

Understanding Astrology

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The question "Why does Astrology work?" has not been answered with certainty. Anyone who has taken the time to acquire a more profound knowledge of this subject has no doubt recognized the fact that there is indeed a correlation between the planetary positions in an individual's birth chart and his or her personality and life events; nonetheless, an explanation for the exact cause and nature of this correlation, one which is able to withstand the rigours of scientific experimentation, has not yet been developed. However, there are two explanations that are often given by professional astrologers:

1)The "materialistic" explanation: "Cause-effect".

According to this theory, the planets, the sun and the moon influence us through as-of-yet undetermined cosmic energies. For example, gravity, or the light of the sun, sent to earth either directly or reflected from the moon or the planets – such energies might possibly, in theory at least, have some effect on human life, an effect whose "ebb and flow" could be measurable through the planetary positions at the moment of an event, such as a person's birth.

2)The "Esoteric" Theory

Those modern representatives of this line of thought often refer to the "theory of synchronicity", developed by C.G. Jung together with the physicist Wolfgang Pauli. The planets are not seen as "causes" of earthly "effects", but rather, the cosmos is seen as an "entirety" in which each and every part has an intimate, mysterious relationship to every other part. Any change in one part will always be accompanied by a corresponding change in another part. Yet these changes do not follow each other sequentially in time – such a sequence of events would suggest "cause and effect". Instead, the changes occur simultaneously (Synchronicity), and thus, do not fit the "cause-effect" model. Astrologers who prefer this idea sometimes compare the solar system to a giant cosmic clock, which gives us coded information about the quality of each moment of time, without the said "clock" being the cause of the quality. For example, a clock may indicate that it is 4 PM, but only a lunatic would maintain that it is (astronomically speaking) 4 PM BECAUSE the clock says so!

Though C.G. Jung is normally considered to be the "father" of synchronicity, the idea is in fact hardly a child of the 20th century. Towards the end of the 18th century, the German philosopher Gottfried Leibniz, without the aid of the discoveries of quantum physics, developed a theory which in many respects is almost identical to Jung's synchronicity, at least as far as that which is of greatest interest to astrologers is concerned. Leibniz called his theory "pre-established Harmony":

"The soul follows its own laws, as the body follows its laws; both meet each other due to the pre-established harmony which exists among all substances, since all are emanations of one and the same universe."

In other words: the body (or any physical object) and the soul don't actually "influence" each other, but rather, the "divine plan" created the world in such a way that there is and must always be a correspondence between the physical and spiritual (psychological, etc.) levels of existence; this correspondence creates the illusion of a "cause and effect" continuum. An example: if one had two wound clocks on a table, which both show exactly the same time, there would be a perfect "correspondence" between the two, yet one could not say that one influences the other. According to Leibniz, the only "cause" is the "highest power", the "supreme being", that is, God. That which we perceive as effects are in fact merely "correspondences" which owe their "synchronicity" to the

perfection of the divine plan. There are certain similarities between this theory and that of Spinoza, who speculated that all physical manifestations – people, things, energies, space, etc., are but “modalities” of a single “cause”: God, the creative force.

Personally, I believe that it's quite possible that the two theories needn't be mutually exclusive. In practically all areas of our daily lives, science as well as direct personal experience has shown that the “cause and effect” model of reality “works”. And isn't this practical level of existence that on which we base just about everything we do? On the other hand, when we delve a bit deeper into the investigation of certain phenomena such as clairvoyance or telepathy, a sort of synchronicity does indeed seem to exist; thus the theory of synchronicity could well serve as one of the pillars of holistic astrology. Reality may be observed/experienced from different perspectives, each of which may have its validity, even though it may at first seem to be in contradiction to other perspectives.

Though no-one has been able to come up with an explanation capable of convincing the scientific community of “why astrology works”, those who have studied the subject in depth know that it does. Yet what does “work” mean in this context? Astrologers are often at odds about the extent to which it is possible to use their art to acquire valid knowledge of people or situations. And often, they don't seem to be clear as to the limits of astrology.

Let's set some things straight from the beginning: Astrology CANNOT

- tell you the winning numbers for tomorrow's lottery drawing
- tell you with certainty whether or not you will marry next year
- predict with certainty if that rich uncle of yours, who has named you in his will, will pass away on a certain date
- let you know whether you will catch a cold just before your vacation begins next summer

Nonetheless, remaining now on the practical level of experience, and with the same questions, astrology can indeed reveal:

- on which days it is most likely that we win money. Of course, the typical “6 out of 49 numbers” lottery game, in which almost 14,000,000 combinations are possible, hardly gives anyone reason to be optimistic, no matter what their constellations at the time. Yet in certain other games – casino roulette, for example, where, if you bet on red, your chances of winning are around 47% - some positive astrological transits could indeed help you to leave the casino a winner.
- whether you might have a good chance of marrying next year – assuming, of course, that you have the will to do so. For even with the strongest of astrological indicators, nobody can be forced by the planets to wed, and in countries where young people are indeed obliged to marry against their will, it can be assumed that their “constellations” at the time are rather of a negative variety!
- that it is highly unlikely that the rich uncle, who is already 89 years old and has been suffering from severe health problems this year, will live to see Christmas. However, any astrologer who would make predictions concerning the death of another can hardly be considered a serious member of his profession, and should probably be avoided for a number of reasons, one of which is the simple fact that there are so many non-astrological factors which must be taken into account when dealing with such decisive events as is death. In addition, it is ethically

irresponsible to make dire predictions which may end up becoming “self-fulfilling prophecies”, though I am well aware that such forecasts are made all-too often during astrological consultations.

- warn us that there may be some obstacles or unpleasant situations in the days previous to our vacation next summer.

Thus we can see that astrological prognosis deals primarily, and perhaps even exclusively, with **PROBABILITIES**, that is, with possibilities which may be strengthened or weakened by factors such as an individual’s will, his environment, his situation in life, etc.

I readily confess that the area of astrological prognosis has always fascinated me, and have myself developed and refined certain techniques which work quite well for determining the astrological “quality” of a defined period of time, whether it be a year, a month, a day, or whatever. Yet the real value of astrology lies not in attempts to perceive probabilities of events, but rather in the opportunity it offers us to achieve a greater depth of **SELF-KNOWLEDGE**.

The natal chart – that is, the map containing the positions of certain astronomical factors at the moment of an individual’s birth (or at the moment when an event took place) – is, for the experienced astrologer, a sort of “dance of energies”. The sun, the moon, and the planets represent well-defined energies, and the interaction of these energies, seen in the chart, form the basis of the astrological identity of the individual. If one understands these basic energies, as well as their interactions (aspects, planets in signs and houses, etc.), then these cosmic “influences” on the individual and on the various areas of his life may be perceived with relative clarity.

By way of example of an interpretation of one of these basic astrological “energies”, we will use the planet Saturn. The basic meaning of Saturn is “contraction” – a rather abstract concept, to be sure, but one from which others may easily be derived: “form”, “the forming principle” would be another meaning, since all form owes its existence to a process of contraction. Taken a step further, form becomes structure, another Saturn correspondence.

