



The Family - Viewed Astrologically

**By
Marilyn J. Muir**

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Published by: Marilyn J. Muir



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My work is dedicated to my personal giants, upon whose shoulders I stand:

Margaret Baker, Teacher

Rev. Pearl Fernandez

Rev. Kathryn (Roz) Hall

Rev. Harriett Smiley

Rev. Kay Stillman

Rev. Pearl van Aalst

Thank you to the authors of numerous books who have helped me learn my craft.

Thank you to my students who helped me perfect my craft through workshops and living examples,
and through thousands of provocative questions.

Thank you to my children: Lyndy, Jim, Rob and Lauri who have become my greatest teachers,
and who have gifted me with their spouses and their children as my newest cadre of teachers.

Thank you to those who have encouraged, read, re-read, advised, edited,
and otherwise assisted me in the production of this book,
most recently my website partners: Debra Sheahan and Kishore Kattamuri.

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Introduction to Relationships – The Family and More

First, I will introduce myself, and then I will introduce this workbook and its purpose.

Once upon a time, I was a professional astrologer and teacher. I discovered “real” astrology in 1973 and felt like I had come home. I fell in love with a philosophy and a system of self-exploration that has really helped me through my life experiences. My first application outside myself was the four children I was raising as a single parent. Once you study astrology, “friends” come out of the woodwork. Before long I was branching out from friends and suddenly-close acquaintances to total strangers, at first for free and eventually for a fee. Not too long after that, perhaps a couple of years, I was explaining, and then later I was teaching.

As this took up more and more of my time, I moved out of the traditional business community, started a metaphysical center and church and found another love... teaching. After many years, I did what we all do and retired from the business end of my life so I could devote my time to do what? Astrology and metaphysics in general, research, writing, and teaching in particular, and that is what I have done for the last few years. My outreach includes a couple of hundred articles online and in print as well as two published books, several more books that are ready to roll, and even more books that are in a partially done stage. I love to write, to teach, to share, and it is my pleasure to help others on their spiritual journeys through my personal studies, observations and experience.

This workbook started off as a series of online public articles intended to clarify relationships in general and the family in particular. There are so many competent astrology books on romantic or personal relationships that I had no desire to write another book that reiterated what has already been well written. Humans are not limited to romantic relationships.

There are many important ways to relate and many people with whom to form a relationship such as parent / child, employer / employee, professional pairings such as musical groups, business partnerships, teacher / student, to name a few. At the time, each article I wrote was a stand-alone article and addressed where to look in a natal chart and how to develop information - particularly on our initial relating within our family. Where do all the people live in your personal chart: mom, dad, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, romantic or speculative relationships, commitment (both business and personal)? Once we have such a relationship with another person, how do you determine the details about that person and about that relationship from your own chart? Is it static or stagnant, or do relationships develop and change over time? I do not know what your particular experience is, but my personal relationships did and still do develop and change over time.

As I wrote more individual articles, I realized that I was developing at least the core of a small workbook. Initially publishing in online magazines did not allow for much technical information and some rewrite would be necessary for astrologers to translate the narrative to chart readings. Because each article was a stand-alone article there also was some redundancy in my material. While some repetition is good for the learning process, I did have to cut back on multiple explanations for this book *unless* such was necessary to the good flow of information. I would rather repeat myself than to expect the reader to understand the material without a thorough explanation. Hopefully I accomplished explaining enough without making it too much. It is a workbook, for you and for me.

You will find a couple of the chapters in this workbook in others of my books as well, particularly background material because the concepts apply to other astrological applications. I cannot depend on a reader encountering the material in a separate book, so some repetition of concept is necessary for clarity within each book. Again, hopefully I did enough but not too much.

This workbook is intended to help you find the family people in a natal chart so you can develop information about those people and the nature of the relationship. The basic system used is the derivative house method. As each section is explored, the potential for progressions will be noted. Humans are not static, nor are the people with whom we form important relationships. Each pairing is unique and is always in a process of development or perhaps even devolving into a non-workable situation. There are many layers and levels to explore in any relationship. I thought an overview of family relationships would be helpful. Hopefully I have opened the door for such exploration and possibility through this introduction and clarification.

Section One – Setting the Stage

The first section is a bit different from the balance of the material. As a result of having lived so many years, I have come to believe that social conditioning plays a pivotal role in our relationships, and much more than we realize. Therefore, I started the narrative with my take on social conditioning and the role I believe it plays in *all* relationships. It is not strictly astrological in nature, but it does help you understand that each of us approach life, living and relationships with preconceived conditioning. That means that in any relationship there are *two sets* of largely unconscious social conditioning processes operating. Ignorance is never your friend, so putting a spotlight on such possibility should help you in your personal development of relationships and as a chart reading concept for others.

Once we cover the role social conditioning plays in our lives and all relationships, we will take a look at the concept of the astrology wheel as an instruction manual for human experience. We will also look at the contradictions and paradoxes that can appear like magic in a chart reading.

Since the method we will be using throughout the teaching material for the people of the houses is based on the Derivative House System, a basis for that technique will complete the first section of this workbook.

Section Two – The People

The next section of the workbook looks to the people of the houses for the family in general and the parental roles in particular. It is important to remember that there is a natal perspective plus a progressing, evolving or devolving perspective that should be studied.

Section Three – The Techniques

Once we have covered that material sufficiently, we will transition to an overview of techniques for reading and progressing relationships. To keep the size of this book reasonable, I had a choice between the overview concept or dozens of example charts. I chose the narrative overview method with limited examples because understanding the concept is primary and will make actual application so much easier for the reader.

Section Four – Unique Relationships

The final section of this book explores some very special relationship issues that I have studied beyond the usual family concepts. I used three very unique relationship subjects to whet your appetite so you can examine my perceptions and conclusions with charts of your own. At this point you will have to put on your thinking caps as these unique examples are *not* beginner's level, or as I call them "Not for Sissies" astrologically.

As always, the material I present is my take on a subject and needs to be run through your own charts and filters. That is how I have learned. Take what is presented, then work it through your own set of charts, and then evaluate its usefulness. In addition, new material always generates new concepts as we are always learning. It should open new doorways in our minds or give flashes of insight. When that occurs, work it, share it as new and unproven, and invite experiment and perhaps even feedback. I have learned as much from my students as I have taught them. We just have to be open to possibility. I am open to your feedback.

Section One

Setting the Stage

The first section is a bit different from the balance of the material. As a result of having lived so many years, I have come to believe that social conditioning plays a pivotal role in our relationships, and much more than we realize. Therefore, I started the narrative with my take on social conditioning and the role I believe it plays in *all* relationships. It is not strictly astrological in nature, but it does help you understand that each of us approach life, living and relationships with preconceived conditioning. That means that in any relationship there are *two sets* of largely unconscious social conditioning processes operating. Ignorance is never your friend, so putting a spotlight on such possibility should help you in your personal development of relationships and as a chart reading concept for others.

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Social Conditioning Does Influence our Personal Perspectives

We all come to the relationship table with preconditioning, cultural, religious or philosophical beliefs, and experiences that have unconsciously directed us in a specific manner. Since life is so varied and complex, one experience or belief system just does not cover all the possibilities. Sure, you can explain it all with a blanket statement of your personal beliefs. But again, this does not make you right and you may not be able to convince others who lack your conditioning, beliefs or experiences.

What I have been describing is our personal perspective, that which has been produced by the influences from our society and family, our growing and becoming, the insights and realizations, the fears and frights, and the group activities that capture our beliefs. The first 31 years of my life were a valid description of my history based on what I just described. At that time, I had a startling awareness, a glimpse into experience that my prior conditioning could not support or explain. A tiny hole appeared in what I had held to be absolute. Being a curious type, I asked questions. The answers slowly but surely illustrated that I was rigid but not necessarily right in some of my preconceptions. To many of the questions that were raised during that period of my life, I held to my previous answers as valid. However, many other questions poked more holes in my rigidity as I discovered I was not always right, even when I fervently believed that I was. I learned not to be afraid to question. The world as I knew it would not completely fall apart just because I asked a question. I could remain healthy and still in charge of my personal world. If I could have that kind of releasing experience, then anyone could if they truly wanted one. They just had to be willing to trust in themselves.

As an astrologer and a metaphysician, I have learned the value of being open to all the experience provided by the universe, employing discernment for what belongs to and with me, recognizing that I am a growing, changing, work in progress and that it is all okay. Does that mean

I am always open? No, but I have learned to be more open. I have learned that I am not always as smart as I think I am and that the universe has more answers than I have questions.

To question one's existence and personal place within that existence is natural. It should not be frightening, should not be termed a crime and can actually be fun. One by one, I have examined many of my own points of rigidity and have learned to relax more and trust myself in my choices. Needless to say, I have changed over the years and that has not pleased those around me in all instances. That is okay as well, as it is my mind, my beliefs and my life. Let us illustrate such social conditioning through two examples.

Fate or free will is a continuing conundrum in human society, as is the philosophical rhetoric about evolution or creationism. I am going to tackle both in this material. Why? When studying a subject that has a prophetic nature such as astrology, fate or free will is a central point. When studying the cosmos as your field of possibilities, it is natural to wonder how it all came about. If you have a firm belief system in one or the other under discussion, such belief system negates the possibility of examining all avenues of approach. It does not make you right, it just makes you rigid.

What about fate and free will? The conditioning of our U.S. society is that we have free will. That is not necessarily true of other societies. As I studied metaphysics, I learned that we have far more ability to direct our individual lives than we realize. That has added to my recognition of free will. I do feel that our free will is dependent on our awareness at any moment and that it is therefore not ultimate for every person. If you are not aware of possibility, it is difficult to move that lack of awareness to probability.

As I have studied astrology and learned about the cycles and the timing of events in people's lives, I have discovered there is a pattern at work. As a pattern, this could be considered fated. In my long life and experience, I have seen the concept of fate and / or destiny at work both for me and for others. Just how do you reconcile these two points of view? I believe there is room for both.

We do not arrive on earth with an instruction manual, or at least one that is identified as such. Your astrology chart is your best option... see the next chapter. We seem to come in with a reasonably clean slate and our experiences write on that slate as we become. Yes, there is the effect of both genetics and karma, but to all intents and purposes, we are open to possibility. What if we arrived on earth purposefully? What if we have life to grow and become... for a purpose? If there is purpose to our existence, does that not lend itself to a more fated concept? Yet, what you do with yourself and your life is continually based in free will choices. Can you see both viewpoints operating simultaneously? Is it not possible that my life has purpose but that I get to make choices in whether or not I serve that purpose? Choice implies just that. I may have incarnated with intent, but I may choose not to serve that intent. That is my personal choice. The two terms are *not* mutually exclusive.

This is where I have arrived in my thinking. Yes, there is a lot more to be said on this subject, but this does illustrate the one point. Reason this pair of words through your own mind to see where you personally see life. Is it fated? Is there free will? Or...is there room for both? Know that even if you have determined how it fits together for you, that understanding will likely not be present in those with whom you interact. You cannot make that assumption.

Our next conundrum is between evolution and creationism. I am not going to get into a protracted religious discussion, because to me the conundrum itself is not just about religion. We will start with the big bang theory, the current favorite in the scientific community. Everything we see and that which is still invisible to us – everything – came into existence from a singularity – all at one time. It came from an indescribable “nothingness” and spread in every direction, but not uniformly. There are dense areas and seemingly empty areas of the cosmos. The dense areas are filled with galaxies, nebula, solar systems, and all sorts of cosmic material... including us. We are not sure if there is anything in the empty areas, but they *look* empty to us because we cannot yet get up close and personal to examine them. That current research topic is called Dark Matter or Energy.

