotive, yet raw and visceral. It is the most vulnerable part of us, governing the infinite ways we can process our emotional responses to our experiences in the world and our connections with others. The Moon asks, "*Do I feel safe?*" "*Am I loved?*" "*Where do I belong?*" It represents fertility, femininity, our subconscious, and our mother or primary caregiver.

Pluto represents the deepest and darkest periods of change and growth in our lives, which can often be accompanied by painful experiences of letting go of who we used to be. This may be through losing a loved one, a divorce, or an internal breakdown of our sense of self. With each rebirth, there is an essence of the phoenix rising from the ashes, and our will is stronger than ever. However, Pluto has a dark side, as it can also speak to our compulsions, obsessions, power dynamics, and control issues.

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When the Moon forms an aspect with Pluto in the natal chart, it does not necessarily point to an abusive or controlling mother. Many people have this placement and have a loving and healthy relationship with their mother. However, sometimes a Moon-Pluto aspect can indicate a wound in the relationship between mother and child, whether physically, for example, through adoption, or emotionally and mentally, due to the mother's struggle with her Plutonic wounds.[15] The most significant aspects between the Moon and Pluto are the conjunction, the opposition, and the square, using an 8-degree orb.

My mother was informally adopted by her aunt at the age of 3 when she was suffering signs of neglect. My grandmother was mentally ill and unable to care for her properly. My mother was taken into her aunt's home of ten children, making her the 11th mouth to feed. At age 10, she went back to live with her mother until she was about 16 years old, but this period of her life was a time of frequent moving and constant uncertainty. Knowing the meaning of a Moon-Pluto aspect in a chart, I wondered if it would be in my mother's chart. Sure enough, when I read her chart for the first time, I saw that her natal Moon in Virgo is conjunct Pluto.

Pluto has the power to darken or transform whatever it touches. It can be seen as a poison or a transformational medicine stealthily weaving through you with an invading intensity. When it makes an aspect to the Moon, our most sacred place of inner peace, our refuge, and our security blanket, it can have a big impact on the life of the native. On one end of the spectrum, it can indicate an intense and powerful mother who has a transformative effect on the life of the native.

Conversely, Moon-Pluto aspects can reflect a deep disharmony in the maternal bonds created with the child. There can be a sense of never really knowing who our mother or primary caregiver was and an ever-present uneasiness of never feeling safe or loved enough. There might be the theme of abandonment and belonging with this aspect, leading people with this placement to feel anchorless and unprotected, which can cause great anguish. Quite often, there is a subconscious expectation that not only have we been chosen to carry the unhealed trauma of our ancestral lineage, but we are also expected to break the generational curse somehow.[16]

While deeply diving into my mother's chart, I began to think about how adoption can be observed in the natal chart. Two of my closest friends are adopted, so I studied their charts and my mother's to look for patterns or connections. Understandably, few adopted people have access to their birth records, with some unsure where they were born. However, it is still possible to work with a chart without a birth time, and I observed some interesting points with one of the three charts having an accurate birth time.

All three had a Moon-Pluto aspect, and when I chose three celebrities who had also been adopted (Simone Biles, Marilyn Monroe, and Jamie Foxx), they had a Moon-Pluto aspect too, apart from Marilyn Monroe (86%). While this is only a dataset of six, much astrological research supports the idea that the Moon-Pluto placement may point to a complex relationship between mother and child. For those who have this placement, even where the relationship with the mother is positive, it is vital to take the time to explore the dynamics of that relationship to understand the depth and nature of the mother's influence and how Moon-Pluto dynamics may play themselves out in everyday life.

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Sue Thompkins describes the Moon-Pluto placement in her book, Aspects in Astrology, as including a range of possibilities, including buried feelings, an intense emotional life, transformation of feelings, domestic crisis, emotional blackmail, and a powerful mother.[17] It is an excellent summary of the intricate dance of the Moon and Pluto. It provides a foundation for understanding how critical the outer planets can be in coloring the relationships we experience.

Summary

Birth charts carry our ancestral heritage much like we inherit DNA signatures through our family. Looking at astrology through the lens of family dynamics is helpful as it allows you to explore your family tree by looking for patterns and themes that connect you to something greater than yourself. In her book, *The Astrology of Family Dynamics*, Erin Sullivan states that humans are linked to each other like a constellation of people locked into their orbits around a central focus – the family.[18]

The current Gen Z generation generally fits into the Pluto in Sagittarius generation and would mainly be raised by Pluto in Libra parents. This observation lends itself to the idea that, as individuals, we can pass our genes, ancestral stories, and astrological DNA down to other individuals within our own family. But crucially, we are also collectively contributing to the next generation, which makes me think of the John Donne quote, "*No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.*"[19]

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7 The Moon may not necessarily represent the mother and can generally be applied to the role of a prominent caregiver, which could be a relative or surrogate. Taylor, Carole. (2018) "*Article 2.3 - The Personal Planets: The Luminaries*', Faculty of Astrological Studies - FOUNDATION COURSE Module 1: Planets, Signs & Houses."

8 Taylor, Carole. (2018) "*Astrology – Using the Wisdom of the Stars in your Everyday life.*" London: Dorling Kindersley Limited, 64-66

9 The tweet was from an astrologer, Blaze, whose Twitter handle is @AstrobyMax. His source was attributed to Al-Qabisi's Introduction to Astrology, Chapter 2, Paragraph 2, translated by Keiji Yamamoto, Charles Burnett, and Michio Yano. The original line reads, "*Saturn is a malefic, masculine, diurnal. It indicates fathers when the native is born at night".*

10 In Traditional Astrology, malefic is the term used to describe Mars and Saturn, which are considered to have an unfavorable influence on the life of the native. Conversely, a benefic is the term used to describe Venus and Jupiter, which are deemed to have favorable influence. In Day Charts, the malefic of sect is Saturn, and the benefic of sect is Jupiter. In Night Charts, the malefic of sect is Mars, and the benefic of sect is Venus. It is thought that depending on what sect your chart is, you are likely to have a more positive experience with those planets, and therefore, if you have a Night Chart, Saturn is your malefic *out* of sect, which may feel trickier.

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12 Brennan, Chris. (2017) *Hellenistic astrology: The Study of Fate and fortune*, Denver (Colorado): Amor Fati Publications, 356-361.

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14 Pluto is not usually considered in Traditional Astrology, as only the seven planets up to Saturn are considered pivotal in delineating the chart. Saturn is the last visible planet in the sky to the naked eye. It marks a clear boundary between the luminaries (Sun and Moon), personal (Mercury, Venus, Mars), and social (Jupiter and Saturn) planets, and the generational outer planets (Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto). However, Modern Astrology includes all the planets when delineating a chart and generally places greater importance on them. For example, Pluto is Scorpio's ruler under Modern Astrology, whereas Mars is Scorpio's ruler under Traditional Astrology. I blend Traditional and Modern methods in my work, using the Traditional rulership scheme but also working with the outer planets in my readings, particularly if they are forming an aspect to the luminaries, personal planets, or angles and/or if they are in angular houses (houses 1, 4, 7, and 10) which are considered more significant in Traditional Astrology.

15 Thompkins, Sue. (2001) *Aspects in Astrology: A Comprehensive Guide to Interpretation*, London: Rider & Co., 158

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18 Sullivan, Erin. (2001) *The Astrology of Family Dynamics,* York Beach, Me.: Weiser Books.

19 John Donne was an English poet born in 1572, and his book entitled "*No man is an Island*" is meditative prose, conveying the essence of the human place in the world -- past and present.



Tarah Stevenson *has a British Caribbean background and grew up in the United Kingdom. She lives in Brighton, England, with her husband and 19-year-old daughter. Before she became an astrologer, she was a high school science teacher for over 14 years. She has studied astrology intensely since 2018. In 2021, she enrolled in the Faculty of Astrological Studies. She practices Traditional Astrology which primarily focuses on astrological systems practiced prior to the mid-19th Century, but also blends Modern Astrology where she feels it is relevant. She has offered astrology readings since April 2022 and writes a monthly astrology newsletter that looks at the Astro weather of the upcoming month. Her website is* ***www.loveandlunaastrology.com***

THE ASTROLOGY OF CO-HOUSING



by Kris Journey

During 2020's "summer of Covid," I moved to a big old house in upstate New York. The house, an 1890-built Tudor, spans a corner lot on a cheerful, well-traveled road in a neighborhood filled with similar Belle-Époque mini-mansions, some carefully restored, others in various states of disrepair. A grand porch wraps its front, while a rather goth exterior belies a light-filled interior replete with built-in cabinetry and a large staircase traversing the center of the house.

With a Sagittarius Moon, I thrive living in diverse communities. And with Aphrodite on my IC, I do love a beautiful home. So when the artist owner—who turned out to be astrology-friendly and supportive of co-housing (not being sure what else to do with the 5,000 square feet they had bought at a bargain)—offered me the house, I was delighted. I planned to rent out rooms, as I'd done for some years elsewhere, while holding the lease. Of course, as an astrologer, I took careful note of the time of lease signing.

Stumbling upon the lease chart

In the rush of moving in, the first housemate choices were hurried. Still, from the outset, I've asked each potential resident if they were comfortable sharing birth data. As a result, I've had many enjoyable conversations with people about their charts and astrology.

However, it quickly became apparent that comparing half a dozen people's charts—synastry and composites—took quite a bit of time, and the mass of resulting data was difficult to sift through. A few months in, it occurred to me: why not compare individual birth charts to the *lease* chart?

Patterns immediately appeared. Folks who had not been good for the house had difficult aspects to the lease, while those who were supportive, congenial housemates had positive aspects.

The astrology of housing

Over time, I've observed more patterns in the people who appear on my doorstep, whether as prospective housemates or eventual residents—even to the point of having multiple clusters of folks with the same or very similar birthdays.

As we know, buildings (along with many other things) can have a birth chart. In a similar vein, the house itself here—with the lease chart serving as the "birth" chart of each incarnation of the community it houses—appears to have a strong influence on the people in it.

As busy adults sharing a large home, we may not see each other much day to day. As such, it may be that the lease chart "works" because we're a loose community—and because, in essence, our strongest relationship, for each of us, is with the house. In this situation, astrology between residents doesn't, ultimately, seem to be

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as important as our unique individual relationships with the house itself.

Showing charts, move-in charts, and lease charts

We know the first-meeting chart can be highly predictive for a new relationship, though it's a point of debate to what extent it takes precedence over a Davison or midpoint composite. And what about a move-in chart?

In my observation, showing and move-in charts will describe someone's personal experience of living in the home. In addition, first-meeting charts are usually based on a person's first in-person visit to the home, but in Covid times I have frequently hosted video tours, adding a complicating factor (and sometimes making the move-in and first in-person meeting charts the same). Meanwhile, a person's synastry with the lease chart seems to reliably represent their interaction with the community and the house as a whole.

Electing a housing chart

As many may encounter in a housing search, the first year's lease chart I did not have the opportunity to elect. Its Jupiter on the Ascendant has always amused me: a big house, requiring lots of energy, initiative, and work (significant renovation has been ongoing since move-in and continues sporadically today).

In years two and three, the owner was content to let me choose a time. Uranus on the IC in year two's chart was less than ideal, but I had a short window of time for that election and hoped the Moon-Ceres conjunction on the Ascendant would create a warm, supportive home. Between then and now, as a result of this research, I have also switched from using mean to true Black Moon Lilith. Unfortunately, true Lilith in year 2 is *also* just off the Ascendant, and her ability to create chaos indeed got in the way of an overall feeling of warmth.

The third time's the charm. In year three, I had a large window to choose from—some six weeks—and wasn't taking any chances. This chart (below) has a Sun-Venus conjunction at the Midheaven and has resulted in a far more contented home. (How could it not?)

When is this technique applicable?

The observations described here are likely applicable to moving into any new home or apartment, home closings, buying land, and so on. Here are a few suggestions for charts to explore for each.

Housemates or roommates. While a first-meeting chart can represent a relationship between two people, for housing specifically, consider experimenting with the time you actually agree to be roommates. This could be in the form of an email exchange, receipt of payment, or time of signing a shared housing agreement, if you have one.

Sharing an office. If renting an office, use the time of lease signing; if embarking on new construction, use the time of the ribbon-cutting ceremony, if you have one, or the time and day people officially start to actually use the space. If you're working with a business partner, you might also look at the time of your initial agreement to move forward.