Jumping to another level of interpretation – from the abstract to that of practical human existence – we may ask: If the planet Saturn is especially strong in an individual’s chart, what will he or she be like? “Contracted, structured, formed” were the abstract concepts which lead us to the deduction that he will tend to be structured in his life, perhaps limited; someone who might place a high value on formalities, and has difficulties feeling free and spontaneous. “Formation” may indicate a desire to form oneself academically, to have a diploma hanging on the wall as a visible sign of what one has achieved intellectually. On another level, it may just be someone whose thought-patterns are extremely rigid, one who hangs on to the past and rejects change whenever it is suggested. On a social level, the idea of “structure” suggests isolation: “I am I and you are you” – an attitude which, although it may seem “logical”, can, when taken to extremes, lead to distancing oneself too much from others, with the resulting feeling of loneliness, isolation and lack of understanding for the natures of other individuals. Thus, “loneliness”, “isolation”, and “separation” may also be considered manifestations of Saturn. Here, one may ask whether the life of such a saturnine individual isn’t unbearably sad. Of course, we are dealing here with a “more or less”. Saturn’s child may be relatively lonely, more than others, perhaps, but he will usually also have other balancing factors in his chart. Also, “loneliness”, “isolation” may well be Saturn-correspondences, but remember that they were derived from more basic concepts: contraction, form, structure. If the individual learns to incorporate these qualities into his life in a positive fashion, they don’t necessarily have to manifest as loneliness or other undesirable qualities. Using concentration and self-discipline (both Saturn-correspondences),

the individual might focus (Saturn) on achieving (Saturn) something concrete (Saturn) in his life – or help others to do so, perhaps through teaching or some other form of guidance. Herein lies the challenge of Saturn, or of any astrological energy: to learn to identify with its finest qualities, and incorporate these into one's life in a constructive way, for if one neglects to do so, refusing to deal with the lessons a planet has in store for us, we could well fall into the traps which its lower manifestations set for us, and end up experiencing the planet's most negative energies. In the case of Saturn specifically, it is often said that those under its influence will only really "come into their own" in the latter part of life, when a lifetime of continuing "formation" can really begin to show its most productive fruits – that is, unless an extreme of inflexibility has already reduced the person's life to a meaningless shell of the once-so-beautiful promise which all human life implies at birth. The challenge of Saturn: to use the available formative energies in order to build a basis from which one may aspire to a higher level of development, without allowing rigid attitudes and thought-patterns to turn one into "stone" at an early stage of development.

When the destructive side of a planetary energy manifests in an individual's life, it usually means that he or she has not learned to integrate that factor's positive energies into his daily existence. For example, if a saturnine individual becomes severely depressed and goes to a psychologist who also happens to be an astrologer, this analyst might try to determine which facets of Saturn have not been successfully integrated. Are there signs that the individual has refused to develop a sense of personal responsibility (Saturn), and/or discipline? Or on the contrary, has he developed an excessive sense of duty and responsibility, to the point where he is no longer free to lead his own life, fearing that he has no right to do so, that if he wants to be "good", he must only dedicate himself to the needs of others? In this latter case, it can be deduced that he has "sacrificed" far too much to Saturn, at which point the psychologist can try to determine how to help him break down these mental limitations so that the patient may learn to realize that he, too, has a right to experience some joy in life!

Obviously, this example is perhaps overly simplified, yet it serves to show the usefulness of astrological interpretation in relation to finding a certain balance in life – yet let it not be forgotten that it is the individual himself who must take the first step: change must ultimately come from within. Astrology can give us neither the will to change nor the necessary patience, but merely serves to point out to us WHO we are, and what type of energies are forming our lives, so that we have the opportunity to either "go with the flow" if those energies be positive, or begin to change direction if they have become distorted and are merely blocking our positive development. The choice is yours, but a meaningful decision can only be made when we know just what we are dealing with.

BASIC MEANINGS OF THE SUN, THE MOON, AND THE PLANETS

SUN: ☉

Self-realization; how and in which areas we may develop our true abilities and possibilities; that which we "really" are. (Sign, house and aspects of the Sun).
Our inner "energy source": vitality. All planets were formed from material cast off from the Sun. Thus, at a basic level, the Sun represents both our physical as well as our spiritual source. The most natural path towards self-realization is symbolized by the higher qualities of the Sun-sign, whereby the house position and the aspects of the Sun in the chart may be interpreted as modifying or co-defining factors.

MOON: ☾

Perception, that is, the reception of sensory impressions from our environment. It symbolizes therefore the foundation of our intelligence: before we can combine and make sense of the impressions we receive (Mercury), they must first be received (Moon).

Feeling as a product of identification; how we react emotionally. That which we need for our emotional security. By extension, the mother, the family. Astrologically, the Moon can be seen as "receptor" of the "Sun-energy", and thus symbolizes the rhythms of daily life, which are given vitality by the Sun. Childhood; the emotional life; the mother; women in general in the life of the individual.

MERCURY:



Connection. Exchange. Communication. Everything related to the following concepts:

- 1) The connection between the vital energies and the body (Nervous system)
- 2) Neuronal connections in the brain
- 3) The mental connections which make thinking possible
- 4) Verbal connections, which make speaking possible
- 5) Communication on a human level
- 6) Exchange of thoughts resulting from this communication
- 7) As a consequence of exchange with the environment, the resulting adaptation of the individual to it
- 8) All things which facilitate communication: telephones, postal service, radio, television, etc.

As can be seen in this list, "communication" is really not the most basic of meanings for Mercury - though this is often written - but rather the idea of "connection" – although the verbal form, "to connect", may be more appropriate, as it would underline the fact that Mercury, like all the planets, represents an ACTIVE principle.

VENUS:



Evaluation, value system, in the sense of: how desirable is it for one to incorporate something which it encounters in the outer world – whether that something be another person, food, an experience, etc. Once it has established connections to the outer world, a child must learn to evaluate the desirability of what it meets: if it touches a hot iron, it is very likely that in the future, this object will be avoided, or at least treated with a different degree of respect! Most probably, the child will consider the iron to be "bad", and reject it: a subjective judgment, to be sure, but one of the type which is necessary for survival. Venus thus symbolizes that which we subjectively consider to be "good" or "bad", as desirable or undesirable. These musings lead us to the following meanings by extension:

- 1) That which I like or don't like: personal aesthetical sense
- 2) The desire to attract that which I like: sexual attraction
- 3) Love: that which I "love", because I find it "desirable"
- 4) The desire to live in harmony with others. Since Venus "attracts" with the intention of "incorporating" new elements into the life of the individual, it will often attempt to "harmonize" even threatening elements. A possible explanation for this is that Venus at times will try to "incorporate" too much, and thus, the attempt to "harmonize" may be seen as a survival mechanism which becomes activated when life-threatening elements have not been subjected to a filtering process prior to their incorporation. Centripetal force (inward-moving)
- 5) The desire to be appreciated (loved); also, that which a person appreciates: personal taste, art.

