



SOLAR WRITER

KINDRED SPIRITS REPORT

A SOLAR WRITER REPORT
for Meghan Markle

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COMPLIMENTS OF

ESOTERIC TECHNOLOGIES

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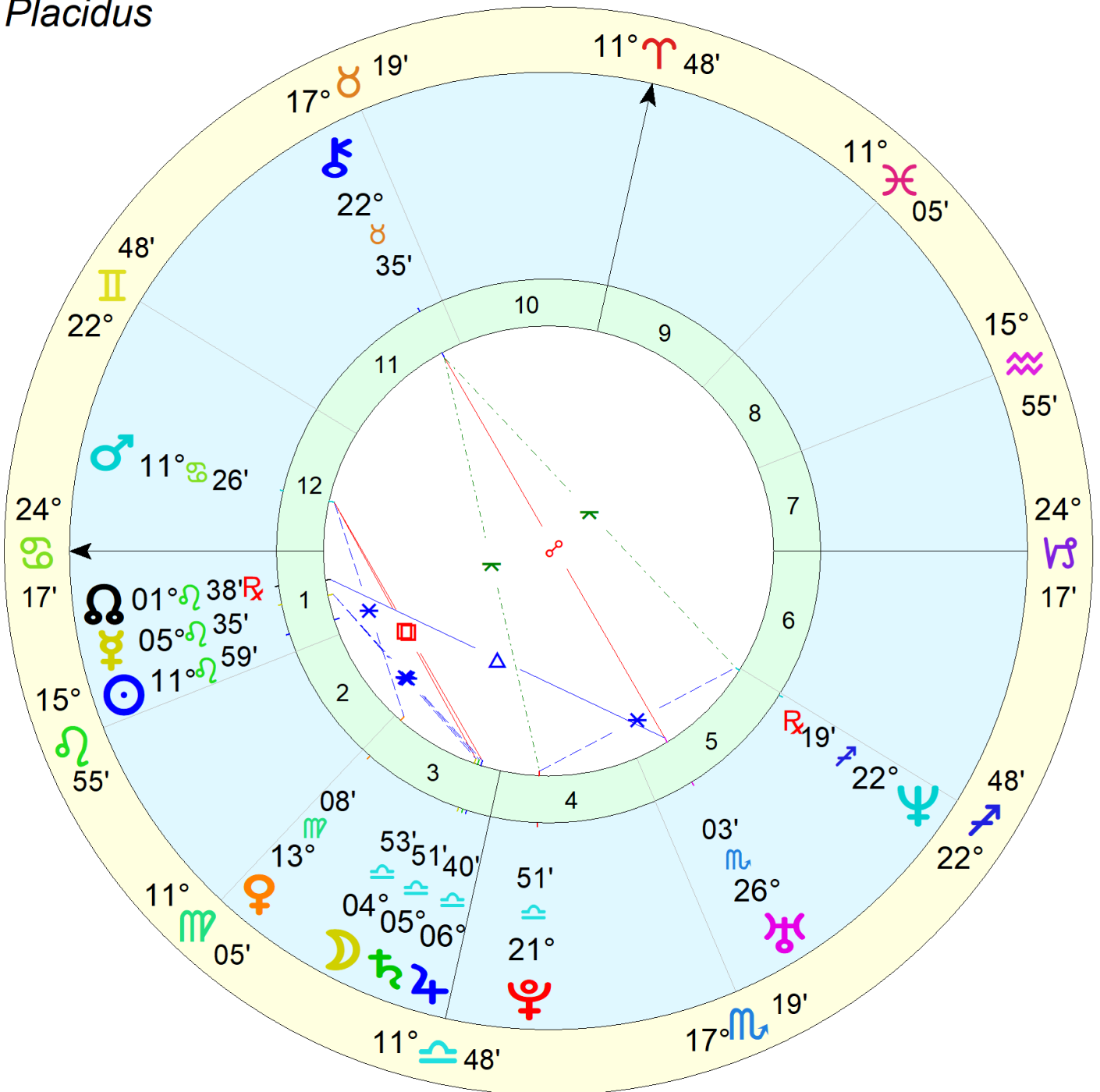
Canoga Park

34°N12'04"

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Tropical

Placidus



INTRODUCTION

"Kindred Spirits are not so scarce as I used to think. It's splendid to find out that there are so many of them in the world."

– L M Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Kindred Spirits and Soulmates

Anne Shirley, the heroine of the delightful *"Anne of Green Gables"*, innately knew when she had met her soulmate, whom she endearingly referred to as a kindred spirit. It was not the person's age, sex, race, what they were wearing, their social status, income, physical appearance, charm or any other visible clue that gave her this sense of profound knowing. Nothing purposeful or intentional drew her to her soulmates. Her heart inexplicably knew that a divine grace brought them both together.

Such is the nature of the mysterious force that brings two soulmates into contact. Relationship is a sacred rite that brings us into a close encounter with the truth of our own heart and the elusiveness of our soul. True relationship cannot be arranged, figured out or fixed up. Any attempt to control a relationship flows against the current of our soul. The best that we can do is to enter into its mystery, engage in its paradoxes and know our selves intimately enough to be in relationship, whatever that might bring.

The term 'soul' has a long history and been used in various ways philosophically and non-philosophically, contributing to its confusing and ambiguous nature. In contemporary terms it often refers to an 'X' factor that brings a piece of music alive, renders a poem inspiring, animates a theatrical performance or makes work meaningful. When applied to a relationship it describes the mystery that unites two individuals and enchants and animates the quality of each one's life. It does not suggest that the pain of daily living subsides or that life is transformed. But it does bring a depth and resonance, allowing meaning, imagination and fantasy to re-animate life. We meet our kindred spirits throughout the course of our lives, first in the family then later as friends, colleagues, lovers, partners at work and play. Soul is not generally found in the lofty heights of idealisation and illusion but in the valleys of pain and despair.

Soul is also what gives life its value and is the lynch pin of our individuality. Our soulmates honour our individuality and allow us to become more of who we are. Paradoxically by nature the soul moves towards attachment, belonging and fusion with another; yet, it also strives for separation, individuality and freedom. Our relationships become a vessel where we submerge ourselves yet from which we also attempt to flee.

This report encourages you to reflect on what it means for you to love, to be a brother, a sister, a friend, a colleague, a partner and a lover. What does your soul need in these relationships? What patterns weave themselves into the nature of your intimate relationships? Astrology is a great ally of the soul, as the Horoscope has an abundance of rich images that help us reflect on and imagine our authentic self; imagination being the language of the soul. This report will strive to veer you towards reflection by illustrating images within your Horoscope, images that may reveal powerful patterns of relationship and bring you more closely aligned with your soul's intent. Astrology helps us focus on our personal view of the cosmos and soul. Therefore this report contains some standout astrological images that may help you reconsider your relationships in a different light.

IN THE BEGINNING IS FAMILY



*"It begins with your family
But soon it comes round to your soul"
- Leonard Cohen, "The Sisters of Mercy"*

Lunar Legacies

The very first relationship begins within family. No matter what your individual fate may be, your family is where you forged your earliest relationships, took your beginning steps and first experienced an attachment to someone else. Your earliest experiences of forming an emotional bond have a decisive influence on your capacity to feel safe enough to explore relationships beyond the foundation stones of your family. If you experienced a secure attachment then mastery over your environment as you grow up is a lot easier. This is because you were more aware of feeling safe and knowing you were loved. Human beings gain a greater sense of self, distinct from the family, in the shelter of a safe nest and with adequate protection. We learn to develop our individuality when we have developed a sense of belonging. In a perfect world the family matrix supports and secures our sense of self. Ironically, the deeper the sense of safety and belonging, the more capacity there is for individuality and forging intimate adult attachments.