Religion teaches that a deity spoke or acted in some way and everything came from supposed nothingness, the act of creation itself. An example would be, “And God spoke.” Are you seeing any similarity between the two theories - because that is exactly what they are...theories? If I say the cosmos exploded into being or the Creator created, the big bang concept fits both theories. I just do not see an argument here.

Belief in a creator or deity is a personal perspective. Belief in no such possibility is a personal perspective as well. Science is an intellectual frame of mind. Religion is an emotional frame of mind. Both intellect and emotion are valuable facets of human beings, probably equal in value. If you live and experience both intellectually and emotionally, you will have a reasonably balanced set of experiences. If you exclude one and live totally in the other, you are experiencing only half of the possibilities to life. It does not matter which is experienced and which is excluded. Both are valuable and exclusion simply halves your possibilities. This is a common practice. To practice such exclusion is a personal choice and preference, but that is all it is.

Science looks around at life and the relics of the history of our world in particular and the cosmos in general. Based on those relics and related research, science reaches conclusions as to the age of the universe, our planet and humanity. Science presents the concept of evolution based on natural selection. Based on this understanding and the archeological evidence, this is an intellectual approach.

People of a book, those who believe in a specific holy book, story or legend, or holy figure follow that book, story, legend, or holy figure as a way of life. Their conclusions come from a community of belief that naturally filters through their emotions, and which can be quite powerful. If there were a war between intellect and emotion within an individual, which do you think would win and why? Who is to say which is right and which is wrong? Both approaches have value, both are strongly felt and held; it is truly a matter of personal preference. Unfortunately, these two perspectives seem to be mutually exclusive in human behavior.

As I mentioned, I have been around a very long time. In my long and busy life experience, I have never found a spot where the creative principle that formed this cosmos, whatever that is, left a message carved in stone and signed to dissolve any doubt. I have room in my consciousness for both evolution and deity. I am not limited by other people's beliefs or pronouncements. I like feeling my emotions and I enjoy the exercise of my intellect. I prefer to experience all of life that is possible to me, emotional and intellectual, scientific and inspiring, evolutionary and creative. I prefer to live a life that is not just rigid or with selected parts based on conclusions that are not truly my own. This is *my* personal perspective and *you* have a personal perspective of your own. We each have our own individual paths to walk. Enjoy your personal journey.

This was the end of the original article, but I need to expand the concept to life itself. These are only two examples of social conditioning that have been developed by osmosis... absorbing what is in our environment... or our response to our life experience. There is an infinite number of conditioning factors: religion or lack of it, cultural, generational, personal, genetic, etc. The list is endless. We come to our relationships with such conditioning already installed within, although we are largely unconscious of such possibilities. Anyone we meet and / or with whom we form a relationship comes equipped with a completely different set of conditioning factors, again largely unconscious. We are made up of this conditioning in such a way that it is not usually questioned and equally not understood, each in our own individual manner. That means we might not even realize that the conditionings exist within us!

With seven billion plus inhabitants of this globe, there are literally seven billion plus unique renditions of such social conditioning. Do you think this could affect the failure or the success of any relationship in which you participate? As you explore the following chapters, remember that we are all different, that life changes us to some degree, and that we move in and out of relationships based on such unconscious conditioning. It makes you wonder how we succeed as much as we do.

One more example... Last night I tried to find a piece of information for a later chapter and visited nostalgia lane on the world's largest library, the internet. I played two videos from YouTube.com and sat in my chair and cried. When we act to our highest and best as humans, we are amazing. When we do not or we fall victim to our social conditioning and are less than our personal capability, we encounter the world as we know it.

This morning, I shared that moment of nostalgia with my daughter and she reminded me of my favorite Star Trek episode. Yes, I am a Trekkie! If you have the capability to download an old TV episode, then the perfect social conditioning example will be at your disposal. If you do *not* have the capability, ask someone to help you access and watch the episode: Star Trek, season 3, episode 15, "*Let That Be Your Last Battlefield*", starring Frank Gorshin and Lou Antonio as the protagonists and the usual Star Trek cast.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Let_That_Be_Your_Last_Battlefield
<http://trekmovie.com/2012/01/16/top-10-star-trek-episodes-dealing-with-tolerance/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Gorshin
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lou_Antonio

Kids of All Ages Do Not Come with an Instruction Manual – Or Do They?

I have a bunch of kids (four) and they have a bunch of kids, and they have even more kids. I am knee-deep in kids. Early in my life, I believed that babies did not come with instruction manuals... or do they? The most amazing thing about my having several kids, all from a single pair of parents, is that while raised similarly, my kids are very different from each other. Oh there are similarities to be sure (senses of humor, strong family instincts, they all love to cook and produce great culinary delights, and so forth), but each is a unique individual and strongly independent. As an astrologer, I would attribute that individuality to the constantly changing energy of our local solar system and the universe itself. We live within a network of possibility, circles within circles. How to explain this...

In other articles and books I have described circles within circles on an increasing scale:

- ✓ we live on a round world
- ✓ which rotates on an axis (circular)
- ✓ which orbits (circular) around our local circular star, our Sun,
- ✓ which is located on an outer spiral band of our local galaxy, the Milky Way, which completes its circle in approximately 230 million years,
- ✓ which in turn is part of a local cluster of about 30 galaxies orbiting a common center,
- ✓ and the cluster is moving in an even larger, typically circular pattern, within the universe,
- ✓ which may be only one universe in a multiverse of universes.

These are circles within circles, just like the dance of atoms our scientists have been exploring. The old Hermetic maxim, “As Above, So Below”, is appropriate here. Our gigantic cosmic dance reflects itself in the minute dance of the atoms... As Above, So Below. In spite of the measure, which is literally astronomical in nature, there is similarity in motion. Add motion, and these moving circles also trace out spirals with ever increasing dimensions within our expanding universe.

The distances are so vast that it defies imagination. So let us bring the measure back into a more manageable scale, say within our solar system. Using the Earth’s north pole as a pointer, our system traces out a circle in our local space that takes about 25,858 years (duration depends upon the source) to complete. This is called the Precession of the Equinox because this spin occurs backwards (precesses) through the zodiac. The arbitrary starting point is the beginning of the spring season and is measured against the backdrop of the traditional twelve-sign zodiac. This is a constantly changing energy system that completes one full cycle in just under 26,000 years.

During that period, the energy is not static but is continually changing. Static behavior would tend to produce sameness. The energy of the Earth and its inhabitants is perpetually shifting and changing, so exact duplication is just not possible. The energy available at any moment is, to me, best described as a series of unique moments of energy in constant change. The heavens dictate uniqueness and diversity, but man in his infinite (or infantile?) wisdom insists on conformity. Just as in snowflakes, sand or leaves, no two moments of energy (births) are exactly identical. Should someone or something live long enough in that nearly 26,000-year cycle, repetition *within* the system becomes technically possible. However, we will have shifted our position galactically within our 230-million-year galactic spin. So, technically the moment of energy we choose to identify as the birth of a human being or any other birth can never be exactly duplicated... ever. (Science seems to be pushing that boundary as well.) The heavens create in individuality and not conformity. For me, the clearest metaphor is to think of the circular spin continually moving forward, creating an actual spiral of experience.

Each human born in a moment of time is and always will be unique, never to be exactly duplicated. *You* are unique, as is each child born on Mother Earth as she performs her cosmic dance through space. In 2009 when I first wrote this material, there were four births somewhere on our globe for every second on our clocks. Each birth is unique and does not come with an instruction manual - or so I thought as a very young, bewildered and at times beleaguered mother of four type-A kids...then I discovered astrology. Oh, there really is a map. Thank you, universe!

Some time ago, my youngest daughter made a remark that fits with this material so well that I just have to insert it here. Her two young sons did something that made absolutely no sense to either of us and we were discussing their actions. She remarked, "Mother, I don't explain them, I just give birth to them." I wish I had known that way back when I was raising my kids. What a great explanation for a conundrum called a child. We are so very unique, not even your mother can explain you or your actions. Do not give up on ever understanding them because the universe did provide us with a map and that map is called an astrology chart. Upon being read properly, that map becomes a blueprint for an individual instruction manual.

I discovered astrology somewhere in the middle of raising my own children. As soon as I got some astrological knowledge, I cast my children's astrology wheels and started to study their individual energy patterns. As we encountered the expected and at times unexpected blips in their growing up processes, I would study the activations to their patterns to understand what was happening, what the purpose was, and how to handle all that in the most positive fashion. Considering that I was a single mother raising four type-A kids who were becoming typical teens, this new information source was very handy and really welcomed.

I realized that the early versions of my own kids left home at age thirteen - fourteen (Saturn opposition) and total strangers moved into their bedrooms. Who were these strangers who called me Mom? Did I do all this successfully? No! Did I do better with this system than I would have done on my own with absolutely no clue as to what was happening? Yes! What really appealed to me was my ability to view them as individuals to work my way through each emerging blip. My kids are now all adults, so we did make it with just a few bumps and bruises.

Your astrology wheel is a map of the energy that was available at the moment of birth. Since no two objects can occupy the same space at the same moment (so far), each birth is unique and each chart is unique. Yes, in the case of multiple births, the energy pattern is strikingly similar, but such births are not usual and there will always be some minute, unique differences. The children who grow out of a moment like that become their own persons with their own experiences and perceptions of experience. I do not think we have yet developed the skill to deal with such minute changes, but change did exist and will appear in the life of that individual. As with all fields of endeavor, astrologers will develop better methods of reading such minute changes with time and practice.

Look to the natal or birth wheel as a unique map of cosmic energy in a readable format once you have developed those skills. This first map is of an individual moment in time that comprised the birth of a human being. The map reflects the energy *potential* of that moment in time. That newborn grew, developed, became, experienced and changed just as in any other evolutionary process. If the universe were invested in a static state of being, there would be no change because static could not allow for change. The changing energy patterns can be read for that individual throughout their lives by various astrological techniques. Astrology provides a map that has the capacity to be extended, revised and read as needed, just as our modern online Google-type maps can be moved and expanded and reworked. It does take a little skill, but it can be done.

We did come with an instruction manual; it was just labeled something else, *your* astrology chart. We can take advantage of this original instruction manual any time we choose by having our natal wheel cast and read, or we can personally cast and read its progressions. It is ageless and timeless. It can be read for a newborn or for any age desired. You can learn what your purpose and intention was at birth and what you have done with that potential and that intention as you have progressed through your life. Not everyone develops or expresses all their potential, yet some actually succeed. You can look at your lessons, your skills and talents, your strengths and weaknesses, and your current status. To me, that is one handy instruction manual.

Identification, Paradox and Contradiction – The Flip Side of the Coin

Have you ever noticed that most sun-sign books are quite upbeat and positive about the astrological characteristics of any sign? I am a Scorpio, and when I first read the opinions about who I was supposed to be, there were a number of Scorpio characteristics with which I just did not identify. Over time I established a better perspective of what those books were attempting to teach me. My personal experience with certain characteristics, particularly those with which I had disagreed, clarified. You will probably be encountering such paradox, contradiction and an occasional lack of identification for yourself and those you read. So it seems like a good discussion point for this workbook as we seek to understand ourselves and our relationships. A couple of examples might help clarify any conundrum you may encounter in reading for yourself and others.