MARS:



- 1) Self-projection. Mars symbolizes the impulsive will to act; energy focused in one direction. It gives the vital energy-source (Sun) personal motivation, direction and the will to DO.

- 2) As the "partner" of Venus, Mars acts in order to get what Venus desires – or else fights against that which Venus rejects.
- 3) The necessity of breaking out of one's "center", in order to enter into as-of-yet unknown territory. This "breaking out" of an already-existing balanced state causes a polarity, since the surging out of one's "core" makes us conscious for the first time of the difference between "me" and "you". It is therefore the task of Mars to bring dissonance into harmony, so that the first step towards the discovery and eventual assimilation of the "not-me" may be undertaken.
- 4) The desire to conquer: in the area of sexuality, Venus attracts the desired partner; Mars, on the other hand, wishes to conquer a partner.
- 5) Aggression (both constructive and destructive). Mars symbolizes centrifugal force (moving outward): aggression, impulsiveness, pioneer-spirit, urge to discover.

JUPITER:

♃ Expansion. All forms of growth: the need to know, to experience, to understand, to grow on a personal level, to have more ("wealth"). Words such as "more", "bigger", "far" serve as keys to the understanding of Jupiter. Nonetheless, this energy may be experienced both in a positive as well as a negative manner. The downside of Jupiter will always have to do with "too much of something".

Positive: growing, learning to expand one's own horizons, and helping others do the same. Preparing for the future, being open for life and its possibilities. "Luck" as a result of growth, of deeper understanding, or in general, of a successful "expansion" of any sort.

Negative: Growing beyond a healthy point; growth for growth's sake (that is, growth without any accompanying meaning). Exaggerations of any sort. Knowledge without understanding. Concrete example: Doing all you can to acquire as much money as possible, only to discover that you don't know what to do with it once you have it!

Jupiter, together with Saturn, refers to a social level, since it signifies our growth in the environment and the assimilation of new contents which can only be found outside of ourselves.

SATURN:

♄ Contraction (opposite of Jupiter: expansion). Concentration. Structuring, formation. Limitations. Discipline.

Positive: On a human level: having the discipline to accept responsibility, as well as giving one's life a structure, based on family, the profession, the society in which one lives, etc. Helping others to structure their lives in a meaningful way. Very reliable.

Negative: Rigid attitudes. Constantly trying to impose stifling limitations on oneself or on others, often using religion, political opinions or dogmas as an excuse. Lack of joy in life, little spontaneity. Such individuals may become depressed as a result of their lack of ability to simply relax and enjoy life: life is seen as a dull series of unwanted burdens and obligations. Inhibitions. Obstacles.


An example of the differences between Jupiter and Saturn:

Positive: The Jupiterian individual learns because of a natural urge towards expansion: he wishes to expand his horizons; the saturnine person learns in order to acquire more personal "structure".

Negative: The Jupiterian person learns in order to impress others with his knowledge; the saturnine individual learns only in order to get a good job, unable to recognize that knowledge is its own greatest reward.

As the second "social planet", Saturn symbolizes the societal structures which simultaneously limit and form us, and which in the end define us as members of society.


URANUS:

 To become independent: to free oneself from the norms of the family, of society, etc. to the point where one may become a true INDIVIDUAL; this is done by breaking down the rigid, no longer useless structures and norms which Saturn has built around us. The need to be different from others: "Being yourself". The desire to develop and express one's own originality. Idealism, that is, ideas which have taken on a fixed structure.

Positive: original, inventive, intellectually creative; recognizes the value of new ideas and concepts, and would like to realize them. Shows others how things "could be", if only we made the effort to convert our highest ideals into concrete reality.

Negative: Creates conflicts with others, merely to feel "different", as well as to show "how original" one is. Defends ideas which are new, yet completely unreasonable or impractical – and defends them with fanaticism at the wrongest possible moments. Tries to force one's own opinions onto others, often for the sake of a "cause". Will often fail in life due to a lack of patience and common sense. A lack of inhibitions may lead to extremes of behaviour, which in turn leads to conflicts with other people. Thinks about things far too much on a mental level – plays with ideas to the extreme – and this excess of mental activity puts undue strain on the nervous system.

NEPTUNE:

 Creative – or destructive - imagination, dreams. It is especially difficult to describe the Neptunian energy with words, for it defies definition by its very nature; thus, a somewhat more detailed explanation will be attempted.

We have mentioned the connection between Uranus and idealism. An "ideal" is basically a well-formed idea about a "perfect" condition or situation. Idealists often have rather fixed opinions (ideas) with regard to that which "should be done". Every ideal begins with a mental/psychic image which, after emerging in a vague form from our subconscious, then takes on a more definite form, and thereby becomes an idea; the idea becomes more structured and is raised to the level of "what should be", thereby becoming an ideal. Neptune represents the initial psychic image, the idea in its earliest stages, still nebulous and unformed, or, to put it simply: Neptune is the stuff out of which dreams are made. These dreams – in the simple sense of "psychic contents emerging from the subconscious" - are the origin of every idea, and therefore also the predecessors or every ideal.

Uranus has the task of mentally capturing the dream image; Saturn then gives it a concrete form in "reality". Seen this way, Uranus is the mediator between the world of dreams (Neptune) and that of concrete reality (Saturn).

Neptune symbolizes "dreams", that is, those psychic images which have their origin in other, less concrete levels of existence: the "other world", the "collective unconscious", the personal subconscious. Certain schools of esoteric philosophy claim that each person is constantly creating his own reality. Each thought has energy, and one's thoughts – when concentrated and psychically projected into

the outer world – serve to form our “reality”. According to this theory, outer, “concrete” reality, from a subjective viewpoint, is a reflection of personal, inner (psychic) reality.

Seen in such a way, Neptune acquires a definition which is at once considerably deeper and at the same time much more “concrete” than common interpretations:
THE SPIRITUAL BASIS OF REALITY.

Positive: Imagination, fantasy, inspiration: all impressions which come to us from “other-worldly” realms. The use of spiritual energies for self-refinement.

Negative: Weak sense of reality: psychological “chaos”. The desire to lose oneself in the dream-world of alcohol or drugs; lack of clarity and direction in life.

The position of Neptune in the natal chart will give clues as to the degree of psychic perception of the individual, as well as about the possible danger of uncontrollable desires to escape from reality in some way or another.

PLUTO:



Transformation: Change, as a result of destroying or otherwise getting rid of all that which is no longer necessary for further development, or that which may be harmful; the impulse to undergo such changes.

Pluto represents the principle of the “essential” in our lives: on what should we concentrate in order to be able to make the leap to the next higher level of development? Pluto often manifests as the “hand of destiny”, since it not only suggests that we separate ourselves from elements in our lives which are no longer necessary: it forces us to make such separations, so that the next steps we take in our lives may have meaning. To define a term such as “fate” may be risky indeed, but let’s have a go at it: Fate is the result of unconscious wishes and intentions which have been projected from our inner self into the realm of outer personal experience, and which have originally been formed by the psyche in order to assure the possibility of full self-realization.