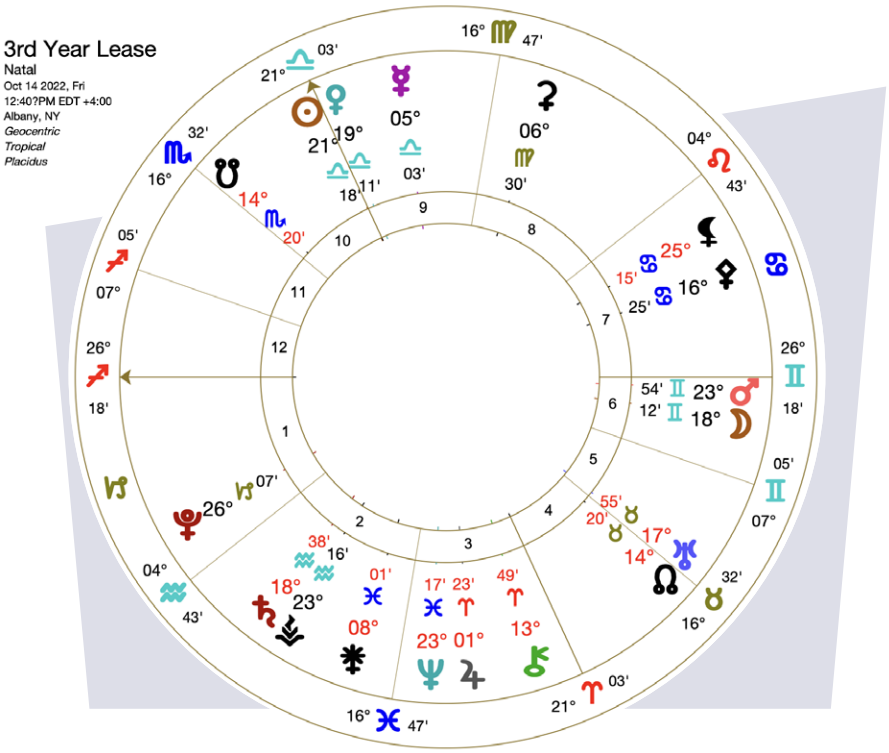
Buying a home or land. Use the time of closing as the birth chart, though the time of first viewing can also offer useful insights.

Lease versus relationship astrology

When choosing housing partners, a lease chart doesn't supersede the basics. While using a lease chart offers a fascinating level of insight and predictive capacity, certainly, relationship astrology still applies. Thus, if you know you have an aversion to or favor certain signs, by all means, pay attention to that.

As in life, those you attract may reflect your progressed or Solar Arc placements as much as—if not more so than—natal placements. For example, while I have strong Virgo, Libra, and Gemini placements in my natal chart, my progressed placements are now heavily in Scorpio, while my progressed Midheaven has moved to Leo. The latter two signs very commonly appear in housemate charts, both prospective and actual.

I'm also careful to look at composite charts between two residents when the need arises. Sometimes, the basis of a conflict becomes immediately apparent in transits to the composites, and particularly transits to the progressed Davison. You might also check a composite chart between residents against the lease



The year 3 chart has a Sun-Venus conjunction at the Midheaven and has resulted in a contented home. (How could it not?)

chart—this can be particularly insightful for learning how any two people will affect house dynamics.

I've even experimented with creating a composite from a resident's chart and the lease chart, with surprisingly accurate results. For example, Venus conjunct Ceres in the 3rd house in Gemini in a lease-resident composite could mean the person has a nurturing, stimulating, uplifting effect on community communication during their stay.

Prediction with the lease chart

Prediction using each year's lease chart is also possible: transits, lunations, and lunar returns have all been helpful. In the summer of 2023, for example, transiting Chiron has conjoined the lease chart's Venus: we've been making repairs and beautifying the house, including reshingling and repainting the entire exterior, in ways that have been simultaneously inconvenient and painful (e.g., much of the beautiful landscaping around the house has been damaged by the painting crew). In my observation, only the current lease chart seems to be usefully predictive.

Minimizing drama and creating community: What to look for and avoid

What follows is a summary of other points I've noted over the past three years comparing hundreds of potential and actual housemates' charts with successive lease charts. (I don't cover every cosmic body or point here, but instead focus on those that have been thus far most influential.)

To help sort through the data, consider that hard aspects from outer planets seem to outweigh positive aspects—even something as generally good-spirited or suggestive of long-term relations as a Venus-Jupiter or Venus-Juno connection. And keep in mind that, as with synastry between people, varying potentialities of an interaction may reveal themselves over time.

By the same token, it's important to remember that even so-called negative aspects can have varying levels of positive expression depending on the individuals in question. As others have observed, echoing Dane Rudhyar, we can never be certain of a person's level of consciousness—or the quality of a relationship—from a chart alone.

The obvious applies. Venus trine the house Ascendant? They'll beautify the place. One resident with this aspect, for example, helped seed flowers in the backyard that continue to multiply years later. A Saturn-Pallas conjunction sextile the lease Ascendant? This person is likely to represent a wise, stabilizing voice in house affairs.

For overall harmony, prioritize Venus connections (e.g., with the lease chart's Moon, Mercury, or IC). With a person's Venus conjunct the house Mercury, for example, everyone will enjoy talking around them, and even casual conversations will be lively and pleasant.

Vesta. In keeping with her signification as "keeper of the sacred flame" and protector of hearth and home, Vesta often represents the house itself. As a result, residents inevitably seem to have strong Vesta connections to either my chart or the lease chart, and often both—while Vesta in the homeowner's natal chart conjoins my Sun. For this reason, it's worth paying particular attention to the placement of Vesta in a housing election or housemate chart if you have the latitude to do so.

Ceres. I've also found Ceres to stand out: people whose Ceres fell on an important point in the lease chart (e.g., IC, Vesta) have had a natural tendency to contribute to and care for the house. One current resident's Ceres-Vesta conjunction falls across the lease chart's Ascendant—a chef and flower farmer, they immediately began to beautify the space with fresh flowers upon move-in and to maintain the house's efficient functioning in other ways. Yet, remember, Ceres has a Janus face and can take as much as she gives. Ceres on the Midheaven of a chart, for example, could be very nurturing and supportive—or quite the opposite.

For overall harmony, prioritize Venus connections (e.g., with the lease chart's Moon, Mercury, or IC). With a person's Venus conjunct the house Mercury, for example, everyone will enjoy talking around them, and even casual conversations will be lively and pleasant.

Hard aspects with Uranus are generally best avoided. Even people who may have strong placements otherwise—their Vesta conjunct the lease Moon, say, or a Venus sextile the lease Sun—may still leave quickly and be disruptive in some way during their short stay.

Juno. The asteroid of committed relationships has resonance as well. Juno squares to a lease Mercury or Ascendant can be a sign of someone who will resist settling down. There may be constant arguments around commitment, a feeling the person is never quite there or always has one foot out the door. Chiron or Vesta square a lease Juno can also mean a short stay (if someone moves in at all). Alternatively, Mars closely sextile a lease Juno might mean a resident commits quickly, leaving a deposit at first visit.

Black Moon Lilith (BML). Following my first teacher on the goddess asteroids, the wonderful Dawn Bogrodi (www.innerwheel.com), I avoid hard BML aspects, either with my chart or the lease chart (note that I use true, not mean, calculations here). Whether the synastry shows conjunctions, oppositions, or squares, people with these aspects to important points in a lease chart may not see the good in house endeavors and may introduce instability, even chaos or cruelty, into group efforts.

Uranus. Hard aspects with Uranus are generally best avoided. Even people who may have strong placements otherwise—their Vesta conjunct the lease Moon, say, or a Venus sextile the lease Sun—may still leave quickly and be disruptive in some way during their short stay. With a person's Jupiter opposite a lease chart's Uranus, for example, they may show up suddenly—and then move out just as impulsively, particularly if their natal chart shows a signature of such a possibility, such as a Moon-Mars conjunction. If you'd like to



create a creative, experimental, or eclectic community, your point of view on Uranus may shift—but, in my experience, the caveat that Uranus is liable to create some level of instability is still likely to apply, and you may be better off looking to other indicators (such as strong Aquarian or Venusian placements) or aiming for flowing aspects (trine, sextile) with Uranus in synastry.

Mars, Saturn, Pluto, and Chiron. I suggest using caution with hard aspects from any of these planets in housing synastry, particularly to the Sun or any of the angles. It's rare anyone will enjoy any of these on their Sun (whether resident or house), for example. Mutually frustrating Mars square Saturn and Mars opposite Mars don't tend to be any fun either—hard Mars aspects may provide a stimulating boost of activity at first, but conflict can arise, and it's likely to be sooner rather than later. Pluto on the Midheaven of a lease chart can mean someone becomes controlling or even tries to enact a "coup," often by any means at their disposal. Jupiter in a lease chart squaring a person's Pluto can also bring out controlling or overreaching tendencies. A person's Saturn on the house's Mercury may make everyone clam up, barely socializing while the person is in residence, while Chiron square a lease Mercury can mean cutting words or even someone who's just plain mean.

Sun opposite or conjunct Sun. Not only by close orb, but sometimes simply by sign, Sun opposite Sun can feel like a powerful attractor at first—but can devolve into conflict if strongly positive mitigating factors aren't also present. In addition, people who have birthdays very close to one another (within the usual synastry orb of about 10 degrees) are likely, for better or worse, to align on many issues and thus have an outsized influence on a community's group dynamics. Other alignments by sign will have a similar though less dramatic effect.

Effects on residents

Inverting the lease-resident biwheel, a home also has an effect on those who live in it. Sun-Jupiter connections may provide support to ambitions or major projects, while positive aspects to their Midheaven may see a person move ahead on career goals during their stay. One current resident's Midheaven conjoins the lease chart's Descendant: they share a profession with and have even found work through another resident in the house. While these connections are lovely, they're unlikely to come to fruition if a resident doesn't already have a largely positive relationship to a lease chart.

Those who don't move in

One prospective tenant's Chiron opposed the lease Vertex at a 3-minute orb, and their chart had few significant positive connections to the lease chart otherwise. Another's Vertex squared the house Saturn. Neither ultimately moved in, despite initially expressing significant enthusiasm at the prospect.



Contractors and other outside assistance

If possible, it's also worth keeping an eye on those associated with a house or property in other ways. A talented carpenter and general contractor did a tremendous amount of work in the house over the first year of occupancy and continues to be on call occasionally. They have a Chiron-Vesta conjunction in Taurus in their natal chart, while their natal Venus falls on the first lease's Vesta, trining its Chiron: their ability to "heal" (Chiron) homes (Vesta) has resulted in very positive outcomes for all of us.

When the lease chart changes

For longer-term residents, someone's relationship to the house may change when a lease changes. Several residents have moved on when, at a new lease, a formerly positive configuration—say, the house's Saturn sextile their Mars—moved to a less positive one, such as the house Sun opposite their Saturn.

Those who join the house have also changed as the lease chart has changed. Remarkably, in year three, we've had two residents with Sun-Venus conjunctions, echoing the lease chart. One of those Sun-Venus conjunctions trines the house Sun-Venus from Leo; the other opposes it from Aries. A third resident's Venus-Moon conjunction widely opposes the house Sun-Venus at 8 and 10 degrees.

* * *

We've recently had a farmer join the house—one of those Sun-Venus natives—who's spending the summer working at a local Afro-Indigenous farm focused on food sovereignty. When I shared this technique with them, they mentioned the farm considers the land it works to be a member of its board of directors.

Perhaps the astrology of housing is similar: in line with astrology's usual Delphic ineffability, our relationships may be influenced by other factors, such as the building or business we live or work in, and may change as those elements change.

Plural pronouns used throughout to preserve anonymity. Specific anecdotes are from people who gave their permission.

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PEMA CHÖDRÖN
A SATURN IN PISCES ELDER



by **Andrea Conlon**

Pema Chödrön is an American Buddhist nun and world-renowned spiritual teacher. She is beloved throughout the world for her spiritual teachings that focus on acceptance of our feeling states, as well as impermanence and death. It is timely to acknowledge her as a Spiritual Elder during Saturn's transit through Pisces, especially as she is approaching her third Saturn Return. While we don't have her exact birth time, there is much we can explore to link her teachings to her birth chart.

The Nodal Axis symbolizes a person's arc of development, as it outlines the major soul work of a life. I will focus on how both Pema's South Node and North Node, by sign and ruler, uncannily reflect her major teaching: Working with difficult emotions as the path of awakening and groundlessness.

Exploring Pema's evolutionary work with a natal Saturn in Pisces (ruler of her North Node) will help us orient to the collective task of Saturn transiting Pisces, for we too are navigating this passage. This task embodies themes of impermanence, groundlessness, and the ephemeral nature of our human condition. In Pema's words, "the very nature of our existence is forever in flux… What a predicament! We seem doomed to suffer simply because we have a deep-seated fear of how things really are."[1]

Pema was born with five planets and the South Node of the Moon in Cancer, a rather impressive concentration of energy! One aspect of the Cancerian archetype is that of the Great Mother, which Pema powerfully embodies. To attend one of her events is to witness her love and compassion and also the effusive devotion and gratitude she receives for her teachings on how to work with difficult emotions.