Without an early sense of acceptance and attachment, feeling secure enough to forge bonds outside the family is more complex. In this case, later relationships can become a test of our sense of safety and acceptance. Also our family is a training ground for the ways that we view relationship patterns. Father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter are all relationships that are illustrated in your Horoscope not only as literal figures, but depicting the patterns of relationships. A helpful way of thinking about your mother or father is not who they are, what they did, how they behaved but how this impacted on you and hence created patterns of behaviour in your life.

In astrology this early bonding process is depicted by the Moon. The Moon symbolises what you need to feel accepted and loved. It indicates the nature of your home and your quest to belong. As the symbol of your deepest emotional patterns, it reflects how you nest and protect yourself. Therefore, through the Moon, you can see indications of your living space, eating patterns, and habitual routines. It also represents 'mother love', your ability to feel loved and your experience of being loved. It symbolises not only your earliest associations but also your adolescent and then adult relationships.

If your earliest experiences have not been life-enhancing then you may need to change some of your innate relationship expectations and patterns. Modern psychologists would emphasise the need "to re-parent" this part of yourself in adult relationships. The Moon can help in this process by indicating the ways in which you can find solace and comfort in the depths of yourself. It is important to recognise your own needs, so you are not subconsciously expecting your friends and partners to fulfill them. Unmet needs can contribute to

feeling dependent and hinder your ability to enjoy true intimacy. The idiosyncrasies, habits and routines you bring into relationships are a function of the Moon. Ironically destiny challenges you in your adult relationships to find healthy ways to nurture your personal needs. Therefore it is of prime importance to come to know your Moon as intimately and as respectfully as you can.

The Moon is in Libra

Your Moon is in Libra, which is an Air Sign. When you are born with an Air Moon this suggests that space, whether that is physical, emotional or psychological is important in order to feel bonded to another. You need to feel that you have enough room to breathe and are not smothered. In a way your Moon in Libra is a paradox: you need to be in relationship to feel complete, yet you also feel that you need to be separate to have a perspective on relationship. The Element of Air is psychologically opposed to water, the Element of feeling; therefore with your Moon in Libra you may be kind, considerate and loving, yet this does not suggest that you are attached. You may mistake your urge to please for deeper feelings. Romance might be confused with real love as your urge to idealise helps to blind you to the realities of relating. Having an innate instinct for relating, you were focused on a primary relationship even as a child, whether that was with a parent, a sibling or a friend. Early experience helped to forge your natural counselling and listening skills, mirroring and helping others voice their feelings.

To feel close you not only need a feeling of space but also an atmosphere of harmony and aesthetics. Your emotions are strongly affected by a need for beauty, taste and space. It is difficult for you to feel receptive and open when chaos, mess or clutter surrounds you. Anxiety builds when you feel unable to have enough breathing space or control of your environment. This is also reflected internally as it is may also be difficult for you to cope with negative or difficult feelings when they arise in close relationship. One of your greatest learning curves is to accept and deal with negative feelings in relationship, especially your own. In other words you do not like conflict, even when it is necessary to confront uncomfortable feelings. What happens when your feelings of anger or jealousy conflict with your ways of thinking about relationship? Similarly it may also be difficult to express intimate feelings to those close. Sometimes it is much easier to relate to strangers than it is to loved ones. The landscape of feeling and closeness in relationship becomes much easier as you allow yourself enough space to feel separate. An intimate bond is what you seek, yet it is also what you fear. Your fear of rejection and disapproval often compromise authenticity. No doubt you need the other to support and accept you, but in intimate relationships wouldn't you prefer they know your true feelings?

In adult relationships you are a natural at partnering. As a young adult you develop effective social skills and have the ability to be well liked and popular. However once you find your life mate your need for social interaction may wane as what you really need is the comfort and safety of a committed relationship. As a child you were insecure when someone you loved was angry or upset; however, as you mature you learn to feel safer with these feelings which help forge a more intimate bond with your partner. In partnership you'd prefer to socialise as a pair comfortable being 'We' not just 'I'. But this comfort comes as you learn to feel separate and independent enough to take your own position and state your own needs without fear of reprisal. For you the irony of close relationship is that the more space you feel, the more available you are for intimacy. In relationship you feel nurtured when your partner provides a peaceful and elegant atmosphere and lets you know how much they appreciate you.

Feeling Secure in an Insecure World

Planets that affect the Moon need to be honoured and acknowledged in each individual's style of attachment, as they reveal an authentic way of being in relationship. When aspecting the Moon, planets influence your early development and your ability to be intimate in adult relationships. Hence planets aspecting the Moon influence our capacity for closeness, comfort and trust in relationships.

Mars is Square The Moon

When the feisty planet Mars combines with the emotional Moon, the tug-of-war between individuality and belonging is highlighted. This is because Mars stresses independence while the Moon favours dependence.

There is a dilemma in choosing between activity and passivity, aggression and pacification even violation, and protection. Perhaps your family experience placed a strong focus on independence overriding the development of personal security. Concentration on self-sufficiency, standing up for your self, being tough and striving forward might be triggered as a reactive defence when you feel insecure. With this aspect you were highly sensitive to any antagonistic or hostile feelings that permeated the family atmosphere. Unexpressed anger, rivalry and ill feelings may have compromised your sense of safety. Therefore to protect your vulnerability a passive-aggressive pattern of behaviour may have solidified to help you get what you wanted without ruffling any feathers. An aggressive and provocative personality is helpful in masking insecurities. However it also acts against your own needs by defending intimacy. With this difficult combination it is important to consider how you react when vulnerability or dependency is stimulated in your relationships.

If your attachment was secure, your parents have encouraged your expression of appropriate desires, self-assertion and how to use your will to achieve positive outcomes. You feel able to express your individuality and your anger and still feel that you are loved and that you belong. By feeling bonded, your capacity to explore outside the family would not been compromised by unresolved feelings of anger or rivalry. Therefore you are better equipped to differentiate between your own desires and the needs of others, not feeling that you need to act in the way others demand in order for you to feel safe and acceptable.

However, when attachment has been compromised, the family atmosphere of suppressing anger clouds your ability to express anger in a healthy manner and leaves you feeling you must go after what you want in a covert or under-handed way. You learn that that to be angry means love will be withdrawn. Your inability to sustain an enduring bond might be anchored in the early feelings of not being supported to be both independent and intimate. When caught in a fight-or-flight syndrome, you might indiscriminately react.

Your kindred spirits will understand your need for freedom and self expression without demanding concessions. They will also support your independent spirit and volatile reactions without threat of withdrawal. Because your attachment style may have shaped your vigilance and strong reactions, it does not mean that all adult relationships will demand you compromise your integrity or mask your negative feelings. Through your relationships you learn that the dual impulses of mastery and frustration, love and anger, freedom and intimacy can coexist.

Jupiter is Conjunct The Moon

When the planet Jupiter combines with the Moon you have a strong urge to explore beyond your family circle, possibly outside your culture as well. You need to feel safe on foreign soil.

Within your family of origin you explore and question family members' attitudes and beliefs. It is also possible than one or both of your parents were born overseas, are from a different culture or a multi-cultural, religious or bilingual family, or may have lived or been schooled abroad. Whether this is literally so in your case, psychologically this aspect's essence stresses your cross-cultural needs. Religious and cultural beliefs, academic and innovative education, human values, and hope and optimism in the future play a large role in your security and attachment. How this was accomplished in the family of origin influences the degree of safety you feel in the world. In an adult context this suggests that you might discover the mystery of intimacy when in foreign territory.

If you felt secure in a family atmosphere that prized tolerance, open-mindedness, education and cross-cultural experiences, then you are likely to experience a sense of belonging as well as independence. Encouraged to think beyond the square and accept all cultures and religions, you could develop your natural capacity to explore appropriate ways to extend experience beyond the family circle. You mature confident in your own beliefs and have hope for the future. You are liberal, far-reaching and expansive. You need to be encouraged to find the foreign in the familiar, to spice up your meals and open the mind.

