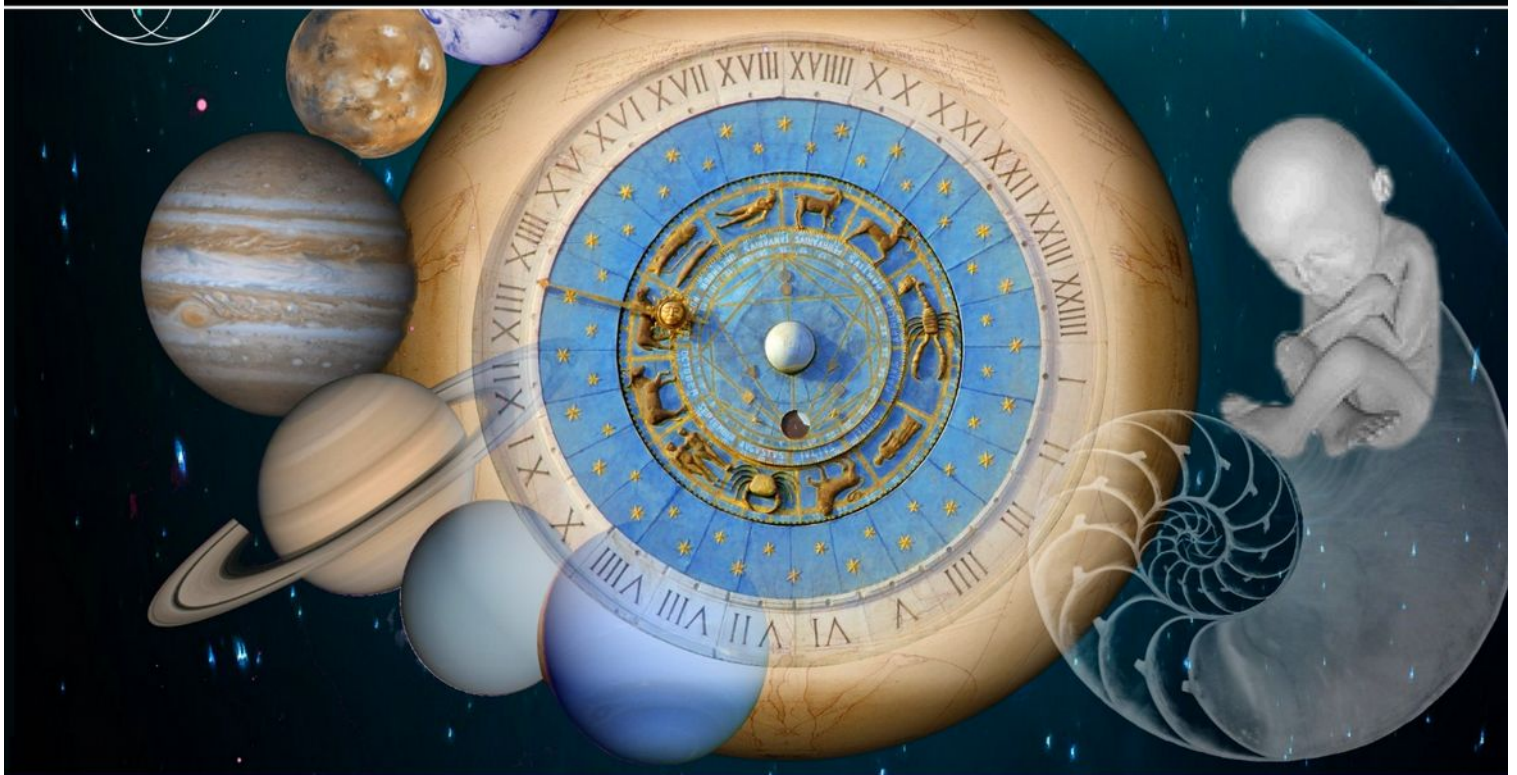


YOU AND YOUR BIRTH CHART



WHAT ASTROLOGY SAYS
ABOUT YOU, YOUR LIFE &
THE LAW OF ATTRACTION

JAMES LYNN PAGE

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**You and Your Birth Chart:
What Astrology Says About You,
Your Life and Where It's Going**

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Courteous Reader, Astrology is one of the most ancient Sciences, held in high esteem of old, by the Wise and the Great. Formerly, no Prince would make War or Peace, nor any General fight in Battle, in short, no important affair was undertaken without first consulting an Astrologer.

- Benjamin Franklin



The Anatomical Man (15th century)

INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS THE BIRTH CHART: DO YOU HAVE SOME ID?

The soul of the newly born baby is marked for life by the pattern of the stars at the moment it comes into the world, unconsciously remembers it, and remains sensitive to the return of configurations of a similar kind.

- Johannes Kepler, *Harmonics Mundi*



In an episode of the popular 90's conspiracy series, *The X Files*, agent Fox Mulder has been infected with an alien virus that might make him uncharacteristically violent. His partner, Dana Scully, gets alarmed at the possible change to his personality and demands: 'Have a blood test, Mulder. You may not be who you really are.' But have you ever wondered just what is that 'real' person lurking behind the everyday façade? What do we mean

when we talk about our true self? The ‘real’ me? Can we actually measure or identify it?

A shortlist of psychological traits might be a good start - whether you’re extrovert or introvert, rational or romantic, loquacious or laconic, matter-of-fact or intuitive. But – and you may have noticed this – these traits are never fixed: they alter according to whom we are with, and we behave differently with our partner or close friends compared to how we behave when the vicar calls round.

If a stranger asked who you were, you might offer your name. But you’re clearly more than just a name – your name is a spoken sound, a noise made by your larynx/vocal cords. You aren’t just your body either, despite all the time spent looking at yourself before a mirror. If you’re below the age of thirty you may well like to admire your cool new hairdo or perfect figure. But let’s face it: beneath the skin you’re a mass of soft tissues and organs wrapped around a bony skeleton that you’d find repulsive without that comforting outer layer. If you identify only with your physical appearance, by the time you’re about sixty you may be dismayed to find it has undergone drastic alteration – sagging skin, wrinkles and extra body fat ... and that’s just for starters.

And yet (and here is my point) you would feel just the same *within*. You may have grown in wisdom, you may have shed certain youthful attitudes, but something will have remained stable – you are essentially the same *person*. That mysterious inner self, the soul (if you prefer) remains as it ever was. If you were only your body, you’d never see any of those sprightly and youthful seventy year-olds who obviously feel young *inside*. Who are ‘young at heart.’ No: the human spirit is the same at twenty one as it is at seventy one, and whatever ‘it’ is, it never ages like the rest of you. So when we ask, ‘who is the real you?, this ageless, core self is what we really mean.

And we intuitively know all about this ‘real me’ at the centre – we know it’s what makes us unique, different from everybody else. We also attach quite a lot of importance to it. Lovers are often obsessed with sharing their ‘true self’ with the beloved, desiring nothing else than to be understood and loved for *themselves*. If we are irritated when a casual acquaintance gets our name wrong, we’re unconsciously affirming our ‘real’ identity – even though it’s just a name. We correct them and assert our *proper* name because we feel it’s an echo of who we really are.

Furthermore, that stable identity of ours sometimes gets mislaid. Witness mental patients who are just ‘not themselves any more’, who have ‘lost their mind’ whilst the doctors do all in their power to get it back for them. And yet, there are so few reliable pathfinders to this real self; so few maps

that can accurately chart the territory of that interior landscape. However, there is the astrological birth chart.

Put simply, the birth chart is a map of who you really are, or what you have to work with, so to speak. When calculated to represent a person's time, date and place of birth it is one of the few dependable guides to the psyche, to the soul, to the *inner core of what we are*.

But does this mean we are fated by our birth chart? No, it doesn't, for there is always choice and free will, right? This occurs right down to the very thoughts you think – and only you are really responsible for what's going on inside of your head. What is happening with your innermost thoughts and emotions is basically what you are! Are they positive or negative? Hopeful and optimistic, or full of doubt and fear? In the long run, what happens to you reflects something *about* you. What you are, you will encounter 'out there', too - it's what neo-pagans and fans of *The Secret* call the Law of Attraction. Astrology is no more than that - a map showing the characteristics of the soul. As the great Swiss psychologist Carl Jung (a serious student of astrology himself) noted:

The fact is that what happens to a person is characteristic of him. He represents a pattern and all the pieces fit. One by one, as his life proceeds, they fall into place according to some predestined design.¹

1: WHAT HAS ASTROLOGY EVER DONE FOR US?



The cosmos is a vast living body, of which we are still parts. The sun is a great heart whose tremors run through our smallest veins. The moon is a great nerve center from which we quiver forever. Who knows the power that Saturn has over us, or Venus? But it is a vital power, rippling exquisitely through us all the time.

- D. H. Lawrence

Why do people lie? Why do people behave like they do? Why is one person kind and the other the opposite? Astrology showed me how and why.

- Dave Davies (The Kinks)

According to Wikipedia, 'astrology is the study of the movements and relative positions of celestial objects as a means for divining information about human affairs and terrestrial events.' This definition, whilst too bland for myself, is not bad considering Wikipedia's overall attitude towards

astrology and other New Age topics, and what astrologer Robert Currey rightly calls its 'vigilante scepticism'. True to form, it ends this section by dismissing astrology a 'pseudoscience'.

But astrology never has been a science of any kind, whatsoever. Astrology is better understood as a type of craft. Think of the potter at his wheel – with the correct techniques he can produce beautiful and useful ceramics. He doesn't need to know about the chemical composition of the clay, or how a liquid glaze actually turns a soft material into a hard substance (when 'fired' at the right temperature). He just performs a set of operations to obtain a particular result.

In short – he doesn't need to know the 'science' of how he got there, just that he will get a result. And it is the same with astrology. The astrologer can compute a natal chart, interpret it correctly and obtain the necessary information without knowing how astrology actually works. So just what is astrology? For that matter, what is the astrological birth chart?

There is an old aphorism that states 'knowledge is power' and this is certainly true when it comes to your personal birth chart, or horoscope. As cited, the birth chart is a map of the heavens calculated for the exact date, time and place of birth. Why it works no one really knows – for the planets do not 'cause' our personalities or make things happen in our lives here on earth. However, the birth chart (in reality, a map of the human mind) can tell us why we attract certain situations and, where, essentially, we are 'headed' in life. Not only does it show the kind of person we are, it reveals what might help us to get there and (importantly) what might also hinder us. It can give valuable information on hidden unconscious motivations caused by your family background, for our childhood experience is often responsible for emotional issues later on in adulthood.

On a lighter note, it can indicate the kind of love life you are likely to have, and your prospects for a successful career and financial security. All in all, it illustrates your potential for change and improving your life. Just having that information about your life path is a great starting point.

However, instead of the planets out there 'causing' things to happen, they are symbols for what is deep down 'in here' - inside us. In our very souls. In astrology, whether sun, moon, Mars or Jupiter, 'planets' are just code words for a whole set psychological energies, drives, desires and motivations (some conscious, some working unconsciously) that shape an individual's nature and their life as a result.

Hence we are born with a set of innate, very individual, potentials and the birth chart can be thought of as a kind of 'seed' awaiting development. If

you treat the seed properly and tend to its growth, you will have a plant that flourishes successfully.

However, all of that potential, that energy, doesn't just sit around doing nothing. For what we carry in our soul is active, dynamic, creative, and forever trying to express itself. In other words, what we see on the birth chart is not 'just psychological'. Something that isn't 'just psychological', in turn, has real force and power – something happens in our lives as a result. You could say it is the power source in the Law of Attraction: you attract from without what is within you.

Hence, the psyche is an interplay of forces both conscious and unconscious - in fact mostly the latter. We are full of sublime, unimaginable depths as humans, replete with mysterious drives and patterns of behaviour that depth psychology calls 'archetypes'. Instead of our 'personality' being formed through experience as we grow up, the point with archetypes is that they are *pre-existent* - we enter life already with a set of human tendencies and capacities. In short, we're not born blank slates, to be written on by circumstance. We do have a guide to these driving forces, however - those strange squiggles drawn on to the horoscope wheel representing the sun, the moon, Mercury, Mars, Jupiter etc. They're archetypal, because we all share them as humans.

Just as we physically mature, so do we grow psychologically, emotionally, spiritually. We undergo various rites of passage in our lives – some small some large – and life changes us as a result. But these major 'turning points' in our lives (for example, puberty, the onset of 'adulthood', and the so-called 'mid-life crisis' later on) are all echoed on the birth chart, too.

That is, we can look ahead in time, since planetary positions can be plotted in advance via astronomical tables. And because we know where those planets will be in the future, we can see pretty much how they might affect that person's life on earth right down to the very week or month. Or even day. This can enable the astrologer to make a prediction about some aspect of your life and experience, according to the nature of the planets involved.

However, this isn't some self-fulfilled prophecy that wouldn't have happened had the astrologer not made it. It isn't just a form of words. A properly interpreted birth chart isn't a bunch of worthless generalisations than can apply to anyone, for which the astrologer then takes a hefty fee. (Which is how most sceptics would have it.) In other words, there is real insight that is relevant to the individual.

For we aren't dealing with superficial personality labels – we're looking at the 'real you', as it were. When I first learned how to interpret a birth chart

and studied my own, I knew that it truly described me, that I wasn't just trying to make it fit. Better still, I was amazed when I found that charts performed for hitherto total strangers could very accurate – I hadn't even met them and here I was writing about their inner selves, their ambitions, their love lives, the relationship with their parents. Their futures! This is how I knew astrology worked – I had tested it out on myself and my clients. Of course, the only way to see if it works is to try it yourself. All I can say here is that in my work as a consultant astrologer, it has always proved a reliable tool. This is what my clients tell me, too!

2: WHAT CAN THE BIRTH CHART REALLY TELL US?