The South Node in Cancer emphasizes the issues of emotional vulnerability and fear. It tells us that she came into this life with high sensitivity, perhaps a highly reactive emotional body, and the need for healing.

We do not know her Moon sign conclusively. It could be in Taurus or Gemini, although I would speculate that it is in Gemini given her power as a teacher and prolific writer. We also know that the Moon is likely out of bounds, as is her Mercury–Mars conjunction in Cancer. The conjunction is expressed as a highly energized and emotional mind and as a teacher of emotional intelligence, which adds context to her achievements as a world-renowned spiritual adept.

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Pema was born Deirdre Blomfield-Brown to an upper-middle-class family. After attending private schools, she married, had two children, divorced, married a second time, and divorced a second time. Her second husband's affair brought her to her knees.

Her chart has a partile conjunction between Venus and Pluto in Cancer. This combination is known for relational complications, and potentially, the searing pain of betrayal. Cancer is a sign that needs emotional security and trust in a relationship.

This suffering was the seed from which she began her spiritual journey. "This too seems to be a facet of Cancer: that nothing will goad the sign into open confrontation with life save deep emotional loss."[2]

The South Node of The Moon: The Best of Us, The Worst of Us

While the South Node reflects the difficult karma we are working with in this life, it also identifies aptitudes and strengths that can be used and given back in service. Thus, it is unwise to counsel our clients to leave the south node behind—as if that is even possible. Perhaps it is better to think of it as a storehouse that we can draw from as we work to shift toward the requirements of the North Node. This is especially true when we see many planets in the sign of the South Node. As Liz Greene has stated, we must work on both sides of the nodal axis.[3]

When we incarnate with a massive amount of planets in the sign of Cancer, as Pema has, work on emotional reactivity becomes central—and doubly so with the South Node in Cancer. Likewise, a great part of the spiritual path is simply coming to terms with the challenge of emotions. Pema is an exemplar in this regard, as

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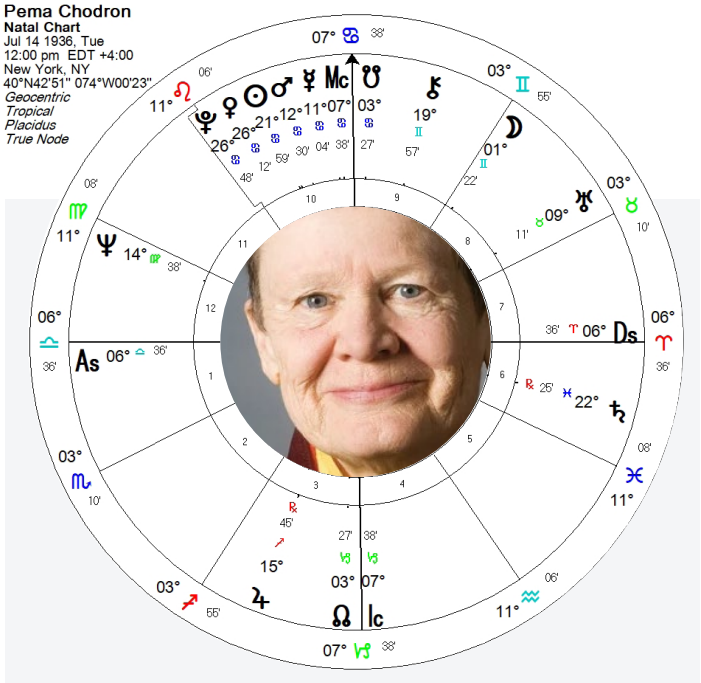

her signature teachings have to do with helping us face and work through difficult feelings.

At her public events, there are countless questions from attendees asking for help with their emotional pain. Her response is always in the direction of bringing a warm and kindly *acceptance* to one's feeling states. She counsels that the surest way to *keep* unwanted feeling states active is to try to get rid of them!

Instead, she teaches cultivating open awareness for whatever arises without trying to change anything. What a beautiful and relieving statement and also how difficult! We might call this approach "Buddhist emotional intelligence."

Our emotions are the path of awakening. "If we want to discover our own wisdom, there's nowhere to look other than in our own neurosis."[4] Pema has disclosed her own struggles with anxiety and panic attacks, and how she learned over time to face right into the raw fear.

We might think of this as a recent development in Buddhist psychology — to make friends with our feelings. But Pema has been teaching this for decades. It reflects her soul energy, karmic legacy, and received teachings from Choygam Trungpa Rinpoche and Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche, her two main teachers.

Dzigar Kongtrul's instruction is to cut through our habitual reactions and feel the emotions *directly. Directly* means without commentary, without interpretation, without having a conversation in your head about what's happening. It means not regarding the emotions as adversaries but joining with them, embracing them, becoming intimate with them.[5]

Pema termed this practice of developing the courage to "feel what we feel" as *Compassionate Abiding*. Her mantra is *awareness with heart*.

Our Sameness With Others

A related theme is to cultivate the awareness of our *sameness* with others because we all have these difficult feelings.

Right now, whatever we are going through, other people are going through the same thing … countless others are feeling disturbed by their emotions. It is never just *my* pain. Anything I feel is shared by all. When I touch anger, I know the anger of all beings. All feelings are universal, felt by all of us. We are in this sense, all in the same boat."[6]

It is a helpful transformational practice to use our emotional pain as a stepping stone to opening our hearts to others. This teaching integrates the compassion of a chart with five planets in Cancer and Saturn in Pisces. In Pema's chart, these energies are linked powerfully by a flowing trine.

Pema's primary gift to us is as a Great Mother Healer, but first came her own healing through disciplined spiritual practice. As Steven Forrest writes of the Sun in Cancer, "Ultimately I am here to be a healer of some sort — but I recognize that in order to accomplish that aim, I must first heal myself."[7] This is a natural segue to the North Node of the Moon, "the cutting edge of our evolutionary growth."[8] Here we find another great vector of Pema's spiritual teachings.

North Node in Capricorn

Pema's North Node of the Moon lies in Capricorn, the sign of The Elder, ruled by Saturn in Pisces. We look to Saturn, Capricorn's ruler, to fine-tune the direction of her evolutionary work. Capricorn and Saturn both require steady, persistent efforts to accomplish a Great Work.

But Saturn in Pisces is paradoxical. The planet of structure and boundaries is in a sign that dissolves boundaries and egoic attachments. Thus, Saturn in Pisces indicates the need for a disciplined spiritual practice and service to the collective. Again, we see this reflected in Pema's core teachings. "Groundlessness" is the word she uses, meaning nothing to hold onto. "It's crucial for all of us to find a practice that will help us have a direct relationship with groundlessness, with impermanence and death."[9]

Working With Impermanence and Death

Fear of death and loss is a common fixation. Making peace with impermanence the best we can is the greatest existential challenge we face. Pema would say that we must train now, by touching the fear of letting go, if we are to die with any kind of ease and grace.

Saturn's passage through Pisces is pointing us toward becoming more conscious of impermanence and the dissolving of egoic boundaries and attachments. Collectively, we are being called to align with the eternal spaciousness beyond egoic boundaries. We are also being called to awaken our love and compassion for all beings.

In recent years, Pema has made it her mission to help us face the ultimate challenge of death. "All people and all things are as transitory as clouds, and this can break our hearts. But on the absolute level, nothing dies. Life after life, our bodies come and go, but our true nature always remains the same."[10] In her most recent book, *How We Live Is How We Die*, she gives practical counsel, from the perspective of the Tibetan Buddhist Bardo teachings, on how to navigate the passage of death.



PEMA CHÖDRÖN

It is striking to see the synastry between Pema and Trungpa's birth charts (below). Trungpa's three planets in Pisces conjunct Pema's Saturn in Pisces. He was a way-shower for her and powerfully activated her Saturn.

Trungpa's choice to make Pema the director of Gampo Abbey, the Buddhist monastery in Nova Scotia, was a brilliant one for many reasons. She is perfectly suited to transmit his main teachings. But it was also a progressive one, as women are not often seen in higher positions in the Buddhist hierarchy. Pema Chödrön has kept Chogyam Trungpa's legacy alive on the world stage.

The Genuine Heart of Sadness

One of Trungpa's teachings was on the tender "heart of sadness," which Pema explains is a training in one's capacity to hold sadness. It seems obvious to many of us that if we are not feeling sad about the state of the world, we're not paying attention.

This, too, is the feeling tone of Saturn in Pisces, which sings its song in a minor key. In our feeling-aversive culture, sadness has been shamed and disallowed for many. Feeling sad can evoke shame in many people. It's a relief to have sadness honored and dignified for what it is—the accurate perception of our tenuous, tender human condition, which we share with all other beings.

Sadness reflects the universal impermanence of all aspects of our lives. Pema quotes the 8th-century Indian sage Shantideva: "All that I possess and use / Is like the fleeting vision of a dream. / It fades into the realm of memory; / And fading, will be seen no more."[11]

Conclusion

Pema Chödrön is an embodiment of The Great Mother. On a psychological level, imagine having a mother who generously gives her advice on how to cope with your most challenging feelings. On a spiritual level, imagine having one who helps you cope with the raw existential realities of this life! These themes reflect the higher potentials of Pema's nodal axis pathway. She has enriched the world by sharing the fruits of her spiritual work!

At 87 years old, Pema continues to work, spending her time teaching her students how to work with their feelings, navigate emotional reactivity, and approach dying with less fear and more curiosity. She also spends much time in silent retreat, a key Saturn in Pisces method of evolution.

Pema asks us, "How are we going to spend this brief lifetime? Are we going to strengthen our well-perfected ability to struggle against uncertainty, or are we going to train in letting go?"[12] If Saturn in Pisces had a voice, it might ask us the very same thing.

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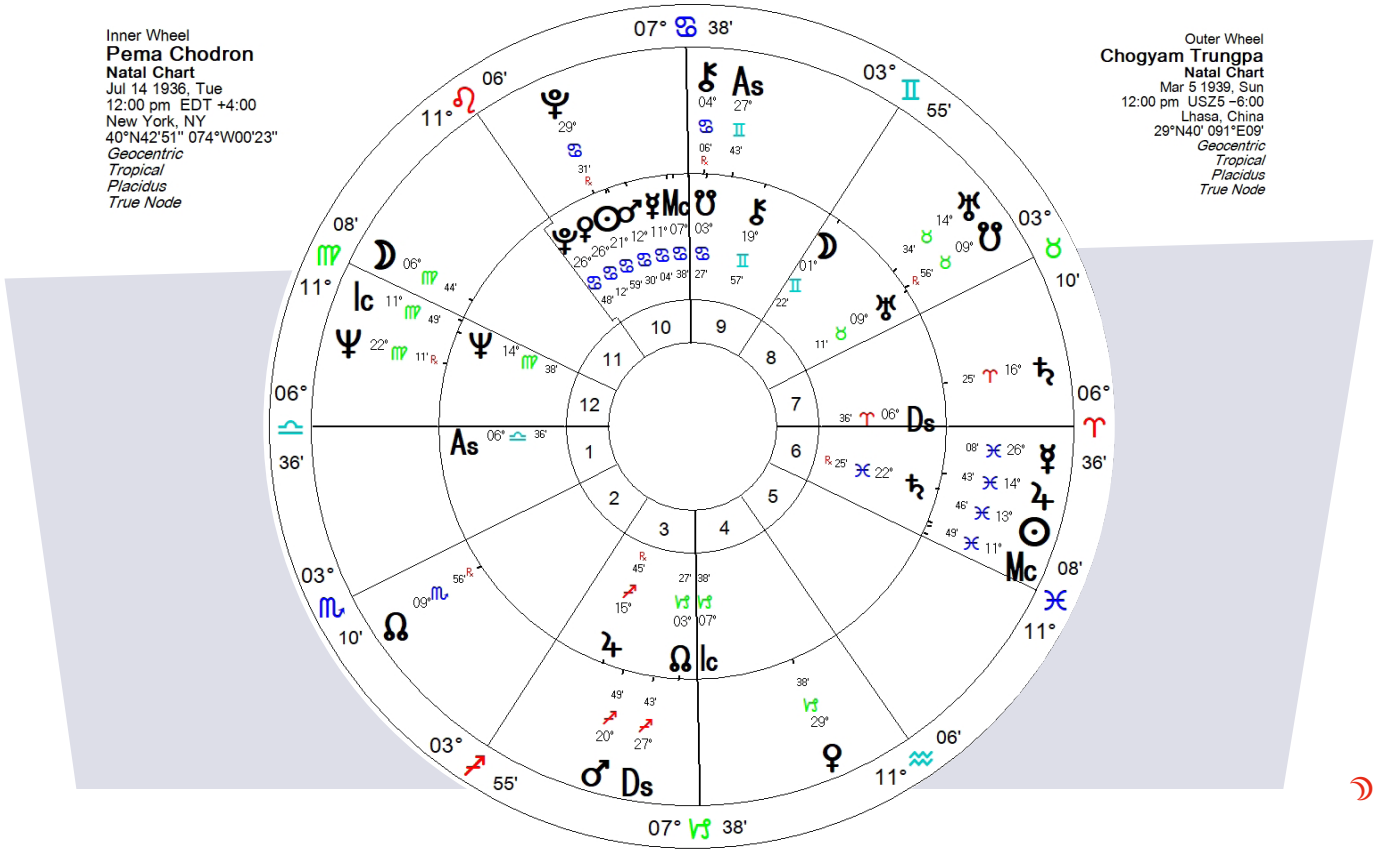