If prejudice, dogma, inflexible beliefs and rigid cultural attitudes polluted your family atmosphere, then the

consent to form personal opinions and beliefs was compromised. This would leave you feeling uncertain about your own beliefs or opinions. If your ability to adventure outside the safety zone of the family is impaired, you might have developed a sense of entitlement which keeps you aloof from being involved in exploring differences. When confined by inflexible attitudes you feel unsupported in your vision and human values. This aspect suggests you may have been encouraged to mistrust what is foreign, be apprehensive of the outside world or fear the future. If your family encouraged you to hang onto its limited religious and cultural way of thinking, your hope for the future becomes compromised. With this combination the family values may have been short sighted. However in an adult context it is imperative that belonging or intimacy is forged in a wide-open space that encourages tolerance, exploration and differences.

Your kindred spirits will encourage your natural visions of faraway places, your excitement of foreign landscapes and help you dream the dream of adventure into higher realms. You intimately need to explore beyond the boundaries of your home and homeland, meaning your destiny might be to take root on foreign soil or explore other religions, beliefs and values. Your soulmates will help you to spread your wings and find your sense of where you belong.

Saturn is Conjunct The Moon

When the serious planet Saturn combines with the Moon, rules and regulations are an important feature of family life.

If your parents' values and rules did not support your sense of self or your feelings of belonging, then it is likely that you felt imprisoned in a system not of your choice, but controlled by an external authority. As you mature it is important to consider whether your ability to perform, set goals and be self-sufficient was an integral part of the family atmosphere. Did the family ethos encourage you to be a contributing member of society, follow tradition and respect authority? Or did you feel burdened by the pressure to perform in order to be loved? Your feelings of acceptance may be gauged by your performance; the need to be good and be loved becomes interlaced. Therefore you might have withdrawn rather than reach out. Rather than feeling contained and safe in the family environs, you may have felt that boundaries and rules isolated you, severing you from feeling close and included. Becoming self-sufficient helped to mask your feelings of rejection and exclusion. You may have felt that love was measured or controlled, only meted out with good behaviour or top marks. Performance and acceptance become entangled in feeling safe. Hence your ability to leave the family or other situations is often compromised by your feelings of responsibility for those left behind.

If your attachment was secure, regulations and the consequences when rules were broken helped you set appropriate limits and goals. Firm boundaries ensured you felt safe. Predictability in family life encouraged you to feel in control and helped you manage the gaps of aloneness. Regularity is a vital ally to secure development; however, if this engenders fear and anxiety then the rigidity of the family system suffocates individuality. Hierarchy is essential in early childhood but its grip must loosen if you are to develop a healthy sense of personal autonomy.

If the family atmosphere was cold and distant, your fear of rejection and anxiety at doing the wrong thing was increased. Lacking the appropriate boundaries you were unable to be in control, feeling limited and stuck. A lack of adequate fostering or authoritative guidance added to your isolation in the family. Therefore in later years insularity and isolation are confused with containment and self-control. In an adult context intimacy is impaired through fear of rejection and an exaggerated sense of responsibility for others' feelings.

Ask yourself if you have the feeling that to be loved you need to be perfect, or if not perfect then in the top percentile. Do you expect the same from your loved ones? It is more important for you to develop a strong sense of values than encompass love and compassion. Then it is your kindred spirits who can accept you unconditionally and provide a safe place for you to belong. Your soulmates are your good-enough folk who show you that what you do is not only better than perfect but so useful. They make you feel that you are a necessary contribution to their lives. But the learning curve is steep as you face the patterns in your adult relationships around earning love, the need to be taken seriously, fear of rejection and self-reliance. Your

biggest test is letting someone love you.

Home is Where We Start From

In astrology the 4th House signifies the environmental atmosphere of the family home. It is also the terrain of our innermost life where basic needs for emotional security and nurturing are first experienced. It is in this section of the Horoscope where we first experience feelings of belonging, being at home, and being connected. These experiences lay the foundation for security levels in adult relationships. When considering relationships with others, the 4th House symbolises our most intimate ties with family and those who support and nurture us. As well-respected psychotherapist D.W. Winnicott said *"home is where we start from"*.

Planets in the 4th House describe the climate of your family home and the attitudes and influences of your family of origin. These attitudes shape your sense of inner security and the degree to which you feel safe enough to reach out to others. Because 4th House patterns are not always conscious, the planetary energies may not be fully known or understood until they surface in adult relationships as non-supportive habits and unclear behavioural patterns. A planet or planets located in the 4th House are bedrock and foundation for the security, inner strength and self acceptance that you later bring into your adult relationships.

Without planets in this sphere, the conditions of the House can be described in other ways such as the Sign on the Cusp and its Ruler. Planets, however, personify archetypal images and without a planet in the 4th, the astrologer's focus would be on the Moon to describe the attachment style moulded through the family. Take a moment to reflect on how you feel the level of emotional safety in your family influenced your relationship blueprint.

Pluto is in the 4th House

The placement of Pluto in the 4th House of your birth chart suggests that underlying the family were intense emotional patterns that might have influenced your feelings of safety and security. Whether or not you knew where these feelings emanated from, you were aware that the atmosphere of your family home was at times tinged with darkness. Your ability to feel secure within the family circle was dependent on the way the darker feelings of loss, depression and futility were managed. This early template of feeling secure with your darker or negative feeling life affects your comfort at being intimate in later relationships. Trust, honesty and integrity are important issues that underline your ability to feel personal.

Metaphorically speaking, the underworld is an aspect of your family life, since Pluto was the deity assigned to this place. And since this is the area of family experiences and the innermost private life, we might expect that hidden below the surface are strong influences from the past and a great need for honesty and trustworthiness. On one hand this might suggest that mystery, something unknown, secrets and denials might infiltrate the family atmosphere. On the opposite hand this could reflect a very private or isolated upbringing or a home place where honesty and integrity were championed. Whatever extreme it is probable that the atmosphere of your family home was intense. Whether this was due to parental grief, a loss not mourned, unacknowledged depression, an unspoken betrayal, a parent's shame or the denial of a secret life may never be known. But what is known is that you tap into the deeper and unseen feelings that flow beneath the surface of appearances.

Emotional control especially concerning the issues of sexuality, resources, money and freedom may have dominated the family atmosphere. Power could be wielded as a means of emotional control; therefore you might have felt unable to feel safe enough to express your true feelings or desires. An outer planet located in the depth of the 4th House implies that some of the imprints of your ancestral or family experiences, not consciously known to you, may be revealed in your adult years as you forge your own relationships and create your own family. Therefore don't be surprised if deeper issues of trust and control arise in later relationships, like ghosts from the past. In fact it is your adult relationships that help you to make peace with these ghosts and have confidence in the depth of your feelings. You need a deep sense of connection free

from feeling overpowered or controlled before you are safe enough to be vulnerable. Privacy is important to you and as you begin to know your self you appreciate your psychological resources of honesty, integrity and intensity of feeling. Deep inside you have a drive to get to the bottom of things and in this case it might be seeking out the truth of the family. Your research into the family tree might help you understand your emotional inheritance. Or later in adult life your feeling of being uprooted might be better placed renovating and restructuring your home environment to make it more reflective of who you truly are. Your kindred spirits both admire and appreciate your honest feelings and depth of contact.

PRIMARY RELATIONSHIPS

Our Early Soulmates

Siblings, Cousins, Neighbours, Playmates and School Chums



*“One would be in less danger
>From the wiles of a stranger
If one’s own kin and kith
Were more fun to be with”
- Ogden Nash*

The Third House

The 3rd House significantly contributes to shaping relationship patterns, as this is where the first connection with peers is located. Initial experiences of these relationships make their impression on our attitudes towards companionship, partnership and friendship. Feelings, reactions, trauma, trust, freedom, love, fear, in effect the full spectrum of early relationships, lay the foundation for our adult attachments to friends and partners. This sector of the Horoscope is the storehouse where attitudes towards others that shared our early environment, mainly siblings, but also cousins, neighbourhood friends and primary schoolmates, are contained. Social interactions with partners, colleagues and acquaintances have their origins in these experiences, suggesting the 3rd House of the Horoscope reveals the template for relationship pattern.