Astrology is a fact, in most instances. But astrological aspects are but signs, symbols. Do not attempt to be guided by, but use the astrological influences as the means to minimize the faults and to magnify the virtues in self.

- Edgar Cayce

1. Knowing Yourself -The Path to Self Realisation

We all agree there are things we call individual qualities, ones from which a person is 'formed'. Just as a sculpture possesses a certain shape and substance, it is 'made' from something. Of course this isn't the same as analysing *ourselves*, as if we were nothing more than our bodies and brains:

We cannot discover the nature of man in the same way that we can detect the nature of physical things. Physical things may be described in terms of their objective properties, but man may be described and defined only in terms of his consciousness.²

We're all essentially different to some degree, and astrology is an excellent way of finding out just how. When learning their craft for the first time, astrologers begin with 'self knowledge' - he or she comes to see very clearly that the birth chart reflects (in symbols) what they already *know* about themselves, intuitively. But it can also shed light on what we *don't know*, or what we just fail to see about ourselves. Crucially, it shows what's happening in the Unconscious. As the psychologist Carl G. Jung wrote,

... the so-called normal person possesses only a limited degree of self-knowledge. Most people confuse "self-knowledge" with knowledge of their conscious ego-personalities. Anyone who has any ego-consciousness at all takes it for granted that he knows himself. But the ego knows only its own contents, not the unconscious and its contents. People measure their self-knowledge by what the average person in their social environment knows of himself, but not by the real psychic facts which are for the most part hidden from them.³

The birth chart shows those 'psychic facts' Jung refers to. It thus shows what you're really like on the inside, so to speak - your innermost drives, motivations and expectations. And though we don't always *know* our own strengths and weaknesses, nevertheless our birth chart is an excellent tool for showing what we're really good at, and where we suck! Here we would look at the sun (its sign, house and how it connects to the other planets) to get an overall picture of where we're headed in life - our overall 'journey', if you like. This is your default 'life plan' - or what you intend to take on the journey.

A chart can also give you an excellent idea of how you react and respond emotionally. We tend to keep our real feelings to ourselves most of the time – but the birth chart shows *why* you respond the way you do. Here we would look at where the moon is placed - it shows the kinds of things you need to feel secure and comfortable. It's your emotional 'anchor'. Much of this has to do with your childhood, because up until the age of about seven, your emotional habits and needs were being formed. (This doesn't change much once you're an adult!) The moon on the chart also tells us how you're likely to remember your mother's influence. (And just how much you've been conditioned by it.)

In many cases, we can even get information on the way you look, your bodily type and how you like to dress. This often has a lot to do with the rising sign (which can only be ascertained with an accurate birth time). The rising sign (unlike the sun sign) is mostly about the 'personality' you project in public if there are strangers around, and you might want to put over a certain 'image' of yourself. And this can be quite different from your sun sign. Ideally, your sun and rising signs should blend nicely, but when they don't, at least it makes you a complex personality with hidden depths. At worst, someone no one else can really work out!

The birth chart can also show how you're likely to earn money, and your overall *attitude* to the old filthy lucre. It depicts how you will approach authority figures (like your boss at work, or that police constable who stopped you this morning) and how you go about achieving success - and whatever it may mean to you. (What will your ideal career entail, for example?) So many people end up in tedious low paid employment when they could be bringing out their real talents and actually *making money from what they enjoy doing!* Since astrology knows what you're good at, it will show the best career route for you as an individual.

All in all, it's about that life-journey we mentioned. Not everyone is fully aware of the journey they're taking, and what they could be doing to make it more smooth and successful. Often, there are people who seemingly can't get it together to be successful on the path they have chosen. Something (often deep rooted in their past) stands in the way of them getting what they want out of life, and the chart can also highlight this very clearly. It may be that they just need to see themselves better, and to stop jeopardizing their own capacity for achievement. Here is where astrology is most useful – holding up a mirror to someone so they can see themselves, possibly for the first time. As the American psychologist Ralph Metzner once put it:

As a psychologist and psychotherapist, I have been interested in another aspect of this baffling and fascinating subject. We have here a psychological typology and diagnostic assessment device far exceeding in complexity and sophistication of analysis any existing system.... the framework of analysis — the three interlocking symbolic alphabets of zodiac "signs," "houses," and "planetary aspects" — is probably better adapted to the complex varieties of human natures than existing systems of types, traits, motives, needs, factors, or scales.⁴

2. Knowing Others – Your Capacity For Successful Relationships

Knowing that others actually think and feel differently from us is the first step toward wisdom, and if you know something about a person's birth chart you can put this knowledge to good use. You'll understand just why your Sagittarian or Geminian friend can't be tied down to a time/date when they said they'd call (they like to keep things light and free). You'll appreciate why your Scorpio colleague goes all weird and flustered when you ask them details about their private life (they are intensely secretive). You'll see at once why Capricorn spouses seem so frustrated and tense when you start to organise everything (that's *their* job). In short, the birth chart helps you understand and tolerate others' quirks and differences.

If you're trying to persuade, convince or cajole or even sell something, then knowing someone's moon sign can tell you the best way to go about it. Why? Because it will reveal clues as to *how they will respond to you*. Should you use emotive language? A clear, rational argument based on sound reason? Wheedling charm? Common sense? A sob story?

But the birth chart tells us a good deal more. Why do you end up in the kind of relationships that manifest in your life? In other words, just why do you attract certain people, and not others? If the birth chart describes very clearly the kind of energies you put out into the world, it shows what comes back, too. Astrologers will usually look at Venus for clues as to the kind of people you get on with, and those you don't. At a deeper level, it shows the kind of partner you're really looking for and are *likely to attract* in the long run. Even if you don't really *know* the right type of partner for you, astrology does!

It can even zero in on a relationship and tell us just why it works as it does. There are special techniques astrologers use to look at compatibility between partners (synastry). This reveals the effect you actually have on your partner (not the one you think you have!). And, of course, it

simultaneously shows how your partner really sees you. There is even a technique, known as the Composite chart, which provides a horoscope of the relationship *itself* - the 'entity' that's been created by your both coming together. This is now established as being a highly accurate picture of your relationship's inner dynamic.

3. Knowing Just When To Act - Personal Ambition And The Law Of Attraction

Can astrology predict the future? The simple answer is 'yes', but it all depends on exactly what we mean by 'predict'. If it means point to specific, detailed events then *not really* - but even this would be possible, for it all depends on how predictable you are! The chart does not reveal 'messages' to the astrologer as if they were all psychics (though a good deal of them are). The chart provides information on how our lives are developing at any one time, and how we are managing the business of living. Broadly, it's about the experiences you will have on your 'journey', of which you are the co-creator, one should add - even when bad things happen.

One of the chief culprits for this is Saturn. If Saturn in the sky seems to be causing negative things to happen in my life (as it contacts my birth chart) then I can only wonder at the mysterious connection between Saturn 'out there' and me 'in here'. However, the planets out there making things happen on earth makes no sense - and that is because (as I've pointed out) those on our chart are just symbols. They're coded information. What's really happening is that Saturn 'up there' is like a cosmic timer corresponding with my life 'down here' - as Carl Jung once noted, 'I have observed many cases where a well-defined psychological phase or an analogous event has been accompanied by an [astrological] transit.' This 'timer' (the astrological transit) is telling me that my Unconscious mind is ready to act, develop and usher in *change*. Correspondingly, my life will change with it.

This is the important part - when deep down we are ready to change, our lives will follow suit. If the experience is positive, we may call it Destiny. But when it's bad, when something we've grown used to comes to an end, maybe we rail against it and call it fate. Or blame someone else. As a species we resist being taken from our comfort zone - we don't like change! Change brings on the unknown. Change is *scary*. But this doesn't alter the fact that the changes have been kick started by *ourselves* somewhere along the line.

As all good magicians know, what you really are determines what *happens* in your life - by virtue of the fact that you're a conscious being with

intentions, beliefs, values, emotions etc. You will attract situations into your life which *resonate* with those energies and qualities. Now, I realise this sounds like the fuzzy, New Age cliché that more or less says: 'you create your own fate by your thoughts'. Let me hasten to say that this isn't my position, and – in any case – it can never be literally true, can it? Otherwise there would be no victims of terrorism, domestic violence, or the horrors of the concentration camp. These people did not literally 'create their fates' themselves.

All I'm saying here is that there are situations over which we've no control (this should be obvious anyway) and when this happens on a large collective scale (as with the victims of a world war) it becomes abundantly clear. Even here, though, astrology can indicate these collective 'bad fates', as certain planetary configurations come into being at any one time. This is yet another branch of the subject called Mundane Astrology, where even countries and nations have 'birth charts'. (They began *somewhere* in time, right?) Hence, an entire country will be subject to certain astrological influences, but what actually *happens* depends on who is in charge. Obviously. Given the right conditions, a morally unsound leader of a country or nation – who, moreover, sets dire forces into motion – will indeed engender situations like Auschwitz in Nazi Germany or the Killing Fields of Cambodia.

It could even be said that your birth chart – in one sense – does constitute a sort of 'fate', in that your basic self or personality isn't going to alter that much. In other words, *you are you* and can't really do anything about it! (People of low self esteem may even rhetorically ask: *why was I born this way?*) However, the competent astrologer will be able to direct you towards realising that inner self in the best way possible, and if there are psychological 'issues' to deal with, they too will be indicated on the chart. Thus, you can 'work with' and integrate such energies. This is not the same thing as 'overcoming' your fate.

In this role, the astrologer becomes more like a psychologist. But what the psychologist doesn't have at their disposal is that cosmic 'timer' we mentioned. The energies mapped on your birth chart give us a key to what is happening within you on a day to day basis, or how you're related to the movements in the heavens *in time*. As noted, what happens may be pleasant or unpleasant – but with astrology the timing is never wrong! As the psychiatrist Edward Whitmont (1970) wrote about astrological techniques:

They would inform him, not of future events or even fixed character traits, but of unconscious basic dynamics and form

patterns that a given person is "up against" and to which he continues to react throughout his life in his own peculiar, individual manner as the characteristic way his particular life is embodied in the cosmic whole.⁵

Like I've said, the chart doesn't really give detailed predictions, but what kind of *experiences* you are likely to have. Supposing there's a powerful link between Jupiter (good fortune) in the sky and Venus (relationships) on your birth chart. It may *well* mean you're going to have a new love affair, but it can mean so much else: new social or even business opportunities; a happier time in an existing relationship or marriage, a new development where a partner proves lucky for you in some way. In all cases there is a *new lease of life* suggested - and it will emerge as only it can, through your actual life circumstances.

Working at its best, astrology provides that timer for when to act and make important decisions. It comes in very handy for when we're intent on some personal ambition or project, when we want to know the best day to make business moves, play the stock market, go for a job interview, meet new people, look for love, or just stay in and avoid trouble! In the next part we'll examine the actual birth charts of someone you'll know - looking at the techniques astrologers use, and how accurate they can be.

3: LOOKING AT THE BIRTH CHART

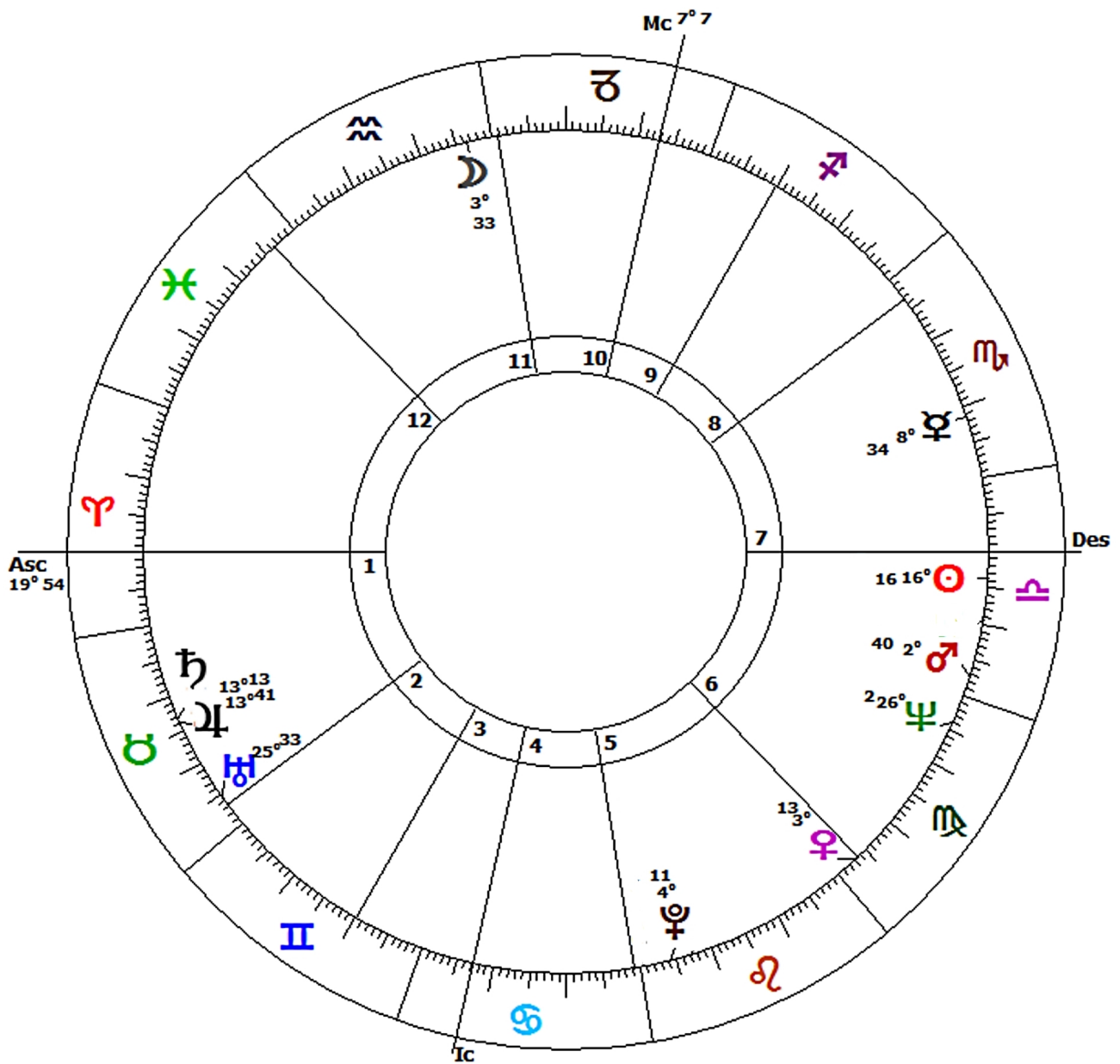


The puzzling thing is that there is really a curious coincidence between astrological and psychological facts, so that one can isolate time from the characteristics of an individual, and also, one can deduce characteristics from a certain time.