Sun-sign clarification To me, the sun-sign books leave out a really important piece of information that could easily promote better understanding. Earth is a great big schoolhouse and we are all students. You do not come in as a master of your sun-sign - you come in as a student of that sign. If astrological authors would just add the words “to learn” to the beginning of each sun-sign heading, it would give a more accurate perspective. You are here to learn or develop the qualities of your particular sun-sign.

For example, I am described as secretive because I am a Scorpio, but I am not a particularly secretive person. Can I be secretive when necessary? Of course I can. Have I had to learn lessons about secrets and secretiveness? Yes, I have. Secretive is the name of a lesson plan, not necessarily an inborn characteristic. You are a student and not a master of your sun-sign, and that includes all the good qualities plus all the negative qualities as well.

Flip side of any coin I am sure my students got tired of listening to me repeat “every front has a back”. Most of what is penned in astrology books shows the positive nature of a sign, a planet, a house or an aspect. I just love to find authors who address both sides of an astrological element. If you have paid attention, life is not usually one-sided and positive. Instead life is a mix of experience. The elements of astrology are like that. On their face they have specific qualities. But if you turn them over and look at them from the backside or even the inside, the flip side of their issues are also present. For example, Aries is dynamic and active. Flip the Aries coin over and you can get the qualities of aggression and foolhardiness from that same energy.

Another example - the fourth house is home, hearth, family. All nice positive words. Are all families that way? Not to my knowledge. Something in or affecting the fourth may indicate a problem. The front of that fourth house coin might sound positive; but the backside or the inside of that same coin can show us what the fourth house problems are.

And here’s another example. Beauty or talent can be such a gift... and it can be such a curse as well. This is not paradox or contradiction. It is life itself, the front and the back of that particular coin.

Identification and denial Once upon a time I read for a man who had trouble identifying with my reading. We pressed on because he wanted to take home the audio tape I provided with my readings so he could study it. He played the tape for his roommate who told him my reading was on the money. He called me a few days later and told me he had played the tape ten or so times over the intervening period. It totally amazed me that anyone would play hours of my voice repeating itself about anything. He said that each time he played the tape, he understood more. He said that as he replayed the tape, he heard parts he had not heard earlier, but had clearly been there all along. I do talk really fast and use lots of words and concepts. He told me there was much on the tape to which he just did not want to admit, or to view himself in that light. I had not thought there was anything about his reading that difficult to own or understand, just some lessons he was learning. He walked away satisfied that the reading was valid, but we sure took the long way around to get there.

Sometimes our view of ourselves takes a little study and some clarifying. We are human and can rationalize and justify our beliefs, our actions and our opinions. The overall purpose to any reading would be self-understanding. As long as we achieve our goal, the method may be daunting at times.

Here's another example. I was born with a very wide Sun / Uranus opposition that could indicate a rebel. That's one way of reading that aspect. However, I was *not* rebellious as a child. I do believe I was comparatively easy to raise, so I did not initially identify with or demonstrate that supposedly rebellious opposition. Imagine my now ex-husband's surprise when my Sun / Uranus opposition coming-out party occurred at age 31. I am very small, at that time a little over five feet tall and maybe 115 pounds, but I physically threw a six-foot, 180-pound man out my front door. No one was more surprised than me. Well... the man was pretty surprised, too.

I can tell you my life clearly shows a before and after picture, one behavior up to age 31 and a completely different behavior after age 31*. Before Uranus kicked in, I was a simple product of my old-fashioned culture and environment. After Uranus kicked in, I revealed independence, became happy in my uniqueness and was more the rebel against unnecessary restrictions, and... I became an astrologer! Before you throw away the nature of an aspect or issue with which you are not identifying, know that your experience and your identification can vary over a lifetime. What does not apply to you now may apply to you as you grow and become.

Paradox and Contradiction To start with, let us establish that humans are paradoxical and contradictory in themselves, in their actions and in their experiences. Contradiction and paradox are normal parts of human experience, so do not be surprised if you encounter either or both in life or astrologically.

- ✓ You can have competing issues you are working your way through.
- ✓ You can have good days and bad days in dealing with the sorting process.
- ✓ You can have issues when you are younger that become easier as you get older.
- ✓ You can have issues that erupt or develop out of current experience and establish new behaviors.
- ✓ I have done all of the above in my 80+ years of living, and I prefer to do them one at a time.

What if you had the Sun in the fourth house plus a Moon / Mars conjunction? One reading could be that you are very family-oriented but have great angst with Mom. Both the closeness and the angst can show up in your chart, and they could initially appear to contradict each other for a reading or to form a paradox in your experience.

Cancellation? Both issues are operating and both sides are valid. *They do not cancel each other out.* Do not bypass such a contradiction and do not negate either segment; read both. I had a client with a Jupiter / Sun / Saturn tight conjunction. She has had a remarkably good life (Jupiter / Sun). She came from money and had a successful husband (Sun / Saturn). She also had a strong personal drive for business success (Sun / Saturn), which has managed to both drive her and elude her to the degree that she would consider meaningful. Paradox and contradiction are alive and well in human experience. One last point...

Life Happens Let us speculate for a moment about a person who has a primary dream and spends much of their life working towards that dream. At times, life gets in the way with circumstance, experience, behaviors or choices that interfere with the fulfillment of that dream. An accident, a lack of money or opportunity, family pressures, economic turndowns, illness and all sorts of other possibilities can occur. I am not being negative. I am merely illustrating that “sometimes life happens” possibility. The dream may be very visible in the sky map, but you cannot exclude the possibility of life and living interfering with or changing the dynamic. So you may see not only the dream in a sky map... but also the interruption to that dream. They may appear to contradict each other until study of the conflict or experience brings some clarity.

Many sky maps and readings are straight forward and do not offer such conundrum or confusion. Occasionally you will have to work a little harder to understand how each piece fits within the whole. The most important point I can make here is that you should make the choice astrologically to read each piece and learn to deal with any conflict that arises. *Do not* use one piece of the wheel to cancel out another or you can lose valuable information and understanding. All of any wheel is valid. Your skills will develop with time and experience.

What I have described is what we all carry around with us as conditioning, as paradox or as conundrums - not only us personally, but those with whom we interact. There are people who come into our lives from the environment and with whom we choose to develop relationships. There are the people in our families, that which we were born into and which we did not choose from this level of being. There are people in the families

we develop as we progress, some by choice such as a partner in life, who in turn brings us people we did not specifically choose as our relatives. A variety of possibility is offered by life to educate us, shape us, and help us evolve again. Again, it is our choice to participate.

**Note:* I could not find another location in this book to put this note, so it has to live here. Regarding the before and after example of my natal Sun opposed Uranus and the change in application at age 31 – why? At the end of our twenties, we have a cluster of transits that trigger their natal positions.

- ✓ Uranus travels seven years per sign and trines its natal position at age 28.
- ✓ Neptune travels fourteen years per cycle and sextiles its natal position at age 28.
- ✓ Jupiter returns occur every twelve years, with two returns equaling age 24. Age thirty would represent Jupiter's transiting opposition to its natal position.
- ✓ Saturn returns to its natal position in 29 years.
- ✓ Additionally, the progressing Moon returns to its original position in 27+ years.

Whether the transiting aspect to the natal position is positive (sextile or trine), negative (square or opposition) or just plain powerful (return), this is an amazing number of activations condensed within a very short period. The phrase "over the hill" at thirty is very real astrologically. It sets a stage for the next major triggering aspect that can come in the form of an eclipse or other normal transit or progression and signifies a major change in direction. For me, that occurred at age 31.

The Derivative House System

– Another Layer of Reading

The field of astrology is huge with so many possibilities. In order to study it in a manageable proportion, we must look at it segment by segment. Once we have two astrological segments under reasonable control, we can then merge them to develop a comprehensible narrative. Once we have studied an additional segment, we use the same merging process to enlarge our information while keeping it cohesive. We study segment by segment, adding to our previous storage until we have a whole, usable body of information from which we can draw at any time. This reminds me of the way we learn anything, step-by-step and adding as we go. Think of stair steps building one upon the other.

In order to individualize that body of astrological information, we start with the natal wheel for any birth. We then draw from that basic information pool at will, weaving together the various segments that are appropriate to that wheel in order to read the life story of that person. In short, we learn the basics of astrology so we can tell the personal story for each individual sky map.

My interpretation is that there are four cornerstones of astrology: planets, signs, houses and aspects. It is my personal conclusion that the planets are the keystone of the four cornerstones. Each of these four segments should be studied in the early stages of astrology so they may be combined as described to begin the process of a reading. In this chapter, we will look at two of the segments, houses and planets, in a particular combining technique called the Derivative House System. This technique is completely usable for those students of astrology who have completed the beginner's stage. Just so that we are on the same page, in brief...

Houses represent the “where” of the chart, the division of the 360-degree wheel into twelve compartments. Each compartment contains approximately 1/12th of the life experience or issues for any person, so each compartment is chock full of issues. Since the entire house system is constructed with Earth in the center of each wheel, under our feet so to speak, houses are the down-to-earth experience for that wheel and person.

Planets represent the “what” of the chart, the various functions of the human, such as the ego and self-identity urges, the nesting, family, and emotional urges, the function of communication and learning, and the urge to relate, to name a few. Traditionally, there are ten bodies: our star the Sun, our satellite the Moon, and our eight sibling planets. Since we are all standing on Earth it is not separately delineated as it is applied as the core of the physical chart.

Signs represent the “how” of the chart, twelve divisions of the starry band of zodiac constellations that provide descriptions of astrology’s psychological types using ancient mythology references. Signs show basic attitudes, methods of expression, mannerisms or ways of acting. The signs act as a lens that colors the nature of the planets and the houses.

Aspects represent the “why” of the chart as angular relationships or interactions are formed between the bodies and the points. They represent the ease or difficulty of the urges and issues that the energies express within human experience.

Those are very brief definitions for the what, how, why and where of astrology. “When” is a function of the ongoing activations of the natal chart by transits or progressions. Again, for this workbook, we will focus on houses and planets with more casual reference to signs and aspects.

To study a single planet deeply, we must go beyond the generic meaning of that planet to see it working in the sign in which it is positioned, the house it occupies, the house it rules, and the aspects in which it is involved. All of that is valuable and is as far as readings usually go.

The Derivative House System is used to describe the involvement of “others” in a natal chart. Traditional house, sign and planet meanings as given above are retained. However, instead of applying those meanings to the native, those meanings are applied to those “others” represented in the chart, i.e. partner, parents, children, etc. We will be using this technique for the next few chapters.

Before I leave this basic definition section, know that the derivative technique can give you a much deeper layer of planet meaning simply by looking at the twelve-fold process of any of the ten bodies. How? You simply start with the position of a single planet in the house it occupies and mentally recognize that position as that planet’s first house expression. You then count consecutively and counter-clockwise around the wheel from that first house. Each planet and what that planet represents in the

individual will have contribution from all twelve houses and their issues. You do not lose the value of a regular reading of a wheel; you are simply adding a supplemental layer of meaning. An example might make this explanation easier to understand.

Traditionally we might start with the Sun (ego urge) in Scorpio (sign) in the fifth house (occupying), ruling the Leo third house (rulership), and then list the individual aspects involving the Sun. That takes you through the common method of reading the Sun or any other planet.

For this additional layer of meaning using the Derivative House System, put your finger on that Sun (ego and self-identity) and recognize that as that Sun's *first house expression*, regardless of which house the Sun occupies, and it is the way the world sees the Sun issues for that chart. It also represents how that Sun and its issues respond immediately to activations from its environment. As a first house energy it is the personal self-projection of that Sun and the Sun's coping skills (first house).