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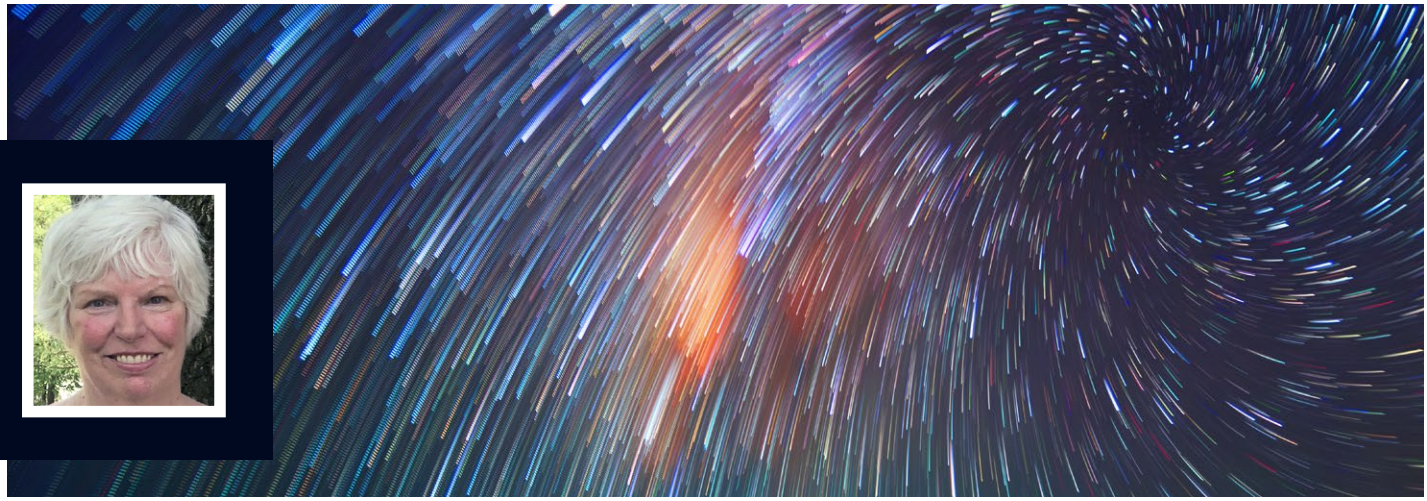

THE NEW CONSCIOUSNESS PLANETS, A LOVE STORY

by Aureal Williams

As someone with a natal Sun positioned in the late degrees of Aquarius, what I love can be far out there. My heartstrings are pulled, with non-humans often doing the pulling. This broad view of relationships began in the mid-1990s when I studied Galactic Astrology with Philip Sedgwick. Since then, I have been magnetized by the Galactic Center, SuperGalactic Center, the Great Attractor, and black holes, quasars, and pulsars.

With a late-degree second decan Ascendant in Cancer, the Moon also has a deep, heart-resonant pull for me. Void-of-course Moon times are a visceral experience of a gravitational pull-down and in. I do not schedule work when the Moon is void-of-course. I opt, instead, for rest and reflection consistently. In the Collective and Personal cycles, the Moon's cyclical ebb and flow is an infallible energetic imprint I follow during every Moon cycle.[1]

Currently, the newly discovered, deep space planets have captured my heart.

Over the past two years, I have taken classes on ten different dwarf planets at Alan Clay's Dwarf Planet University.[2] Clay describes his teaching style as *"going beyond Saturn."* That more experiential, less didactic learning description reflects my experience of his classes.

We learn much about ourselves exploring these deep space planets by house, aspect, and transit. As learning happens in a virtual classroom, we also come to know one another and the workings of the planet. One of my peer cohorts in Clay's classes described it best when she referred to the class experience as *"spiritual intimacy."*

As I completed the classes in Clay's curriculum, news of Salacia, Hylonome, and Teharonhiawako came to my attention. The sky opened, magnetizing my curiosity for deep space connection, particularly with the Kuiper Belt Objects ("KBOs").

As this far part of the sky opened for me, I found 53 bodies, which I call New Consciousness[3] planets. The direct experience of these bodies came through a heart connection. Like Clay's teaching, "*going beyond Saturn*," these newly discovered planets connected with me on a wavelength different than rational consciousness. In a visceral, embodied sense, these living energies invited me to *"look here."*

I did look. Learning about these planets lit up my heart because I could feel a direct, interactive connection. We know that love is a nonverbal language beyond the rational mind. My direct experience is that an animate, vibratory connection with these New Consciousness Planets is possible. For readers challenged by this description, please consider how a person knows which rescue animal to choose. Or a life partner. There is a resonance between living beings and the planets are living beings, despite their distance.

There is a resonance between living beings and the planets are living beings, despite their distance.

These planets have been discovered and brought into human awareness since 1990, which suggests that they are indicators of our new consciousness and the quantum shifts happening now.[4]

Meet the Family

Centaurs

While most recently discovered planets are KBOs, new Centaurs have been found since 1990. These bodies also influence our new consciousness. With their shorter rotations and faster orbits, the newly discovered Centaurs interact with the KBOs in ways that activate our evolution.

Centaurs are "*small Solar System bodies*" with either a perihelion (the point at which a body is closest to the Sun) or a semi-major axis between Jupiter and Neptune. As half-animal, half-human, the Centaurs offer a long view of human evolution. This evolutionary process continues in current times as a spiritual evolution.

In addition to our well-known Centaur, Chiron, the newly discovered Centaurs include Amycus, Aphidas, Asbolus, Bienor, Chariklo, Crantor, Cyllarus, Echeclus, Elatus, Hylonome, ISON, Nessus, Okyrhoe, Orius, Pelion, Pholus, Rhiphonos, and Thereus.[5]

Cubewanos

Cubewanos are known as classical KBOs. These bodies orbit beyond Neptune yet have no resonance with Neptune's

orbit. They are distinguished from other KBOs by having low eccentricity, which indicates how much the body's orbit deviates from a circle. Cubewanos can also have low inclinations, a data point indicative of the orbital tilt angle.

The bodies that fall into the Cubewano category include Albion, Arrokoth, Borasisi, Chaos, Deucalion, Logos, Makemake, Quaoar, Teharonhiawako, Varuna, and the unnamed objects of 1997 CU29, 2002 TX300, 2002 AW197, and 2002 UX25.

Damocloids

Damocloids are minor planets with extremely eccentric orbits like comets, without a comet tail. Their eccentric orbits are a result of high inclinations. Damocles, the most well-known Damocloid, inclines 61.88 degrees.[6] Except for Damocles, most Damocloids are unnamed.

Plutinos

As a group, Plutinos are Trans-Neptunian Objects (TNOs) with a 2:3 orbital resonance with Neptune. For every two orbits a Plutino makes, Neptune makes three. Our beloved Pluto, Ixion, Mors-Somnus, and Orcus fall into this category.[7] Plutinos are named for mythological beings connected with the underworld, indicating the depth of their astrological impact.

Scattered Disc Objects (SDOs)

The scattered disc is a section within our Solar System that contains TNOs with orbital eccentricities up to 40 degrees and perihelia[8] of more than 30 astronomical units from the Sun. Astronomers consider that gravitational perturbations of the gas giants and Neptune cause the orbits of SDOs. Dziewanna, Eris, G!kunll'homdima, and Gonggong are SDOs.[9]

Sednoids

Sednoids are TNOs with exceptionally extended perihelion, meaning that these bodies have super-long rotational orbits. The two named Senoids include Sedna, with an orbital rotation of 12281.48 years,[10] and Leleakuhonua, with an orbit of 50698 years.[11]

Senoids are found in an empty gap in the Solar System. Some astronomers consider that Sednoids may be part of the inner Oort Cloud. In deep space, the Oort Cloud surrounds the Kuiper Belt forming an outer ring, with the Kuiper Belt as a middle ring, and with our Sun in the center.

TNOs

As their category name implies, TNOs orbit the Sun beyond Neptune. Astrologers know the effect Neptune has on human experience. Take an imaginary journey into this deep space territory to ponder how these bodies might affect our human/spiritual experience. TNOs include Arawn, Ceto, Haumea, Manwe, Rhadamanthus, and Zhulong.[12]

Interpreting the KBOs

As astrologers, we have inherited a legacy of information about the personal and transpersonal planets. Since the new planet discoveries are on our watch, it is up to current and future astrologers to get to know these planets and bring awareness of their energetic impact forward.

It is exciting to be at the forefront of astrological interpretation related to new planetary bodies and to be involved in gathering available data to deepen the connection. As with any new relationship, we can slowly capture clues to understanding the planet's value.

As with any new relationship, we can slowly capture clues to understanding the planet's value.

There are four ways to approach a deeper understanding of a planet: (1) its North Node and perihelion; (2) classifications according to astronomy; 3) the meaning of its name and associated mythology; and (4) one's own subjective experience of the planet gained through intuitive methods, numerology, synchronicities, and meditation.[13]

Sedgwick teaches that the significance of a body's North Node and perihelion are vital clues to understanding a planet's energetic impact.[14] In my eclectic study of astrology spanning 40 years, my understanding of the value of a North Node has come to mean a directional path toward fulfillment of destiny. As noted earlier, the scientific definition of perihelion is when the planet is closest to our Sun. By sign and degree, therefore, perihelion indicates our most immediate proximity to the planet, our nearest reach.

The astronomical classifications of these New Consciousness Planets also offer information about their meaning. Classifications are determined by eccentricities, inclinations, orbits, and locations, all vital clues to understanding planetary importance. As we learn more about the form and function of each category, we will learn more about the planet's meaning.

The meaning of the name and the mythology also increases the understanding of the body's astrological value. One clear example is the name of Mors Somnus, a Plutino, whose name means Death (Mors) and Sleep (Somnus).

Lastly, I factor in direct connection through inquiry and meditation. We live in an interactive universe. We talk with our pets beyond verbal language; we talk with nature, with our plants. We can also communicate with bodies in deep space.

This capacity for a direct connection beyond the rational mind became clear to me when, one day, in confusion, I was looking through Benjamin Adamah's book Centaurs, Damacloids, Scattered Disc Objects[15] for information on Ixion. I knew Ixion was a Plutino, not a Centaur. The fact that Ixion is known as the Father of Centaurs,[16] even though he is not one himself, was the cause for my confusion. I did not find Ixion in that book; I did find ISON, though, a Centaur I had never heard of before.

Excited about this new find, I read what Adamah wrote and was struck by his words: "*Aptitude for a very rich, visual, imaginative and colorful use of language and the translation of psychic and astral impressions into the right choice of words and wording; interest in the paranormal.*"[17]

Those words describe my experience when writing about the New Consciousness Planets. The words flow out of me, with an experience of coming from somewhere else, somewhere I have not known, yet feel authentic. Not surprisingly, ISON figures prominently in my chart.[18]

I take this experience of cosmic connecting to be the Noosphere, that field of information in the Van Allen Belts that is like a cosmic mind.[19] Like the objects in the Kuiper Belt and the recently discovered Centaurs, the Noosphere connects us in a web of wholeness, of which we are a vibrant giving and receiving part.

Like the objects in the Kuiper Belt and the recently discovered Centaurs, the Noosphere connects us in a web of wholeness, of which we are a vibrant giving and receiving part.

Albion, the First Discovered KBO; An Interpretive Example

On August 30, 1992, David Jewitt and Jane Liu, using a telescope at the University of Hawai'i on the Big Island, identified Albion, a Cubewano, as the first Kuiper Belt Object.[20] Initially, this body was known as the 1992 QBI.