- Carl Jung

Astrology has no more useful function than this, to discover the inmost nature of a man and to bring it out into his consciousness, that he may fulfil it according to the law of light.

- Aleister Crowley, *The Complete Astrological Writings*



JOHN LENNON, born October 9th, 1940

When you see a properly calculated birth chart it's obvious that there's also a moon sign, Venus, Mars and rising sign - the part of the zodiac apparently ascending over the horizon, eastwards. Then there are the planets from Jupiter to Pluto - the ones that really inaugurate changes in our lives. (And, it must be said, quite a few other factors - that needn't concern us here.) Let's now look at two birth charts to see how all of this really works, for there's nothing quite like a practical demonstration, is there?

Above is the chart of the late great John Lennon - how should we begin to interpret it? Well, the rising sign I have just mentioned is there on the left

hand side where it says **Asc** (for ‘ascendant’) and you see the glyph for Aries: ♈. This means that Lennon’s *ascendant* was in Aries, at 19°. His *sun* sign was Libra, however (☉ in ♎ at 16°), which is marked on the other side of the wheel, more or less opposite the ascendant. Then, there is his *moon* sign (in Aquarius), which you can see in the top half of the chart (☾ in ♒ at 3°).

We have to consider all three factors here – they are usually the most important parts of the chart. At the risk of oversimplification, the ascendant (or rising sign) is your outer personality, the sun the ‘real’ you and the moon, how you normally respond to life. Astrologers – if they didn’t know this was John Lennon – would already have him down as a bit of a hot-head, an egomaniac Aries ascendant, who nevertheless can barely function without the support of a group or a close partner (moon in Aquarius/sun Libra). For one, Aquarius thrives best in groups; with the moon there he was most fulfilled among his friends, his peers – he *needed* others around him and wasn’t a loner, in any sense.

This created an interesting conflict for him – it wasn’t enough just to enjoy others company when around his social group, he also had *to be the leader!* The Aries ascendant gave him a powerful individualist streak and the need to ‘stand out’ – he needed to have his own way, essentially. But with the sun in Libra, John’s life-lesson was about *relating* on a one-to-one basis, about give and take, harmony, balance and equality. Libra is the sign of the arch diplomat – imagine a skilled politician getting his own way through guile and coercion. Librans are often so charmingly persuasive they can even suggest something contrary to your wishes and have you change your mind instantly. (And if you hold out and resist, they can make you feel like a monster!) Lennon had to balance this compromising Libran trait with the ‘me first’ selfishness of Aries!

Then there is Lennon’s (somewhat emotionally ‘dry’) Aquarian moon. Together with their facility for humanitarian values and getting along with others, Aquarian types are often attracted to the arena of political protest as a way of making a point. They like to stand up for their rights, and especially those of others! Not only did John dabble in political songs (e.g. *Revolution* and the *Sometime in New York City* album), he was personally involved with revolutionary figures from the hard left when he moved to New York in 1971. In fact, the Nixon government were so wary of his activities that he was, for a time, the subject of FBI surveillance.

That Aquarian moon is possibly the most powerful factor on this chart, too. The moon on a man’s chart is his ‘feminine’ half and will show the kind of woman he’s really attracted to. With moon in Aquarius, such a woman would have to be an idealist, an intellectual, broad-minded, an ‘original’,

eccentric even. (Certainly not a stay-at-home-earth-mother baking cakes and having children.) He finally found these qualities in a lively and unconventional female - Yoko Ono, a sun Aquarian, it should be noted. But there's much more to this moon placement.

Look at how Pluto in Leo (♇ in ♌ at 4°) near the foot of the chart *opposes* the moon in Aquarius. Leo and Aquarius are opposite signs; the moon and Pluto are almost the same degree of zodiac in their respective signs. Astrologers would call this a moon-Pluto opposition, and these two planets will combine in certain ways - not necessarily nice ones. Why not? Well, because Pluto 'rules' all the dark stuff about human nature; all the issues we leave to the psychiatrist. Pluto is about 'death and rebirth' (not literally, of course) and powerful forces above and beyond our control. It's usually around when there is irrevocable change in our lives, when something has 'died', or ended - with all of the emotional pain it can entail. In short, it's about major power conflicts, and what we can or cannot really control in our lives. But Pluto also takes us to the very core of our souls.

Pluto was also responsible for John's various foibles, for he certainly had childhood demons to exorcise. The moon is also about our primary experience of our mothers - what we absorbed from her emotionally, whether or not we felt loved and protected. Lennon's moon-Pluto opposition speaks volumes about this experience. It's well known to John's biographers that his childhood was scarred with pain: when little, he was once *forced to choose between his parents*, whose relationship had long broken down. Both his mother and father were also absent from his life for long periods and he simply didn't feel wanted. To top it all, his mother Julia was killed by a reckless automobile driver on a local Liverpool road when John was only eighteen. Plus, his best friend Stuart Sutcliffe (one of the original five Beatles) died of a brain haemorrhage at only twenty-two - just prior to the Beatles' career taking off.

It's therefore no wonder that, later, John would seek Primal Scream therapy to release all of that pent up trauma and anguish, culminating in a massive emotional discharge - the patient literally screams it away! If John's moon-Pluto opposition confronted him with his own volcanic depths, it also came out in his relationship with Yoko. Remember how we said the moon symbolises your experience of childhood and mother - for Lennon, the moon-Pluto opposition meant his image of Mother was an all-containing, formidable figure, and it's no surprise that John would later refer to his wife as 'Mother'. In a way, Yoko was the mother he never had. His Aunt Mimi (who raised him in lieu of his actual mother) was also a resourceful and tough person (though with a heart of gold) who never suffered fools gladly.

All of this amounted to John's *experience* of women – with moon-Pluto on the birth chart, women (for him) had to be made of steel. Then he could feel close to them!

So far, this only scratches the surface on Lennon's birth chart. We could look at where Mercury is, for example. It's in the sign of Scorpio (♏ in ♎ at 8°), there in the top half of the chart on the right. Mercury is all about how we learn, how we understand life, how we input knowledge and put it back out again – in other words, how we communicate. When filtered through intense, emotional Scorpio, there's a tendency to see things in black and white, and to have very strong views and opinions. Lennon fans are well aware of this tendency John had – to speak the unvarnished truth as he saw it. But because this is Scorpio (the sign symbolising humanity's hidden depths) it often came out with a harsh, cutting, even sarcastic edge. (Very unlike typical Libra!) His views on Christianity – when he remarked that the Beatles were 'more popular than Jesus' – famously caused an unholy furore in Bible Belt America in 1966. But when he made them, he just thought he was being *truthful*. (Indeed, he once wrote a song called *Gimme Some Truth*.) There is also his unpleasant attack on Paul in the song, 'How Do You Sleep?' – a response to perceived insults in the lyrics from McCartney's *Ram* album.

John's Mars, however, was in Libra (♂ in ♎ at 2°). The sign Mars occupies shows how you express your ego, how you assert yourself when you rub up against others. Mars is pure wilfulness – the planet that makes you go out and get what you want from the world. Channelled through gentle, compromising Libra, John was good at wheedling what he wanted from others, and would use his considerable charm to get it – and that's before he was famous. Mars is also how you express anger, so how does this work through peace-loving Libra?

Well, Lennon had a quirky way of showing his displeasure. In one angry letter to Paul McCartney (over the breakup of the Beatles), he vented his spleen like anyone else would. Then – oddly – he ended the letter by more or less saying 'no hard feelings eh?', as if suddenly wanting to be friends again. It's a peculiar way to sound off – getting all angry and accusatory and then retracting what you've just said with an instant peace gesture. (Aries combining with Libra!) He even denied that the attack on Paul in 'How Do You Sleep' was *actually about Paul* – that it really reflected back on John himself! John was doing a typical Libran thing here – avoiding the unpleasant and unsavoury, even if it *had* been him causing it in the first place! Here is yet another example of conflicting intentions in John – the 'it's nice to be nice' approach of sun-Libra, and the 'let's say what we *really* feel' approach of Mercury in Scorpio.

All You Need Is Love

John's Venus was in Virgo (♀ in ♍ at 3°), denoted on the bottom right hand side of the chart. Venus on the chart shows what kind of partner we're attracted to, our capacity for shared feelings and giving/receiving love – in other words, everything to do with personal relationships. It must be said that Venus in Virgo is not overly *emotional*; if anything, it's too discriminating, practical, common sense and 'dry' (a quality that also comes from moon in Aquarius, too remember).

John – apart from when undergoing Primal Scream therapy – didn't exactly wear his feelings on his sleeve, and to think of him as an emotional person is to misread him. But somewhere *within* him was the modest, hard-working, practical and organised Virgo element. It is a side to his nature that he found in at least two very significant personal relationships. They were sun Virgoans, too – the Beatles manager Brian Epstein and his first wife Cynthia Powell, the mother of Julian Lennon. He was almost certainly attracting this Virgo side of himself through other people. Like attracts like.

But it seems John was never truly in love with Cynthia – all of his passion was, in the end, reserved for Yoko Ono. Why? Well, astrology has some answers, and we call it *synastry* – or how two separate charts relate and 'connect' with one another. That is, we can establish various angular relationships (called *aspects*) actually between birth charts to see how your sun, moon, Venus or Mars link up with someone else's planets. This gives the astrologer a big clue to your compatibility.

So, if you have Venus at 13 degrees of Virgo (like John) and your partner has Mars at 15 degrees of Virgo (like Yoko) these two planets are 'conjunct' one another (within 6 degrees of arc). Venus and Mars combining in this way is a sign of raw passion – you have a powerful *desire* for each other, emotionally and sexually. It isn't necessarily an indication of longevity, or intellectual or financial compatibility, but the raw feeling that just makes you *want* someone.

Whilst those passions cooled off after a few years for John and Yoko (him going off on his drunken Lost Weekend when they separated), they were at first *inseparable*. With that moon-Pluto opposition (which has been described as the 'arrival of the erotic mother') John had never had a love affair quite like this. From Yoko's perspective, she was really looking for an intellectual/artistic equal with whom she could express her creativity.

Plus, John and Yoko (when they first met) were – famously – involved in various artistic and political activities, ones that could seem outrageous to a more conservative society. (Like releasing an album with them both naked on the cover.) It's as if they came together simply to 'shock' the world – to

make people wake up to what was going on in society (like their 'lie in bed for peace' campaign in 1969). This 'need to shock' is the result of Uranus (symbolising revolution, social change etc.) on Yoko's chart. If we look at the synastry, we find her Uranus is conjunct to John's Aries ascendant (outer personality) meaning he was quite happy that she was 'different', eccentric, left-field, and certainly not like other women. It brought him a feeling of aliveness, potency and excitement.

There is another technique astrologers use to assess relationships, which I mentioned earlier – the Composite chart. It's one of the sneakiest methods for showing just what kind of partnership is formed from the union of two people – in fact, *it's a chart of the relationship itself*. One thing jumps out when we look at John and Yoko's Composite chart – the planet of power-hungry Pluto on the *exact* degree of the ascendant (a very sensitive placing). The American astrologer Robert Hand, who wrote the definitive text on Composite charts, *Planets in Composite*, said that Pluto on the Composite ascendant creates a relationship that 'exists with the intention of making changes in the surrounding world' and can 'provoke strong antagonism in others.' He adds that serious problems can occur if both partners resist the effects of Pluto; instead they should 'go along with whatever is happening'.⁶

A better analysis of John and Yoko's relationship I cannot think of. On that last point, I'm reminded of how Lennon was drawn back to Yoko (after their long separation) as if compelled by fate – and how Yoko (actually, against her will) let him return! Once they were together again, their lives went back to normal. It really did seem as if fate wouldn't let them be apart! And in the early days, they were indeed trying to make 'changes in the surrounding world' with all of their peace campaigning and political protests. And of course, their relationship most definitely drew 'strong antagonism' from nearly *everyone*: the press, their families, their fans, even two of the Beatles.