Where does the Sun (ego, self-identity) begin for this specific example we have been using? All that actually takes place in the fifth house (occupying) so you must also view this particular solar application as involving creativity, children of the mind and body, speculation, and family values. Why family values? We will do more with this shortly but with the fourth house representing the family in general, the fifth house is the second house from the natal fourth. The second house function represents value systems in general and not just money. The Sun has more than a self-identity. The Sun also has a value system, communication, relating, and all the other usual traditional house meanings. The Derivative House System is the method to help you look at these nuances of each planet. Using that concept...

- ✓ If the Sun is in the fifth house and that is its point of personal projection (first house for that person's Sun), the value systems for the Sun will be in the adjacent (next counter-clockwise) sixth house.
- ✓ *This* Sun's value system (as sixth house) relates as work, service, and/or health issues.
- ✓ Communication issues *for this* Sun (self-identity, ego, etc.) is the third house from the Sun, or the seventh house. In this example, *this* Sun's communication mechanism will operate through the partnership and networking function of the chart owner's partnership house.

- ✓ One more... the home, hearth, roots (all fourth house issues) for *this* Sun actually occurs in the natal eighth (next house counter-clockwise) of joint values, joint finance, life and death issues, etc.
- ✓ *Note:* Remember the flip side of the coin...every front has a back. Don't be afraid to examine possible negative expressions of any placement. Earth is a schoolhouse.

To make it easier for you to learn and to play with this technique, here are a few brief statements about basic planet and house meanings. First the planets...

- ✓ The Sun represents self-identity, ego, basic character and general vitality.
- ✓ The Moon represents the emotions, memory, maternal and instinctive urges.
- ✓ Mercury represents communication, education and transportation issues.
- ✓ Venus represents relationship skills and drives, social and financial value issues.
- ✓ Mars represents our assertive and aggressive urges, courage or the lack of thereof.
- ✓ Jupiter represents our expansive, philosophic, reaching for more of life urges.
- ✓ Saturn represents structure, duty, responsibility, and organizational skills.
- ✓ Uranus represents rebellion and individualization issues. It is futuristic and unique.
- ✓ Neptune represents inspiration, aspiration, dreams, visions, and delusional issues.
- ✓ Pluto represents power, powerlessness, empowerment, and destiny at work.

Then the houses...

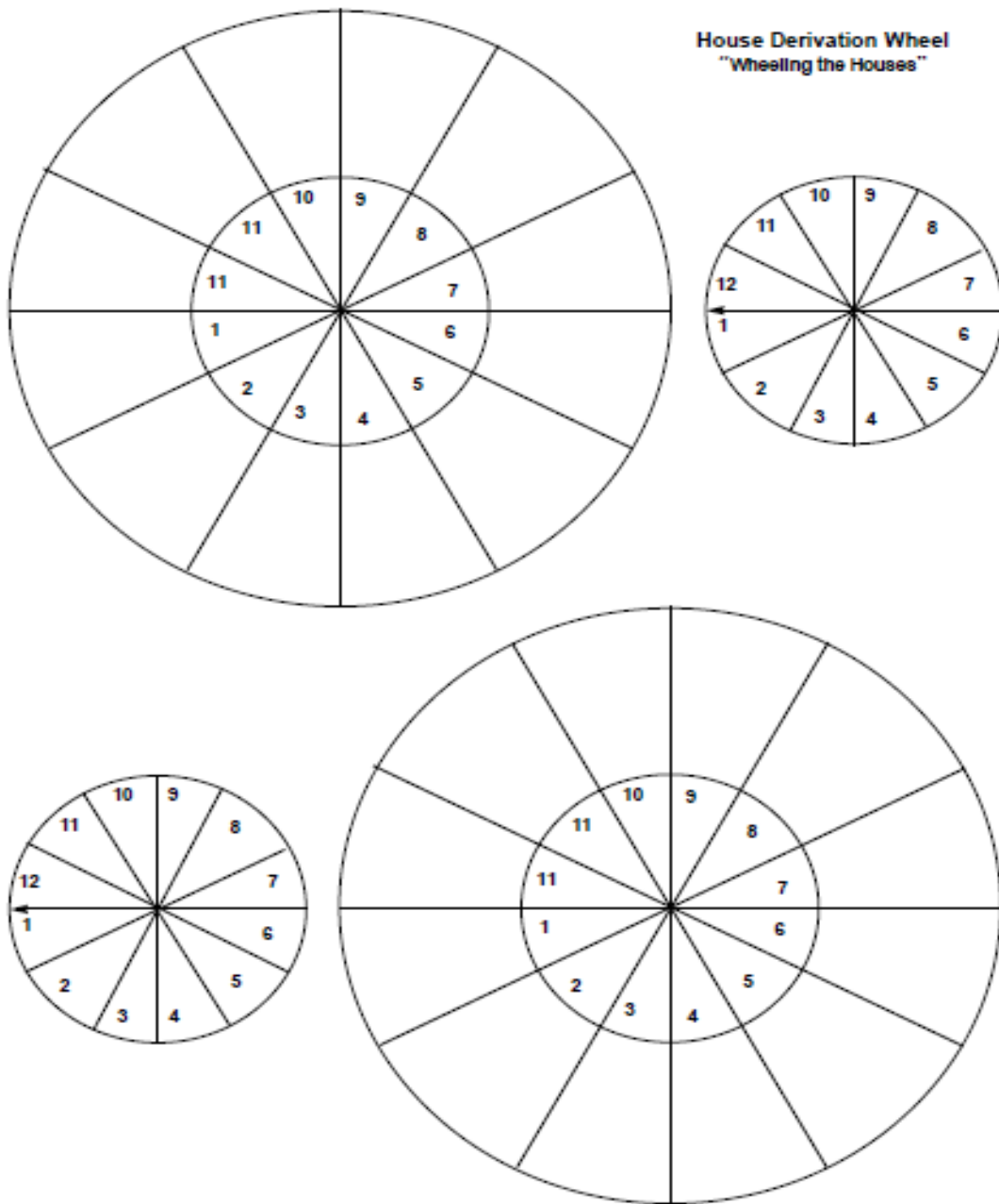
- ✓ The 1st house is self-projection, coping skills, immediate response to the environment, the way the world sees you.
- ✓ The 2nd house is social and financial values and resources, talents.
- ✓ The 3rd house is communications, education, and transportation, siblings, cousins and neighbors.
- ✓ The 4th house is home, hearth, family, roots, the internal security parent, and conclusions.
- ✓ The 5th house is creations of the mind and body, love, speculation, values of the family.
- ✓ The 6th house is your work-a-day issues, service to others and health.
- ✓ The 7th house is all partnerships, business and personal, networking and alliances.
- ✓ The 8th house is joint values and finance, insurance, taxes and death.
- ✓ The 9th house is belief systems, higher education, legalities, and multi-cultural activities.
- ✓ The 10th house is goals, achievements, stature, reputation, career, and success or lack of it.
- ✓ The 11th house is friends, groups, results of career, wishes, hopes and dreams.
- ✓ The 12th house is hidden, recessive, and can be self-sabotaging, a blind spot.

Simply choose one planet and read it through the twelve houses starting with the house it occupies as number 1. You can do that for each of the ten bodies. This is a study technique initially, but once you have the knack of it, you will find yourself including it in your readings quite easily. Once you have that combination mastered, you simply add the sign and aspect meanings.

For an additional help to “wheel the houses” to deepen your readings, I have included a worksheet called the house derivative template at the end of this chapter. Please make photocopies as needed, but do not destroy your only original workbook page.

Now we will work with the Derivative House System as it serves the purpose of this workbook. At any time you may Google for more information on the Derivative House System. Note that it is alternatively referred to as “Wheeling the Houses” by some astrologers.

For more information on this subject, please see the original article:
<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/the-derivative-house-system-another-layer-of-reading/>



Cut out one large and one small wheel from the diagram.
 On the larger circle, note the planet symbols in the natal chart house positions.
 Place little wheel atop big wheel and pierce the center.
 Insert a clothing snap or a two-pronged office clip that will allow mobility.
 To begin, place the small wheel #1 house on the large wheel planet house.
 This will help you when learning to wheel the houses.

Section Two

The People

The next section of the workbook looks to the people of the houses for the family in general and the parental roles in particular. It is important to remember that there is a natal perspective plus a progressing, evolving or devolving perspective that should be studied.

The Family: The People of the Astrological Houses

The most important thing that we do in our experience is to relate with one another. To not be able to relate successfully makes life very difficult for many. I have done thousands and thousands of sky maps for thousands of people over my long years of being a professional astrologer. Probably the single most important issue for the person being read was relationships... of all varieties. At the end of life, relationships or the lack of them were what was valued most, regretted most, and controlled the end of life circumstance the most.

At the core of relationship issues are the initial and primary relationships we form with our early families. Here is where our values are established and developed to become the basis for the relationships we build for ourselves in our future. As we mature, we form our own individual family circles plus a myriad of other relationships into which we enter. Lack of social development at the family level seriously handicaps our ability to successfully form other types of relationships. Family is where we begin our journey to understand and to define and develop all relationships.

In the next three chapters, I am presenting the parental axis, the fourth / tenth houses of any sky map, as well as the individual maternal and paternal roles. However, the family is not just our parents or lack of them. Each of us has a long, rich history within our family, good guys and bad guys. There is such a thing as genetic heritage. Yes, we can see the physical characteristics that are handed down through the gene pool. But there is far more of what we inherit from our families on other levels. I will explore this family astrological heritage step by step through this material.

Any western-style astrology sky map is constructed with the earth on which we all exist in the center, and the cosmic energy pattern exists around that central core. If we were on the Moon, sky maps would be constructed with the Moon in the center. If on Mars, Mars would be in the center, etc. As we are getting ready to colonize Mars and perhaps our Moon, a new system of astrology would need to emerge for each.

The living sky picture surrounds our Earth. Astronomers map that sky in relationship to Earth for celestial measurements. Astrologers transfer those visual references onto a wheel-shaped drawing with the Earth as the very center of that wheel using scientific and mathematical formulas. The wheel itself represents the sky map centered on the Earth at a specific moment and at a specific location, a unique map of any entity or event. At that point, astronomy has served its scientific purpose and the science gives way to interpretation of those references that have been mapped.

The center of the wheel is Earth, our physical arena, and the twelve divisions of that arena are called houses. These can be considered to be divisions of physical space for physical experience. I call them arenas to give myself a memory hook as to their purpose. All our life and experience exist somewhere in that unique sky map in one of those divisions, arenas, or houses. The job of astrology is to figure out what it all means. Science objectively measures and quantifies, and astrology subjectively interprets in terms of experience.

There are twelve divisions of the houses, just as there are twelve sign divisions for the zodiac. The signs show mannerisms and/or expressions and are descriptive in nature. The houses illustrate twelve compartments or arenas of physical experience. Each of those twelve houses, therefore, must contain numerous issues and also the people in your life. The whole of the wheel maps the whole of your life, every single thing is you or about you. The trick is to learn to read that sky map successfully, which can be more involved than it seems. Our focus for this workbook will be on the people represented by the houses, particularly the members of your family. Once you understand how your immediate family can be illustrated by your chart, it will be easier to discover where everyone else you encounter is enumerated in your chart. Another workbook?

Houses Since we will be using the Derivative House System as already described, we need to establish the basis for using the twelve houses before we determine where the people in our lives are placed within those houses. General house information will help us reach the point where we will be able to see the validity of the people as represented; another layer of meaning. I am a tropical astrologer and I use the Placidus house system, so tropical Placidus charts will be used throughout this workbook. Other house systems can change the mathematics and would have individual value and application.