Albion's myth is derived from a British medieval legend and includes a story of 29 daughters given away in loveless marriages without their consent.[21] The women plotted to kill their husbands, the plot was revealed, and the women exiled without support except from nature.

Floating aimlessly on a vessel, they arrived at a kind of Eden. The paradise experience was short-lived as Incubi, sinister male spirits without bodies, infused the women's dreams. Through these dream encounters, a race of giants was birthed. These giants dominated the land of Albion, considered the island of Great Britain, until ages later, when Brutus and the Trojans arrived. A battle of the giants ensued. Brutus and the Trojans won, took over, and renamed the island Britain.[22]

William Blake's myth of Albion and the Four Zoas deepens our understanding of this KBO. Blake described Albion as the primeval man whose fall and division resulted in Four Zoas or powers: raw sensual experience, rational mind, desire, creative force, and the power of imagination.[23] These four components reflect the human evolution from animalistic nature to rational thought, creative fire, and spiritual mysticism.

In my experience, the Universe works in synchronicity, and Albion's North Node is 359.2,[24] or 29 Pisces 2. How is that for a new beginning in consciousness?

Another clue to a planet's meaning is the significance of its numerology arising from its astronomical number. Albion's astronomical number is 15760. This number equates with "1,"[25] which, in numerology, indicates a new beginning or standing alone. As we understand and integrate Albion's meaning, we add the flavor of standing alone, being brave, and beginning anew to other data collected about the body.

Blake described Albion as the primeval man whose fall and division resulted in Four Zoas or powers: raw sensual experience, rational mind, desire, creative force, and the power of imagination.

Whichever myth we choose, Albion is relevant in today's world. Finding the integration of masculine and feminine is a significant theme in the current cultural experience. For those of the Boomer Generation, we saw this shift toward masculine/feminine integration start in the 1960s when men began witnessing the birth of their children in the delivery room.

This generation of males also began to help with parenting, such as changing diapers, feeding, and caring for their infants. Before the 1960s, men typically waited outside the delivery room with their proverbial cigars to be told by the doctor that their baby had arrived. Regarding active parenting, men of these earlier generations did little more than toss a ball with their children.

The integration of masculine and feminine in contemporary culture can also be seen through the increased visibility of people who are transgender.[26] Treating trauma by recognizing the critical nature of right and left brain function is another example of the relevance of the blend of masculine and feminine.[27]

As the intuitive, creative side, the right brain can be linked to a traditional understanding of the feminine. With its analytic powers, the left brain can be connected to a commonly regarded reference for the masculine. Today, through work with creativity, healing, and mindfulness, there is an emphasis on integrating the right and left brain as a functioning whole instead of two disparate parts.[28]

Blake's myth also has currency as we integrate raw, primordial power closely related to our animal nature with rationality, creativity, and spirituality. Eckart Tolle's work on presence offers an exquisite opportunity to take a minute, breathe, sense, and feel our internal presence.[29] Through presence, we transcend the reactive animal nature, the thinking mind, and creative expression. The presence technique takes us into a place of silent stillness, where we meet spiritual potential.

Many of us stand alone at this threshold of a new consciousness, braving a new pathway forward. As the first KBO discovered, the energies of Albion seem front and center to modern-day life. If you are curious about where Albion is in your chart, Zane Stein has created an ephemeris with data from 1900 to 2050.[30]

Why I Include the New Consciousness Planets

Being in Clay's class for the duration of his full ten-planet curriculum, one learns much about these deep space planets. The class discussions include a review of house placements, aspects, and transits, exploring continuity of meaning.

Today, through work with creativity, healing, and mindfulness, there is an emphasis on integrating the right and left brain as a functioning whole instead of two disparate parts.



During class, Clay often referred to my 7th House placement of Gonggong and its impact on my relationships. Clay's keywords for this planet include "*Birthing Spirit into Empathy.*"[31] Numerologically, Gonggong's astronomical number of 22508 pares down to seven, which relates to spiritual depth.[32] As a Scattered Disc Object, Gonggong is a distant object in our Solar System,[33] meaning there are many celestial bodies to include between here and there.

Processing this information, I understood that part of my gift is to include every New Conscious Planet. Being an Aquarian helps with this quality, as does having Mercury in Pisces. My lived experience is that I *must* include them all.

How this capacity plays out with the New Consciousness Planets is that I look at all of them in consultations, blog posts, and in writing the digital subscription I offer. The time it takes for this level of inclusion is extensive. The process requires handwriting the chart with placements from 0 Aries to 30 Pisces. The multitude of planets is not visually discernable in a computer-generated chart.

Rather than feeling tedious, it is deemed necessary. How can I know if something is important if it is not considered?

In the beginning, I only considered hard aspects. However, the longer I work with them, the easier it becomes to include multiple aspects. I now look at most aspects, especially when a body shows up with different aspects from various other bodies. The learning is in the doing.

Does this work for everyone? No. Astrology friends ask how I can include so many. The hurt is when I do not include them, rather than when I do.

Conclusion

The burning love people describe for an intimate partner, a child, a parent, a sibling, or a friend reflects the kind of love I feel for these New Consciousness Planets. It is a living love.

We know from science that we come from stardust. No matter the distance, the planets are our relations, maybe our former homes. There is memory, whether conscious or not and in that memory, there is vibratory resonance. My heart sings with love for these planets, who, in my experience, work with us, lighting the way. As the saying goes, "*To know you is to love you.*" The more I know about the New Consciousness Planets, the more I love them, and I want to shout this love from the rooftops, as one does when one finds love.

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2 https://www.dwarfplanetastrology.com/

3 A familiar term for the new planets is Dwarf Planets. In one of my earliest classes at Dwarf Planet University, a fellow classmate expressed discomfort with that term based on its potentially derogatory implications related to the medical condition of people with short stature. While the astronomical community uses Dwarf Planet as an official term, I resonate with my classmate's experience and prefer to call these planets by another name. Identifying by category seems to help with the nomenclature as I learn about them. The term "Dwarf Planet" is used when referencing another's use of that term.

4 Pam Gregory is an astrologer from the United Kingdom with 266,000 YouTube subscribers. Quoting from her video titled *"Thoughts in July 2023,"* at the nine-minute 53-second mark, she says, "*With these dwarf planets we are helping to bring into humanity, and it's actually only because Humanity's raised its Consciousness that we've even been able to discover them and start to research them.*" Gregory, Pam, Thoughts in July 2023 Thoughts in July 2023 - YouTube

5 Categories as indicated by the NASA Jet Propulsion Small-Body Data Base Lookup https://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/tools/sbdb_lookup.html#/

6 Adamah, Benjamin, CENTAURS, DAMOCLOIDS, SCATTERED DISC OBJECTS, VAMzzz PUBLISHING, The Netherlands, 2019, p. 134

7 Categories as indicated by the NASA Jet Propulsion Small-Body Data Base Lookup https://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/tools/sbdb_lookup.html#/

8 Vezina, Kenrick, How to Calculate Perihelion, Sciencing, Updated December 22, 2020, https://sciencing.com/calculate-perihelion-5344973.html

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10 https://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/tools/sbdb_lookup.html#/?sstr=Sedna

11 https://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/tools/sbdb_lookup.html#/?sstr=Leleakuhonua

12 Categories as indicated by the NASA Jet Propulsion Small-Body Data Base Lookup https://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/tools/sbdb_lookup.html#/

13 While many astrologers also explore the discovery chart of the planet as part of this analysis, I do not. For me, the discovery chart is only half the story. It seems a comparison chart between the discovery chart and the charts of the discoverers gives a fuller picture of why that planet came into human consciousness at that time. Obtaining the data of a discoverer is a daunting task, so I do not use this method as part of my analysis.

14 In personal tutorial conversation with Philip Sedgwick regarding the North Node and perihelion. His website is https://www.philipsedgwick.com/ .

15 Adamah, Benjamin, CENTAURS, DAMOCLOIDS, SCATTERED DISC OBJECTS, VAMzzz Publishing, The Netherlands, 2019.

16 Appollodorus, *The Library* with an English Translation by Sir James Frazier, F.B.A., F.R.S. in 2 Volumes, Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press; London, William Heinemann Ltd. 1921. ISBN 0-674-99135-4 (online version available at Perseus Digital Library: http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus:text:1999.01.0022

17 Adamah, B., p. 47

18 ISON is strongly aspected in my Heliocentric chart, with less than one-degree orbs of conjunction to Manwe (seeing the big picture), squares to Typhon (explosive, like a typhoon), and Eris (truthtelling), an opposition to Pelion (aligning human will with Divine Will) and trine Psyche, (levels of consciousness). In my Geocentric chart, ISON trines Mercury, among other aspects.

19 The Noosphere is an energy field found within the Van Allen Belts. The outer Van Allen Belt extends up to 36,000 miles above Earth's surface from the North and South Poles. The inner Van Allen Belt ranges from 60 to 6000 miles above Earth's surface. In the 1920s, Oliver Reiser, a physicist friend of Albert Einstein's, realized that the energy field within the Van Allen Belt functions like a brain. He called them *"planetary thought belts,"* like a global mind. Also called psi banks, they have a double helix pattern like DNA. Reiser understood that the Psi fields provide energetic guidance for humanity's psycho-social development. (Gulick, Robert, GAIA SYNTHESIS: One Earth+One Humanity A Presentation to the GAIA Synthesis Symposia Boulder, Colorado, 1986 https://mind-matrix.net/articles/gaia-synthesis/) Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a French philosopher and Jesuit paleontologist, regarded the Noosphere as an evolution that progressed from the biological to the psychological to the spiritual. Jose Arguelles saw the potential within the Noosphere for global psychic consciousness. (https://www.lawoftime.org/noosphere/nooarticles/nooshpericemergency.html)

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24 https://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/tools/sbdb_lookup.html#/?sstr=Albion

25 In numerology, you add the numbers together to determine the numerological significance of a figure, here, we add 1 + 5 + 7 + 6 + 0 = 10 then you further refine the number by adding 1 + 0 = 1.

26 For example, in recent years there has been an uptick in the appearance and acceptance of transgender actors with visibility on the stage and screen https://www.imdb.com/list/ls072599514/

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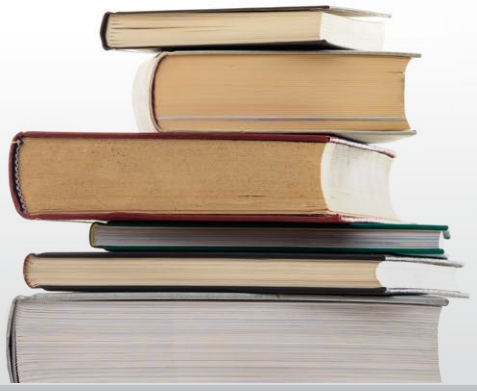
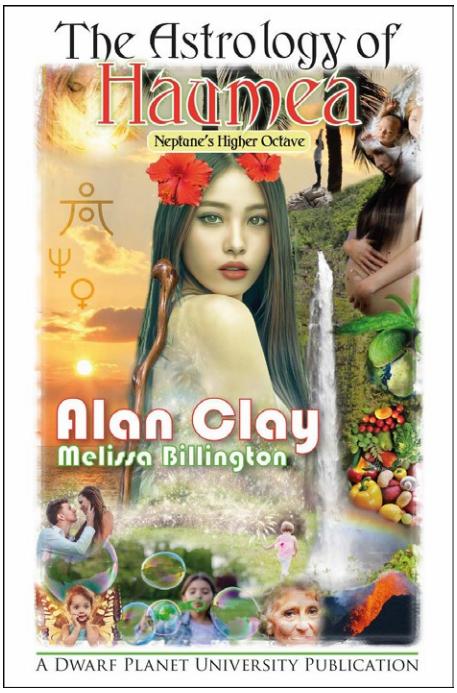
32 Number 7 Meaning | Numerology.com

33 Adamah, B., p. 16

Aureal Williams *is a Deep Space Astrologer focusing on the Planets of New Consciousness. Her digital subscription, "Love in the Frequency of You," looks at these new planets, heliocentrically, each Solar Ingress. She also writes a geocentric blog. Her astrological consultation work includes guided imagery experiences for a direct planetary experience. Aureal is working on an extensive "Planets of New Consciousness" database, with an anticipated release date of December 2023. She is venturing into the YouTube world and is the author of the ebook "5D, Ordinary Descriptions of an Extraordinary Shift." She can be reached at* ***www.aurealwilliams.com.***



Book Reviews



THE ASTROLOGY OF HAUMEA

NEPTUNE'S HIGHER OCTAVE

Authors: Alan Clay and Melissa Billington, A Dwarf Planet University Publication, 2023

Transpersonal astrologer Alan Clay writes and teaches about recently discovered planets through his Dwarf Planet University. Melissa Billington co-teaches with Alan. Together, they've co-authored this short primer about Haumea, one of a set of recently discovered dwarf planets that includes Ixion, Orcus, Salacia, Varuna, Makemake, Gonggong, Eris and Sedna.