As part of such a picture, Pluto would represent those energies which surge up from within in order to push the individual towards change, and which appear most obviously when it is no longer possible to delay a change in life, or at least in certain modes of thought, without life losing all its meaning for that individual – a loss of meaning so complete that the only result possible would be death – death being another correspondence of Pluto, this time in its most extreme form.

To put it more simply, and by way of example:

If we live as we should (that is, if we live according to what we subconsciously know to be the right way), Pluto symbolizes the necessary steps in our development which “life” forces upon us. The final step – death – may be experienced in different ways:

- Death as something perfectly natural: a simple transition from one state to another.

- An early death as the “only way out” for someone who has refused to accept or to bring about life’s natural “transformations”. If a person refuses to develop himself as he subconsciously knows he should, it is possible that his spirit may seek release from the physical body, since physical existence no longer has any meaning. Thus Pluto can be recognized as the final step in the developmental process symbolized by the Sun, Moon and planets: Sun = life, Pluto = death.

Yet Pluto also represents – by extension of its basic meaning - all great, important transformations or changes in life, and also “death” in a figurative sense. Perhaps that is why Pluto is considered to be related to sexuality: the orgasm as “a little death”, serves as an example: a highly intense transition from one state to

another. Pluto is also related to magic: true magic being the capacity to change reality through the force of personal imagination and will.

When interpreting the natal chart on a practical level, Pluto may be seen as a psychically very intense point, which represents in a sense the "seat of power" of the individual: power which may be used to transform one's life in a positive sense, or else the power to destroy meaninglessly.

THE SIGNS

When teaching astrology, I generally use adjectives to describe the qualities of the signs of the zodiac, since especially in the case of beginners, it is a bit easier if they understand the signs to be modifying "expressions" or "shades of color" of the planets within those signs. The planets may be seen as the all-important "actors" in the drama, and thus it was necessary to go into detail when explaining them. For the signs, on the other hand, only key words will be given. The "positive" and "negative" expressions of the signs will be indicated by "+" and "-" respectively. The majority of those interested in astrology concentrate on interpreting the charts of individuals (as opposed to those who concentrate more on the charts of events, or countries, for example); therefore, the following explanations refer to the realm of personal human existence.

ARIES: ♈

+: Spontaneous, motivated, active, Pioneer-spirit, qualities of leadership; creative, direct, honest, even brutally so. Determined, knows what he (or she) wants, and acts in order to get it. Self-assertive.

-: Acts without purpose, dominating, begins projects without seeing them through to the end. Egocentric (although not necessarily egoistic). Inconsiderate, rude, always wants to have the last word.

TAURUS: ♉

+: Persevering, enduring, patient, practically inclined. Is able to concentrate on concrete tasks. Strong; always wants to proceed step-by-step. Protects that which he has. Realistic.

-: Stubborn. A materialistic attitude blocks spiritual perception. Far too dependent on material security. Developmental inhibitions due to a lack of ability to adapt to the circumstances of the moment with ease.

GEMINI: ♊

+: Able to adapt. Communicative, social. Very flexible. Thinks logically, but also likes to "play" with ideas and concepts. Always looking for new stimuli. Loves to have contact with others, the more the better. Able to see things from an objective viewpoint.

-: Superficial. Thinks a lot and likes to plan, yet is usually unable to follow through due to a lack of endurance and long-term concentration. Has contact to many people, but is unable to deepen these relationships (fear of commitment). Outwardly charming, yet egoistic and cold on the inside.

CANCER: ♋

+: Sensitive. Wants to nurture and protect others. Good memory, especially since this individual likes to live in the past. Identifies with those whom he considers "his own". Full of feeling, absorbs impressions rapidly. Very deep emotions, great capacity for love.

-: Overly sensitive: takes everything too personally. All too subjective, and has therefore little objective perspective. Passive, allows himself to be unduly influenced by others. Often hypocritical, because of a fear of confronting others directly in unpleasant situations.

LEO: ♌

+: Warmth of feeling, is able to express love without inhibition. Full of vitality; wishes to enjoy that which life has to offer, and is willing to help others do the same. Very creative. Possesses natural qualities of leadership due to his (or her) physical and/or psychological strength. Generous.

-: Arrogant, conceited. A real know-it-all. Insists on being the first, the greatest, the most beautiful, and wants to dominate other people. Loses interest quickly if he can't be the center of attention. Uses his generosity to manipulate or dominate others.

VIRGO: ♍

+: Adapts to situations and people easily in day-to-day life. Analytical, practical, well-ordered, very correct in dealing with others. Willing to help and even to serve others. Very rational, diligent. Has an exceptional ability to make the most of what he has in a meaningful manner.

-: Becomes lost easily in unnecessary details: sees the trees, but not the forest. Very critical. Has a deep-seated fear of just relaxing and enjoying life, and also of becoming too involved with others. Unable to express emotions. At times cold, calculating and distant; judges others according to whether or not they are useful to him.

LIBRA: ♎

+: Intellectually creative: a constant source of new ideas. Very active social life, can get along with others fabulously. Diplomatic: will always try to create harmony among other people. Artistically and/or musically talented. great sense of humour, the born entertainer.

-: Not genuine: often creates a sort of "false harmony", merely to avoid any sort of conflict with other people. Appears to be very open, yet is in fact extremely stubborn in his ideas, which he won't alter even when faced with logical evidence to the contrary. Not at all practical, very often lazy and addicted to pleasure.

SCORPIO: ♏

+: Intense, will always try to plunge into the depths of any subject which interests him. Passionate: sees sexuality as a means of achieving "mystical union". Interested in the occult. Always looking for that which is "essential" in life. A profound interest in the mysteries of human nature gives a special talent for psychology.

-: Will learn more about different subjects mainly in order to gain power over others. Becomes bored easily if there is nothing "sensational" to be experienced. May become destructive in order to achieve a goal to which he dedicates himself with extremes of fanaticism.

SAGITTARIUS: ♐

+: Optimistic, wants to expand his horizons in order to move towards a better future. Contagiously enthusiastic. Desires to help others to see the more positive aspects of life. Lively sense of humor. Views life from an all-inclusive perspective. Tolerant.

-: An exaggerated optimism leads to taking unnecessary risks. A "know-it-all" who is always trying to impress others with his knowledge or cleverness. A lack of inner stability and perseverance causes him to give up projects before seeing them through to completion. Conceited. Becomes self-righteous when angered.

CAPRICORN: ♑

+: Sense of responsibility; strives to achieve success, is able to work hard and with great perseverance in order to attain his goals. Never neglects obligations. Disciplined, and likes to help others become more disciplined. Overcomes obstacles with patience and dedication. Reliable. Interested in politics.

-: Only acts to satisfy material interests. Cold, distanced. Difficulties in emotional life because of an inability to express feelings. Lives as he thinks "one is supposed

to live" instead of taking his true needs into account; this may lead to loneliness, or even depression.