The pivotal or beginning point for any chart is the degree of the zodiac that was rising at the moment of birth, the point located on the eastern horizon. Rising and setting planets are actually caused by Earth's rotation within the Zodiac belt. As Earth turns, various zodiac signs and degrees are displayed on the eastern horizon line (rising) sequentially.

At the birth moment, at that location on the planet, the zodiac degree rising is called the **Ascendant**. The twelve houses begin with the Ascendant and are listed counter-clockwise from that initiating point around the wheel, the cusp of the first house. The balance of the houses run sequentially counter-clockwise or in ancient terms: widdershins.

Because many astrologers tend to learn astrology in bits and pieces, the inherent logic in the distribution of houses can be missed. We will take a moment to review house information so we can comfortably place the family individuals within the houses. In brief, starting with hemispheres (half a circle) and quadratures (quarter of a circle):

- ✓ The left half of the wheel, houses ten through three counter-clockwise, contains rising planets and represents the development of or the interests of self.
- ✓ The right half of the wheel, houses four through nine, counter-clockwise, contains setting planets and represents involvement with others or development of the interests of others.
- ✓ The bottom half of the wheel, containing houses one through six counter-clockwise, represents the time from dusk to dawn, the introspective, internalized, and reflective self.
- ✓ The top half of the wheel, containing houses seven through twelve counter-clockwise, represents the time from dawn to dusk, the externalized, participatory, and more extroverted self.
- ✓ Dividing the chart into four quarters using the Ascendant / Descendant and Midheaven / Immum Coeli (IC) or fourth house cusp, the four angles of the house wheel represent the point of beginning for each of the four quadrants of the chart.

- ✓ Psychologist Carl Jung divided human expression into four categories: intuition, emotion, sensation and thought. We can use those divisions to understand the house system. The general activity of the four chart quadrants beginning with the Ascendant are in this order from the Jung perspective: intuition, emotion, sensation, and thought.
- ✓ Using the descriptions of the four hemispheres, the Ascendant is the angle that begins the personal, subjective first three houses of intuition: 1, 2, 3.
- ✓ The Immum Coeli (IC) or fourth cusp is the angle that begins the subjective, other-involved next three houses of emotion: 4, 5, 6.
- ✓ The Descendant is the angle that begins the external, other-involved three houses of sensation: 7, 8, 9.
- ✓ The Midheaven or tenth cusp is the angle that begins the external, self-interest three houses of thought: 10, 11, 12.

These few sentences describe the hemisphere and quadrature influence of houses. Each quadrature contains an angular, a succedent and a cadent house. One step deeper...

- ✓ The angular house for each quadrant is dynamic, active, visible, and is directly related to the individual for that quadrant's issues.
- ✓ The succedent house succeeds or follows the angular house in each quadrant and represents establishing, building, and formalization for that quadrant's issues.
- ✓ The cadent house follows the succedent house and represents adaptation, promotion and distribution for that quadrant's issues.
- ✓ In brief, the angular house activates, the succedent house formalizes, the cadent house promotes or disperses the issues of a quadrant.
- ✓ The round of the three types of houses begins again at each angle as previously described.

There is one more explanation of the cadent house that I think can help you understand its role better. Adaptation would be the key word here. Usually the dynamic influence of the angle is followed by the

establishment influence of the succedent house. That is a logical sequence for experience. However, it would be difficult to move from building brick-by-brick, establishment, to the dynamic activity of an angle because form would tend to resist the initiation of anything new. The cadent houses bridge this gap between the establishing principal of one grouping of three houses of a quadrature and the dynamic principal at the beginning of the next grouping of three houses of a quadrature.

Using this rationale:

- ✓ The third house bridges or adapts the subjective self-aware first quadrant as it encounters the subjective awareness of others or the emotional quadrant initiated by the fourth house. Intuition gives way to emotion.
- ✓ The sixth house bridges or adapts the subjective awareness of others quadrant as it encounters the objective awareness of others or sensation quadrant initiated by the seventh house. Emotion gives way to sensation.
- ✓ The ninth house bridges or adapts the objective awareness of others quadrant as it encounters the objective awareness of self or thought quadrant initiated by the tenth house. Sensation gives way to thought.
- ✓ The twelfth house bridges or adapts the objective awareness of self quadrant as it encounters the subjective awareness of self or intuition quadrant initiated by the first house. Thought gives way to intuition.

The cadent houses are therefore key to understanding the point of flux, adaptation, and bridging within the chart and are definitely more important than surface reading would indicate. If you will add this information on the houses to what you already know about the houses, this material should add a layer to your understanding. *Read slowly and re-read as necessary.*

People of the Houses

Who are the people represented by the houses? Everyone in your life is in that wheel somewhere. As it is the intent of this workbook to look at family in the chart, family members will remain our focus.

Self Many are aware that the cusp of the first house is called the Ascendant and represents the physical presence of the person or entity represented by that sky map. Much of the descriptive reading about a person comes from that cusp and that house as well as that person's personal projection, response to their environment and coping skills.

This is how the world sees us, through the filter of the sign on the Ascendant and the planets close to the angle and in the first house. When people are guessing your sun sign, they are really guessing your Ascendant because that is what you visually present, what they see, and with which they interact. In brief, the first house and its cusp represent the most personal point of the physical self, the visible "me" point of the wheel.

Partner Diametrically opposed to the Ascendant is the Descendant or seventh house cusp. This is the point of the chart that is farthest from the point of self and can be described as the not-self or the shadow self. This point represents the qualities we do not want to embrace and that we tend to project onto another - generally others, or specifically our partner. This represents the point of committed or contractual partnerships, whether those relationships are personal such as marriage or business such as a contract. Our committed partner is thought to represent all the things we do not choose to personally express.

What action do we perform at this cusp? We commit to a person, walk into a house or office in the case of a business partnership, lock the door behind us and attempt collectively to (for example) turn that house into a home. We also plan to peacefully co-exist with our not-self 24 / 7 until "death do us part". Does that sound remotely possible to you? The way to a successful conclusion is to learn from that partner and embrace our own lesson. That way we can be with a person because we choose to, not because we must go to school with them as teacher. It is interesting that this house is also referred to as "open enemies", those you can clearly see.

Parents The fourth / tenth cusps are an axis that represents our parents, or lack of them, as parental roles. There is a great deal of controversy as to which parent belongs in which of the two houses. I will cover that concept more thoroughly in the next two sections, so I will not cover that information at this moment.

I want to back up for a moment and mention that this pair of houses is called the security axis and represents our internal and our external security needs. Our parents are supposed to fulfill that role or to at least prepare us for that role. Briefly, the fourth house parent's job is to offer internal, subjective security, also known as the family. The tenth house parent's job is to prepare us for external, objective security, also known as successfully making our way in the world.

Some people get lucky, and the parents fulfill their roles well. Some people are not so lucky because dysfunction exists, and that can cause the individual lifelong problems. Not every parent is equipped for the role they inhabit. Also, some people take the lemons they received from their particular spin of the parental wheel and they make lemonade. I encourage and applaud that application.

So far, we find ourselves at the Ascendant, our partner at the Descendant, our parents (both / either / or) on the fourth / tenth axis. What about all the other people that comprise our families? Where can they be found in the wheel? Back to the Derivative House System...

Grandparents The parents are the fourth and its axis partner, the tenth, from the first house of self. Where are the parents of your parents? They must be located in the fourth houses from your parent cusps. You always count starting with the house you are questioning, such as the fourth house parent. Put your finger on that house counting "one" then count forward counter-clockwise one house at a time until you reach the fourth house of that fourth parent. In this example, that would be the seventh house. The same action would be taken for the tenth house parent, but it is unnecessary to repeat the exercise, just look to the axis partner of the seventh, the first, which is also the house of you. So your four grandparents are found on the Ascendant / Descendant axis. There are only two houses in this count, so two grandparents belong in one house and two belong in the other. It will take a little work on your part to sort this out, but this is where you go to find the answers. This counting method is the essence of the Derivative House System.

You will probably have genetic hand-me-downs from your grandparents. Two will have great similarities to you, those who are represented by the first house and Ascendant. Two will seem less specifically related to you as they occupy your seventh house of not-self. That might be part of the so-called generation gap. Physical and non-physical characteristics from those grandparents will evidence in you, just as you will pass on certain

characteristics to your grandchildren. My deceased father's contribution to my kids and my grandkids is a specific sense of humor. My mother's love for dancing and music has also shown up in my kids and my grandkids, as has my paternal grandmother's beautiful singing voice. My parents and their parents are alive and well in the genetic contribution they gave us all within our family and we thank them for their gifts.

Partner's parents and grandparents What if you marry? The seventh house will describe your partner and your marriage. It should tell you what and who you are looking for, what you want someone else to do or to act out in place of you, and what you are not comfortable with within yourself, your shadow self. At times you are grateful. At other times you will fight the process and the person.

That partner has parents as well and so those parents will be the fourth from the seventh and its partner and we are again back to the tenth / fourth axis in the chart. Hmmm. So far, we are getting a large number of people in very few houses. Perhaps that will help explain why astrologers concentrate on the angular houses. Hang in there, we will move outside the fourth / tenth axis shortly.

Your spouse has four grandparents as well and they will be shown by the fourth of their parent or the Ascendant / Descendent axis. Getting really crowded, isn't it? Again, this can take some effort, but this is where and how you begin.

Multiple Partnerships All committed relationships are a seventh house issue. It illustrates what you are seeking in a partner because you may be avoiding those issues in yourself. What if you have more than one marriage or partnership? To differentiate, skip the eighth house and go to the ninth house. The seventh / ninth illustrates your second contractual (personal or business) relationship. Skip the tenth and go to the eleventh. The seventh / eleventh represents your third contractual relationship. More? Busy little beaver, aren't you? Do the same routine: skip / count. Just skip a house, go to the next one and join it to the seventh. This combination should describe each individual person it represents and the nature of the relationship itself. You can practice this technique with someone whose chart is reasonably accurate with multiple marriages such as celebrities Elizabeth Taylor (eight) or Mickey Rooney (eight).

Children of all varieties Children are represented as a fifth house issue. These would be natural children of the body (your kids) or children of the mind (creativity itself). Not all people have physical children; the creative expression may use a different outlet. For example, this book that I am writing is a child of my mind. The fifth house represents all natural children, and the oldest child in particular. Using the skip / count method, the second child would be the seventh along with the fifth. Therefore this seventh house child could be most like your spouse. The third child would be the ninth along with the fifth, and so forth around the chart. If you were to have five children, the fifth child would be most like you because that child would be represented by the fifth and the first houses.

Spouses or partners will always be in a seventh house position from the individual in question. Spouses of your natural children in general would be shown by the seventh (or axis partner) of the fifth, which is your eleventh. Once you have chosen the skip / count position of each of your natural children look to the opposition point (axis) for their spouses to save yourself the effort of counting.

Children of your spouse, adopted children, and fostering of children are collectively represented by your eleventh house as it is the fifth (child) from the seventh (partner). Same procedure, maintain the base house but do the skip / count procedure for each individual in order of birth.

Spouses of the children of your spouse, adopted children, fostering of children in general are represented by the seventh of the eleventh house: the fifth, etc.