The 3rd House is critical when analyzing relationships since it illustrates how we first experience peers and the impact they may have on future relationships. We first test the response from the world through the action or reaction of our siblings and early childhood playmates. The sibling relationship can extend to friends, classmates and others, particularly for only children. In many cases of an only child, fate arranges it so there is a replacement sibling: a cousin, a neighbour, a step-sibling or special friend.

When investigating the 3rd House it is important to recognise our position in the family. Our birth order, along with the number and gender of our siblings, has a considerable impact on personality. Birth order was often a theme in the myths, fairy tales, fables and biblical stories we grew up with. It is often enlightening to consider your birth position and how that impacts on your relationships. Expectations, patterns we repeat with partners and even our choice of mate may be more influenced by our siblings than we realise.

Following are some illustrations of your 3rd House energies which may help you reflect on your earliest relationships, especially those with siblings, cousins, neighbourhood chums, schoolmates, sports buddies and friends.

3rd House Cusp is in Virgo

The Earth Sign Virgo on your 3rd House Cusp suggests that coherence, respect, privacy and sharing the everyday experiences of life are primary qualities of relationship that are important to you and experienced in some way with your siblings and early friends.

Virgo suggests ways in which you may create a sense of well being through daily rituals that help you maintain your centre and your privacy. Daily housekeeping rituals that provide a sense of order and cohesion to your life help anchor you in the hearth of your self, reducing stress. On the 3rd House Cusp Virgo highlights this need for order in the everyday experience of sharing daily tasks and intimate space with your siblings and schoolmates. What rituals or activities were important for you in growing up that helped you protect your privacy and solitude? In your sibling and early relationships you may have begun to weave the pattern of how you dealt with the chaos and commotion of relating and how you managed living with other's mess and confusion. The pandemonium of living with others was challenged early.

Your sense of duty and service is also brought out in early relationship and might impact your later feelings of obligation and responsibility in relationships. Fate may have arranged a situation where you might have to administer and help in some way. The health of a sibling may have been an issue in the early years. Daily life may have focused on their well being and you may have been involved in some of their supervision. The well being of the sibling may have unconsciously moulded your attitudes towards your own health and daily maintenance. If the pattern of health was an issue in the early sibling environment, you may unconsciously carry this pattern into the adult sphere of relating once again, interacting with partners where health is a focus. On the other end of the spectrum this suggest that there may have been a consciousness of health and well being developed in relationship with your early partners that you carry into your adult relationships.

Analysis, criticism and the urge for improvement are Virgoian qualities that might have surfaced early in relating. Therefore it might be helpful to reflect on the degree of perfection you expect in others. Or maybe more to the point the level of perfection you expect of yourself in relationship. Early in relationship you might have realised this was negotiable. Work habits and the way you spend your time was probably greatly influenced by others early on. Your early experience of siblings and friends were like work mates. You needed to join together with them on projects and plans just as you still need to do in your present relationship. As a partner you also need to feel like a work mate. Your kindred spirits respect and honour you and help you forge the sacredness you seek in your daily life.

The Moon is in the 3rd House

Your Moon in the 3rd House of relationship is psychologically paradoxical since it combines the urge to nurture and care with the experience of being an equal partner. Yet, from an ancient astrological point of view the Moon 'rejoiced' in the 3rd House. Planetary joys were an ancient form of rulership. Since both the Moon and the 3rd House were associated with the mind, Hellenistic astrologers linked the fast-moving luminary with the 3rd House of learning, suggesting this was the Place of the Goddess. However, psychologically this task is difficult for the 3rd House Moon, as the desire to nurture and need to be needed is in a sphere more designed for separateness. The urge of the Moon to be dependent, symbiotic or nurturing is at odds with the spacious atmosphere of this House. The Moon in the 3rd House also locates the nurturing and mothering instinct in the sphere of the sibling, suggesting that your sibling may have provided a care-taking role or that you were placed in this role. When the roles of nurturer and companion, mother and sister, are intermingled the hierarchical boundaries within the system of the family are confused and enmeshed.

Early sibling relationships or the lack of them would have a direct impact on your sense of safety and security, and be important in forging a sense of emotional security. Because of this emotional impact, there

may be a strong attachment to your sibling. Separation from your sibling might have been difficult. Early separations (going to school, being taken care of by another, etc.) may have been traumatic if you were not adequately prepared for them. The Moon in the third suggests vulnerability and reaction to emotional changes, especially moving from a state of emotional closeness and separation. Saying goodbye is never easy. While this pattern may not have literally played out in your experience, the difficult is separating is a theme you may recognise. This motif may have also been your mother's experience with her siblings. Whether you are conscious of this pattern or not, it would be useful to reflect on your sense of comfort in feeling separate, your reactions when a loved one takes leave, and how comfortable you are letting go of attachments. Throughout your adult relationships the early pattern of closeness and separateness might repeat.

The Moon in the third is an image of a sister, who may have shared in your upbringing, and to whom you still have a strong attachment. Whether there was a literal sister or not, you may have sought this sister-mother figure in your environment. Alternatively, mother may have been like a sister. This early pattern of confusion between sister or equality and mother or dependence may continue into your adult relationships, blurring the boundary between being a partner and a caretaker. The early pattern could arise in adult relationships in a number of ways: confusion between emotional intimacy and friendship; disparity between emotional and intellectual equality with partners; care taking versus feeling equal in relationship.

As a youth, a man with Moon in the third and a sister would have felt cared for by the women in his life. In adult relationships you may continue to need or expect 'women' to take care of you, habitually drawn to ones who will nurture and take care of you. If you are a woman, with Moon in the 3rd, you may unconsciously seek partners who you can nurture. An important relational tool is to learn not only how to communicate your needs, but know how to fulfil them independently. Without this experience in early life you may still try to make your adult relationships symbiotic and care-based.

Your Moon in the third suggests a close companionship and bond with mother. However this placement does not tell us how you personally experience this. On a psychological level it does suggest that patterns emerging in adult relationships may confuse nurturing and love, care and intimacy. It is important to discriminate between the urge to care for others and the need for separateness and companionship. When you feel comfortable caring for your own needs which are multi-faceted you recognise how much more space there is in your life for relating. In fact space is an important factor in all your relationships, a necessity that you must nurture. Instinctively you may lack enough emotional and physical space in your life because your urge to care for others is in the driver's seat. Ironically it is when you care for yourself that everyone else benefits. Your kindred spirits are there to nurture and comfort you and help you internalise a sense of safety and comfort in the world.

Venus is in the 3rd House

With Venus in your 3rd House you look towards your sibs of either sex for experimentation with the process of relating and sexuality. The sibling system or peer group may be where you first recognised that loving and valuing another could be different from the way you felt towards your parents or other adults. You could project your sense of worth and value on to your sibs and friends, seeing them as more attractive or social, a sibling providing a mirror for your developing sense of creativity and sexuality. It is through your earlier relationships with siblings or friends that you developed your tastes, what you find attractive and the social skills that helped shape your own values and sense of self-esteem. Your earlier sibling relationship and your friendships were the building blocks for your adult relationships.

With Venus here, you strongly value connection and relationship and from an early age may have identified strongly with being a partner to others; therefore you have an innate knack at being in relationship. Others help you develop your sense of self-esteem, yet equally you might also have an inclination for judging others, attempting to compare and value yourself against others. Hence you might unwittingly project some of your own inner worth and value onto others. Relationships are an early experimental ground for your sense of self and in the school of relating you learn about what you value: communication, sharing,

openness and interchange.