AQUARIUS: ♒

+: Original, feels free and independent. Would like to wander new paths, even if others don't approve. Inventive: has a thousand ideas about how to improve the quality of life. Humane: willing to help others, even if there is nothing in it for him. Places a high value on friendship.

-: Rebellious for the sake of rebellion, not really in order to improve society, though that is what he'd have you think; or else, the "rebel without a cause". Wastes his originality of thought on crazy, useless ideas. A stubborn revolutionary, prepared to use violence, if perceived as necessary, in order to create a "better society".

PISCIS: ♓

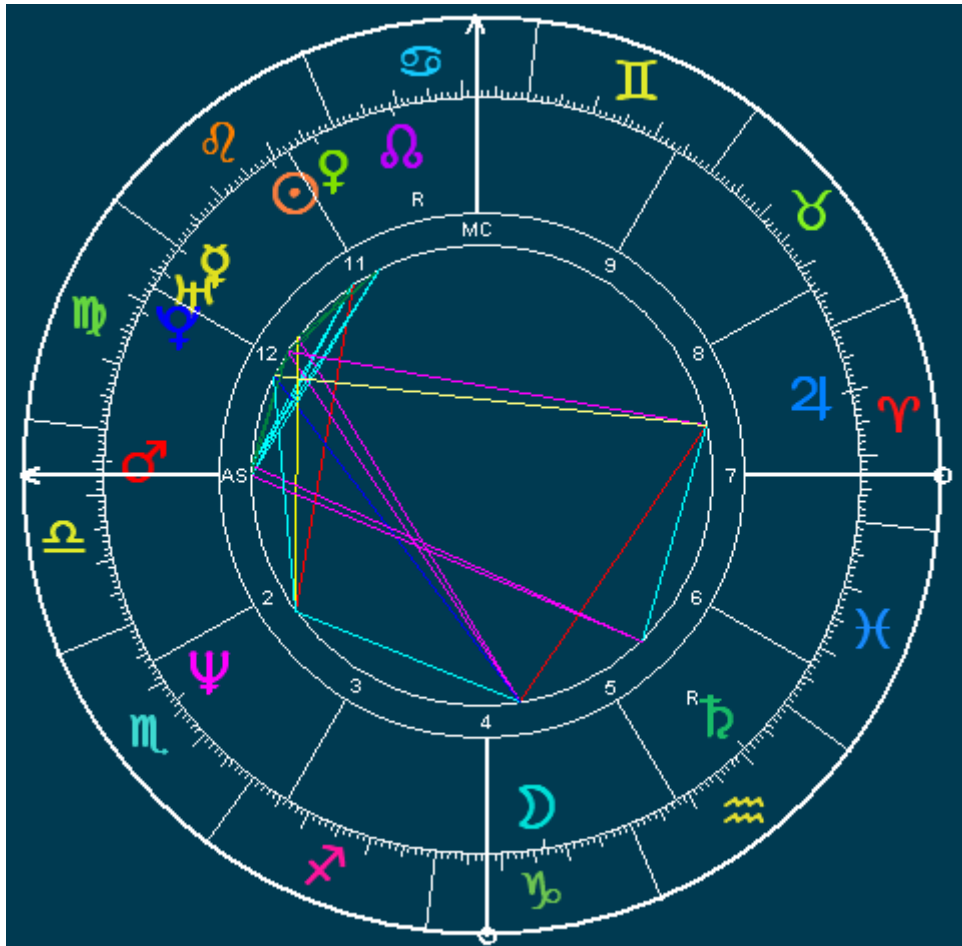
+: Sensitive to the needs of others: compassion. Helps without expecting anything in return. Inspired, intuitive. Dreamy, very romantic, yet is quite able to think clearly and logically. Perceives the energies behind the appearances. More than just tolerant: accepts others without judgment. Extremely imaginative, rich fantasy life.

-: No sense of reality. Fear of living, and of asserting oneself: feels that he is the victim of life. Tries to flee from day-to-day reality using any means at his disposal: drugs, alcohol, etc. A morbid dependence on fantasies prevents him from building a meaningful life. Chaotic, dishonest, unable to discipline himself, unreliable and unpunctual.

COMBINATION OF PLANET AND SIGN

When the task of interpreting the planets in their signs is undertaken, it is important to take the following into account as far as the relative importance of the chart factors is concerned:

- The Sun, the Moon and the personal planets (Mercury, Venus and Mars) are the main factors, followed by Jupiter and Saturn; Uranus, Neptune and Pluto in the signs will only give very general information, due to the fact that they remain in one sign for years and are thus to be considered generational influences. Let's use an example to practice.



(Chart calculated using "Omnicycles": free version available at: <http://www.omnicycles.com>)

This is a chart of a young woman (the sex of the individual must be known before the interpretation is begun, as it cannot be determined astrologically) which contains the following factors:

The Sun in Leo; the Moon in Capricorn; Mercury in Virgo; Venus in Leo; Mars in Libra. A short interpretation:

She is self-confident (Sun-Leo), and wants to be the center of attention. She needs to love and to be loved. She feels emotionally most secure (Moon) when assuming responsibility and correctly fulfilling her obligations (Capricorn). She will be somewhat ambitious, not because she needs to achieve in order to realize her true self (Sun), but rather because as a child (Moon), she was taught that "you have to get somewhere in life" (Capricorn), in order to be a worthy (Capricorn) member of the family (Moon). She perceives things (Moon) in a realistic fashion (Capricorn), although at times an excess of "power" (Sun/Leo + Moon/Capricorn), combined with the desire to build up her life (Capricorn) through her own efforts (Leo), might lead to separation from those who cannot follow her on this path; loneliness (Moon/Capricorn) may be the result.

With her emotions under control (Moon/Capricorn), and with enough vital energy and self-confidence (Sun/Leo) to attain the goals she sets for herself, this person will possess a sort of natural authority, which will be felt by others. She is a teacher, and the directress of the school in which she works. She claims that she doesn't enjoy the responsibility she has, yet fulfills her obligations the best she can (Capricorn). Though not physically large or strong, she knows well how to discipline (Capricorn) the children (Moon) in her classes.

Mercury, positioned at the beginning of Virgo, gives her good analytical abilities (Mercury): she can size up a situation very quickly, especially where common

sense is called for (Virgo). On the other hand, she tends to get caught up in details a bit too much, which at times prevents her from seeing or understanding the larger picture. She is by all means a "reasonable" directress, and always knows how to make the most of the materials at hand.

Venus is in Leo: she loves (Venus) anything which supports her self-confidence (Leo), and when in love she is warm-hearted and generous. So-called "free love" is definitely not her thing: The Moon in Capricorn signifies traditional attitudes as far as the love-life is concerned, and Venus in Leo prefers more a personal, one-on-one relationship (no pun intended...). She will probably try to find a partner with whom she will be able to construct a stable (Capricorn) future. She won't want to share her love with everyone, but rather concentrate on that "special someone" (Capricorn/Leo).