Note: When you are examining people in a chart, you may encounter an anomaly. Within each family, secrets are possible. You may stumble across such a secret when descriptions don't quite fit. The next or following skip/count description may make more sense. Use your discretion with such information. Not everyone wants their secrets aired in public, to say nothing of the shock to the individual being described.

Grandchildren A child of your child, your grandchild, is the fifth house from your fifth house of children (or your ninth house) for all grandchildren and particularly the first one. Again the skip / count procedure applies for each additional grandchild. This area can have more implications than appears on the surface. A child might be adopted by the grandparents and raised in that role, title and all. It would make interesting research to "read" that child as both grandchild and adopted (eleventh house) child.

One last “child” that may be found in the fifth house could be small pets. Usually small pets are read or described by the sixth house and large animals such as horses or elephants are read through the twelfth house. I do not know many people who have an elephant as a pet, but you should grasp the size of the animal as pertinent. However, we all know people who treat their pet as a child with wraps or costumes, who may let them eat from their plates, consider them a member of the family, talk baby talk to them, etc. I am not talking about the ordinary affectionate position of a pet within a family. There should be plenty of emotion and caring for any pet. But as you know, some pet owners go beyond even that. One of my own children is that way in spades! With some, you may find the fifth house is active or gives a better description of their pet, particularly if there are no natural children or are there are children but they are not available to the person, such as those who have grown up and left home. Their pet becomes their child and moves from the pet house to the child house. Seriously!

Siblings and Partners Do you have siblings? Siblings are a third house issue, *all* of them. However, we must differentiate for individuality. All siblings and particularly the oldest is in the third house. The next in age is the third plus the fifth in combination. The next in age is the third plus the seventh in combination. Each succeeding sibling would maintain the third and add the next second house skip / count jump (skip the eighth go to the ninth). This is how you would look at siblings in general and specific siblings in particular. The partners of your siblings are shown by the house opposite (axis) the house chosen for that sibling. Multiples? Skip / count.

Siblings of Spouse and Their Partners If you were seeking information on the siblings of your spouse, look to the third of the seventh, which is the ninth. This is often referred to as the general in-law house as well. Again, the ninth would be *all* siblings of your spouse, but particularly the oldest one. Do the same skip count as your own direct siblings, the second oldest sibling of your spouse would be the ninth /eleventh, and so forth.

The partners of your partner’s siblings are shown by the house opposite the one chosen for the siblings of that spouse. Notice that you do have some work to do. Practice, practice, practice!

Cousins, Aunts and Uncles of all varieties Cousins fall into the same house arrangement as your siblings, the third. I was raised within a very large family with lots of cousins who were more like additional siblings, the more the merrier! I remember when family stayed overnight, there could be five kids in a bed and three infants in the crib!

A spouse's cousins fall into the same house arrangement as their siblings, the ninth.

Your own aunts and uncles have their basis in your sixth house as siblings of your parents (third, sibling) house from fourth (parent), same counting arrangement.

Your spouse's aunts and uncles have their basis in your twelfth house, same counting system.

In Brief We have looked at the generalities of the houses to establish a reasonable base for understanding our relationships with others, specifically those we consider our family. You must start with yourself at the Ascendant because you will always be one end of any relationship possibility in your own life. The other end can be any one of a number of relatives. In brief:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✓ you, yourself = first house | spouse or partner = seventh house |
| ✓ parents = fourth / tenth houses | parents of partner = tenth / fourth houses |
| ✓ grandparents = first/ seventh houses | grandparents of partner = seventh / first house |
| ✓ natural children = fifth house | spouses of natural children = eleventh house |
| ✓ adopted children = eleventh house | spouses of adopted children = fifth house |
| ✓ children of spouse = eleventh house | spouse's childrens' spouses = fifth house |
| ✓ grandchildren = ninth house | in-laws in general = ninth house |
| ✓ siblings and cousins = third house | aunts and uncles = sixth house |

Remember, multiples of births or marriage within a category are delineated by the skip / choose house count.

Obviously, you will have more and different kinds of relationships as we have explored only the family in this material. There are twelve houses to choose from and everyone in your life has their place within one of those houses. Some houses seem to be full of people, but that is because the family will tend to occupy your relationships more heavily. Please re-read this section as many times as necessary to clarify. This technique is not always an easy task to do and it can take you a little time to learn. “Not for Sissies!”

Where do You Find Mom and Dad in a Chart?

The Parental Axis

An area of astrological confusion lies in the parental roles of the fourth/tenth axis of a chart. I have studied astrology for a very long time. Like everything else human, there are lots of personal opinions, conflicting information and contradictory authors. Some of those can give you mental whiplash as your mind fights to comprehend the contradiction, argument or paradox created. One of those areas of variance is where do you find mom and dad in the chart and which parent is represented by the parental axis houses, the fourth and the tenth. If the masters did not agree, how do we as students form conclusions for our own work? This particular conflict has existed for many decades and perhaps even centuries. Authorities disagree and everyone has their own theory. Absolutes can elude us as we encounter exceptions to even our own rules.

I tried out many concepts over my years of study as I encountered the material of so many astrologers. But I kept coming back to what was logical and could be easily proven through the normal working of the chart. My conclusions after so much trial and error became my reading and teaching tools because they made sense and were flexible enough to allow for the exceptions that I was sure to encounter. How did I come to a conclusion despite the confusion between authors? I used logic to see if it would prove itself in experience.

My favorite way to logic myself through something like this is to start with the “knowns”, those areas that make sense, do not have much contradiction, and seem to work on a consistent basis. In this instance we will first look at the houses themselves. In the tropical Placidus system I am using, the numbering of houses begins with the Ascendant and moves counter-clockwise through the wheel sequentially.

- ✓ Briefly, the Ascendant is the cusp (beginning) of the first house, moving downward (counter-clockwise) on the wheel of houses to the cusp of the fourth house,

- ✓ then moving upward on the wheel to the Descendant, which is opposite the Ascendant, the seventh house,
- ✓ moving still upward to the Midheaven as the cusp of the tenth house,
- ✓ then moving downward to complete the circle of houses back to the Ascendant.

The chart reflects twelve houses divided into four quadrants.

- ✓ The Ascendant is where we enter the stage, so houses 1, 2, 3 on the bottom / left side of the chart are intensely personal: I am (1), I have (2), I communicate (3).
- ✓ We branch out at the cusp of the fourth from “I” to “others” on the right side of the chart. Who we are now has to take into account significant others and our interaction with those others.

That is true of all six houses - 4-9 on the right side of the chart.

- ✓ The remaining three houses, 10-12, are on the left side of the chart again and join the first three houses in “I”-ness: left side “I”, right side “others”.
- ✓ The bottom six houses are internal and introspective.
- ✓ The top six houses are external and objective.

Those are the generalities - now back to individual houses.

Each of those angles are major points of change of experience, from the purely “I” of the first to the encounter with “other” of the fourth, to the purely “you” or “we” of the seventh, to the achievement and eventual return to the purely “I” of the tenth. I hope at this point you can see that there is a natural progression here and that we develop gradually through the arenas of physical and psychological experience. The fourth / tenth axis and their houses represent our parents. Which one is which?

The fourth house itself represents home, hearth, family, where we go deepest in subjectivity, the womb (this should be a good clue), the dark warm cave, our initial sense of security or lack of it. As previously mentioned, the fourth / tenth is the security axis, with the fourth representing our rooted-ness, genetic quality, intensely personal, part of the subjective-developing houses 1-6.

The tenth house itself represents achievement, goals, stature, mission, where we reach out the most (Midheaven) in objectivity, the mountain we climb to accomplish, success or failure for some, where we know how to “make it” or we do not. It is the other half of the security axis, in the visible externalized, objectivity-related houses, 7-12.

Just by looking at what the house traditionally represents, it gives us a clue as to which parent belongs there. In a general sense that would indicate the IC and its house as more the cocoon, family values, the nurturing parent, the hub around which families are built. The Midheaven and its house looks more like the parent who expects more of us and who prepares us for the outside world and its demands. This parent should teach us how to achieve potential success, if they know how to achieve it themselves. The concept or role is that one provides internal security while the other prepares you for external security. We are not talking about the sex of the parents. We are talking about their parental roles.

But life does not always flow ideally, does it? Role reversal is possible. Not all moms are nurturing. Not all dads know how to succeed in business. Not all parents cooperate in their roles, have the skills, the motivation, the caring and the support individually or as a team. Some parents get to do it all, some are totally neglectful or not part of the ongoing picture, some are just plain mean, and some are over-achievers. Parenting is truly a thorough mix of tradition, non-tradition, capacity, motivation, and application. Logic can take us this far, but the roles of the parents are not always clearly defined in traditional terms.

What I chose to do in my own readings was a verbal description for my client of how I saw each parent individually in their chart and to ask my client to place each parent correctly, because again it is not a description of a person, it is a description of a parental role. Know that I am not an astrologer who asks questions of the client and then rolls their answers back to them as a reading. However, I have no problem clearly defining the two roles and allowing the client to place them. After all, such identification is totally dependent on their individual perspective. Works for me!

Can we make a somewhat flexible rule as to the traditional roles that parents play, allowing for uniqueness and individuality in non-traditional applications? I think that is okay as well. This is a “normally it acts this way, but occasionally we find an exception” way of thinking. All life

contains exceptions, paradoxes, contradictions and anomalies, and we are just allowing for that up front. Who was the first parent you encountered as a newborn child? Personal and subjective, moving from I to other. Was it your mother or your father? There will always be exceptions. Choose ordinary but personal reasoning.

I have an excellent personal example of the complexity of reading the parental roles. My Dad got to play both roles when my Mother died quite young, and he became both father and mother. My Dad was a good man, a simple farmer and a construction worker. He had no idea how to succeed any other way and, therefore, taught me to work hard, earn my keep, be loyal to my boss, etc. That is what he understood about success, which is what he taught his children. His whole life was his family, his kids and his personal circle: mom, sisters, brothers, etc. He would do anything for any of us. My Dad “mothered” all of us instinctively.

My mother died early, but while she was alive, she was a typical 40’s Broadway stage mother and wanted my little sister and me to be little Judy Garlands or other Hollywood child success story. She strove for our success. Before she fell ill and died, she did everything in her power to bring us into the limelight of the late 1940’s and early 1950’s.

Astrologically, I have Pisces on the Midheaven with co-ruler Neptune in the fourth, and co-ruler Jupiter in the ninth conjunct the Moon. Virgo is on the fourth, with its ruler Mercury in the sixth. What is the translation?

- ✓ My mother was the dreamer: Pisces / Midheaven, rulers Neptune in the fourth and Jupiter in the ninth joining the Moon.
- ✓ My father was the practical person: Virgo on the fourth, Mercury ruler in the sixth.
- ✓ My father became both father and mother upon my mother’s death: Pisces / Midheaven, ruler Neptune in the fourth (fourth / tenth association).

An astrology chart can be somewhat like a jigsaw puzzle, and this is a really good but quite personal example.

Please be aware that the fourth / tenth axis is just one piece of the reading of parents in a chart. Aside from my single example of one parent occupying both houses, no mention has been made of the planets in either the fourth or tenth house. This discussion has been mostly about the axis itself and how the parents can be read from that axis. The sign on the cusp

and the rulership association must also be taken into account. Any planet in the fourth or the tenth must be added to the material developed for the parent described by that house. All this adds to the flavor of the description, enlarges or enhances it, and provides more detail.

The two lights, the Sun and Moon are traditionally given parental designation as well - the Moon for the mother and the Sun for the father. And just to confuse the issue, Saturn is frequently also used for the father. While these may contribute to your reading of each parent, it does not help us determine the fourth / tenth parents, so that is the subject for the next two chapters.