The subtitle of *The Astrology of Haumea's* is the authors' thesis: the discovery of Haumea, in 2004, presents a *higher octave* of Neptune, an expansion of Neptunian significations. When one planet is a higher octave of another, the authors posit, the *higher* planet's energy operates at a more refined spiritual level and as an "*antidote to the small mindedness of the inner planet energy, providing a way to elevate those qualities*." The further out from the Sun, the more a planet signifies consciousness over personality.

> Clay and Billington believe that Haumea "takes the psychic opening of Neptune and turns it into real psychic connections with the oneness of our existence."

For example, the discovery of Uranus brought more intuitive consciousness to the collective; then Neptune, more spiritual consciousness, Pluto more psychological consciousness. Clay and Billington believe that Haumea "*takes the psychic opening of Neptune and turns it into real psychic connections with the oneness of our existence*."

Haumea is the fourth largest of the dwarf planets. It's shaped like an egg, it's the fastest rotating body in the solar system, and its orbit is about 283 years around the Sun. In myth, Haumea is a Hawaiian creation goddess of fire and earth, mother to the volcano goddess Pele. People born between 1945 and 1960 have a Pluto-Haumea conjunction.

Neptune represents psychic openings on an individual level, but then "*when we have evolved and embraced Haumea in our lives, the soul level includes not only all of humanity but all beings*," write Clay and Billington. Is this not precisely what our Earth needs now in this time of ecological urgency?

The authors give two chart examples for Haumea: Princess Diana and Joseph Campbell.

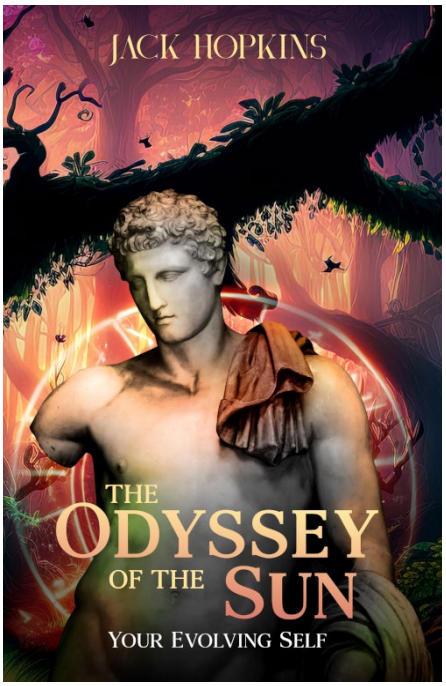
They ascribe Diana's commitment to humanitarian work to the placement of Haumea in the first degree of Virgo conjunct Mars in the 8th House of shared resources (including those that come by way of marriage). The day Diana married Prince Charles, transiting Ceres conjoined Diana's natal Haumea, indicating "*that her marriage opened the psychic flow of unconditional love that Haumea represents*."

In the chart of religion and mythology scholar Joseph Campbell, Haumea conjoins Neptune in the 9th House, widely trine to Venus in the 5th. When Campbell's foundational book *Hero With a Thousand Faces* was published on January 1, 1949, Haumea was transiting Campbell's 10th House of life mission, sextile to his Ascendant, and closely trine to Ceres in his third house. He "*launched his book with love and pastoral care*." Later, his advice to everyone was to "*follow your bliss*."

> On a personal level, Haumea can manifest as a lack of connection with others, as a kind of spiritual alienation.

Clay and Billington caution that on a personal level, Haumea can manifest as a lack of connection with others, as a kind of *spiritual alienation*. But for people who have developed themselves spiritually, Haumea "*provides a link with the oneness of humanity, with the magic of being alive*."

Review by: Sara R. Diamond



THE ODYSSEY OF THE SUN

YOUR EVOLVING SELF

Jack Hopkins

In the September 2022 Equinox issue of the *Evolving Astrologer*, we reviewed Jack Hopkins' book about working with lunar phases. Now, a year later, Jack has published another book, this one based on dividing the zodiac into what he calls "*discrete Subphases of the Sun*."

The Sun, he writes, plays a major role in anyone's astrological makeup, not so much by describing who you are but by pointing to what you are learning to become. The 12 zodiacal signs yield "*an extremely powerful set of archetypal energies*." They can be interpreted in a more nuanced way when the 12 zodiacal segments are broken down into smaller divisions. This is a form of harmonics. We traditionally use the third harmonic in terms of three signs in each of the four elements, as well as the fourth harmonic with four signs in each of three modes.

> The Sun, Hopkins writes, plays a major role in anyone's astrological makeup, not so much by describing who you are but by pointing to what you are learning to become.

Jack divides the zodiac into five sections of 72 degrees each, a fifth harmonic.

Five "*is associated with the mind, and the ability to transcend the limits of the material world.*" Five is associated with the creative nature of the Sun, with the fifth house and the natural zodiac sign of Leo.

The software on Jack's website (www.spiritguideastrology.com) allows you to look up your own natal and progressed Solar Subphases. The phases appear also on a chart at the beginning of the book. Five repetitions of signs Aries through Pisces are placed on the outer wheel around the 12-sign natural zodiac. Mostly this book consists of Jack's descriptions of each Solar Subphase, followed by a celebrity chart study for each of twelve Sun signs.

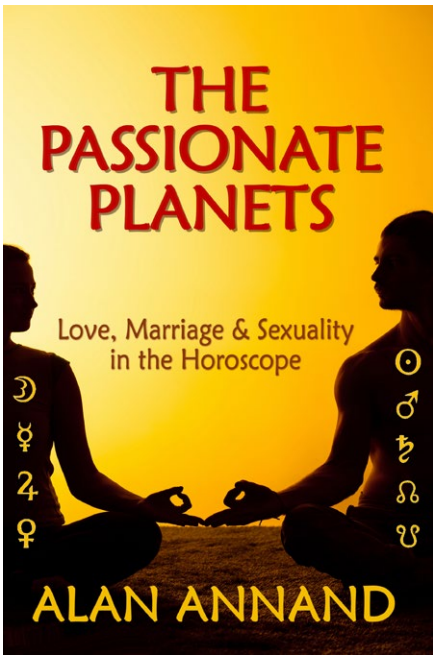
From the website I learned that my 8° Cancer Sun is in the Leo Subphase. On Jack's wheel diagram, I see that Leo is the second of the five segments of the Cancer/4th House. Jack's description of this Leo Subphase goes beyond a typical description of Cancerians as sensitive lovers of family, to include more Leonine traits of responding well to approval, being strong-willed, and having a sense of drama and passion. Cancer in the Leo Subphase is a fiery Cancerian, but a Cancerian none the less.

> Five repetitions of signs Aries through Pisces are placed on the outer wheel around the 12-sign natural zodiac.

An example of a late degree Cancerian, in the Subphase of Scorpio, is Nelson Mandela whose Sun was in the 8th House. His fixed fortitude was legendary. In the 1960s when his progressed Sun ingressed the 10th House and the Gemini Subphase of Virgo, Mandela became publicly vocal and was sentenced to prison for decades. It was when his progressed Sun entered Libra in the Libra Subphase that he and South African President Botha negotiated Mandela's release and the beginning of the end of apartheid.

Jack's point is not that Solar Subphases should take precedence over any other indicators in a natal or progressed chart but that "*breaking down the twelve signs into smaller parts reveals a deeper look at the energies within each sign.*" Adding a fifth harmonic nuance to Sun signs differentiates them and makes them potentially more accurate and useful.

Review by: Sara R. Diamond



THE PASSIONATE PLANETS

LOVE, MARRIAGE, AND SEXUALITY IN THE HOROSCOPE

Alan Annand

This book grabs your interest right from the start. When one reads the introduction, it is clear that the book teaches not only astrology but also spiritual principles. Alan begins by acknowledging his teacher, Hart de Fouw, one of the contemporary masters of Jyotish (Vedic Astrology). Vedic techniques in the book are made adaptable to Western astrologers.

Alan states two important recommendations for best use:

(1) Ignore the outer planets, and

(2) use a sidereal zodiac.

Even if you resist these suggestions, you can use the theories in the book as they carry over from one system to the other.

The first chapter recounts several famous love stories – Rama & Sita, Romeo & Juliette, Odysseus & Penelope—and lists banned erotic books. These examples show human desire and passion symbolized by the Moon, Mars, Venus, and Saturn, the book's main players. The North and South Nodes (Rahu and Ketu) provide extra expression and spice to the analysis of love and sexuality.

A deep dive into contemporary research on sexuality and related psychology follows. It is a complete and fascinating

discussion of the way people and cultures look at sexuality. Alan discusses the people who researched sexuality (e.g., Freud, Masters & Johnson, Shere Hite) and includes astrological profiles of their charts in the book's Appendix.

The book provides an overview of Vedic philosophy so that one understands the concept of *karma* and life's stages and goals. Alan uses examples and images to write these ancient teachings in a way that a contemporary astrologer can understand. Alan describes karma and how to see it in a chart in a manner that surpasses anything previously written in an astrology book!

Annand's astrological teachings begin in the next chapter by comparing Vedic and Western astrology. There is no judgment as to which is more effective, just listing the differences. For example, Vedic astrology uses whole sign houses and sign-to-sign aspects instead of degree-to-degree aspects.

> A deep dive into contemporary research on sexuality and related psychology is included. It is a complete and fascinating discussion of the way people and cultures look at sexuality.

The analysis techniques he uses blend both systems. Vedic concepts are explained in plain English, and he meshes the two systems so that a Western astrologer can benefit from reading the book.

For example, he teaches the reader how to find a bias for marriage. He says the planets identify the native bias, but the houses show the actual journey and the terrain one will travel. He warns that *having a bias for something doesn't simply make it happen.* The inclination is different from the outcome.

Many forms of marriage and sexuality are covered, with systematic and clear rules to analyze these topics. Alan uses statistics to show how often a particular aspect or pattern occurs. Repetition is his teaching tool so that important facts are embedded in one's mind. Alan stresses the importance of learning to see patterns in a chart.

Alan teaches a traditional astrological method, using masculine and feminine definitions to delineate the planets. Those terms are important to his analysis and faithful to the traditions he represents through the examples.

> Annand warns that having a bias for something doesn't simply make it happen. The inclination is different from the outcome.

The last third of the book consists of 48 case studies. His choices help the reader understand and apply what was covered in the book's first part.

I loved reading this book. It is like receiving a private counseling session, an education in philosophy, and a review of scientific research on sexuality. Alan is a true teacher and a fine writer. His teaching raises awareness. I stopped in the middle of reading to buy another book that he mentioned he had written.

All serious students of astrology will benefit from this book. It will be of great use for the counseling astrologer and a wonderful addition for students of astrology.

Review by: Arlan Wise





CONGRATULATIONS TO MÁRCIA FERREIRA our Portuguese Satellite leader, on her translation into Portuguese of Liz Greene's excellent book, "Jung's Studies in Astrology: Prophecy, Magic, and the Qualities of Time."



Libra Glyph Mandala

by Mary Gaterud

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Should I Give My Friend More Money?

by Angela Alston

Recently, I received this horary question: ***Should I give my friend more money?*** It came from a client I have known for many years. She is generous, sometimes to a fault, and enjoys providing help for friends and family when needed. Therefore, this question surprised me a little, so I probed for more context.

Background

My client has known this friend for thirty years. They dated briefly in the early nineties before he came out as a gay man. They have never lost touch, though they have seen each other only twice in the past fifteen years. Over the past few years, he has experienced hard times. Never fully launching as an adult, he relies on relationships to keep him afloat.

He reaches out now only to ask for money. She knows he is estranged from his family, so she always provides. But lately, requests have come at odd hours of the night. He simply sends a money request via an app and doesn't have a conversation first. As much as it hurts her to admit it, she is beginning to feel used.

She feels at war with her conscience. A big part of her wants to keep giving since the friend clearly needs the money. *Who would ask for money if they don't desperately need it? And how embarrassing it must be for him!*

Her heart aches. Another part of her is savvy enough to recognize when she is being played. She does not want to become like *The Giving Tree.*[1]

On one level, she wants to know if she should continue to give him money. But the real question fueling this quandary runs deeper: She wonders if their relationship will survive if she doesn't give him money. Has it become transactional between them?

I thought, *what a tough situation for her,* as I cast the chart. The chart appears to agree with this sentiment. Let's get into it.

Analysis of Significations

The querent is signified by Mercury in Cancer in the 11th House since the Ascendant falls early in the sign of Virgo.