Mars in Libra signifies diplomatic talents and a well-developed sense of justice. She has no difficulty communicating with others, and if conflicts arise, she will always try to "smooth things out" – unless, of course, her pride (Sun/Leo) has been hurt too badly, in which case she will most likely break off all contact (Moon/Capricorn) with whomever offended her. Her Venus seeks a warm, personal (or even hot) sort of love; her Mars in Libra acts with charm, flexibility and gentleness: she knows how to "flirt" in order to attract the one she wants.

As will be seen, each of these interpretations gains depth when the house positions of the planets involved are taken into account. Even the distant planets Uranus, Neptune and Pluto are very important as far as their house positions are concerned, for though they remain in the same SIGN for years at a time, each of the planets passes through all of the houses every day, due to the earth's rotation. Thus, their house position allows a more individual interpretation.

HOUSE INTERPRETATION

Explained simply, the astrological houses are 12 different sectors which are derived from the division of the space around the earth, and represented in relation to the place of birth. The points which divide one house from another are called the "house cusps". (Some systems, such as Placidus, are time- instead of space-based). These 12 sectors are traditionally known as "houses".

Some authors claim that the houses are the areas of life in which the planetary energies manifest themselves. Although such a viewpoint can indeed be helpful, experience has shown that they don't merely represent concrete areas of life, but also have their correspondences on the psychological level.

The following descriptions give some of the basic meanings of the houses.

House 1: The personality, or the side of ourselves which we show to the outer world. Whereas the Sun and Moon represent what we "really are" on the inside, the Ascendant (which is the "cusp" or beginning of the first house) and also any planets in the first house give clues as to how the individual wants to be seen by others, or at least, how others do indeed see him, whether he is aware of it or not. The Ascendant is the "mask" we wear when interacting with those around us. Thus, planets in this area influence our behaviour, especially when we are with other people. Also, the physical appearance, as the outermost "layer" of our being.

House 2: Our relationship to anything physical or material: the body, and also material possessions, above all, those which are "ours". Money, as a symbol of material values; what we have, and how we deal with it.

House 3: The way we enter into contact with other people: all forms of communication. Short trips, as a means of making contact with our environment. Thought, ideas: everything which is the result of the connection of words and concepts. By extension: Siblings, neighbours, as those with whom we make our first contacts in life. (Not, however, the parents, whose relationship to the individual represents something far more profound.)

House 4: Our "roots": the mother as the "physical receptor of a new soul". By extension: the family, one's native country, the circumstances surrounding conception; also, early childhood. The subconscious mind. Our innermost self: hidden feelings, and the "instinctive impulses of the soul".

House 5: Expression of our inner self. Children (expression of the natural urge to create new life). Creativity as an expression of emotion. (Feeling=house 4; in house 5, we wish to express that which we feel). Sexuality as a creative act, or else as a form of enjoyment. Pleasure as a means of emotional satisfaction. Art (as an expression of subconscious psychic content).

House 6: Adapting to others as a prerequisite to relationship. Health – or sickness – as a consequence of a failure to express (house 5) one's innermost feelings (House 4) adequately. Sickness as physical manifestations of an inability to adapt emotionally to one's surroundings. Work (adapting to societal structures). Servants, pets (that is, those who adapt themselves to our lives).

House 7: The Descendant (beginning of House 7) is the point of "encounter": here, one meets others on a one-to-one basis. One possible definition of this house might be: "The entering into our external lives of the products of our subconscious contents", in other words: that which we experience in our lives is in fact nothing but a result of our own inner contents. By extension: the marriage partner as our "compliment": marriage itself. Contracts (agreements between two equal partners). In general, all encounters which develop into relationships. On another level, the birth of conscious ideas. (In this sense, our encounters with others are the physical manifestations of the thoughts which we have formed).

House 8: Commitment to those encountered in House 7, with the ultimate goal of forming a "greater whole". Personal transformation. Sexuality as a giving of oneself in order to achieve personal transformation through the relationship. Sex as a "climax": orgasm. The occult as a means of delving into the depths of existence. The true occult master attempts to achieve personal transformation through the "mystical union": the parallels to sexual experience are obvious. Inheritances, or in a wider sense, the "material objects" which we receive from others. Also, the house of death: the final transformation, accompanied by the surrendering of all that is physical (House 8 as opposed to House 2).

House 9: The search for a meaning to life. By extension: Philosophy, religion. "Long journeys", that is, those which we make with the intention of expanding our horizons, in order to finally recognize and fulfill our purpose in life.

House 10: The Midheaven (beginning of the 10th House; also referred to as "MC", an abbreviation for the Latin term "Medium Coeli"=Midheaven) symbolizes the "goal" of an individual in life: that which he wants to achieve. Also, conscious thought as an energy which serves to help form our path in life. Profession, vocation. The goals which we consciously strive to achieve. The Lower Heaven (beginning of the 4th house) represents "whence we come" (our roots); the Midheaven, "where we are heading" on our path towards self-realization. Planets in the 10th house will contribute to the defining of the goals in a person's life, and will also show how he goes about trying to reach those goals.

House 11: Astrological tradition assigns certain concepts to this house whose relationship is almost never adequately explained: friends, hopes and wishes, also ideals. The basic meaning of this house on a philosophical level could be defined

as: "making more concrete that which I have set my sights on (in the previous house, 10)". Example: The Midheaven represents consciousness, our conscious thoughts. Now, if we concentrate these thoughts ("concentrate" is a key-word for all the so-called "fixed" houses: 2,5,8 and 11; in each of these sectors, one concentrates that which entered into life at the previous main axis-point: Ascendant, Lower Heaven, Descendent and Midheaven), what might be the result? If, in House 10, we think: "I want there to be justice in society", and if we concentrate this thought, it becomes an "ideal" (house 11). And what are friends? The concrete manifestations of our thoughts about ourselves and our path in life. There is usually a connection between the friends we have during any one period of our lives, and the path which we are on; and if we change paths, we will often lose old friends, and gain new ones. And the aforementioned "hopes and wishes"? As in the case of ideals, these are also thoughts about where we want to go (or what we want to achieve: House 10) which, by concentrating on them, have ceased to be mere thoughts and have become something more: hopes and wishes.

House 12: The last house of the "conscious" phase (Houses 7 through 12). Here, we meet the results of our outer lives. Hospitals, institutions, prisons (to name just a few of the traditional correspondences of this house) as places where we are forced to deal with the results of our previous actions. Mental illness* as a result of an inability to adapt to the exigencies of society.

* (House 6 is related to physical illnesses, House 12 with psychological disturbances, although it is often difficult to distinguish one sort completely from the other, no doubt due to the close relationship between body and psyche, and the fact that one is constantly influencing the other).

As the last house before the beginning of a new cycle (which will begin with the Ascendant/House 1): The necessary conscious preparation for the search for the true, "inner self" (starting with the Ascendant, we once again begin to delve into the realm of the "inner self"). By extension: meditation, the dreams which we remember upon awakening; any sort of psychic phenomenon "between this world and the next": thus, and in this sense, the spiritual realm.