And if astrology can be used to show the dynamics of personal relationships, how one partner really affects the other, it can also show *exactly where in the world* we might best use our inner dynamics. That is, which actual places on the map we might succeed best in career, love life, home-making, business and finance. How does this work? Well, without getting too technical, the birth chart can be grafted on to a map of the world. This means certain 'lines' of astrological power or influence run through specific latitudes and longitudes on the earth's surface, depending on which planet we're dealing with. It's called Astrocartography, or

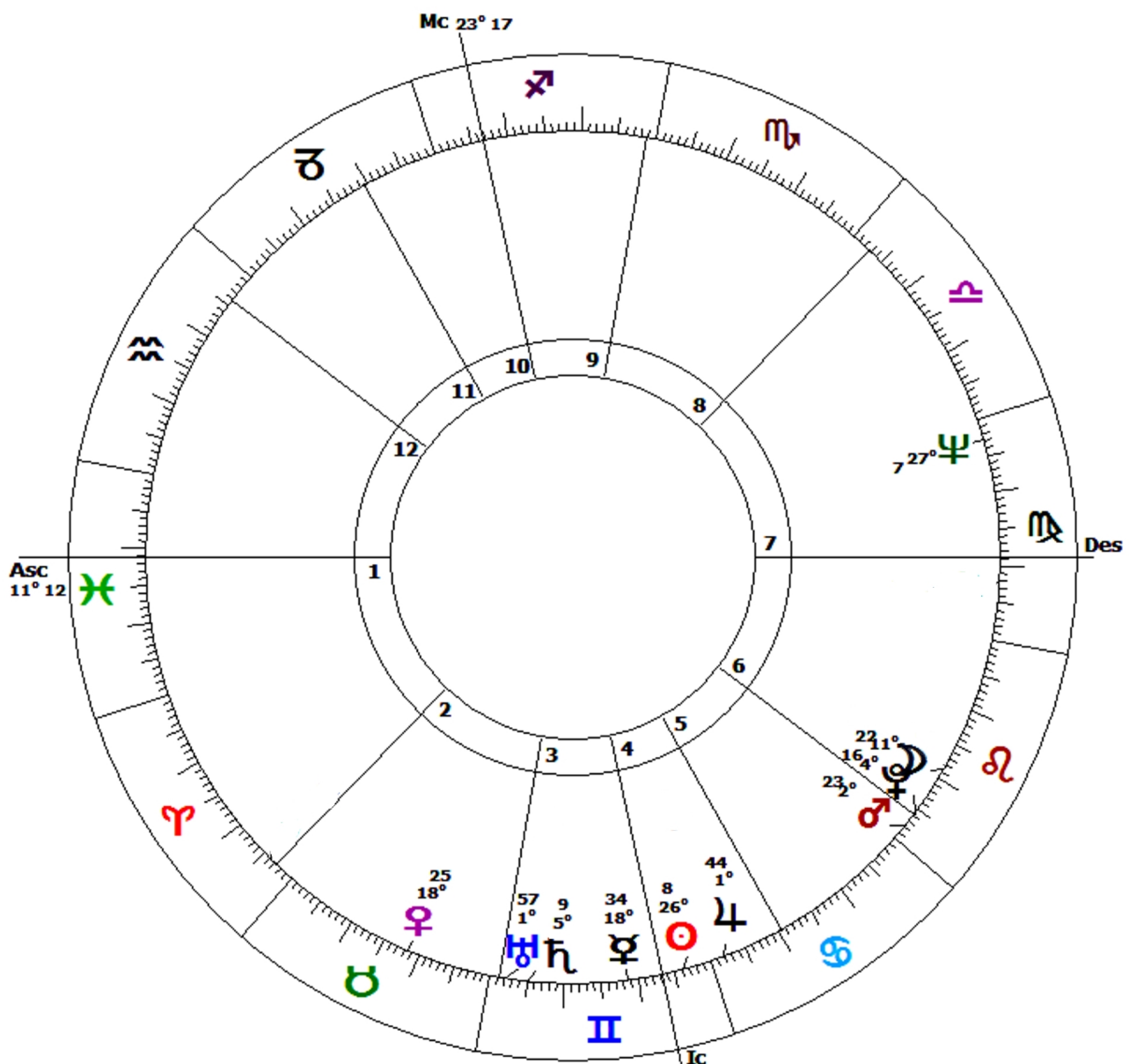
Astrogeography, and one can (based on the birth chart) plot where these 'lines' go and make various predictions.

Let's suppose we're looking at where the line for Venus (love life) cuts through - we'd expect something significant regarding that person's relationships. Hey presto - when we analyse John's Astrocartograph we find that his Venus line passes through Tokyo. This, need I remind you, is where his wife Yoko Ono was born. We'd expect something similar for Yoko right? Right. Yoko's 'Venus Line' cuts through - wait for it - *Liverpool*. Obviously I need not point out that this is where John first drew breath. Hence, for Yoko, there is a strong astrological connection with the city of Liverpool via her intimate relationships.

There is one last item to look at with John - the Saturn/Jupiter conjunction in Taurus, on the chart's left hand side (♄/♃ in ♉ at 13°). Briefly, Saturn is where we realise our limitations in life, it's our Achilles Heel; and Jupiter is that positive side of us that seeks to expand and enlarge our world. But these two energies are locked-in together on John's chart, and this created a massive tension for him. John was known to have this duality about him - he could be despairing and pessimistic (as if anticipating the end of the world) and then soar as high as a kite, full of optimism and new possibilities. In short, he would go from one extreme to another (and his life as a whole reflected this).

The Saturn-Jupiter conjunction also reflects his ambivalence about what he had really achieved in the world. For he was never quite *satisfied* with the great things he'd done (he even considered *re-recording* some of his best loved songs.) During the middle of the Beatles years, when he was a phenomenal success with an array of status symbols, he was actually still waiting for his 'real life' to begin - there was 'something else' he was meant to be doing. This nagging dissatisfaction is typical Jupiter-Saturn.

Maybe Yoko summed it up best when she said he was a 'simple, complex man'. She meant that he had the same desires, appetites and failings as any human being, but that his personal history made his psychology very complex. This complexity, this being at odds with himself, I have tried to show in the interpretation above. Perhaps though, in the end, he really did get his wish and fulfil his life purpose as a sun Libra, for the abiding image of Lennon-the-Peacemaker won out over the angry (Aries rising) young man. When asked once what he'd most like to be remembered for, he promptly answered: the Great Peacenik. (Certainly not for all the wonderful songs he has left us.) His campaigns for World Peace conducted in full glare of the media are, of course, well known to history and definitely worthy of respect. It's a Libran thing, you know!



PAUL McCARTNEY, born 18th June, 1942

Our next birth chart belongs to Paul McCartney, and though he and John shared a similar upbringing (the difference being in Lennon's rather possessive and domineering Aunt Mimi) the two individuals are essentially very different beasts. It's a much 'lighter' and less conflicted chart (though like Lennon, McCartney tragically lost his mother as a teenager).

First off, he's a sun Gemini - look at the red glyph with the central dot near the foot of the chart (☉ in ♊ at 26°). As such he possesses all the usual virtues of that sign - versatile, breezy, sociable and communicative, changeable, curious to know and learn. Gemini is also the sign of the eternal youth - a role he vainly tried to maintain in his sixties when he met Heather Mills. At least Geminis possess the ability to be *interesting* to others. Not only interesting but funny - this sign tends to have all the best comic

impressionists, possessing that facility to impersonate and take on the characteristics of others. (Way back, Paul used to entertain his classmates with his wickedly funny impressions.)

Then there is Gemini's love of change and variety: you might say that it even surfaces in his songwriting, in that he's made a career of dipping into many different styles and genres. (Another type of mimicry.) There is even a powerful link between Gemini and the medium of the pop song – many of our best known *pop* songwriters are Geminis or Gemini rising (Bob Dylan, Brian Wilson, Ray Davies, Mick Jagger, Noddy Holder, Prince, Noel Gallagher) and it may have something to do with being able to condense something catchy and appealing into a three minute single.

So far, with Paul's Gemini sun (a breezy, sociable air sign) it may not seem as if there's a lot different from John Lennon (also an air sign). But when we look at Paul's ascendant in watery, sympathetic Pisces we start to see the difference. (See the left hand side of the chart that has Asc in ♋ at 11°.) This is one of the factors that mark him out: the rising sign often has clues to your physical type: how you look, remember. Paul has those soulful 'doe eyes' so characteristic of Pisces: slightly on the large size and always sublimely dreamy. You can see the effect in other famous Pisces types such as Drew Barrymore, Daniel Craig, Liza Minelli, Raquel Welch (Pisces rising) or the late Kurt Cobain.

Psychologically, Pisces is the zodiac sign that symbolises universal compassion and sympathy (they make excellent nurse, doctors, priests or counsellors). Paul's conversion to vegetarianism (a reaction to the cruelties of the slaughter house) plus his seldom reported charitable donations are an expression of this. Pisces is a water sign, and that means being finely attuned to people's emotions, not just those he's with, but humanity in general! This sign is so sensitive to what others feel, that they try to be all things to all people – and we can see this in Paul too.

The Piscean combination with Gemini makes him highly adaptable, very diplomatic and extremely charming – going so far as (like one old associate noted) to use his good looks to get what he wanted. Also, witness his cheery thumbs up gesture for the press photographers – *he's giving them what they want*. This tendency to be all things to all people, and to fulfil his appointed 'role' as a celebrity, certainly helped the Beatles' popularity in their earlier years. You could argue that it's self interest and he's simply furthering his career, but he's also giving *something back* to the fans, and even the press. Just watch any of those old TV interviews with the Beatles and you'll notice his efforts (far more than the other three) to please and placate. He was

their unofficial PR person – note how very different from George was Paul’s attitude to being interviewed in the televised *Anthology* series.

And yet Paul is just as egocentric and determined to shine as was Lennon. He is, as they say, a born performer, and he’ll pick up a guitar and sing something at the drop of a hat. This has much to do with his moon in Leo (♃ in ♌ at 11°) the sign of creativity, showmanship, indeed – showing off! But he’s been known to seek approval and encouragement when you’d think he wouldn’t require it – he really needs to know that others *appreciate* his music! The moon is also conjoined with Mars and Pluto in Leo (♂ at 2°; ♇ at 4° ♌). Mars is our will power, our ‘get up and go’ and sense of initiative; and as we’ve seen, Pluto is where we face our own (but usually others’) power. Combined, these three planets make for someone with a cast iron will, a stubborn determination to succeed whatever the cost. It makes it so he can also withstand extreme hardship if necessary. (Not that it usually *is* necessary, but this resolve would have come in handy when he was imprisoned in Japan for ten days after custom officials found drugs in his luggage.) And so there’s a hidden, much tougher side to McCartney that we rarely see, but as his biographer Philip Norman put it, Paul has always hated being told what to do. (This merely hints at his powerful sense of self and readiness to get his own way – very moon-Mars-Pluto!)

Like all Geminis, he also gets bored very soon – especially with tedious practical details. In short, he can lack the more patient and thorough approach of other signs. This could be seen when Paul ventured out of his specialist area (i.e. making music) and into films. Two movies on his CV that were driven by him (*Magical Mystery Tour* and *Give My Regards to Broad Street*) both suffered from this lack of application with the new medium – and were heavily panned by critics. Clearly, trying to be jack of all trades (very Gemini) doesn’t always work so well!

Whilst Paul’s sun is in Gemini, it also falls in the region of the chart called the ‘fourth house’. Houses, in short, are the actual *areas of everyday life* (as opposed to our inner drives, emotions etc.) that are affected by the planets. It might be our career, marriage, friendships, parents, or money – but each house ‘governs’ one of these fields of experience, and they’re depicted by those numbered segments around the inner circle of your birth chart. The fourth house symbolises home and family, the personal domain we make for ourselves to keep out the external world.

Unlike typical Geminis, Paul is a traditionalist here. That is, whilst he loves to be loved by the public, he’s essentially a *private* person. It’s why he went so far as to buy up all that land in Scotland extending his Kintyre estate – and making it impregnable to the general public. (Not all

millionaires are as careful about their privacy!) The fourth house is also our roots, our parental background and more often than not, one's father. Not just the experience of your own father (as an authority figure) but the kind of father you would make yourself. Again, Paul is 'old fashioned' here – bringing up his children as normally as possible. (More than one associate has said what an excellent *parent* Paul has been – and kids of rock stars are notoriously neglected!)

And I Love Her

So what about McCartney's love life? As we know, he had a well publicised relationship in the 1960's with the young London actress Jane Asher, which unfortunately didn't last more than about five years. In 1969, Paul married the American photographer Linda Eastman – and it was game over! He'd found the one. Venus, the first place to look on the chart for expectations and experiences in love, is in earthy Taurus (♀ in ♉ at 18°) and so he's always sought someone with their feet on the ground, someone 'natural and dependable who will *be there*. You could say Venus in Taurus is the image of the sensual earth mother – 'down to earth', practical, a good home-maker and provider of comforts. These are the qualities he found in Linda, but not Jane Asher. Why? Well, let's look at some more synastry.

McCartney - by his own admission - never truly 'clicked' with Jane Asher. This is no surprise, as there are no romantic or passionate links between his chart and hers. What we do find is her moon (feelings, habits) conjunct his Saturn (rules, limitations, the 'separate self') and the result is her feeling that he was – on the whole – unsympathetic to her values and ways of living life. On the other hand, Paul's moon (emotions) is conjunct Jane's Pluto (power), so he was always keenly aware of her being a force in her own right, her own person, if you like. Certainly, there was no question of him ever controlling the relationship. He might - as he once admitted – admire gutsy women, but if anyone was really 'in charge' there it was Jane. Paul needed someone a little more compromising!

This he found in Linda (a sun Libran), and his and her chart connect much more harmoniously. Her moon (in deep, passionate Scorpio) links up with his Venus (relationships) in Taurus: she responds beautifully to his sociable, sensuous, down-to-earth charms. There is another cross correspondence when her Venus links up *exactly* with his moon in showy, proud Leo. The moon and Venus are our 'feminine' planets – the ways in which we just respond to life, and *feel*. So there's hardly any ego here – neither person is

trying to impress the other, they just 'click' instantly. (Something he couldn't do with Jane Asher, remember.)

But there's more – Linda's Venus makes another exact contact to Paul's ascendant (outer personality). In short, she was his greatest fan, and these connections undoubtedly signify a very strong union – much stronger, in fact, than John and Yoko's. As if all this wasn't enough, Linda's Jupiter (luck and opportunity) connects to Paul's MC (career and profession – always denoted at the top of the chart). This makes her good for his career in some way – just *knowing* Linda (let alone being married to her) assisted Paul's professional progress. This was borne out very powerfully when the Beatles were breaking up. Linda's father and brother were high-powered lawyers from New York, and it is they who provided invaluable legal assistance when Paul needed the dissolution of the Beatles partnership to free up withheld royalties (in a well publicised civil court case in 1971). In short, having such in-laws was a *massive* help to his career. He won the case, of course!