Being a personal feminine figure, Venus in the 3rd House of siblings personifies the image of sister, suggesting a sister may have been central in your experience of relating. For a man, sister becomes a potent feminine or anima figure. If you have a literal sister, she will have played an important transitional role in carrying this internal soul image for you, modelling your image of a partner more than you might like to admit. Whether you are close or not to your sister her impact when you were younger finds its way into your adult relationships. In some ways sister or sister's friends have played a role in shaping your response to relating. Without a sister, you still seek this image in adult relationships. On a general level your partner may be like a sister as the sense of equality, companionship is equally as important love and Eros.

A woman with Venus in the third may be unwittingly drawn into competition with her sisters or friends. In mythology, Aphrodite (Venus) was half-sister and rival to Persephone, Athena and Artemis. Zeus decreed that Aphrodite had to share her lover, Adonis, with Persephone. On another occasion, Aphrodite charmed Paris so that he would choose her rather than Athena in the competition for the fairest goddess. And with Artemis, Aphrodite clashed over the young boy, Hippolytus. Rivalry and competition are the mythic motifs that underlay this astrological placement. Even though your innate values might class with your siblings it is through the relationship with your sisters, sister surrogates and friends that social skills are developed. Sister has influenced your values, what you find attractive, even how comfortable you feel in social circles. It is through these earlier relationships that you define your femininity and through your kindred spirits you come to value and appreciate who you truly are.

For both sexes the urge to relate is drawn to the surface early in life, learning social skills and the art of interaction with those who shared your childhood and adolescence.

Jupiter is in the 3rd House

Jupiter searches for a wider view of the horizon by questing beyond what is known and familiar. Family experiences with your siblings and early childhood mates were a training ground where you were exposed to different beliefs, ways of life and a cross-cultural awareness. Learning from your siblings and being open to their guidance and life experiences may have been a valuable part of your education and socialisation. In adult years, siblings and their families may continue to expose you to new ideas and adventures.

It is possible that you had many siblings; however, it may just be that you experienced largesse in your early childhood in different ways including step or half siblings, or you may have met regularly with cousins, neighbours or others who introduced you to different ideas and beliefs. You may have had the opportunity to travel and explore new places with your siblings or classmates, giving you an early appreciation of other ways of daily life, beliefs and ideologies. School exchange programs, learning a foreign language, playing a team sport or becoming actively involved in the neighbourhood and community might have been some ways you expanded your safety net. From a young age you explored the wide world of relationships and extended yourself beyond the immediate family. This has had an impact on the way you value relationships today, bringing foreign and cross-cultural influences into your present relationships.

Jupiter is a planet of socialisation, and therefore your siblings' social progress, their choices of studies, extra-curricular activities, striving to achieve were important to you. They may have become a benchmark that you judged your own progress against. A sibling may also have been your guide to a wider social world, introducing you to new horizons of belief and culture. On the other hand your siblings could also be experienced as rigid and unwavering from their beliefs and with who you were at odds. One of your sibs or schoolmates might have taken on the role of Zeus in the system, claiming dominion over you and the others and becoming a 'larger than life' personality. Ego inflation in your friends and partners, perhaps in your relationships, might have been an issue you have been challenged to address. The early experience with your sibling-peers gives awareness of your need to feel spiritually compatible with your adult partners and friends. In later years you may find that although you may be physically, spiritually or morally distant from your siblings, the urge to reconnect is a catalyst for the examination of our own beliefs. Your kindred spirits

bring out your innate wisdom and challenge you to explore what's on the other side of the mountain pass.

Saturn is in the 3rd House

When Saturn is in the 3rd House, the themes of authority, duty and responsibility might have first become conscious in our relationships with sibling/s and early schoolmates. This can often mean someone who is an only child or eldest child who feel they have been placed in positions of control and responsibility too early. There are many reasons for this; a common theme, however, was the sibling who filled a void left by an irresponsible parent. This placement might also suggest wide age spacing between sibs, feeling as if you have grown up virtually as an only child, or for some other reason you might not feel a part of the sibling system. If you are an only child, this placement talks of the world of equals being overshadowed by the world of the adult. For an eldest child, it suggests you were responsible for your younger siblings, setting the example of upholding parental law, often while your younger brothers or sisters are breaking the rules. You could have experienced difficulty sharing or delegating as a result of your sibling experiences. Issues around the division of labour may have caused resentment, as you may have felt you had a greater share of the chores than the others did or felt more dutiful than the others did. Whatever the birth order, Saturn confers a sense of the lawmaker upon you, leaving you feeling that you are obliged to discipline or direct your siblings. There could also be a tussle for the top position in the sibling system, feeling a need for the parent's approval. However this approval might come at the expense of having a close and equal relationship with your other siblings.

Another manifestation of this position could be the feeling of rejection by your sibs or feeling completely alone and separate from them. You may feel the need to become self-reliant and not have to depend upon the siblings for support, encouragement or comradeship. It may become imperative to detach, withdraw or take care of yourself on your own, contributing to an isolationist tendency. This pattern could be the foundation of feeling self-reliant in your adult relationships and not easily able to depend upon others for support.

In adult years, Saturn in the 3rd House could also be demanding, as you might again feel it is your responsibility to bring the siblings together. Issues around family gatherings, rituals or special occasions polarise the siblings once again into their childhood roles leaving you feeling that you must direct or control the gathering. One of the greatest tests with your siblings in later life may be the concerns about responsibility and decision making for an elderly parent. With Saturn here, you learn to be responsible, but not at the expense of our own individuality. It is in the sibling system that you first learn how to delegate, discern and let go of control in appropriate ways. Learning to differentiate who is responsible and set the appropriate boundaries becomes an important lesson for your Saturn in the third. Your kindred spirits encourage you to become your own boss and an author of your own life.

Being Kind to our Kin

Another lens we can use to focus on early peer relationships is to look at planetary aspects to Mercury. Mythologically Mercury was a younger son determined to be noticed by his older brother and father and take his rightful place in the family. While he is a mascot for the younger sibling he also personifies the themes in sibling relationships. Rivalry, reconciliation, envy, companionship, separation, communication, support, loyalty and the bond of friendship are all elements of our first peer relationship with our siblings and early childhood sibling substitutes.

The Sun is Conjunct Mercury

When the planet Mercury makes an astrological aspect to the Sun a fusion or confusion occurs between the sibling, generally a brother but not necessarily, and father. This might suggest that your father was competitive like a sibling or that one of your siblings was paternal like a father. However this worked out, your early experience was dual; learning that relationship is both companionship and responsibility. You were aware of the communication patterns of your father and these influenced the way you might express yourself. There may have been issues of favouritism. Either you may have felt overshadowed by a sibling or

aware that your father's attention was directed towards you. Like Hermes and Apollo, there may be a fraternal contest for father's approval and recognition. Your identity may have been caught up in some way with a sibling, influencing your adult patterns of friendship and relationship.

KINDRED SPIRITS

Friends, Acquaintances and Colleagues



"Friendship is a single soul dwelling in two bodies."
- Aristotle

The Eleventh House

The 11th House is where we hope and wish for a better future, not only for our loved ones and ourselves but also for our wider family. While the 11th House suggests participation with others outside our household we are still prone to recreating unresolved family and relational patterns in the groups, social circles and professional associations we join. Underlying the social relationships of the 11th House represented by friends, colleagues and associates are the primitive patterns and expectations from our earlier peer relationships. Friendship is one of the keynotes of this House and while we feel we have more choice in creating our friendships, we may also discover left over sibling rivalries. The ideal scenario is that we become greater than who we are on our own and in this way friendship helps to expand our boundaries and encourages growth and exploration. The relationships of the 11th House refer to those forged outside the family circle.

This House of relationship is where we meet the kindred spirits who we encounter in the world. Roles and positions have already been forged in our sibling and other relationships and we instinctively take these into our relationships in the broader community. Our impact on society and society's impact upon us is interconnected with our primary experiences of relationship. In the 11th House we become citizens of a larger community and meet our soul friends.