Mercury recently conjoined with the Sun and is reborn in its synodic cycle but is still combust since it is a mere 4°13′ away from the Sun. Combustion greatly weakens a planet's efficacy. For Mercury, it can impede the clarity of one's thinking and decision-making processes.

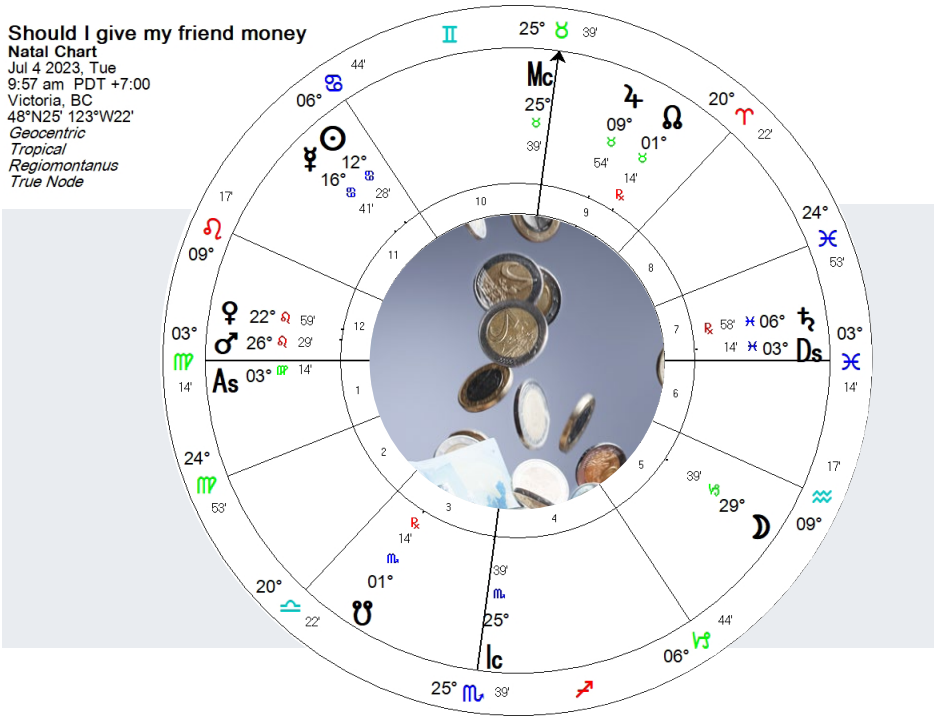
William Lilly writes, "*The significator of the Querent combust, shows him or her in great fear, and overpowered by some great person.*"[2] This aligns well with what the querent has shared: She's fearful of losing this relationship and feels overpowered by the demands of her male friend.

Her signifier is in the house of friendships and networks, which makes sense in the context of this situation. Mercury is moving forward at a good clip, a little over two degrees daily. It has both term and face dignities according to the Ptolemaic scheme of planetary dignities.

Although Mercury suffers from combustion, it is coming out of combustion renewed. It is also moving fast and direct and has two minor dignities. It sits in the house of Jupiter's joy, and Jupiter is exalted in Cancer. This is relevant because Mercury is still picking up some waning support in the form of a separating sextile from Jupiter in Taurus perched in the 9th House.

Mercury also signifies the querent's movable resources since the cusp of the 2nd House also falls in the sign of Virgo. In this horary chart, the querent is strongly

> The querent is signified by Mercury in Cancer in the 11th House since the Ascendant falls early in the sign of Virgo.



identified with her resources. This echoes the idea of being the "giving tree."

For those unfamiliar with that sad children's tale, it tells of a tree that has given so much of itself to a beloved young boy over the boy's lifetime that the tree essentially martyrs itself to provide for its dearly cherished friend. It's a cautionary tale that warns that excessive giving in the name of love can lead to annihilation of the self, the ego.

The friend in this horary chart is signified by the Moon at the final (anaretic) degree of Capricorn since the cusp of the 11th House falls in the sign of Cancer. Her friend is a solar Cancer, so this tracks well with the situation. The anaretic degree is a fated point, indicating the cycle's peak and the story's end. The querent and her friend have been in a relationship for thirty years.

The Moon in Capricorn is in detriment. At the anaretic degree, it is in a final gasp. The Moon is out of orb of an opposition to Mercury. It would have perfected the opposition a few days earlier, July 1-2, when the request for more money arrived in the querent's inbox.

Oppositions are of the nature of Saturn and can indicate an insurmountable standoff and deep regret. They speak to a situation where compromise can seem quite difficult to achieve. This Moon answers to Saturn, which sits near the Descendant, facing down the Ascendant. The 7th House famously rules relationships but also open enemies. Saturn is retrograde, which can call forth its shadow side. The shadow side of Saturn is a deep shadow indeed.

Saturn is the greater malefic in traditional astrology. It can indicate penury, cruelty, and other nasty business in retrograde. Perhaps the *nasty* is mitigated with Saturn's face dignity at 6° Pisces and receipt of a supportive sextile from Jupiter. Conversely, the sextile to Jupiter may not soften the Saturnian malevolence; it may inflate it. Saturn has angular strength—called accidental fortitude—by its proximity to the Descendant. One never wants a retrograde Saturn in the house of open enemies.

One never wants a retrograde Saturn in the house of open enemies.

Judgment

Based on the Moon in opposition to the querent's signifier (which is also the signifier of the querent's movable resources), the Moon at the anaretic degree indicating the end of a storyline, and retrograde Saturn opposing the Ascendant, I told the querent that she should not continue to provide material support to this friend and that this may signify the end of their long relationship.

Conclusion

It was a sad message to deliver, but it did not surprise my client. She had intuited that this might be the case but hoped she was wrong.

She was not wrong; her intuition protected her and guided her to make the best choice for her life, the only life she was truly responsible for. Sometimes, relationships run their course, and it is not a great tragedy. Nothing on this Earth lasts forever.

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2 Lilly, William. Christian Astrology, Volumes I & II: Retyped & Annotated by Deborah Houlding. UK: Ascella Publications, 1999.

Angela Alston *is a horary astrologer, writer, and visual artist based in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. She holds a Practitioner's Level Certificate from the School of Traditional Astrology. Her astrology work can be found here:* ***www.angelaalstonastrology.com.***



The Curious Case of the Lost Earring

by Peter Burns

At the 2011 SOTA Astrology Conference in Niagara I had just completed a lecture on *Transits from a Traditional Perspective*. I had covered my lecture material a little quicker than I had anticipated and there was still about 20 minutes left to discuss astrology. It was a packed room with about 80 people, and I asked if there were any questions about anything at all to do with astrology.

The background story

An astrologer friend of mine put up his hand and said that on the previous day a friend of his reported that her valuable earring, a family heirloom, had been lost. She was somewhat distressed, and with a group of astrologers at the conference, she decided to do a horary question about whether she would find the missing earring. In front of the audience, I was asked my opinion on the chart.

The group's conclusion was that the earring would not be found because the rising sign was at the last degree of Sagittarius. Some authors have the opinion that a late degree on the Ascendant means that it is too late to ask the question, and any further investigation of the horoscope is pointless. This *late degree* rule is one of the so-called *Considerations before Judgement*, sometimes called *Strictures before Judgement*.

The ruler of the missing earring

There are two options when considering which planet rules a missing object. The first is to use the second house ruler, assuming it is something that can be moved. The second is to use the natural ruler of the object in question. In this case Venus would be used as it is the natural ruler of jewellery. Neither of the querent's significators, Jupiter and the Moon, were connected by aspect with Venus.

The *rule of thumb* is to always use the second house ruler unless the chart is calling attention to the natural ruler in some way; for example, if it is on an angle.

I chose to go with the 2nd house ruler. The sign on the 2nd house cusp is Aquarius, which is ruled by Saturn. Saturn is in the sign of its exaltation in Libra and

conjunct the Midheaven. It's exaltation status reflects the beauty of the missing piece and how it is regarded by the querent. Saturn reflects its antiquity. The Midheaven is one of the power-points in the horoscope, which are the four angles. When a planet which represents a missing object is conjunct one of the angles there's a strong likelihood that it will be found.

Both lights above the horizon

The fact that both lights, which are the Sun and Moon, are above the horizon offers support to the idea that the missing possession will be found. The lights are associated with what will be *brought to light.*

The big clue

The person, or this case the group of astrologers asking the question, is called *the querent*. The querent represented by two planetary significators. The first is the ruler of the sign on the Ascendant. Jupiter rules Sagittarius and is placed in the 4th house of family and tradition, perhaps reflecting her concern about losing a valuable family heirloom. Notice that Jupiter is ruled by Venus, the planet which represents jewellery. Jupiter is not connected by aspect to Saturn, the 2nd house ruler, or Venus, the natural ruler of jewellery.

The querent's second significator is the Moon, often called the co-significator. The Moon is in the 12th house, reflecting her dismay at having lost the earring. The Moon's next applying aspect is to Saturn, the ruler of the 2nd house, which represents the missing earring. The Moon at 15° of Sagittarius applies to Saturn at 22° of Libra. This sextile aspect is a powerful indicator that the missing earring will be re-united with its owner.

Uranus, the modern ruler

I should mention that experience has taught me that to find the correct answer it is important to only use the traditional rulers of the zodiac signs. If the modern rulers are used it is very difficult to get the correct answer. In this case the modern ruler of Aquarius, the sign on the 2nd house cusp, is Uranus in the 3rd house.

It's not clear to me how Uranus shows that the missing earring would be found. It's not linked by aspect to either of the querent's significators.

What happened

In the lecture I pointed out that despite the late degree of the rising sign, the missing earring would be found, for the reasons mentioned above. From my perspective the chart was making a clear statement and my public response to the gathering of astrologers was that the missing earring would be found.

A few days after returning home I received a message from my friend that the missing piece was handed in by one of the hotel staff and given to back to the querent as she was checking out from the hotel.

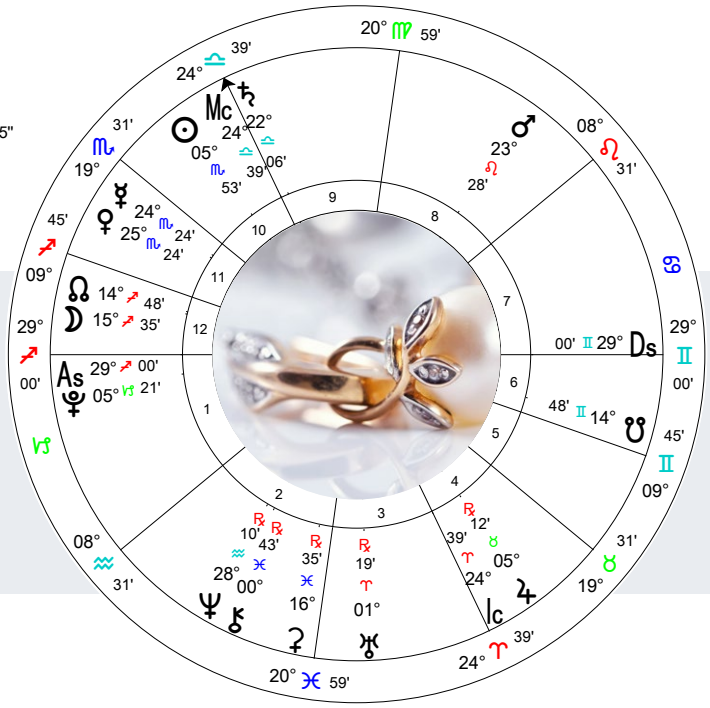
Experience has taught me that to find the correct answer it is important to only use the traditional rulers of the zodiac signs.

The last degree

In my experience the so-called *Considerations before Judgement* should be treated only as considerations, not as rules which invalidate a horoscope. Perhaps the late degree in this example could be interpreted as the querent being re-united with the earring at the very last moment as she departed the conference; or that the earring had already been found and the querent only needed to check-out to be reunited with her earring.

However the late degree is interpreted it is clear that it didn't invalidate the chart. The horary chart for the missing item clearly showed it would be found. In my view those who use the *Considerations Before Judgement* to invalidate charts are missing out on valuable insights. If we ask a question of the mighty cosmos why would we disregard the answer?