Paul and Linda's Composite chart (as we might expect) highlights their emotionally close tie. Remember, the Composite chart is that of the relationship itself, a chart of the union. Here, the moon (emotions) and Neptune (ideals) are conjoined, and this is one of the most powerful planetary links you could have – think of the emotion of being in love, that rapturous sense of almost mystical one-ness with the other person. Now think of this broadly applying to a relationship – you'd believe you had found 'the one', right? Certainly, the partners may be under the spell of a lovely illusion, but in Paul and Linda's case it seems they really did fulfil each other's highest ideals in love.

The link between the sun (self) and Venus (the 'other') on the Composite chart only underlines this seemingly fated match. No wonder they barely ever spent one night away from each other. On the other hand, Paul and Jane Asher's Composite chart tells a very different story, with Mars (ego, individuality) and Pluto (dominance, drastic change) in the Composite 7th house of personal relating. (The result of which was *divisiveness*.)

Additionally, with Saturn (work) in the Composite 10th house (career, the public eye) it means Paul and Linda's emotional bond was often inextricable from their professional goals. Remember how Paul (from early on) insisted that Linda join Wings, play keyboards and go on tour with him? This wasn't just a love affair/marriage, it was a working partnership that would ultimately make money (very Saturn!) from live performance (10th house) and album sales. So we had Paul and Linda: husband and wife; and Paul and Linda: jobbing musicians/writers/band members.

Remember how lines of planetary power can even run through places on the earth's surface when we look at AstroCartography? These lines connect us to the influence of a particular planet – and something happens when we move near that line. Paul's main home after living on his Kintyre estate in Scotland was near the village of Peasmarsh, Rye in Sussex. The sun on a chart is where we 'find ourselves', where our individuality is best expressed. It can be no surprise that Paul 'sun line' on his AstroCartograph runs through this very place on a map of Britain (specifically, 0 deg./7 mins. East of Greenwich).

Similarly, Linda's Jupiter line crosses through – wait for it – Kintyre in Scotland! Linda soon fell in love with the Highland rural retreat where Paul had purchased a farmhouse back in the 1960's, seeing it as a marvellous place to be free and 'herself' (Mainly, riding horses.) In time, Paul would purchase the next piece of surrounding land – and then the next – making it a complete, large estate. Jupiter on a chart is how we try to make our world more inclusive, *larger* – how we expand our horizons and seek freedom. This happened in quite a literal way for Linda in Scotland – the environment got bigger!

There was, of course, another 'marriage' in Paul's life – that other very crucial relationship with co-composer and soul brother John Lennon, without which there would have been no Beatles. Astrology is very revealing here, for the Composite chart for John and Paul's partnership has the moon (feelings, the past) in the first house (the 'personality' of the relationship.) This means that it will always be – first and foremost – an *emotional* relationship that affects each other deeply (as it would with a real brother), perhaps in ways neither can truly articulate. They could never be indifferent to one another – it was either love or hate! (Even then, only *affected* hate.)

Towards the final end of the Beatles, in about 1969, John and Paul (despite their enormous success) soon started to feel that money concerns were really a major nuisance – only when they were creating music together did the old magic between them rekindle. Of course, they did eventually fall out with each other – and money was one of the divisive factors. The planet of limitation and hard-nosed reality, Saturn, is placed (significantly) in the Composite second house of finances and resources. Robert Hand says of this that 'money is a possible source of problems to you [both] *even if you have enough money*,' and the relationship may contain 'all kinds of arguments concerning it.' This is just what happened when Paul sought to free himself of the Beatles business manager (whom the other three had signed up with)

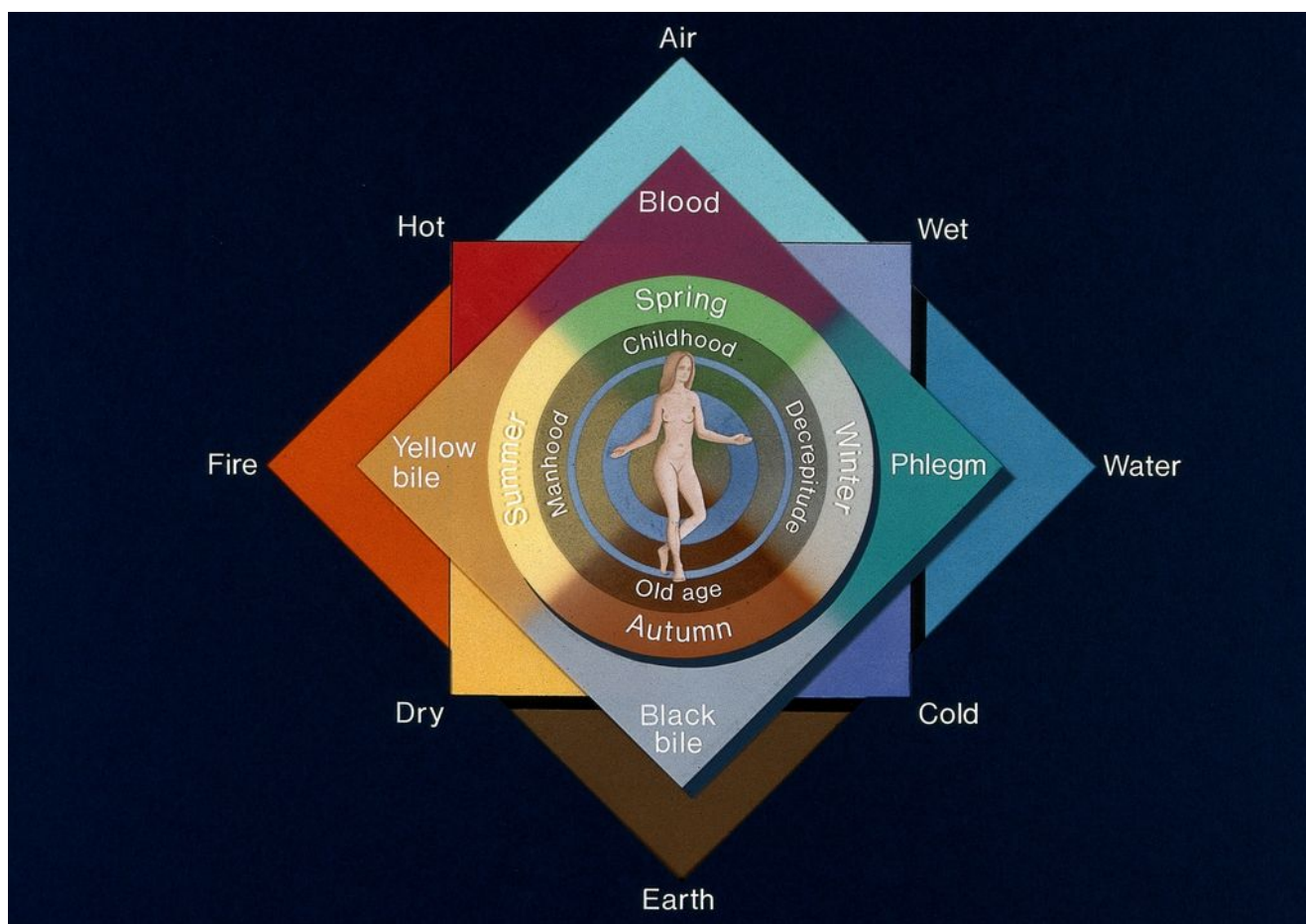
and the financially crippling situation he was in. He had to sue John, George and Ringo to do it.

But the most telling planet on the Composite chart is Mars (the planet of will and ego) which is *also* in the first house. Fiery, pushy (and even selfish) Mars in the Composite first house has much to say about Lennon and McCartney's relationship and what made it tick. For one, it wasn't a relationship of *equals* – from the first, McCartney was always viewed as a junior partner by Lennon, and so it's just as well that Paul essentially hero-worshipped John in return. John was the undisputed leader from day one (Mars), always calling the shots. And when that unbalanced relationship started to tilt the other way (with McCartney assuming more control after Brian Epstein's death) Lennon acquiesced for a time – until he went off with Yoko.

Of course, this unequal relationship between John and Paul had proved effective through most of the Beatle years. According to astrologer Robert Hand, Mars in the Composite first house could work very well as a 'professional association', and if both people find 'a common purpose' the energy will be focussed on that instead of each other. As a result they will accomplish 'a tremendous amount' of work. That common purpose, of course, was the Beatles composing career and the collection of songs which evolved into an entire catalogue – or a 'tremendous amount'. (It is also well known that Lennon and McCartney rarely ever wrote 50-50; in fact, mostly *separate* – as if it were some friendly competition. It made the songs better, as a result.) What should be obvious, though, is that (with divisive Mars) the seeds of conflict were ever present, and they duly appeared once that 'common purpose' was lost. Then, the Beatles started to break up.

But it is odd to think that a planet symbolising ego division and independence was (in its own peculiar way) actually holding them together, in 'friendly competition'! But it is right there on the Composite chart.

4: NUMBERS, ELEMENTS AND SIGNS



I admit it: as a sane and rational human being, I continue to be baffled as to why astrology works.... But I wouldn't be doing this for a living if astrology didn't keep working, consistently, over and over again.

- Matthew Currie

I always hated mathematics at school – not only was it unnecessarily complex to me, but tedious. Not until I became an astrology student did I realise – as the ancient Greeks had – that numbers could possess magical attributes. One of the Greek sages we have to thank for the power of Number is the teacher Pythagoras (ca. 570 – 490 B.C.), a mystic who gave us the occult ‘science’ of numerology. He studied numbers as a way of

understanding Life, because he saw they were a code embedded in Nature itself. Pythagoras dictum was 'All is number.' What he meant was that Numbers are basic to the Universe, they are part of the building blocks of Life.

They are the building blocks of astrology, too. Just as today we still have 'lucky' or 'unlucky' numbers, the Greeks first categorised them into 'odd' and 'even'. When we look at the signs of the zodiac we see they are likewise divided into Masculine (Positive) and Feminine (Negative) signs. The odd 'masculine' numbers, 1 to 11, are the sun signs Aries, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Sagittarius and Aquarius; the 'even' 'feminine' numbers, 2 to 12, are the signs Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, Scorpio, Capricorn and Pisces. Already we have divided the system into two. This division into two halves is something fundamental about the Universe itself, about Nature. Hence, night and day; black and white; cold and hot; bad and good; down and up. In short, *everything has its opposite*. And it is just the same with astrology, as we pair off the signs of the zodiac:

- Aries (sign 1) is the opposite of Libra (sign 7)
- Taurus (sign 2) is the opposite of Scorpio (sign 8)
- Gemini (sign 3) is the opposite of Sagittarius (sign 9)
- Cancer (sign 4) is the opposite of Capricorn (sign 10)
- Leo (sign 5) is the opposite of Aquarius (sign 11)
- Virgo (sign 6) is the opposite of Pisces (sign 12)

Now, what do we mean by all of this? Well, rather than think in terms of opposites being at loggerheads or in conflict, they instead *complement* each other. In fact, they are secretly joined together, like two ends of the same pole. As the philosopher Alan Watts asked:

What, exactly, is polarity? It is something much more than simple duality or opposition. For to say that opposites are polar is to say much more than that they are far apart: it is to say that they are related and joined - that they are the terms, ends, or extremities of a single whole. Polar opposites are therefore inseparable opposites.⁷

And so any one 'half' of these paired of signs expresses something consciously that the other is 'missing', or has buried away somewhere in the unconscious - and vice versa. Put simply, each sign 'carries with it its polar opposite. Let's see how it works:

Aries And Libra (Me vs Us)

Hot tempered Aries often acts as the lone pioneer, selfishly pursuing their own impulses or bravely leading the troops into battle; but, really, they're not complete without the gentleness, diplomacy and co-operativeness and 'cooler' temperament of Libra. It could be said that independent Aries thinks in terms of 'me'; co-dependent Libra in terms of 'we'.

Taurus And Scorpio (Matter vs Soul)

Materialistic and sensuous Taurus - patient, placid, security-conscious and blessed with practical common sense - has another secret side best expressed by Scorpio. This is passionate, wilful and emotionally driven to penetrate life's mysteries in order to understand and transform it. Sense-bound Taurus looks no further than the physical world to know about life; soulful Scorpio 'sees' beneath the surface.

Gemini And Sagittarius (Knowledge vs Meaning)

Where curious, light hearted Gemini is happy to embrace knowledge and ideas for their own sake, the opposite sign, student-of-life, broad-minded Sagittarius seeks to tie everything together into a larger philosophical whole. Fact-hungry Gemini just wants to know; Sagittarius wants to know what it all means, what greater purpose exists.

Cancer And Capricorn (Nurture vs Discipline)

Where sensitive, moody and inward-looking Cancer seeks emotional security from life, its opposite sign, the rather dry, earthy and ambitious Capricorn looks outward to the world in order to master it and achieve its worldly aims. Cancer is essentially the archetypal Mother principle in nature (the 'nurturer'); Capricorn is the archetypal Father (the 'authority figure').

Leo And Aquarius (Individual vs Group)

Regal, fiery, proud Leo is concerned with the gifts of the individual self and keen on reminding the world of its own uniqueness. Its opposite is socially inclined, fair-minded and emotionally detached Aquarius, who usually works best through a group of some kind. If Leo says the needs of the One outweigh the needs of the Many, Aquarius thinks it should definitely be the other way around!