Relationships feel familiar, as they are kin, allies who are kindred spirits. Hopefully, the spirit that inspires and infuses us is the common link in our friends and colleagues. We can find the sense of belonging to a larger family, being individuals in a larger collective. However, the groups of friends, the group of colleagues, and the organisations we join reawaken incomplete relationship experiences and rivalry once again is experienced. Our friends, close colleagues and kindred spirits can also be the healing agents that help us reconcile and heal the pain of our earlier relationships.

In ancient Greece the polis was not only a representation of the city but also the spirit of the city-state. Here was where democracy flourished, the rights of citizens were respected and the early experiments at sharing power and influence were attempted. The 11th House of the Zodiac is political in that it links the individual in a spirit of equal relationship to others in the collective. Your understanding of the 11th House will help you consider how you forge a democratic, equal and co-operative relationship with others. Impinging upon the success of this is your earlier experiences of relating, your trust in human relationships and your

unconscious expectations that you still harbour in relationships. Here you meet your kindred spirits in the world, who share your passions, witness your successes and share your burdens. Both the Zodiac Sign on the Cusp of this House and the planets contained in this sphere will help you reflect on your friendships and group affiliations

11th House Cusp is in Taurus

The 11th House represents your community, the groups you encounter and belong to outside the family: groups that you belong to because of your interests, your passions and your professional affiliations. In this House are kin, not bound by blood, but by a similar spirit of interest. Eleventh House experiences include your first class photo, your circle of friends, Girl Guides and Boy Scout experiences, the school council; groups where you were part of the community without other family members. But this House also describes your friends and kindred spirits who share your hopes and wishes and contribute to making your world the ideal place to live in.

With Taurus on the Cusp of the 11th House, you are at home with friends who are warm-hearted and reliable and who provide you with a sense of security and comfort in your relationship. In social situations you feel akin to others who are patient, trustworthy and have a sense of stability.

Through your friendships you develop a sense of worth coming to appreciate your reliability and constancy which contributes to you being a valued and trusted friend. Friends are a precious commodity; priceless in the amount of security and resource they offer and provide. While your circle of friends are not your family, they are close to the inner circle of your valued relationships. Friends are your touchstone to security as they provide a solid support network, trusty advice and a fixed point of reference. When things get rough you look to friends for solace as they provide a harbour to secure yourself in until the storm passes. However where it might become sticky is when it is time to move on.

Because you form such strong attachments to your friends and you invest your sense of self and resources in your friendships, you might feel rocked when they need to move on or develop new associations. Wherever Taurus is in the Horoscope points to an area where we might become over attached or possessive, unable to let go. Therefore it is important to reflect on this theme in terms of your friendships. You are passionate and involved with others but are you also able to let them be independent and free enough to do their own thing. Perhaps in the past you've noticed that hanging on often works against you and therefore your cosmic task here might be to value yourself enough in relationship to know that you are always valued and appreciated even at a distance. Taurus is also about possessions and ownership which you bring to the arena of friendships. Perhaps this echoes the wisdom which warns against the risk of lending money to friends. Or at least it alerts you to the complexity of lending valued treasures and hard earned resources to friends who might not value these as much as you. Friends do help you see what is of value and interest to you.

You share a lot of pleasure with your friends and bring your sensual awareness to relationship. Therefore with your friends, colleagues and associates you are at home sharing a sumptuous meal, a delicious red, a masterful musical composition or a beautiful artistic creation. You are generous with friends and ready to assist in times of need. But you are also aware of your need to be valued and your kindred spirits do highly appreciate you. Your soul friends treasure your friendship as they highly value your input into their lives.

Chiron is in the 11th House

In Greek myth Chiron was the carrier of the ancient ways of healing, divination and magic. As a vestige of the past Chiron was marginalised in the shift when rational medicine and science became the dominant paradigm. Chiron is marginal to the rational sphere and therefore feels excluded and excommunicated from the modern world where linear thinking, information and certainty are prized. In the 11th House Chiron struggles to be part of a group which is conformist and conventional. Instead you need to find like minded others who also are marginal to the prevailing paradigm. With Chiron in the 11th finds you will find your tribe outside convention and tradition feeling at home with groups who are interested in the authentic ancient

ways.

In each of the houses of relationship Chiron's experiences the archetype of the outsider. In the 11th the individual will often feel outside the group or excluded from associations and organisations you are a member of. In a developmental way this is a painful experience as your feelings of exclusion often fester and become a wound. In order to insure that these do not become chronic or lifelong wounds it is imperative for you to understand that your communal life exists away from the mainstream. Your colleagues are also marginal and share the similar wound of feeling apart. While your soul group may exist outside convention, your role is to act as a mentor or healer in the group's experience since you are able to see things differently or from another perspective. With Chiron in the 11th you are able to remain on the sidelines to comment on what is taking place at the centre of the group. In this way you are be a spokesperson for radical ideals, controversial ideas and groundbreaking social reform. Underlying Chiron in the 11th is a bigger agenda about healing the tribe!

Close friendships are healing boons. With Chiron in the 11th you are drawn to friends who are both mentors and guides. However in return you are able to offer healing in your mutual companionship. This placement also suggests your friends and close associates can help heal your wounds of feeling disconnected from others and may help to reshape your earlier feelings of not belonging. With Chiron in the 11th you are prone to recreating your feelings of abandonment through your relationships with colleagues and associates. Therefore with this placement it is imperative to recognise your unconscious patterns and become more aware of your role in your friendships. The friend and the group are both arenas of wounding and healing and therefore while you may have experienced the pain of being excluded from the system, you must return to the group to find your salvation. Your kindred spirits will also be friends who feel disenfranchised, yet with their support and love you will find a place to belong.

SOUL AND RELATIONSHIP

Intimate Friends and Committed Partners



“Love consists in this ... that two solitudes protect and touch and greet each other.”
- Maria Rilke Rainer

The Seventh House

As the poet describes, loving and committed relationships are forged by the alchemy of two individuals. Soul is expressed through individuality and when its unpredictable and mysterious nature is brought into intimate contact with another, a genuinely soulful relationship is possible. The 7th House is the astrological site where individuality and relationship converge. Astrologically, it is the quintessential House of relationship and its process embraces the experience of being with an equal other in a committed and intimate way. From the soul's viewpoint this is the arena where mutuality, reciprocity and respect for individuality can work to fashion a soulful relationship that embraces the unique character of each partner. Seventh House partners are not just marriage or life partners, but also close business partners and others engaged with you in a committed relationship.

Traditionally this sphere was known as the House of 'open enemies'. Whereas traditional astrology might literally ascribe qualities to a partner, contemporary astrology sees these qualities as mirror images of what is innate in us. In remaining unconscious of your 7th House energies, you proclaim them as belonging to someone else, generally your partner. We enter a mystery where we are drawn to what appears as opposite and different, yet is only a partial reflection of what is not yet conscious in us. What we sense is kin, congeniality, familiarity, yet not from the system we have known. Destiny hovers on the threshold of the 7th House; therefore the Sign on the Cusp is very often prominent in your partner's Horoscope.

We can draw an analogy between the arrival of the partner and the birth of a sibling. Powerfully conflicted feelings of love and rivalry, fascination and anger, closeness and separateness are ignited in new relationships. But this is the nature of intimate relationships as strands of each soul are woven together. Astronomically the 7th House is where the sun prepares to set. It is twilight, when the light elongates the shadows and we prepare to meet the dark. Therefore it is the partner who awakens an earlier stratum of psyche where unresolved or incomplete issues and patterns from other relationships may enter into our current relationship.

Our partners are companions, kindred spirits and intimate others. But human nature inclines towards moulding our partners with the clay of our own unresolved patterns and complexes. The material we use for

this is often our own projections, fantasies and ideals. Following is a description of your 7th House energies which might help you recognise your own ideals or those you carry for your partners. In reflecting on these and becoming more conscious of underlying patterns, you can embrace these energies more fully in yourself allowing your relationships to be less focused on the past and more anchored in the present and, hopefully more soulful.