The Lost Earring
Natal Chart
Oct 29 2011, Sat
12:17 pm EDT +4:00
Niagara Falls, NY
43°N05'40" 079°W03'25"
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node
Rating: AA



Peter Burns took up astrology in the 1980's, received his Astrology Diploma (FAA) in 1997; was president of the Victorian Astrology Association 2006-2008; national editor of the Federation of Australian Astrologers Journal 2000-2015; guest speaker on ABC radio in Western Australia and 3RRR in Melbourne; published The Palmistry Textbook in 2011, has lectured in Australia and USA. Peter is dedicated to integrating the wisdom gained from modern astrology with traditional astrology and establishing a bridge of open-mindedness between the two points of view. Peter is a dedicated astrologer, lecturer, writer and teacher. Peter runs online courses in horary astrology and hand analysis. Email: ***peterburnsastrology@gmail.com***



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NEWLY APPOINTED OPA SATELLITE DIRECTOR



CONGRATULATIONS TO Mallory Hasty

We wish to congratulate Mallory Hasty on their new appointment to the OPA Board with a newly created position of Satellite Director. Mallory has been working with our international Satellites. Creating a director role acknowledges our desire to expand our international presence with live events, certification trainings, translated articles and magazines.

The Art of Business



Business & Technology Column

BY EILEEN MELLO

In this regular column, Eileen will walk you through some of the fundamentals of establishing your consulting practice—focusing on technology and entrepreneurial best practices—for astrological newbies and old pros alike! To submit topic ideas, please email her at eileen@eileenmello.com.

Reader Question: How do I determine my content strategy? How often do I write? I struggle with this one. Monthly horoscopes, daily, New Moon, video? The choices seem endless!

Yes, most of us have been right where this dear reader is—feeling overwhelmed by the endless possibilities for content creation!

There's a simple "recipe" that will ensure you're a content creator who shines—regardless of whether you will write, podcast, or vlog. The goal here isn't to tackle your entire strategy at once but to focus on the foundation of content creation so that your strategy can emerge more organically and align with your natural talents.

Not everyone is a writer or will feel inspired to engage with their audience via blog or email. That's okay! These tips apply across content delivery platforms.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESSFUL CONTENT CREATION

- **Be consistent**
- **Know what your audience wants**
- **Use strategies and tips from proven content creators**

Be consistent.

Consistency communicates that you're a reliable professional and available to your audience. This isn't a hobby. It's your business, and you're committed to your clients, right?

Yes, it matters what type of content you create and whether your mailing list is engaged. However, even more important is that the audience knows when and how they will hear from you.

If you can only commit to one email each month, great! If you can commit to one email each week, great! The point here is to be realistic about your abilities and consistently deliver. (More on that below.)

Here's a personal example: I love to write and produce videos, but I find videos to be frustrating in terms of the tech. I also prefer routine and found it harder to maintain a video routine aligned with my "flow." Thus, I chose to write an email/blog. (This took months of frustrating trial and error to determine, so be gentle with your process!)

I had already written a few emails to my list, so I knew how long it took to produce the email. Therefore, I was confident I had the time and energy to write weekly.

To Consider: What's a realistic schedule based on your existing time allotment (do you even know how much time you have for content creation)?

How long does it take you to produce content from start to finish? Sure, the blog itself may take a specific amount of time to write, but how long does it take to brainstorm topics, edit, wrangle with your email service provider, post it to your website, and so forth?

Pro Tip: Start slow and build up. Don't deviate from your established schedule unless there's a strategic reason, like you're running a sale, a special cosmic event, etc. If you're so inspired one week that you write three blogs, save two for later release when you're on vacation, sick, or not feeling it.

Again, the point is to be consistent!

Know what your audience wants.

Why are you producing content? What benefit does your audience receive?

Here's another personal example: I have two taglines for my business: "Align With Divine," and "Understand Yourself Better." I have a decidedly psycho-spiritual approach when working with my clients. My focus is on personal transformation dynamics, and that's the primary reason people are scheduling with me.

Therefore, I write about the current astrological cycles in laypersons' terms. My purpose is to 1) help readers align with the cosmic energies to understand themselves better and 2) give practical tips for applying astrology to their spiritual practice. Knowing this gives me a framework for writing each email so I'm never floundering for subject matter.

This is what my audience wants. *What does your audience want?*

To Consider: How do you best assist your clients? What are your specialties? Where do you shine, and how do you differ from others in the field? What do your clients tell you they want to learn more about?

Pro Tip: ASK! If you're unsure, email or text your most engaged clients and ask for feedback. They'll be flattered you want their opinion!

If you do this, make sure the question is well-formulated, and they can respond simply in just a few words. Long messages can overwhelm folks and prevent you from receiving your desired response.

Here's an example: "Hi there! I will be writing a [weekly/monthly/bimonthly] blog. What are you most interested in hearing about? New Moons? Horoscopes? Transit cycles? Something else? I value your opinion as one of my best clients, and look forward to hearing what you think!"

(Note the friendly yet generic salutation that allows you to easily copy and paste or BCC the message to multiple people with ease.)

Once you know what your audience wants, your writing will have a framework, and production will become clearer and easier.

Use strategies and tips from proven content creators.

Who's on your device right now? Who are your favorite astrologers and content creators? Do they model what you would like to achieve for your business?

Start paying close attention to how they connect to their audience and present their content. Act as an observer of their proven techniques.

To Consider: YouTube titan Sean Cannell says, "Don't compare your beginning to another person's middle or end."

The point here is to be realistic about your abilities and consistently deliver.

Where are you on your content creation journey? While it's wise to have models of success, it's unhelpful to compare yourself.

You don't need sophisticated bells and whistles to start connecting with your audience today. That can come later when you've mastered consistency. Begin with the basics so that you meet with success and gain momentum.

Pro Tip: If you have the time and impulse, consider finding a business mentor to guide you as you build your business.

> Unless you're making promises about what your audience can expect, you should write about whatever you feel compelled to discuss at the moment

They don't have to be astrologers if they've cracked the code to a business model that resonates with you. (Sean Cannell, Darla LeDoux, Marie Forleo, Stu McLaren, Amy Porterfield, and Natalie Sisson are all examples of successful digital entrepreneurs with loads of free advice and paid programs you can access across platforms.)

The Takeaway

Unless you're making promises about what your audience can expect, you should write about whatever you feel compelled to discuss at the moment—with consistency being the unspoken promise. This is especially true if you're new to content creation. You have to build your muscles, and drilling yourself into the ground isn't the way to do that!

And if you're still unsure about where to start, just go back to the most critical point that's been made: Consistency.

Especially when starting out, it matters more that you're connecting with your audience than the topic you choose to engage with. After all, there are astrologers aplenty. Your audience doesn't want to hear from just anyone. *They want to hear from you,* so let your personality shine as brightly as the planets!

In the next issue, Eileen will explore the importance of an email service provider: What is it, why you'll need one, and how to decide which to use.

Eileen Mello *is a Mercury-ruled second-generation practicing Evolutionary Astrologer, "descendent" of Jeffrey Green. She's also a former editor at The Mountain Astrologer and editor of The Evolving Astrologer. In addition to her astrological practice, she's a successful independent consultant for small businesses needing operations support (building infrastructure, implementing technology, establishing systems and processes). Eileen holds a double BA in Psychology and Philosophy & Religion and an MA in Women's Studies in Religion. She's a native Northern Californian and has traveled and lived in Africa, Asia, and Europe. When she's not talking astrology or spending time with her family, she's meditating, dancing, or gardening with la chat. More at* ***www.eileenmello.com.***



Matt Boisvert *is a multidisciplinary artist based out of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, who has always been interested in esoteric arts. Over the years, he has produced four albums, music videos, animation, several plays and more. He studied art at the University of Alberta where he specialized in wax painting. He is married to astrology writer and consultant Mel Priestley, and '****astrOMG!'*** *is born from the constant onslaught of astrological information they discuss.*

WAVE GOODBYE TO SUMMER'S MILKY WAY

Astrophotography by **Rod Chang**



Acumen M7



M16T35_A25

The **Milky Way** is visible on summer nights in the northern hemisphere, roughly between Scorpius and Sagittarius's constellations. It is like a piece of fiery red and golden star-dust, astonishing in its beauty. As summer ends we say goodbye to the beautiful Milky Way, which stays visible in the Western sky after sunset in October in the Northern Hemisphere.

The core of the Milky Way is also the center of our galaxy. Beautiful small star clusters are nearby, including one listed long ago in Ptolemy's star catalog. Contemporary scientists still call these stars the **Ptolemy Cluster**.

There are about 80 stars visible by telescope in the Ptolemy Cluster, which is at 29⁰ 02′ Sagittarius on the tropical zodiac. It is often considered a star in astrology, called **Acumen**. Vivian Robson says that Acumen has the characteristics of the Moon and Mars, and at the same time, it will affect people's vision and can cause blindness.[1] Dr. Bernadette Brady believes that Acumen symbolizes destructive criticism.[2] Still, in ancient Chinese astrology, this star cluster is seen as the Fish in the Sky River, associated with water control, irrigation, rain, and mysterious things.[3]

Dr Bernadette Brady described Acumen and another nearby cluster called Aculeus as the **'Sting of the Scorpion'** constellation. Astronomers also call Aculeus the **'Butterfly Cluster'** because of its arrangement. It is also an open cluster, and today is aligned with the ecliptic at Sagittarius 26° 07′. Dr. Bernadette Brady believes that Aculeus has the characteristics of criticism and attack but is constructive at the same time. This cluster describes the transformation after being criticized or the change brought about by criticism and attack.

The **Messier 22** cluster is another deep sky object considered important in astrology. It is in the constellation of Sagittarius, but for the tropical zodiac, it is aligned at 8°38′ Capricorn. The Messier 22 cluster was called Facies in Vivian Robson's book, symbolizing the archer's eye. Even though many astrologers consider Facies to be a star, it is a globular cluster, a dense cluster of galaxies often containing tens of thousands of stars and much older than open clusters. Vivian Robson considers that Facies are of the nature of the Sun and Mars and cause blindness, defective vision, disease, accidents, and violent death.[1]

There are many nebulae and other star clusters in this region of the sky, including the Sagittarius **Star Cloud**, the **Trifid Nebula**, the **Omega Nebula**, and the **Eagle Nebula**, they are all beautiful celestial bodies, and what I want to show you today is the Eagle Nebula. If we see it with a larger telescope, we will see the dust structure inside the nebula, like some pillars. This part is where stardust forms new stars, so it is also called **Pillars of Creation** by astronomers, and in the tropical zodiac, it is aligned at 4⁰ 57″ of Capricorn. This organized and structured creativity may give new meaning to this zodiacal degree.

At the end of Autumn, we have to say goodbye to the magnificent summer Milky Way to give way to the silvery Winter Milky Way, stretching from **Cygnus** to **Cepheus**, **Cassiopeia**, and **Perseus** constellations, a very poetic scene, I will show photos of the starry skies in these areas in the following article.

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2 Brady, B., *Star and Planet Combinations*. 2008: The Wessex Astrologer.
3 *Book of Jin*, F. Xuanling, Editor. 1997 (648 C.E.), Chung Hwa Book Company.

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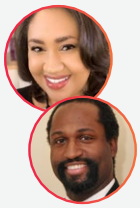
MOON ZLOTNICK (MN)
Identifying Trauma in the Birth Chart



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023
TAYLOR SHULER (AZ)
AND OMARI MARTIN (IL)
The Divine Nine — and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority through the Lens of Astrology



SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023
OPA LIVE PANEL:
SATURN IN PISCES



SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023
ALPHEE LAVOIE (CT)
The Importance of Eclipses and New Moon in Astrology



SUNDAY, MAY 21ST, 2023
KATHY ROSE (VA)
Freedom from Fate



SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023
OPA LIVE PANEL:
MEDICAL ASTROLOGY



SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023
IRIS GILDEA (CANADA)
Astrology for Healing Trauma: Shifting Paradigms with the Moon, Chiron & Pluto



SUNDAY, JULY, 16, 2023
MEL PRIESTLEY (CANADA)
Twins and Twelfth Parts



SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023
SUE MINAHAN (HI)
USA Venus Star Point Return / Oct 23, 2026



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023
WILLIAM R. MORRIS (BC)
Declination: Depth and Anatomy



SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023
LUCIAN SCHLOSS (MA)
The Great Spiral



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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
MAGALI MORALES (CA)
Using Astrology to Empower Parents and Help Their Children Thrive



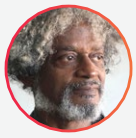
SUNDAY. OCTOBER 8, 2023
MJ PATTERSON (CANADA)
Astrology after 60



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22,
KIRA SUTHERLAND (AUSTRALIA)
How the Cross of Matter Matters: Using Modes to Understand Illness and Healing *4 pm Pacific*



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023
ANTJE SOMMER (NY)
The Influence of Astrology on Music of the '80s, '90s, and 2000s



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023
AMIR BEY (NY)
Blending: Combining Composite and Davison Charts and the Part of Union



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023
OPA LIVE PANEL:
2024 – THE YEAR AHEAD