Progressions And as if that does not do it for the parental axis choice, things might change as we move from a newborn infant taking their first breath with a brand-new set of parents to a fully-grown adult with the same but somehow different parents. Life changes us through experience - all of us, including our parents. Their role has the possibility of changing just as all life does. The identification process we use for our concept of our parents is also constantly changing. Ask any teenager. I am reasonably sure you were one of those at one time. We grow through living, hopefully in a progressive and evolutionary way, but not always. It's similar to an onion growing from the inside out. Our core is our natal pattern at our very center and experience adds itself like layers on the outside as we grow and become. We will all view life differently as this happens, including our parents. We change and they change.

Parents - Who and Where is Mom in a Chart?

- The Maternal Issues

Astrology covers a wide range of human issues, actually the whole of human experience. Anything you really want to know about human experience is somewhere in a chart. You just need to develop the skill to find it. This particular chapter material goes to the heart of a family, the maternal aspect of any family, the generic mom. My previous chapter *“Where Do You Find Mom and Dad in a Chart? The Parental Axis”* was relative to the fourth / tenth axis in an astrology wheel because traditional astrology considers that to be the parental axis. In this chapter and in the chapter to follow, I will separate the two roles into their very different maternal and paternal natures astrologically.

As previously explained, another title for that particular axis is the security axis and the two titles describe similar platforms. To recap briefly, the bottom of the wheel is more personal, subjective and introspective in nature. The upper half of wheel is less personal and more objective in nature. Ideally one parent, the fourth house parent, provides safe haven and the personal, intimate security every infant and child needs. Again ideally, the other parent, the tenth house parent, provides the ability to successfully encounter the outside world with its demands to develop and maintain security in a more external and objective environment. From my experience and readings, life is usually less than ideal. Let us take that explanation a bit deeper by focusing specifically in this material on maternal issues. Paternal issues will follow in the next chapter. The flow of houses...

- ✓ Starting with the Ascendant and first house as the emergence of the entity onto its environment, the entity begins with “I Am” or knowledge of I / me, my personal self.
- ✓ Experience will then move counter-clockwise around the house wheel to the second house of “I want” or “I need”, such as food, comfort, or a clean diaper. “I” has naturally moved to “mine” as in possession and territory.

- ✓ The next need is that of communication. I am and I want leads to “I must make those needs known”, the third house of communication.
- ✓ Past that point, we transition from the very personal left side of the wheel across the vertical axis to the right side of the chart, which represents our interaction with others. We are still subjective and intimate because we are located in the bottom of the wheel, but we are no longer an island of individual want and need. If we communicate in the third house, we will need someone, anyone, to listen. To encounter a listener we must cross into the “other” side of the wheel.

The most immediate “other” to a newborn infant is Mom. After all, that infant just spent several months in the warm, safe, not quite silent cocoon called their mother’s womb. Her smells, her sounds, her rhythms, and her heartbeat are familiar and safe because the infant existed within her. It is therefore logical to reach out to the most familiar being in that infant’s world, the mother as intimate, subjective, personal security. Life is not always ideal. The mother may or may not be able to fulfill that role for whatever reason. Perhaps that parent is absent or incapable. I constantly remind my students that every front has a back. If this front is security, then the natural flipside must be insecurity.

The nurturing role may be inhabited by a man or a woman because it *is* a role, *not* a specific sex. Perhaps the dad fills that role or the role remains unfulfilled. If unfulfilled by anyone, then there never is any real personal security provided for that child. Think about that. That situation could create long-term security issues within that infant, problems the entity will carry from childhood into the world of adults. Insecurity rather than security is what is formed - the reverse of that particular coin.

Look at the keywords for the natural fourth house, regardless of what sign is on the cusp or what planets are in or associated with the fourth house: home, hearth and family. The resulting keywords are subjective, introspective, personal, and intimate in nature. Now look to the fourth zodiac sign, Cancer. You can see many of the same keywords and issues in the sign. Signs are the manner of expression, a lens for viewing that can be similar or in affinity with what you see in a house experience. This is an arena of physical experience. The sign of Cancer *naturally* rules fourth

house matters regardless of the zodiac sign on the cusp. Cancer issues and fourth house issues have a natural resonance and are the natural definition of the fourth house. Whatever sign is actually on that fourth house cusp and whatever planets reside in that natal fourth house modify and add to that inherent home, hearth, family, and intimate security core meaning.

Repeating...

- ✓ Planets are the “what” of the energy, what part of the person that energy represents and what principles are affected.
- ✓ Houses are the “where” of the energy, the part of your life that is affected and the part of your life that is forever connected by occupation and rulership or affinity.
- ✓ Signs are the “how” of the energy, what mannerisms, what expressions, what issues moderate or influence the energy itself just as a colored or modifying lens affects the observation of a light source or planet. Signs are observational in that they modify, diminish or enhance the core, planet or personal sensitive point energy. Signs color our view and interpretation of energy.

We can see the natural association between the fourth house and the sign of Cancer. We have taken it a step further and included the planet that “rules” or has affinity with the sign of Cancer and has mundane, down-to-earth experience, rulership of the fourth house, the Moon. Describe the energy of the Moon itself in a person’s life, the coloration or modification provided by the sign Cancer, and the affairs or arena of life experience provided by the fourth house. In this way, you can see the natural association or affinity, what we call natural rulership, also known as dignity.

All of the comments I have made so far link the Moon, Cancer and the fourth in a natural pattern. This linkage occurs instantly in the life and experience of any infant. This is a natural association and it sets the standard. Most people are not born with that specific combination, so in reading the wheel of an individual the *actual* positions of cusp sign and house occupation must be added to the mix. Here is where contradiction and paradox can enter the picture.

All these meanings must be combined, even those that confuse or contradict the reading being built. People are complex and sometimes paradoxical or contradictory because that is normal for humanity. We are developing a word picture of another human being, specifically the

maternal role in the life of the entity represented by the chart. That description cannot be formed from a single reference. Why? Humanity is far more complex than a single reference. So we must read the complex to obtain a better definition of any role, but particularly either parental role. If you find it difficult to read the contradiction or paradox, think of what it must be like to live it!

Examples might help here. Perhaps this maternal parent of whatever sex is creative and a dreamer - watch for Pisces and / or Neptune involvement. Perhaps this maternal parent is rebellious and “different” - watch for Uranus and / or Aquarius involvement. Perhaps this maternal parent is beautiful, harmonious, social, or a creature of comfort - watch for Venus involvement. These additional factors are like layers of an onion, but all are necessary to your understanding of the maternal parent role for that individual. Paradox or contradiction must be read and integrated because it is the nature of reality itself.

In the instance of parents as well as in reading the people of any of the houses, actual natal rulerships must be added to the natural rulerships described in the earlier instruction process. Again, the *natural* rulership of the fourth house is Cancer and the Moon, which provides the basis for the interpretation of the fourth house in general. That is the backdrop to any fourth house reading. To that must be added the *actual* signature of the fourth house of the chart in question.

For example, if Virgo is on the fourth, that is the specific message about that particular fourth house parent.

- ✓ The characteristics of Virgo will be involved
- ✓ as will the ruler, Mercury, its physical position in the chart by house (occupation),
- ✓ the sign it occupies,
- ✓ also the Gemini house, which is also Mercury ruled,
- ✓ the aspects Mercury makes,
- ✓ plus the aspect associations between Mercury and those houses.

That is the story that can be woven using those elements and will describe the parent of the fourth house for that chart. It is a tall order, but that is how you describe that chart's fourth house parent. Just never lose sight of the core principle of that fourth house and the parent it describes.

In my writing, I recommend reading material from other astrologers because it helps you build a body of information. In this instance, that information is about the maternal influence or mom in any life. Think about these concepts when you are attempting to read either parent in a chart, trying to understand your own maternal or paternal relationship or attempting to understand the changing relationship between you and your own children. There is a core maternal principle that does get affected over a lifetime of experience. The individual's chart grows and changes with the person – that is called progressions. In addition, those who are viewing this maternal figure through their own personal lenses are growing and changing as well; again, progressions. And you thought astrology was easy to do! It is definitely “Not for Sissies”.

Perspective It is important to also realize that although a household may consist of two parents and several offspring of those parents, each of those children may see the maternal and paternal roles quite differently. I have four children, born as single births between 1958 and 1965 and with the same parental pair. Each child has their own unique astrological pattern and each sees my maternal role quite differently through their natal Moon. I raised them pretty much the same in a one-parent household with basically the same rules and circumstances. Whether or not there were two bodies in the physical dwelling might not change the single parent household premise. Do not make similar assumptions about how this works out in experience; patiently work your way through each nugget of information, even when contradictory or paradoxical.

I am a reasonably stable person, so while we had our tough moments, the children were raised by one person and all under reasonably similar circumstances. Even with that sameness, my children see me quite differently. I am simultaneously

- ✓ an Aries Mom,
- ✓ a Cancer Mom,
- ✓ a Virgo Mom,
- ✓ and a Pisces Mom

depending on the natal perspective of each child. I am viewed as the maternal parent through the lenses of their individual Moons, which represents generic mom to them. As I grew and became as an individual, I naturally changed. Each child responded to those subtle alterations in who I was according to their and my natal placements, and who I was

becoming or experiencing according to both their and my progressions. These changes were not necessarily on a conscious level, but they did occur. Change is normal in human experience and should be visible in our experience and in our sky maps. For these changes, begin by watching the progressions.

I recommend reading material from other astrologers because it interacts with and helps build a body of information about the maternal influence or mom in any life. Think about these concepts when you are attempting to read either parent in a chart, trying to understand your own maternal or paternal relationship or attempting to understand the changing relationship between you and your own children. There is a core maternal principle that gets affected over a lifetime of experience. The individual's chart grows and changes with the person. In addition, those who are viewing this maternal figure through their own personal lenses are growing and changing as well. And you thought astrology was easy to do!

Parents - Who and Where is Dad in a Chart?

In “*Parents - Who and Where is Mom in a Chart?*”, we focused on the maternal role. Now we will do a similar presentation, this time focusing on the paternal influence. Along with the parental axis material on the fourth / tenth houses in general, these three chapters constitute a mini-course in parental influence.

I began with the parental vertical axis, the fourth / tenth houses because generically that is where we find the parents in a wheel. It is the place to begin our study of parental influence. Through understanding the natural sequence of development following birth, we are easily able to determine why that axis represents the parents. An alternative title for that axis is the security axis. The lower fourth house relates to personal security issues, those we encounter within our subjective family setting. The upper tenth house relates to the security we must establish or build for ourselves in the outer objective world. This shows two views of a single concept: security.

I then turned to examining the parent him/herself in a specific role, the maternal. That role could be occupied by either a male or a female, because the role is the maternal influence and not indicative of a particular gender. The people who play that role in the life of an individual may or may not be well suited to that role but are, at least, available. Perhaps one parent gets to play both roles. Perhaps neither parent is able to fulfill that role. That is truly sad and sets a difficult relating pattern for life.

I explored the subjective, internal, introspective, and personal issues common to the fourth house parent as a naturally maternal role. Remain aware that both modern and ancient astrologers may not agree with me. However, what I write about is my 47+-year astrological experience with thousands of clients. This is my personal perspective.

Now I will explore the more objective, external, participatory issues common to the tenth house parent, the parent who prepares us for our worldly security issues. Remember, in the previous section I mentioned that the role could be played by a male or a female because the role is more

than a simple sexual identification which is too limiting a factor. My dad got to play both roles after my mother fell ill and passed on. Do not get stuck in male / female role-playing, I am talking about parenting as a role and parents in general astrologically.