7th House Cusp is in Capricorn

Astronomically your 7th House begins on the western point of the horizon. Astrologically this is the sector of the Zodiac that was setting when you were born. This Zodiacal location is exactly opposite your Ascendant or Rising Sign. Your Rising Sign depicts your personality and independent outreach into life. Your descending Sign or Descendant, as it is known, represents "others". Therefore the Ascendant-Descendant axis becomes vital in any relationship analysis. It describes the intimate dance between yourself and your partner.

Your Ascendant is Cancer; therefore the Earth Sign Capricorn is on your 7th House Cusp.

You value commitment, discipline, and accountability and feel responsible and protective towards your peers. This may manifest as duty and obligation towards relationships. Hopefully your penchant for rules, responsibilities and tasks helps forge a secure structure for your primary relationships. You need to be careful that authority and structure do not inhibit the natural course of a relationship. When feeling insecure you could become controlling, bound by rules and deadlines that inhibit yours and your partner's freedom and privacy. So it is wise to be aware of becoming too controlling or rigid in your relationship.

Earth is the Element of incarnation and materiality. Resources and possessions are important with earth on this Cusp. The contemporary Capricornian symbols of status, possessions and wealth are an important consideration in equal relationships. Do they become over stressed in this sphere? How you manage to exchange your resources with your partners is directly proportional to how bonded and trusting you feel in the relationship. You may project your need for success and acknowledgement on to a partner who is unable to mirror that back to you. Or you may trade your own pathway to the top of the corporate ladder for your partner's success. With Capricorn here the issue of authority, control, status and success are all in the mix of relationship. How you share these and acknowledge their presence in your relationship is ultimately important.

Earth is the Element of the five senses, and sharing the sensual world is important. Looking at fine art, listening to a traditional piece of music, and sharing a healthy meal, are all images of the important world of earthy pleasure. You want boundaries within a relationship without cutting off the life force, having a stable and committed relationship without it becoming fixed and bound to routines. You want to be able to participate with your partner in a successful life, rewarded by the hard work you do and acknowledged for your achievements. It is possible that you form a close relationship later in life, or perhaps choose a partner who is older. Another way to describe this is to say you bring a maturity and value to your relationships which you need respected and acknowledged. And therefore the perfect relationship probably does appear with age.

What you are first attracted to in others is their stability and patience. You appreciate their approach and attitude to worldly things, that conservative streak and the regard for tradition. Their ambition and dedication to work and surprisingly that quirky sense of self-deprecating humour inspire you. While you may attract these qualities in your quest for equal relationship, you will also attract the shadow of these qualities. The patient and careful planner is stuck on one idea. And what you thought was poignant and black humour has turned to pessimism and cynicism. And what's the use of having all that cash in the bank if you can't spend some of it? You need a relationship that helps you find your own authority, set your own limits and be the worldly wise person you know you are. Your ambition, urge to excel and that delicate balance between autonomy and aloofness get played out in your relationships.

Qualities you admire and are attracted to in others include discipline, commitment, economy, patience, authority, competence and those practical tips for being successful in the world. And it is these very qualities that a partner helps you find in yourself. So don't be surprised when your dear ones and kindred spirits have their Sun, Moon or other notable placements in Capricorn or excel at anything they work hard towards.

PLEASURE, PASSION AND LOVE

The Joys of Venus and Mars



“There is only a single magic, a single power, a single salvation and a single happiness, and that is called loving.”
- Herman Hesse

Venus and Mars

To the ancient mythmakers, Venus and Mars were consistently paired together as companions, either lovers or close sibling allies. In Roman mythology they are the deities who preside over the Empire. To the Greeks Aphrodite and Ares were deeply attached passionate lovers or siblings. In the story of *“The Odyssey”* they are caught in a golden web woven by Hephaestus who wove the fine filament in order to entrap Aphrodite in bed with Ares. Their relationship is an erotic one. In Homer’s earlier epic *“The Iliad”* their relationship is depicted as less magnetic, yet just as close. Aphrodite refers to him in this epic as ‘dear brother’. Their relationship is devoted and warm-hearted. When we imagine these gods we think of them as eternal lovers, sometimes married, other times not. They represent two layers of soulmates: erotic and emotional intimacy as well as companionship. In psychological terms they represent our inner orientation to pleasure and passion, while in astrological terms they help identify what qualities attract us to others, what we value and desire. Physiologically they are our scent and libido, the innate attractive and active forces that draw us towards companionship.

In term of compatibility and conflict in relationship, Venus and Mars play a leading role. The complete picture of their placement in your horoscope can be fully assessed by a professional astrologer. For this report we are only analysing the planetary sign which signifies qualities and essences important in your intimate relationships.

Venus is pleasure and beauty. Both in body and in spirit, Venus symbolises what you find attractive and the values you place upon your relationships, what you need to feel partnered and your own inner sense of worth and value that wants to be appreciated, honoured and respected. Your Venus sign is a metaphor for those qualities you need in relationship to feel complete.

Mars is passion and desire. Whether spiritual, physical, intellectual or emotional Mars symbolises how you

express your desires, frustrations and energy. In terms of relationship it suggests how you assert yourself, deal with conflict and make your desires transparent. Your Mars sign describes how you might express yourself, go after what you want and how you may deal with anger in relationship. In essence it is a symbol of how your life force naturally seeks expression.

Being opposite in nature, Venus and Mars are naturally attracted to one another and often a highlight of your soul mate's astrological constitution. Therefore take note of the sign placements of both Venus and Mars and how they are reflected in the horoscopes of intimate others. Use these descriptions to reflect on your values and desires. Venus themes in relationship focus on shared values, feeling loved and appreciated, money and pleasure, affection and sensuality while Mars brings themes of sex and desire, independence and individuality, dealing with conflict and the sharing of goals out into the open. By nature Venus is feminine and Mars is masculine; therefore gender wise Venus might be more integrated into the personality for women while Mars might be more accessible for men. That *"Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus"* thing again. Hence a man's Venus might be a fair description of women he is attracted to while a woman's Mars often describes the men she attracts.

Venus is in Virgo

Private Lady courts Perfect Partner

Imagine this advertisement in the personal column of your local paper. On a lighter note there may be a grain of personal truth in this, as you are prone to thinking that a relationship can be picture perfect. Classical astrologers see Venus in Virgo in its detriment for this reason: human love and divine perfection are uneasy partners. You value excellence; why can't this be part of your relationship? Ironically when soul enters human relationship it is flawed and imperfect which gives it its humanness. From a psychological point of view it is the limitations of love that make relationship soulful, a paradox you are coming to understand.

There's a lot of bias and misunderstanding about Virgo. Either she's depicted as an untouchable goddess, pure and chaste, or a critical headmistress with pursed lips and a furrowed brow. But not so. Virgo is enigmatic, synthesising the wildness and beauty of nature with aloofness and distance. Something is unknowable about Virgo, not unapproachable. Virgo is an earth sign so you are sensual and physical by nature. Therefore your Venus in Virgo is very appealing and mysterious to others. You value your privacy, time to yourself, your rituals and your lifestyle so why would you give any of that up for relationship. Hopefully you won't. Instead you will attract those who value the sacredness of time and space and allow the natural rhythms of relationship to ebb and flow. You love to be of service and helpful, therefore you make a great helpmate. Kindred spirits respect and appreciate this about you. You know when you are attracted to someone as you become shy and self-deprecating, which can be quite endearing.

When you are in that sacred space with someone else it does approach perfection. However in our busy and complex lives it never is as easy as that. You can get critical when you're stressed or over analytical when you're not happy. Then that well known trait of being picky appears and, rather than mending the relationship, it can drive you farther apart. You do value working on the relationship and trying to improve the quality of your encounters. So with a committed partner who values this, you are able to feel that you are growing together which is vital. You value time and the natural rhythms of life and therefore are prepared to wait until that perfect, well soulful, relationship enters your life. Kindred spirits value your healing and helping qualities and share in the magic of your everyday life. When your soul mate appears you will be well prepared.