Virgo And Pisces (Service vs Empathy)

Analytical, discriminating and earthy Virgo seeks to be effective in the 'real' world – for them, the world of detail, hard work and organisation. Its opposite is dreamy, intuitive, mystical, emotional Pisces, a sign of oceanic depths and compassion for all living things. Virgo is happiest when being of practical service; Pisces when sacrificing themselves to a much greater human (or spiritual) cause.

I hasten to point out that the preceding summary is a huge generalisation (there are many nuances I haven't even begun to consider) but you should get the idea. One sign does something easily, but not other things – they are done by its opposite. As humans we're incomplete and need our opposite number to fulfil that missing part. (And I don't mean just sun signs – remember how there is the moon sign, ascendant, Venus sign etc.?) But our opposite sign needs *us*, too, to fulfil the things which *they* lack!

Many relationships are based on this situation of opposite signs – usually, the moon, Venus and rising sign are involved somewhere. My own partner's sun sign (Cancer) is the opposite of mine (Capricorn) and her moon sign (Taurus) is the opposite to my ascendant (Scorpio). Paul McCartney's Venus sign (Taurus) is opposite Linda McCartney's rising sign (Scorpio); John Lennon's moon sign is opposite Yoko Ono's sun sign (and so on). So remember, opposites attract – and now we know why!

Are You Positive or Negative?

The Masculine signs, if you recall, are Aries, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Sagittarius, Aquarius; the Feminine signs are Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, Scorpio, Capricorn and Pisces. The Masculine principle doesn't refer to actual men themselves, but a kind of archetypal principle, a process in nature. Like an arrow flying through the air, it is *outward-oriented*. It is initiatory, active, innovative and related to the forces of will, our powers of volition. Thus it gets things going and rushes to meet the world head-on, as it tries to change it. Psychologically, it is concerned with differentiation (what makes 'this' different from 'that') and related to the logical, rational principle, the conscious mind and the exterior surface. It concerns what *we make happen*.

The Feminine principle, like a vessel into which something is poured, is *inward-oriented*: receptive, passive, containing, consolidating and concerned with relationship. That is, with *wholeness* (what makes 'this' connect meaningfully to 'that' in a holistic way). Unlike Masculinity, Femininity adapts to what is already there, builds upon it, nurtures it. Its impressions

of the world are feeling-toned, intuitive and more attuned to the interior, the unconscious, the emotions. It concerns *what happens to us*.

Actually, a better way of describing Masculine and Feminine would be to call them 'extroverted' and 'introverted', but there's a note of caution. These terms shouldn't be thought of as *active and passive behaviour* – as if all extroverts were busily active and engaged, and all introverts were sat around being still and quiet. They should be understood *psychologically* – 'extrovert' and 'introvert' refer to our inner attitude to the world. It's all about where you put the emphasis.

At the risk of generalisation (since I'm talking about six signs, here) extroverts put the emphasis on what's going on 'out there', essentially – how they can either adapt to what's happening socially, or make an impact on their environment. They tend to be in a hurry to obtain results (whatever they may be doing) so they think and move faster. They also tend to be good communicators.

The introverts can be just as socially active as their extrovert counterparts, but the outer environment is less important – they're more attuned to the inner world of feelings, gut instincts and practical concerns. They're more likely to think: 'how does the rest of the world fit in with my needs?' and are less socially *driven* than the extroverts. As we might expect, they also think and move more slowly than the extroverts, but they gain depth and experience in compensation. To an introvert, patient, concentrated effort towards a goal is much better than a quick solution. Their internal private world is *vital* to them (unlike the extrovert) – they need to be deeply immersed in their own thoughts, emotions and sensations to be happy. The extrovert may find them a little insular!

The Four Elements – which one are you?

There is another way of grouping the signs, which astrologers know as the Four Elements, another legacy from Ancient Greece. Hence, there are four groups of three signs, and each group shares some common characteristics. The great genius Plato had this to say about them:

'Before the heavens there existed fire, air, water, earth, which we suppose men to know ... wherefore we are compelled to speak of water or fire, not as substances, but as *qualities*.'⁸

This last part is crucial – the Four Elements stand for the essential descriptions of how things behave, and that includes human beings. Our

very nature, our psychology can thus be considered in terms of elemental *qualities* – just as we describe someone as 'fiery', 'earthy' or 'breezy' this latter obviously alluding the element of air. To the ancient Greek mind, a thing's overall characteristics could be both spiritual and physical - the abstract qualities of elements expressed in human nature were no different in kind to the concrete ones. Actual 'fire' for instance, was not just perceived as having a 'hot' or explosive nature – it could be 'found' in someone who was querulous, hot-tempered or volatile. To the ancient Greek mind, the qualities of Water could be observed in the type of person who seemed to *behave* like water - who was deep, reflective and adaptable (water assumes the shape of whatever its poured into). Of course, sometimes water people could be - like the sea – cold and icy, or stormy and unpredictable, by temperament.

As mentioned, in astrology there are four elements divided across the twelve signs, with three signs sharing the nature of one particular element:

The Fire signs are Aries, Leo and Sagittarius.

The Earth signs are Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn.

The Air signs are Gemini, Libra and Aquarius.

The Water signs are Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces.

When we describe the Fire type, or the Earth type below, we mean that there are significant birth chart factors (like the ascendant, sun, moon, Venus etc.) in signs of that element. Someone with their sun, moon and rising sign all in Aries will be extremely Fiery! Most people are a combination of at least two or maybe three elements (and you could only find this out by having your chart properly calculated and interpreted). Often, there is an element that we're 'lacking in' too – we all have our Achilles Heel, don't we? (Whilst we're strong in certain characteristics and qualities, we seem to lack others.) Here then is a guide to the Four Elements.

FIRE

Fire you can consider as a metaphor for the 'spark' of life, or that which represents the vital spirit in all living things. Where Fire predominates in a birth chart, that person will be very energetic, vivacious, wilful, volatile and restless – just like Fire itself. It is a Masculine element, too – meaning that it needs to express and define itself in an overt way in the environment. Fire people are not shrinking violets! On the contrary, they possess the qualities we mostly consider as extroversion – a personality that

is enthusiastic, socially outgoing, demonstrative, ebullient and 'colourful', something that can be seen in all three Fire signs. Just like the element, Fire people bring warmth, light and illumination into other people's lives, that is, the ability to excite, invigorate even inspire them. There is something manifestly *alive* about Fire signs

But what is really driving them? Well, the image of 'restless fire' gives us some idea. There is an old folk saying that 'it is better to travel hopefully, than to arrive' and this simple metaphor reflects virtually Fire's entire philosophy of life: be happy to live for the moment, don't worry about tomorrow; or, just enjoy the journey whilst it lasts. What concerns Fire is usually all in the present moment, or Now, or at least the possibilities for the immediate future. Fire isn't quite so concerned with mulling over specific details – these can be very boring indeed.

To return to our journey metaphor, Fire is less concerned with the how's and why's of the destination, than with the broad, endless potential of the journey itself. (Which might take on a different destination as one travels – Fire people are changeable, according whatever mindset or mood they're in.) They don't like planning too far ahead or in too much detail - this is confining and limiting, better go with the flow and just enjoy things, right? Simply put, Fire doesn't feel the need to be 'armed' with worked-out strategies and plans for the future. This might be seen as impractical or even irresponsible by other elements (especially Earth, who would despair of such an approach) but to Fire it is imprisoning.

Fire equates to what we might call Spirit in esoteric philosophy, and Spirit does not like to be bound by Matter – by everyday restrictions, rules, practical considerations. These threaten its freedom to move around, to express itself. To *be*.

EARTH

Earth symbolises the material plane, or matter, the substance of which we're all made. Fire may have a more spontaneous, spirit-like view of the world, but Earth rules what we normally call 'reality' - the common sense, everyday world of objects, facts, details. Earth doesn't need intellectual abstractions or soul-like intuitions to tell it what is real! All it needs is its own five senses, hence Earth's love of security and tangible reality. So where we find lots of personal planets in Earth signs, that person (like the element itself) is 'solid', grounded, dependable, enduring and persevering – the practical type you can rely on in a crisis, or if something needs fixing or organising.

Temperamentally, they tend to be less outwardly demonstrative, less socially ebullient or dramatic than Fire; instead they're more placid, thoughtful and conservative with a small 'c'. All we've said here is basically true of all three Earth signs (though Earth sign does have its particular differences). Like the realm of matter and nature itself, Earth signs are patient, usually slower to act and more methodical than Fire. (You don't see one season hurrying to get to the next: everything in nature is cyclical and organisms – like us – have to develop and grow in order to function properly.)

And just as the land (i.e. the earth) literally gives shape to something and defines it (like the outer structure of a body of water, say) so do Earth types seek to 'give shape' to the raw stuff of life by carefully organising and working with it. For what ultimately drives them is the need for *structure*. Structure can mean emphasising hard reality over hopes and dreams; stability over insecurity; the realistic and rational over the romantic, and detail over vague generalisation or woolly abstraction. (It can even mean being politically conservative, too.)

In short, Earth seeks *definiteness* – a kind of 'knowing where you are' in the world, so to speak. Thus, if we return to our travel metaphor and modify it for Earth we might get: *it is better to travel with a map, extra supplies and a clear idea of what one will do on having arrived ...* This only seems like common sense to Earth. And they're full of that! But Earth is also quietly determined to succeed, and is especially effective at materialising plans or in pursuit of possessions or wealth. (They positively invented the classy, expensive status symbol!)

AIR

The element of Air in astrology equates to what has been called the 'mental plane' by magicians and occultists, a realm purely of ideas, thoughts, concepts. (Without which nothing in human life could exist - everything had to start as an idea somewhere, right?) If Fire is the realm of spirit, Earth the realm of matter, then Air is the realm of the mind, forever seeking make sense of the world, to rise above the 'lower self' and human irrationality. It is thus associated with our highest and most civilised aspects: the rational principle, pure reason, logical thinking, compromise, fairness, equality, justice, democracy and moral issues. All the ideals that would seem to make for a better world.

We can also gain plenty of knowledge about the typical Air type by examining how the natural 'element' itself behaves. Air, to function best,

must move around, often swiftly and extensively – Air stagnates if trapped in a closed environment and certainly isn't something you can pin down. This suggests the speed with which ideas and knowledge can be disseminated, but also what drives Air types themselves – they need personal freedom, change and variety. Then they truly become the proverbial 'breath of fresh air' - a refreshing change, inspiring and uplifting, which is usually the effect Air types have on others.

Like Fire, Air types are usually light hearted, sociable optimists and extroverts, (though much less egocentric than Fire). Think of how air can cover a wide area, spread out and cross boundaries – Air types do this metaphorically, reaching out and making *connections* with others. Fire, Earth and Water can, in their own way, be quite self absorbed. Not so for Air, whose function is to harmonise and get beyond individual differences – they often make the first move in social encounters, for instance.

In short, they are the great *communicators* among the four elements. They' ll talk to anyone! And they do it with a natural ease and cool diplomacy envied by the other elements. Yet, for all their social grace and consideration of others, their style of communicating is usually impersonal, casual and emotionally detached. (This is evident in all the air signs, even Libra with its reputation for personal charm and warmth.) And that is the point – Air feels uncomfortable with real intimacy, since strong emotion interferes with all that lovely reason and 'objective', clear-headed rationality. This they leave to the Water element.

WATER

Water is primarily about the realm of the feelings and their workings, and those in whom this element are strong are, like the element itself, fluid, changeable, adaptable, and usually as deep as the ocean. No other element is quite so reflective when it comes to pondering their inner environment. (Or so fond of its privacy!) Water is also highly intuitive, with a 'sixth-sense' easily able to perceive what's happening beneath the surface of others – they will have you worked out immediately. They just 'know', often psychically so.

For all their subtle tuning in to life's undercurrents, Water can find it difficult articulating how they feel - emotions often don't lend themselves easily to words. Not only that, but Water's rich interior world can make the outside world unimportant by comparison - so long as nothing is disturbing their inner security and contentment. If Air has difficulty with intimacy and emotions, Water has difficulty with objectivity.

And if Air has some of the ‘left brain’ functions of fact-based rationality, Water is more like the ‘right brain’s’ feeling-toned consciousness, its tendency to see the whole picture and intuitively evaluate situations. As you can imagine, they’re rather introverted: usually gentle, soft-hearted, secretive, quietly charming and certainly moody! These adjectives apply to all three Water signs, for even Scorpio is not half as ruthless as old astrology texts would have you believe – its level of compassion for others usually rules out actual cruelty!

Water is also a Feminine element, a symbol of containment – a ‘vessel’ for the ebb and flow of feeling and hidden watery depths. This means they are also highly sensitive and receptive to *other people’s* energies, too – and as a consequence can be easily hurt. Though God gave them an emotional radar, they hide it from others quite well. But Water is the only element that not only takes other people’s feelings *seriously*, but understands them. (This you will rarely find in either Fire, Earth or Air.)

What really drives Water is the need for depth: this is a symbol of what we might generally call the soul. Fire is looking for *meaning*, Earth for *structure*, Air for *equilibrium* but Water is motivated by the need for a kind of emotional truth, using their hearts for guidance, rather than their heads. That, and *enchantment* – which really is a sense that (in contrast to stark, material forms) the world is essentially ‘ensouled’, a world of spiritual realities, a place where magic is not only possible but actually lies behind the workings of the Universe. Only those ignorant of *real* magic could deny it was so!

5: FAMOUS SUN SIGNS



As my astrology teacher once told me – you have *all* the signs on your chart. He was making the point that we shouldn't get hung up on sun signs only. We have already seen how the moon, ascendant, Venus etc. are important factors on the chart – the moon can be as powerful as the sun, for instance; it all depends on the individual. Of course, sun-signs just won't go away, so included also are lists of your favourite celebrities from the world of film and TV, music, science, art, literature, science, politics and the occasional cultural hero.