Along with the Ascendant, House 12 is also related to our physical appearance and our personality. The difference between a planet in House 12 and one in the first House is that the planet in the first acts more through instinct, without the inhibitions of a planet in House 12. Since House 12 lies in the "conscious" half of the chart, a planet in this sector may be aware of its own weaknesses: thus, the "fears and complexes" which modern astrological tradition often mentions when describing House 12.

Personally, I don't believe that a planet in this sector must necessarily be weak, as one so often reads in astrology books. The statistical studies of Michel Gauquelin have shown that on the contrary, planets in House 12 can be the strongest in the chart. Also, if one studies the charts of all those who have been president of the U.S., one will find more individuals with the Sun in House 12 than in any other house: and anyone who becomes president can hardly be considered shy, reserved, unfortunate, and the like, qualities usually ascribed to the 12th house.

This is why I generally interpret this sector in two different ways:

- 1) In the case of a person who has realized himself in the outer world, a planet in House 12 will be especially strong: the individual experience the planet's energy in a direct fashion, and will be able to use its qualities immediately and almost instinctively.
- 2) However, if the individual has not yet learned to integrate himself into society, and has been unable to learn the lessons presented to him by the outside world,

his planets in house 12 can indeed represent certain fears, complexes or neuroses.

THE ASTROLOGICAL ASPECTS

An astrological aspect may be defined as a distance, expressed in degrees, between two chart factors, which has a certain meaning. The most commonly used aspects today are the Conjunction (0 degrees distance, that is, both factors occupy the same zodiacal degree), the Opposition (180°), the Trine (120°), the Square (90°), the Sextile (60°), the Semisquare (45°, half of the square), the Sesquisquare (135°), the Semisextile (30°) and the Quincunx (150°). A growing number of astrologers work with the so-called "harmonic aspects". These include the traditional aspects, but also others. In harmonic astrology, aspects are seen as being the result of divisions of the circle by the whole numbers beginning with one. This way, one can derive not only the common aspects, but also new ones. For example, the Trine is derived from division by 3: $360^\circ/3 = 120^\circ$; the Square by division by 4: $360^\circ/4 = 90^\circ$. "New" aspects are derived by numbers such as 5 ($360^\circ/5 = 72^\circ$: the so-called Quintile), or 9 (40° distance: Novile).

Computer programs such as OMNICYCLES represent the aspects between planets as different-colored lines connecting their positions in the chart; these lines are placed in the wheel at the center. For the conjunction, no line is placed in this central wheel: in this case, the fact that the two planets in conjunction appear right next to each other makes it easy to recognize the aspect, so no connecting line is necessary. Here is a list of the aspects used today by most astrologers; those marked with an * are used by practically everyone, the others are still considered "uncommon", but the number of those who use them is growing at a steady pace.

ASPECT NAME	DISTANCE:	RESULTS FROM 360° DIVIDED BY ("Harmonic Number"):	BASIC NATURE
*CONJUNCTION	0°	1 (360/1=360, which as a distance in a circle, is the same as 0°)	Unity; Oneness
*OPPOSITION	180°	2	Duality, Polarity; Tension
*TRINE	120°	3	Ease of expression; Harmony
*SQUARE	90°	4	Conflict; tension.
QUINTILE	72°	5	Creativity
*SEXTILE	60°	6	Harmony combined with Tension (6=3x2)
SEPTILE	51°26'	7	Refined perception; Intuition
SEMI SQUARE	45°	8	Tension; dispersion
SESQUISQUARE	135°	8	Tension, dispersion
NOVILE	40°	9	Harmony
SEMI SEXTILE	30°	12	Harmony/Tension
QUINCUNX	150°	12	Harmony/Tension

In the list, it can be seen that some aspects have the same key-words. For example, the opposition, square and semi- Sesquisquare all have "tension". This is because they are related, due to the fact that their "harmonic numbers", that is, the numbers used to divide the circle in order to derive the aspect, are multiples of one another. The harmonic number of the opposition, for example, is 2; of the square, 4 (2x2); of the Semisquare, 8 (2x2x2). The same occurs with the trine (Harmonic number: 3) and the novile (Harmonic number: 9, =3x3.) 5 and 7, being prime numbers, represent "new" qualities, that is, neither the "tension" inherent in the "2" series, nor the harmony of the "3" series. Aspects such as the Sextile or Semisextile are of mixed nature: $6 = 3 \times 2$; $12 = 4 \times 3$.

The quincunx doesn't seem to fit the pattern at first glance: $360^\circ/12 = 30^\circ$, not 150° . In order to understand this, think of the quincunx as simply a multiple of the Semisextile: $30^\circ \times 5 = 150^\circ$. Of course, according to this logic, the trine, square and sextile are also "multiples" of the Semisextile. This is true, but since they are direct results of the division of the circle by a prime number, they are considered primarily to be aspects in their own right; in the case of the quincunx, the aspect only comes into being as a multiple of another. Such is also the case of the sesquiquare: 45° (the semisquare) times 3 = 135° .

It is readily granted that this short description of the aspects is incomplete. For example, the very fact that, though they be derived from the same "harmonic number", the semisextile and quincunx must be quite different in many ways due to the fact that their distances differ so much, is obvious. Nonetheless, for the beginner, the use of the above table will help to give the first indications of how the aspects are derived, as well as give some basic clues as to how to interpret them. There are many books on the market about the subject of aspects which may be used to deepen one's understanding of this subject.

A final word pertaining to the aspects: the subject of "orbs". Example: in the table, it can be seen that an opposition is 180° . This is the exact opposition, though in general, very few people will have aspects in their charts which are precise to the minute of distance. An "orb" is the distance from exactness permitted for an aspect. This is really simpler than it sounds. Suppose you go out one night, and see a beautiful full moon. The full moon occurs at the opposition of the Sun and Moon, that is, we have a full moon when the Moon in the zodiac is exactly 180° from the Sun. However, even if the distance isn't exactly 180° , the Moon still is perceived as being "full". In astrology, according to the aspect involved, astrologers allow an orb on both sides of the exact aspect; if an orb of 4° , for example, is allowed for the square, then two planets are considered to be in square if the distance between them is from 86° to 94° : the exact square being 90° , of course.

The question of orbs is, in a sense, totally subjective: THERE ARE NO "RIGHT" OR "WRONG" ORBS: IT IS ALL A MATTER OF "MORE OR LESS". In other words, a "square" with a distance of 82° will be weaker than an exact square, and this must be taken into account when interpreting the aspect. Nonetheless, 82° could be considered a square, "more or less", just as we say that the moon is still "full", even though we can see that it has already begun to wane. In my work, I use the orbs recommended by John Addey, which are derived according to the harmonic number of the aspect, once a basic acceptable value is assigned to the conjunction. Addey recommended a 12° orb for the conjunction; the orbs of all other aspects are derived from this: for the opposition, we take 12° , and divide it by the Harmonic number of the opposition: 2. $12/2=6$, thus, a 6° orb is allowed for the opposition. For the trine, it would be $12/3$ (the Harmonic number of the trine) = 4; a 4° orb is permitted for the trine. Here's a list of the orbs suggested by Addey:

ASPECT	HARMONIC NUMBER	ORB
Conjunction	1	12°
Opposition	2	6°
Trine	3	4°
Square	4	3°
Quintile	5	$2^\circ 24'$
Sextile	6	2°
Septile	7	$1^\circ 42'$
Semi/sesquiquare	8	$1^\circ 30'$
Novile	9	$1^\circ 20'$
Semisextile	12	1°
Quincunx	12	1°

In conclusion, I'd like to give a few guidelines for those who wish to study the aspects:

1) When dealing with harmonic numbers: each prime number represents a different "level" of relationship; thus, if 2 has the basic meaning of "tension", 3 must be something different (in this case, "harmony"); 5 and 7 will represent two levels which are intrinsically different from these, etc.