Mars is in Cancer

How you assert yourself in your relationship and take the courage to be your own person is the domain of the Planet Mars. In the watery Sign of Cancer desire and feeling intermesh suggesting that your passions are deeply felt, but finding ways to express them in personal relationships is not that easy. You know how intense these feelings are when someone you love is in danger. If a member of your family is exposed to harm, a child is at risk or a small animal is in need, you are amazingly forceful and courageous. You never

knew you were that aggressive and strong. You defend and protect those you are attached to forcefully. However when someone asks you what you want you feel overwhelmed and shy. You may find yourself saying "I want what you want", wishing all the time you could take that back. But on some level it's true. You're motivated by what others need which works well with kids and animals, but not so good with intimate others.

Being instinctually empathetic, your impulse is to fulfill other's needs. You are energised helping out others. However, expressing your needs is not as easy, especially if you sense they might be contentious or met with resistance. When you feel that what you want will be disapproved of or rejected, you tend to withdraw your urges. While you might feel that you are protecting yourself against possible hurt, you're also closing a door on intimacy. Feelings run the spectrum from light to dark, kindness to anger, love to hate. There are all there and better out than in. Holding onto encourages them to fester and separate you from those you want to be close to.

Being so strong yet so sensitive is both difficult and very appealing. People are attracted to you because of this mix; they feel they can be safe with you because you can be both caring and vigilant, loving and sheltering. They not necessarily know that you are overwhelmed with feeling, so it's best to take the courage to let them know. You want reassurance, but first let us know the problem. You bring tenderness and kindness to your relationships and seek the warmth and comfort of intimate others.

CROSSING PATHS

Close Encounters with Kindred Spirits



"Lovers don't finally meet somewhere. They're in each other all along."
- Rumi

The Nodes

You won't meet your kindred spirits accidentally. In the chronicles of the soul, there are no accidents, only meaningful coincidences; therefore your soulmates are already familiar to you. Whether you come across them in the sacred circle of your family, the playgrounds of your childhood, in your adult establishments or your elderly neighbourhoods, they are already part of you. Whether these relationships last a minute or a lifetime, are filled with happiness or conflict, they are destiny's design woven into your life's intricate tapestry. Therefore it is inevitable that at some time your path will intersect the paths of your soulmates.

But when? Well this is the riddle of relationship. Whatever arrangement or timing brings you into alignment with your kindred spirits is the inexplicable mystery of the soul. Astrology is a great aid in this regard as it can bypass layers of rational minds to explore timing in relationships. Astrology's timing techniques are invaluable in helping to focus on major and meaningful passages in relationship. Consulting a professional astrologer to explore these questions can be highly revealing and rewarding. Within the limits of this report we can draw on an aspect of your horoscope that will help you reflect on your encounters with kindred spirits. This is the House position of the North Node, a signpost that points to where soul may be encountered in relationship.

The House positions of the Nodes illustrate environmental factors that shape and influence your fate, including relationship. This is where the inner and outer worlds lead us to a rendezvous with soul. North Node experiences are out of the ordinary, since its nature is both subjective and participatory with the spiritual world. Therefore the House position of the North Node locates one of the settings where engagement with the spiritual self occurs. The South Node is in the opposite House and describes a familiar place, an area of safety, and a comfort zone that supplies an anchor for our relationships. However it is also a place where we can become fixed, caught in the safety zone of our complacency and neglect the invitation of the North Node. That would be a shame as it is at this pole where you might cross paths with a kindred spirit.

Considering this one image in your Horoscope invites you to feel more masterful in participating with your soul's journey and more receptive to close encounters with kindred spirits.

The North Node is in the 1st House

Close encounters with kindred spirits are on your horizon. You do not need to go anywhere or do anything; your soulmates are already part of you. All you really need to do is lift up your head, do your own thing and follow your heart's desire. As you are less concerned about others and more focused on your self you will open up a new vista of possible relationships. The only line separating you from your soulmates is the one you need to cross, and you do that by becoming more independent, assertive and visible. It might be as easy as just being yourself.

With your North Node in the 1st House and your South Node in the 7th House of your birth chart, the arena of personal relationships is highlighted. This suggests there is a delicate balance between being focused on yourself and being aware of your own needs and desires, as opposed to following in your partner's footsteps and losing touch with your own direction. On one hand it is instinctual for you to fit in with others, recognise their point of view and support them on their path. Yet this line of action does not work to your best advantage, as you subtly lose touch with your own goals when relinquishing command of your dreams and visions.

This tug-of-war between what you want and what others' desire is part of the tapestry of your personal relationships. It feels natural for you to champion the spirit of others; however, first it is wise to know your own mind and become clear about what you want. Close relationships will always be there for you so you do not need to be dependant to be intimate. Your task for insuring successful relationships is to follow your own game plan, forge a streak of independence and develop the courage to stand on your own. Kindred spirits are naturally supportive of you, no matter what you decide to do. Being true to yourself is paramount. Your vibrant personality needs to support your desires, not the expectations and requests of others.

Ironically it is through relationship that you discover your individuality. Personal development is an important aspect of close relationships, and is vital for you to feel that you are fulfilling your life purpose. You have an inherent understanding of your partner's makeup and are fluent in reading others. However, you need to be vigilant in not always accommodating their needs. Being focused on your goals will help reconstruct relationships in a renewed and more fulfilling way; building your life around others drains you and disconnects you from your destiny. When you focus on yourself without fear of compromise or recrimination, especially from your partners, friends or siblings, you discover that they are supportive and more than willing to co-operate with your chosen course of action. Ironically the more you assert yourself and voice your point of view, the closer you become to your kindred spirits. One thing consistent with this nodal axis is that you will recognise your kindred spirits when they cross your path, as there will be something so familiar and accessible about them that you feel as if you have known them forever.

CONCLUSION

*“Love to some is like a cloud, to some as strong as steel
For some a way of living, for some a way to feel
And some say love is holding on and some say letting go
And some say love is everything, some say they don’t know.”
-John Denver, Perhaps Love*

Songwriter John Denver’s lyrics capture the paradoxical nature of love for each individual. Every relationship whether it is familial or formal, professional or personal, intimate or casual is an invitation to self-discovery. We bring our hopes, secrets, expectations, resources and desires to our relationships and through the alchemy of interaction come to better know ourselves and others. Soul does not strive to work out or control relationship but inspires us to consider what is being asked of us; what is the fate of this relationship? In this way astrology is a unique tool in helping us reflect on the purpose and patterns of our relationships, not to fix or control them, but to understand their complexity and place in our lives.

Kindred spirits are relationships in which a deep bond is present, not inspired by the teachings of a self-help manual but through the soul’s grace. And that is a mystery which astrology helps us to consider. I have written this report to promote a spirit of inquiry into the patterns and purposes of soul in your relationships. Like soul there may be contradiction and confusion, as it seeks understanding not clarity. Also the report is limited in its nature to explore the more detailed and intricate patterns of your horoscope. However it is the author’s sincere hope that it provides an initial step to your reflection on relationships. Perhaps love in the end is what we are willing to bring to it, like the poet Ovid implied in *“The Art of Love”*: *“If you’d be loved, be worthy to be loved”*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Brian Clark is one of the main tutors of a four-year program in applied astrology for Astro*Synthesis. He has been active in astrology since 1972, having served as National President for both The Fraternity for Canadian Astrologers and The Federation of Australian Astrologers FAA. He has twice received awards from the Canadian astrological society, received the Education Award from the FAA and been nominated three times for the International Regulus Award. Brian also lectures on myth and conducts tours to sacred sites in Greece through Odyssey. Brian has a BA from Sir George Williams University in Montreal, Canada and a Post Graduate Diploma in Classics and Archaeology from Melbourne University. He is the author of *The Sibling Constellation* (Penguin, 1999) and a contributing author to *Intimate Relationships* (Llewellyn, 1991), books that have also been translated into French and Japanese. A book called *Celestial Tarot* was also published by US Games Systems, Inc.

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