FAMOUS ARIENS:

Jane Asher, Johann Sebastian Bach, Warren Beatty, Tony Benn, Hywel Bennett, David Blaine, Marlon Brando, Adrien Brody, Joseph Campbell, Julie Christie, Eric Clapton, Joan Crawford, Russell Crowe, Timothy Dalton,

Bette Davis, Richard Dawkins, Robert Downey Jr., Agnetha Faltskog, John Fowles, David Frost, John Gielgud, Linda Goodman, Sir Alec Guinness, Harry Houdini, Olivia Hussey, Thomas Jefferson, Elton John, Chaka Khan, Keira Knightley, Nikita Khrushchev, Steve McQueen, Hayley Mills, Bobby Moore, Leonard Nimoy, Ric Ocasek, Jim Parsons, Steve Pavlina, Anthony Perkins, Ron Perlman, Gregory Peck, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Wilhelm Reich, Rod Steiger, Max Von Sydow, Quentin Tarantino, Spencer Tracy, Sir Peter Ustinov, Vincent van Gogh, Christopher Walken, Reese Witherspoon, Tennessee Williams, James Woods, Robin Wright Penn.

FAMOUS TAUREANS:

Honoré de Balzac, Burt Bacharach, David Beckham, Irving Berlin, Cate Blanchett, Johannes Brahms, Pierce Brosnan, Jack Bruce, Gabriel Byrne, George Clooney, Gary Cooper, Oliver Cromwell, Bing Crosby, Salvador Dali, Daniel Day Lewis, Kirsten Dunst, Albert Finney, Ella Fitzgerald, Henry Fonda, Sigmund Freud, Johnny Galecki, Katharine Hepburn, Dennis Hopper, David Icke, Bianca Jagger, Billy Joel, Jessica Lange, Harper Lee, Leonardo da Vinci, Liberace, Karl Marx, James Mason, Willie Nelson, Jack Nicholson, Mike Oldfield, Roy Orbison, Al Pacino, Michael Palin, Michelle Pfeiffer, Sergei Prokofiev, William Shakespeare, Phil Silvers, James Stewart, Barbra Streisand, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Pete Townshend, Rudolph Valentino, John Williams (classical guitarist), Steve Winwood, Stevie Wonder, Pete Seeger, Orson Welles, René Zellweger.

FAMOUS GEMINIANS:

Russell Brand, Joan Collins, Courtney Cox, Jacques Cousteau, Tony Curtis, Ray Davies, Johnny Depp, Arthur Conan Doyle, Albrecht Dürer, Bob Dylan, Clint Eastwood, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Ian Fleming, Morgan Freeman, Judy Garland, Paul Gauguin, Allen Ginsberg, Che Guevara, Marvin Hamlisch, Dashiell Hammett, Tom Jones, John F. Kennedy, Nicole Kidman, Stan Laurel, Christopher Lee, Paul McCartney, Malcolm McDowell, Kylie Minogue, Alfred Molina, Marilyn Monroe, Mike Myers, Liam Neeson, Jacques Offenbach, Laurence Olivier, Robert Powell, Marquis de Sade, Jean-Paul Sartre, Edward Snowden, Kathleen Turner, Rudolph Valentino, Richard Wagner, Walt Whitman, Gene Wilder, Brian Wilson, Frank Lloyd Wright, William Butler Yeats.

FAMOUS CANCERIANIANS

Alexander the Great, Pamela Anderson, Louis Armstrong, Julian Assange, Kathy Bates, Jeff Beck, Richard Branson, Mel Brooks, Yul Brynner, James Cagney, Phoebe Cates, Jean Cocteau, Tom Cruise, Willem Dafoe, Marty Feldman, Ricky Gervais, Eva Green, Jerry Hall, Tom Hanks, Deborah Harry, Ernest Hemingway, Herman Hesse, Franz Kafka, Helen Keller, Henry Tudor (King Henry VIII of England), Nelson Mandela, Brian May, George McGovern, Marshall McLuhan, George Orwell, Marcel Proust, Rembrandt, Diana Rigg, Linda Ronstadt, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Carlos Santana, Carly Simon, Neil Simon, Sylvester Stallone, Ringo Starr, Patrick Stewart, Meryl Streep, Donald Sutherland, Nikola Tesla, William Makepeace Thackeray, Henry David Thoreau, Hunter S. Thompson, Jesse Ventura, James Whistler, Robin Williams.

FAMOUS LEONIANIANS:

Gillian Anderson, Halle Berry, Simon Bolívar, Napoleon Bonaparte, Ray Bradbury, Kate Bush, Fidel Castro, Guy de Maupassant, Cecil B. DeMille, Robert De Niro, David Duchovny, George Galloway, Susan George, Al Gore, Melanie Griffith, Mata Hari, Woody Harrelson, Alfred Hitchcock, Dustin Hoffman, John Huston, Aldous Huxley, Mick Jagger, Carl Jung, Stanley Kubrick, T. E. Lawrence, Steve Martin, Herman Melville, Helen Mirren, Robert Mitchum, Carrie-Anne Moss, Benito Mussolini, Ed Norton, Peter O' Toole, Sean Penn, Robert Plant, Roman Polanski, Robert Redford, Arnold Schwarzenegger, George Bernard Shaw, Robert Shaw, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Audrey Tautou, Roger Taylor (Queen drummer), Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Andy Warhol.

FAMOUS VIRGOANS:

Marc Anthony, Barbara Bach, Ingrid Bergman, Leonard Bernstein, John Betjeman, Jacqueline Bisset, John Cage, Agatha Christie, Leonard Cohen, Confucius, Sean Connery, Hugh Cornwell, Elvis Costello, Macaulay Culkin, Roald Dahl, Cameron Diaz, Queen Elizabeth I, Peter Falk, Colin Firth, Greta Garbo, Judy Geeson, Barry Gibb, Johann von Goethe, Hugh Grant, Tom Hardy, Jeremy Irons, Christopher Isherwood, Jesse James, Samuel Johnson, Tommy Lee Jones, Michael Keaton, Stephen King, D. H. Lawrence, Roddy McDowell, Freddie Mercury, Van Morrison, Bill Murray, Sam Neil, Bob Newhart, Amy Poehler, Keanu Reeves, Bernie Sanders, Claudia Schiffer,

Peter Sellers, Charlie Sheen, Oliver Stone, Mother Teresa, Leo Tolstoy, H. G. Wells.

FAMOUS LIBRANS:

Julie Andrews, Brigitte Bardot, George Best, Jim Caviezel, Miguel de Cervantes, Ray Charles, Aleister Crowley, Matt Damon, Catherine Deneuve, Angie Dickinson, Michael Douglas, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Britt Ekland, T. S. Eliot, William Faulkner, Carrie Fisher, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Kenneth Galbraith, Mohandas K. Gandhi, George Gershwin, Jeff Goldblum, Rita Hayworth, Buster Keaton, Evel Knievel, John LeCarré, John Lennon, Groucho Marx, Marcello Mastroianni, Walter Matthau, Arthur Miller, Steve Miller, Admiral Horatio Nelson, Friedrich Nietzsche, Gwyneth Paltrow, Luciano Pavarotti, John Pilger, Tim Robbins, Eleanor Roosevelt, Susan Sarandon, Paul Simon, Gwen Stefani, Ed Sullivan, Gordon 'Sting' Sumner, Margaret Thatcher, Gore Vidal, Naomi Watts, Sigourney Weaver, Oscar Wilde.

FAMOUS SCORPIONS:

Christiaan Barnard, Charles Bronson, Jeff Buckley, Richard Burton, Albert Camus, John Candy, Dick Cavett, Charles - Prince of Wales, John Cleese, Peter Cook, Marie Curie, Danny DeVito, Leonardo DiCaprio, Dostoyevsky, Richard Dreyfuss, Jodie Foster, Indira Gandhi, Bill Gates, Art Garfunkel, Terry Gilliam, Goldie Hawn, David Hemmings, Bob Hoskins, Peter Jackson, John Keats, Grace Kelly, Robert Kennedy, Larry King, Kevin Kline, Burt Lancaster, Lulu, Martin Luther, Charles Manson, Sophie Marceau, Burgess Meredith, Joni Mitchell, François Mitterand, Claude Monet, Pelé, Katy Perry, Joaquin Phoenix, Pablo Picasso, Auguste Rodin, Hermann Rorschach, Meg Ryan, Jonas Salk, Martin Scorsese, Grace Slick, Robert Louis Stevenson, Dylan Thomas, Leon Trotsky, Voltaire, Neil Young.

FAMOUS SAGITTARIANS:

Amy Acker, Christina Aguilera, Louisa May Alcott, Woody Allen, Jane Austen, Kim Basinger Ludwig van Beethoven, Kenneth Branagh, Leonid Brezhnev, Beau Bridges, Jeff Bridges, Steve Buscemi, Dale Carnegie, Noam Chomsky, Winston Churchill, Joseph Conrad, Noel Coward, Kaley Cuoco, Jamie Lee Curtis, Walt Disney, Benjamin Disraeli, Kirk Douglas, Jane Fonda, Uri Geller, Ed Harris, Werner Heisenberg, Jimi Hendrix, Bill Hicks, Abbie

Hoffman, Boris Karloff, John Malkovich, Harpo Marx, John Milton, Jim Morrison, John 'Ozzy' Osbourne, Brad Pitt, Richard Pryor, Keith Richards, Rainer Maria Rilke, Bertrand Russell, Britney Spears, Steven Spielberg, Jonathan Swift, James Thurber, Henri de Toulouse Lautrec, Tina Turner, Mark Twain, Frank Zappa.

FAMOUS CAPRICORNIANS:

Caroline Aherne, Muhammad Ali, Rowan Atkinson, Syd Barrett, Tom Baker, Gordon Banks, Humphrey Bogart, David Bowie, Tycho Brahe, Louis Braille, Lloyd Bridges, Nicolas Cage, Al Capone, Jim Carrey, Carlos Castaneda, Paul Cezanne, Graham Chapman, Quentin Crisp, Marlene Dietrich, Kenny Everett, Benjamin Franklin, Ava Gardner, Kahlil Gibran, Cary Grant, Oliver Hardy, Stephen Hawking, Anthony Hopkins, Howard Hughes, William James, Janis Joplin, Andy Kaufman, Johannes Kepler, Martin Luther King Jr., Rudyard Kipling, George Martin, A. A. Milne, Kate Moss, Sir Isaac Newton, Jimmy Page, Louis Pasteur, Edgar Allan Poe, Elvis Presley, Albert Schweitzer, Rod Serling, Phil Spector, Rod Stewart, Mick Taylor (ex- Rolling Stones), J. R. R. Tolkien, Don van Vliet (Captain Beefheart), Alan Watts, Carl Wilson.

FAMOUS AQUARIANS:

Maud Adams, Jennifer Aniston, Alan Bates, John Belushi, Robert Burns, Lord Byron, Lewis Carroll, Charles Darwin, James Dean, Neil Diamond, Charles Dickens, Alice Cooper, Farrah Fawcett, W. C. Fields, Bridget Fonda, Clark Gable, Christopher Guest, Heather Graham, Germaine Greer, Gene Hackman, James Joyce, Nastassja Kinski, Jack Lemmon, Abraham Lincoln, John Lydon, David Lynch, Patrick Macnee, Christopher Marlowe, Steve Marriott, Felix Mendelssohn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Leslie Nielsen, Nick Nolte, Yoko Ono, Thomas Paine, Joe Pesci, Jackson Pollock, Vanessa Redgrave, Oliver Reed, Chris Rock, Franklin D Roosevelt, Franz Schubert, Andre Segovia, Tom Selleck, Jane Seymour (actress), Cybill Shepherd, James Spader, David Strathairn, John Travolta, François Truffaut, Jules Verne.

FAMOUS PISCEANS:

W. H. Auden, Drew Barrymore, Alexander Graham Bell, Michael Caine, Karen Carpenter, Edgar Cayce, Frederic Chopin, Kurt Cobain, Nat King Cole, Nicolaus Copernicus, Tom Courtenay, Daniel Craig, Lawrence Durrell, Wyatt Earp, Albert Einstein, Bobby Fischer, Peter Fonda, Galileo Galilei, Mikhail Gorbachev, Kelsey Grammer, Jean Harlow, George Harrison, Victor Hugo,

William Hurt, Brian Jones, Jack Kerouac, Spike Lee, Sybil Leek, Jerry Lewis, Mike Love, Gabriel García Marquez, Patrick McGoochan, Michelangelo, Liza Minnelli, Zero Mostel, Vaslav Nijinsky, David Niven, Rudolph Nureyev, Rob Reiner, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Miranda Richardson, Nicolai Rimsky Korsakov, Philip Roth, Kurt Russell, Neil Sedaka, Sri Meher Baba, John Steinbeck, Sharon Stone, Elizabeth Taylor, James Taylor, John Updike, George Washington, Bruce Willis, Ray Winstone.

6: HOW DOES ASTROLOGY REALLY WORK?

(EXCERPT FROM ‘THE HOROSCOPE AND THE WORLD SOUL’)

The celestial bodies are the cause of all that takes place in the sublunar world.