2) The LOWER the harmonic number, the STRONGER the aspect. Thus, the square will be stronger than the sextile, since 4 (the harmonic number of the square) is lower than 6 (the H.N. of the sextile).

3) The strength of an aspect is not just determined by its harmonic number, but also by its orb: a sextile with an orb of only $0^{\circ}01'$ will therefore be stronger than a square with a 2° orb.

4) Aspects whose harmonic numbers are the result are two different factors, will derive their meanings from these factors; thus, the sextile, whose harmonic number is 6, will contain something of the trine (3) and the opposition (2), since $6=3 \times 2$. In this case, the sextile represents "Harmony" combined with "Tension": a combination which easily leads to "motivation", which is probably why the sextile is considered to be such a "good" aspect. In this case, the "Harmony" definitely outweighs the "Tension", since....

5) If a harmonic number consists of 2 factors which are different (such as was the case of the sextile), the STRONGER of the two qualities will be that represented by the LARGER of the two numbers. 3 is greater than 2, thus the quality of "3" (Harmony) in the sextile will be stronger than that of "2" (Tension). The semisextile, on the other hand, will contain more tension, since its harmonic number, 12, is the result of 4×3 ; 4 is greater than 3, so the aspect will be more "tense" than "harmonious". (This is not to be confused with 2), where we saw that the lower the harmonic number, the stronger the aspect!)

6) Although the aspects with lower harmonic numbers are stronger than those with higher ones (2, above), there are cases where the "smaller" aspects (i.e., those with higher harmonic numbers) may dominate the chart. This is often the case where 3 or more factors in the chart are ALL connected, one to the other, by an aspect of the same type. For example, if a chart has the Sun in novile to the Moon, and both in novile to Jupiter, then the novile acquires much more significance in this chart.

7) When attempting to determine the strength of an aspect (or aspects), other factors must also be taken into account, such as the nature of the planets involved (aspects to the Sun and Moon are generally more important for the individual than those between Neptune and Pluto, for example), or the planetary positions in the chart (e.g., a planet on the Midheaven with only one aspect may be stronger than another in the middle of a house, even if the latter has more aspects).

SYNTHESIS: HOW TO COMBINE PLANET, SIGN, HOUSE AND ASPECT

In this example, we will continue interpreting the Sun and Moon of the teacher whose chart we have already seen.

Sun in Leo, House 11; Conjunction Venus; Square Neptune;

Sun/Leo: needs loves, and wants to love: warmth of feeling. She will find her most natural path towards self-realization in House 11, whose meaning may be described as follows: "the consolidation of that which the Midheaven represents". Her Midheaven is in the sign Cancer: she will have the goal of caring for, and

protecting others. That is what she will “consolidate” with her Sun in House 11, and will tend to want to do it in a somewhat dominating, though loving, manner (Leo). Thus we see that by the sign and house position of the Sun alone, we get the idea that the teaching profession might be good for this person. Her Sun has a square to Neptune: a lot of sensitivity, imagination, and perhaps with less vital energy than the Sun in Leo would indicate. Indeed, she is of delicate physical constitution, and at times even seems weak – which the children in her class immediately try to take advantage of. Nonetheless, things never get out of hand, for once her Capricorn Moon is roused, she pulls herself together and imposes the necessary discipline, which is then accepted as natural by the class, especially since they can sense that this teacher does indeed care about them (MC/Cancer, Sun/Leo). The Sun/Neptune square makes her extremely sensitive to the moods of others, which helps her to deal with each pupil as an individual, according to his or her own needs.

Her Ascendant is in Libra, which is a sign that she is communicative and diplomatic, and will always try to establish harmony among the others. The desire to nurture (Midheaven/Cancer), human warmth, authority, combined with sensitivity to the needs of others (Sun/Leo square Neptune), the ability to discipline (Moon/Capricorn), as well as the desire to be fair and to seek harmonious solutions to any problem which may arise (Ascendant Libra), an analytical mind (Mercury in Virgo)....It would seem that this woman was born to be a teacher!

The Sun and the Moon are connected by a septile (Harmonic 7). This aspect often gives a “mystical” or religious touch to the chart: she does indeed have a rather “esoteric” philosophy of life, and is herself psychically receptive, sometimes almost to the point of clairvoyance. (Neptune square Sun also gives psychic sensitivity).

In a normal, complete chart interpretation, many more chart factors would be taken into account; this short example is meant to serve merely as a guide as to how to proceed with the synthesis when interpreting a birth chart.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

1) Practice casting and interpreting charts. At our site, <http://www.omnicycles.com>, you can download a free version of the OMNICYCLES program, which will allow you to calculate and print as many natal charts as you wish, see the aspects, etc. (If you wish to generate “transit graphs”, it is necessary to purchase a license; however, the chart calculate/print functions are available and fully functional in the free demo version). Print out charts for friends, acquaintances, etc., and practice interpreting them using the guidelines in this e-book: you will see that before long, you will have a good idea of how to go about preparing a basic interpretation of anyone’s natal chart.

2) For those who would like to acquire a deeper knowledge of astrology, chart interpretation, predictive techniques, etc., I also offer classes, either by phone, or Internet (Messenger, Skype..), and in your choice of three languages (English, German or Spanish). There is no minimum number of classes you must take, all you need to do is set up an appointment with me, and we can “meet” online. You can find out more about my teaching philosophy, as well as prices, etc., at: <http://www.omnicycles.com/Classes.htm>

About the author...



David Bolton (born November 8, 1955, 9:48 EST, in Baltimore, Maryland, USA), has more than 30 years of experience as an astrologer; he is also a musician (harpsichordist) and language teacher. Mr. Bolton has taught astrology for many years. He is a proponent of an astrological vision that never loses sight of the basic connections between astronomical realities and their astrological correspondences, for this is the only approach that can enable the learner to achieve a true understanding of the art, and is a

necessary prerequisite for the deeper comprehension of the various factors in the natal chart (signs, houses, planets and aspects). Such an approach helps the learner to develop a capacity for formulating precise interpretations as quickly as possible, and to become an independent astrologer in his or her own right, without having to depend on many years of further instruction. Mr. Bolton is also a specialist for advanced methods of prediction (Progressions, Directions, Transits, etc.). He may be contacted at: dbolton99b@yahoo.es