- Thomas Aquinas

So there you have it. A brief look at what the astrological birth chart really tells us. Like I say, we know that the chart can actually point the way forward and suggest the kind of conditions we will face in the future, or that it can tell us what we’re really like. Then again, astrology is (and always was) quite *controversial*. You may notice, from time to time, scientists and pseudo-sceptics taking up arms against the subject, pointing out how it just cannot work. (And worse.) Well, if you think that astrology is about the planets up there causing things to happen down here, then of course – it doesn’t work. At least it doesn’t work *like that*. *Astrology works because we inhabit a conscious universe!*

Here then is a brief foretaste of my book, *The Horoscope and the World Soul: (How Astrology Really Works)*:

“The idea that there is some intelligent connection running through nature - the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere - and its denizens would not have surprised the old Greek philosophers like Heraclitus one bit. An older name for Gaia theory would have been Mother Earth. Plato would have loved it – it resembles very much his theory of the World Soul, the collective ‘intelligence’ that runs throughout the Universe. It permeates the souls of human beings, too, of course: we are a part of the Universe! .During the Renaissance, that explosion of culture, art and far reaching philosophical ideas in sixteenth century Europe, the idea of ‘ensoulment’ was kept alive by those who command respect as scientists even today. One was the brilliant and pioneering astronomer and astrologer Johannes Kepler (1571 – 1630), famous for his laws of planetary motion, and his works *Astronomia nova*, *Harmonices Mundi*, and *Epitome of Copernican Astronomy*. In his *Tertius interveniens* (1610) He noted that the World Soul is, ‘the strongest tie that

links the lower world to the heavens and unifies it therewith so that, all its forms are governed from on high; for in this lower world, that, is to say the globe of the earth, there is inherent a *spiritual nature* ... Whether all plants and animals as well as the globe of the earth have this faculty in themselves I cannot say. But it is not an unbelievable thing . . . That man, too, through his soul and its lower faculties, has a like affinity to the heavens as has the soil of the earth can be tested and proven in many ways.'

The connection between Man (below) and Cosmos (above) is the very real mystery at the heart of the Hermetic Emerald Tablet – and astrology, too. For our purposes it is easier to think of this as 'like attracts like', or 'that which is in here – our inner self – is like that which is out there', which is to say, the circumstances we attract. That which we give out to the Universe, that which the soul expels, always returns to us in time. Isaac Newton knew full well what the Tablet was stating and endorsed it fully. As stated, he embraced Plato's ideas on the World Soul. For Newton, The Universe was a living thing. Something was animating Nature. In 1706 he wrote that:

'We find in ourselves a power of moving our bodies by our thoughts . . . and see [the] same power in other living creatures but how this is done and by what laws we do not know. . . . It appears that there are other laws of motion . . . [and this is] enough to justify and encourage our search after them. We cannot say that all nature is not alive.'

Philosophy aside, is there any *scientific* support for astrology? Well it so happens that there is - the evidence for astrology working has actually been 'in' for quite a while. Back in the latter part of the 20th century, the sceptical French statistician Michel Gauquelin set out to test the claims of astrologers and the supposed validity of the birth chart. What he found must have shocked him, since he discovered real (statistically significant) parallels between certain professions and what the birth chart would indicate. Below is a report from a 1979 study that the psychologist, Professor Hans Eysenck, conducted with Gauquelin and his wife.

'The precise birth dates and locations of several thousand famous French scientists, sportsmen, and actors were ascertained from their biographies, as well as personality descriptions. From the data relating to birth times and locations the precise positions of the planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn were calculated for each person, with particular attention being paid to the period

immediately following the rise and the upper culmination of the respective planets ... The general findings may be summarized as showing that sportsmen tended to be born significantly more often than chance would allow in the crucial sectors related to Mars; actors in the crucial sectors related to Jupiter; and scientists in the crucial sectors related to Saturn. These results achieved very high levels of significance, and the findings relating to sportsmen were successfully replicated by different and independent investigators in another country ... The data for these investigations were collected from biographies of the persons in question, i.e. 2089 sports champions, 1409 famous actors, and 3647 men of science ... This finding suggests that it is personality which is related to planetary position at birth, rather than profession and that profession is related to planetary position through the intermediary of personality.¹⁰

Eysenck later wrote that:

There can no longer be any doubt that Michel Gauquelin did discover something; questions remain about its importance ... Only the future will tell us whether he opened a new chapter in scientific investigation, or whether he was deceived by some trivial error of methodology. I would bet on the former alternative, but only time will tell. Where so many determined critics – philosophers, physicists, astronomers, mathematicians – have failed to find a fault, it is not unreasonable to assume that there really is something factual to investigate ...¹¹

This was a hopeful sign from the sceptics, but - as astrologers know - the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and in any case, there are many things that science cannot simply dismiss or disprove. And science, remember, always keeps to quite narrow parameters. As Sidney Kimball Bennett once put it:

If astrology isn't scientific because not mechanistically deterministic, neither is that which man has called "science." If partial knowledge of laws is science, then astrology is science.¹²

But look at it this way - either astrology works, or astrologers and their clients must be engaged in some enormous self-delusion. There are also

many academics (individuals with Ph. D's and so forth) who are also astrologers, in other words, very clever people! You'd think that – if there was nothing in astrology (nothing 'factual to investigate', as Eysenck put it) then all of these bright sparks couldn't possibly take it seriously! But they do. And they base whole careers on it.

But the fact remains that the Universe, as one brilliant scientist put it, is not just stranger than we suppose, but stranger than we *can* suppose. This is confirmed by discoveries from Quantum Physics, which is weirder than science-fiction. Physicists these days are talking about the 'mental component of the universe'¹³ or a world in which 'consciousness is no longer to be fundamentally separated from matter.'¹⁴

This means that consciousness – in some form or another – is *everywhere* in the Universe. Mind boggling! But these remarks from two eminent Professors of physics only scratches the surface of what could be called the 'Conscious Universe' theory. It was summed up a long time ago by the British Astronomer, Sir Arthur Eddington, who said, 'to put the conclusion crudely – the stuff of the world is mind-stuff.'¹⁵ If the world 'out there' is 'mind-like', then where do we draw the line between 'out there' and our own minds? Astrologers, of course, don't think there really is a dividing line (and nor do many highly regarded philosophers.)

Ruling out astrology as mere superstition without investigating it (as many scientists do) is not science, but prejudice. Quantum Physics aside, you'll only be able to 'prove' astrology to yourself by either making a lifetime's study of it, or having your chart 'done'. At least two years education would be necessary to turn you into a rookie astrologer. If that's too daunting a proposition, check out any number of experienced astrologers (you can easily find them online) who will set up your personal birth chart – it works best if you know your birth time – and interpret it. This should not only 'prove' to you that it works, but you'll gain priceless information about yourself and your life, of the kind I have covered in this book. You'll learn about what really makes you the person you are. And plenty about where your journey is taking you. What *else* were you thinking of doing with your life?

7: BOOKING A CONSULTATION WITH JAMES LYNN PAGE

Your Personal Birth Chart Consultation by James Lynn Page



The birth chart is a symbolic map that's all about you as an individual. A properly calculated chart based on a reasonably accurate birth time will reveal just how you shape your life – why things happen the way they do, and what's more why things happen at certain times.

Astrology provides you with an overall picture of where you're headed in life, it's a glimpse of your journey through life; what you take with you and how you will navigate it. To reiterate, the birth chart shows:

- * Your real self, how you react and why you respond to life the way you do (so much of our life is caught up reacting to events – astrology sheds light on this)
- * Why you attract specific situations into your life (sometimes we end up with stuff we didn't ask for – astrology can show us how to change this)
- * The kind of love life you will have (is it like attracts like or do opposites attract? Actually it's both and the birth chart will show you what you draw on from the outside world)
- * Your career and financial prospects (How determined and ambitious are you? Will your career path be smooth or a rocky road? And what are you good at?)
- * Your potential for success and improving your life (How attuned are you to changing your life for the better?)

So then, what kind of services are there?

1. THE HOROSCOPE+ (Skype or Postal)

This has 2 parts – one, your birth chart, and the other your ‘futurescope’. I'll look carefully at your birth chart and discuss why you're the kind of person you are, the kind of love life you'll have, your career and financial prospects and your potential for success and improving your life. In short why you attract specific situations into your life.

I also outline your astrological trends for at least the next 3 years. When is it the right period for new career, business, love affairs, social life or just a good time to lay low? The chart can tell you this, and about any obstacles you may meet. Or there may be something specific you want to ask about – many clients come to me just needing help.

Horoscope+ Skype consultations cost £90 and will take about 90 minutes. Written readings – since there's more preparation – cost £140 and run to 30 typed pages of high quality A4 (120 msg) and a full colour birth chart.

2. THE FUTURESCOPE (Skype or Postal)

This is a standalone version, as described above, when I will focus on a full five years ahead. This can be done via Skype consultation or a written reading, and makes use of well tried and tested forecasting techniques like the Solar Return Chart/Transits and Secondary Progressions.

Futurescope Skype consultations cost £65 (60 minutes) and written readings cost £130 (25 pages).

3. THE RELATIONSHIP CHART (Skype or Postal)

The Relationship chart is actually two charts, yours and your partner's. But this is not mere sun-sign compatibility but an X Ray analysis of all the planets on each chart. It shows what you're really looking for in love – and what you are likely to find! I look at your partner's chart, too, and see how the relationship is likely to succeed – or not!

Using a well tested and accurate technique called Synastry, I'll show the kind of effect you really have on each other. But that's not all: I also use what's called the Composite chart - essentially a chart of your relationship, a third entity that's been created by your coming together.

The Relationship chart via Skype costs £60 (60 minutes) and written readings cost £120 (20 pages).

4. YOUR 'POWER LINES' REPORT (Postal only)

This is a fascinating summary of all the relevant places in the world through which your 'lines' of planetary energy will pass. Just visiting such places can

bring you into contact with a planet's influence – such as new opportunities with Jupiter or relationships with Venus.

Based on the technique called AstroCartography or Astrogeography (which forecasts your chart showing all the planets positions as lines passing through the earth) it can reveal just where in the world a planet's peak of influence is likely to occur.

My report will describe the nature of each planetary Power Line (from the sun to Pluto) and then plot the relevant towns and cities of the world where they occur. So where will you be going for your holiday this year?

Your Power Lines Report costs £40 (15 pages).

Your Personal Tarot Reading

by James Lynn Page



5. TAROT CONSULTATION (Skype only)

This is an in depth reading over your Skype connection where the wisdom of the Tarot is brought to bear on your life. I will discuss the coming months (up to about four) using at least two different spreads – the traditional Celtic Cross of 10 cards, plus the Horoscope Spread using 12. But the Tarot is not ‘fortune telling’ (in the sense of detailed predictions), rather it is a glimpse of the cosmic energies or forces (as with astrology) that you are dealing with at present, and an indication of how they will work out in the near future. The Tarot ‘taps into’ the Universal Mind and shows how you are reading it! *A Tarot consultation lasts for about 40 minutes and costs £30.*

What will be the format for my reading?

1. SKYPE/MOBILE PHONE

For those of you on the Internet, you can make a free call to my Skype account JLPAGE22 and we will talk online. (Please disable your webcam). You can even do this on a mobile phone if you have the Skype app installed. Clients will receive an MP3 recording of the session - this I will do as soon as I have processed your MP3 file, and you will receive it the same day via the WeTransfer file storage service. Just click on the link in your email inbox. You can then play back the recording on your computer or MP3 player.

2. WRITTEN READING BY POST – HOW SOON WILL IT BE DELIVERED?

This is a special, personally interpreted chart package (not a computer generated read-out) sent first class to your home, wherever you are in the world. **UK deliveries** are sent via Royal Mail Signed For® 1st Class service which aims to deliver the next working day, including Saturdays. **Europe, USA And R.O.W deliveries** are sent via Royal Mail’s International Tracked & Signed service. As their website states ‘all our tracking and signature services aim to deliver to Europe within 3-5 working days and worldwide within 5-7 working days.’ But do remember to add on an extra seven days for delivery – the time it takes me to interpret and write up your personal birth chart. (The price of your chart package includes Royal Mail’s P&P charges.)

3. WRITTEN READINGS BY EMAIL DELIVERY

If you want it delivered to your email address instead, I will send it in both Portable Document Format (PDF) and a Word Document (.doc). You’ll be able to read them on your computer or laptop with something like Adobe Reader (PDF) or Microsoft Word. Digital delivery also costs £10 less!

What do I do next? How do I pay?

If you want to book a live (or written) personal astrology or Tarot consultation, fill out the form on my website (www.astro.nu) scroll down the Consultations page). This provides me with your name, date, time and place of birth - plus your email address and the format you want for your reading. Please specify exactly the type of chart or reading you want - I'll get back to you within 24 hours (I check emails at least once a day). Then we can arrange a suitable time for us both. Once we've done that, consultations are payable in advance and I will invoice you. (This will appear in your email inbox.)

Payment online is processed securely through PayPal - just click the yellow 'View And Pay' button on the invoice I've sent you. This will take you to the next page where you should click on the blue PayPal 'Pay Now' button and follow the onscreen directions.

ABOUT ME

I'm a professional astrologer, Tarot analyst, teacher, lecturer and author of Mind-Body-Spirit titles. After gaining the Faculty of Astrological Studies' Certificate in 1984, I wrote my first major book on astrology: *Jungian Birth Charts* (1988, Aquarian Press, under the pen name of 'Arthur Dione'.) It's out of print these days, although I see it can be downloaded - illegally!- as a PDF from certain suspicious looking websites.

Horoscope magazine said *Jungian Birth Charts* was 'one of the better popular astrology books to see print in this decade.' *Prediction* magazine in the UK added that it's 'an excellent attempt to weave the threads of astrology into those of Jungian psychology and ... one of the best books to date to bring added depth to the art of horoscope interpretation'.

Then I went to work for W. Foulsham Publishing, co-authoring their annual 12 volume *Old Moore's Horoscope and Astral Diaries*. I'm also one of the main astrological consultants to Foulsham's *Old Moore's Almanac*, published annually, and currently I write the monthly Newsletter for Raphael's Ephemeris.com. I have performed countless birth chart consultations and Tarot readings, taken astrology classes and interviewed the cream of the astrological community - from Jonathan Cainer to Bernadette Brady and Melanie Reinhart. The results are on the YouTube 'Raphael's Ephemeris' channel.

Among many other Mind Body Spirit titles is my book *Everyday Tarot* (W. Foulsham, 2003). It's an introduction to the subject that takes you to the very heart of what Tarot is all about. Happy reading!

NOTES

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