If you follow the sequencing of the houses starting with the Ascendant and flowing counter-clockwise around the wheel, you can see the natural development of any human as they encounter each stage of life. Again briefly...

We begin with the “I / me” of the first house, and continue to the “mine” of the second house, the “I communicate with my environment” of the third house, which must be answered by the “someone listens” of the fourth house, the development through play and creativity of the fifth house, and the need to earn our way in our emerging world in the sixth house (to a child, household chores). Sunrise occurs at the first cusp and sunset occurs at the seventh cusp. The Sun is below the horizon and it is night-time, so those six houses are all considered subjective and internal in nature, the bottom of the chart, the initial challenges to the development of an individual. At the fourth vertical axis we move to the “other people” part of the wheel and our activities begin to involve others extensively, but still in a subjective, introspective nature.

At the seventh cusp we move outward into the world from the personal, subjective activities in the bottom of the wheel to the external and objective in the upper six houses of the wheel. This is the time between sunrise and sunset - the full light of day. The seventh cusp represents the point farthest from our own selves represented by the Ascendant, and we must increasingly objectify and externalize our participation as we wend our way through life.

Houses 7, 8 and 9 mirror houses 1, 2, and 3, but the perspective is that of our significant others, their values and their communication as well as our involvement in our community at large. After we have worked our way up our mountain of experience, we encounter the pinnacle of that personal mountain tenth cusp, the Midheaven. While the fourth represents more the maternal, family, personal security issues and the parent who played that role successfully or not, the tenth represents the external, objective world we are experiencing in the top half of the wheel. We must now address our security issues from that outwardly focused perspective.

I see that as the paternal parent (regardless of sex) who prepares us for eventual more external success, if that parent has the capacity to do so. Again, a parent who does not know how to succeed in business cannot

teach their offspring that particular skill. They might teach the child how to cope, how to manage, to work hard, perhaps how to present some particular talent, and a host of other wonderful qualities, but that does not necessarily qualify as “success” in our materialistic world. Here we could get into the argument of what defines success, but that is too broad a topic for this material. Hopefully I have explained enough that you get the idea.

Notice that we have crossed the vertical axis from the “other people” side of the wheel back to the more personal side of the wheel. We take houses 10, 11, and 12 quite personally, but they are still more objective overall. Because we have done most of the 12 houses, I will briefly mention the other two houses, the eleventh and twelfth. We are now in the top of the wheel, our external, objective experience, and we have climbed or failed to climb (every front has a back) our personal mountain symbolized by the tenth. There are results for all that living and results always show up in the house directly after the house in question, the second house of the issue. Therefore, the results of career, goals, and success or lack of it are in the 11th house. As we move towards the end of our lives, possibly worn out by the process itself, living with our success or failure in the twelfth house, we are gradually returning to the personal, subjective axis point we call the Ascendant. We have come full circle in our experience and we are returning to I / me. This is rest, relaxation and retirement. It is also our blind spot, also known as the house of self-undoing.¹

We must go back to the generic tenth parental house. In the maternal material I tied together the fourth house, Cancer and the Moon. Here we will look to the natural combination of the tenth house, Capricorn and Saturn. You probably were thinking about mom as the Moon and dad as the Sun and you would be partially right. I will address that in just a moment. Remember, parenting is a complex issue and cannot be represented by a single placement. Of sheer necessity, it must be a complex. The tenth house represents our personal climb, goal, attitude, and reputation. The pinnacle of that effort is called the Midheaven, the highest point to which a planet can rise before it starts to fall back towards the horizon. The analogy is that it represents the height to which we can climb in this lifetime. In the sequence of signs, we see Capricorn as the responsible, productive, achieving, business sign that fits so well into the character of the tenth house. It is natural to look at the ruler of both Capricorn and the tenth house as the planet that represents that role, and that would be Saturn. Despite Saturn’s reputation, not all dads are disciplinarians. My own dad was affectionate, responsible and strict all at once. There are other influences we must take into account in addition to this generic beginning.

Generic dad as the paternal role is the one who is supposed to prepare you to accomplish and hopefully succeed. How does it become personalized?

- ✓ We must look to the actual sign on the Midheaven,
- ✓ the ruler of that sign
- ✓ and where it is located and aspected,
- ✓ any planets occupying the tenth house, possibly in other sign(s),
- ✓ and the relationship between occupation and rulership.

That should provide you with a better and more personal picture of a specific person who fills the paternal parent role for a specific wheel, regardless of gender.

If you have any doubt about the Moon and Saturn representing generic parents, look to their orbits. The Moon takes about 29 days for one complete cycle. Saturn takes 29 years for one complete cycle. There is a resonant pattern between the two and it is fascinating to study these two bodies simultaneously.

I mentioned that my Dad became both mom and dad upon the early passing of my Mom. The ruler of my tenth is in my fourth connecting the parental roles. Would that work in every chart? I have not done the research so I cannot claim it as an astrological rule, but it could be an indicator.

- ✓ My mother was a visionary illustrated by my Pisces Midheaven and she wanted me to take Broadway by storm. My tenth house parent was a woman.
- ✓ My fourth house parent was a practical, down to earth, farmer-type man typified by Virgo on the fourth. Sadly, he had to perform both roles unexpectedly, signified by the ruler of the tenth in the fourth.

Again, do not let yourself get stuck in physical gender roles - think parental roles.

What about the Sun as dad? In the astrological assignment of rulerships, the Sun and Moon are treated as celestial parents. The New Moon conjunction signifies the union itself between celestial mom and celestial dad, the moment of conception on a cosmic scale. We must look at the individual roles of the Sun and the Moon for a moment.

In the material on the maternal influence, I illustrated that role. Moms contain an incredible number of tiny eggs with which to produce life. However, sustainable life cannot be produced without fertilization by the male energy. The Sun is the giver of life for our local system. That is the fertilization principle that makes the lunar egg viable as an entity. The Sun as a male energy easily equates to the role of dad. However, the Sun does its thing and moves on, accepting the return of the Moon periodically to the conjunction point to do its thing again. Besides this once-a-month meeting, the Sun has a very large job to do in energizing, managing and running our solar system. Just watch the Jimmy Dean breakfast solar system commercials on television and you will get the picture.

The Sun in a chart does represent the self identify of any individual, whether male, female or transgender. You can also look to the Sun in anyone's chart to identify a piece of the paternal role and issues. In a woman's chart, the Sun is the most important male at any part of her life just as the Moon is the most important female in a man's chart at any part of his life. This position can change over time.

For a woman, the Sun is dad until she gets married (at which point it's also her husband), or gets a job (and it's also the boss), or is responsible for an offspring (and it's also a male child). My father is no longer living nor is my ex-husband. I am retired so I do not have a "boss". The Sun still has a place in my life besides my ego and self-identity because I have sons, grandsons, great grandsons, and a brother.

The dominant male role is signified by the Sun in anyone's chart, male or female, but the occupant of that role can change as experience develops. That paternal figure is encountering life and is being changed by those experiences. Those changes are reflected in that paternal figure's progressing chart. Those changes in the paternal role influence you as you observe and experience the changes in that paternal figure through your progressing chart. The action of change affects the native. The observation and influence of that change affects everyone who interacts with that native.

I also have a Moon and the maternal role could be occupied by my own mother, a step-mother, an adopted mother figure, by a female child called daughters, or in a man's experience, his spouse. What if you have none of the above? You get to do a little more work and figure out who inhabits those roles. I have a brother, so I have a sister-in-law. I have friends. I am not bragging, although I should be. I am merely illustrating that such a role can be played by many people over a lifetime and that the people who inhabit such role can change over time. In my own case, several older women friends fell into that role naturally as my life progressed, female mentors.

Again, each of my children see their paternal roles (their father) differently, partly through the sign the Sun was in for their individual births. Each child responded to that role and viewed each parent uniquely. Again, as the parents grow and become as individuals, each role naturally changes. Each child will respond to those subtle alterations in who the parent in that role was from the natal and who that parent was becoming or experiencing by progression. These changes were not necessarily on a conscious level, but they did occur. Change is normal in human experience and it should be visible in our experience and in our sky maps. Go back and re-read the chapter on "*Identification, Paradox, Contradiction, the Flip Side of the Coin*". This adds another layer of meaning that can aid your understanding of astrology and life.

In the instance of parents as well as in the reading the people of any of the houses, actual rulerships must be added to the natural rulerships described in the teaching process. The natural rulership of the tenth house is Capricorn and Saturn. That provides the basis for the interpretation of the tenth house in general. That is the *backdrop* to any tenth house reading. To that must be added the actual signature of the tenth house of the chart in question.

For example. if Virgo is on the tenth, that is the specific message of that particular tenth house parent.

- ✓ The characteristics of Virgo will be involved
- ✓ as will the ruler, Mercury,
- ✓ its physical position in the chart by house,
- ✓ the sign it occupies,
- ✓ the Gemini house, which is also Mercury ruled,

- ✓ the aspects Mercury makes,
- ✓ plus the associations between the tenth house,
- ✓ the Gemini house
- ✓ and the house of Mercury's occupation.

The story that can be woven between those elements will describe the parent of the tenth house for that chart. It is a tall order, but that is how you describe that chart's tenth house parent.

I sincerely hope that through these three sections I will have helped you explore and understand the parental role astrologically. What I have presented is my personal perspective and just the bare bones to such understanding. You will encounter other opinions and interpretations of the parents, the roles and the assignment of influence astrologically. Most of that will be theory and should be accepted as such. There is much research to be done but we must work with what is available at the moment. As we grow and develop psychologically and astrologically, we will reach new conclusions and applications. It takes a team to develop good material. This will be my contribution. What is yours?

¹I have addressed the subject of self-undoing separately in "*Unmasking the Mystery - The 12th House of the Horoscope*". See <http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/unmasking-the-mystery-the-12th-house-of-the-horoscope/>

Section Three

The Techniques

Now that we have covered that material sufficiently, we will transition to an overview of techniques for reading and progressing relationships. To keep the size of this book reasonable, I had a choice between the overview concept or dozens of example charts. I chose the narrative overview method with limited examples because understanding the concept is primary and will make actual application so much easier for the reader.

Relationships - An Astrological Look at Possibilities

As a general rule, a client comes in for an astrology reading for what is current in their lives. One or more of three primary categories motivate them: health, money / career, and relationships. Yes, there are far more reasons for a reading, but those are the three biggies and probably accounted for 90% of the thousands of readings I did over my years as a professional astrologer. Now that I am retired, researching and writing, I get to examine such assumptions in more detail. So far, this concept holds true. Relationships are a primary category, a good subject for this workbook. In this section we will deal with relationships in general as we explore some of the various charts and techniques that are available to astrologers.

Before you can understand any person in a relationship, you must get a feel for that person as an individual.

- ✓ What are they looking for from the relationship, which equates to taking?
- ✓ What does that person bring to any relationship, which equates to giving?
- ✓ How will they participate in a relationship?

The easiest way to determine these preliminary factors in relating is to lay out the two charts for the individuals one at a time to get a quick fix on the individuals involved and their key issues.

Once you have created a picture in your mind of these individual qualities, then you begin to draw comparisons between the individuals by evaluating their chart positions. Compare Sun to Sun and Sun to every other planet or point in the other chart, Moon to Moon and Moon to every other planet or point, etc. This chart technique is *not* about the individuals as individuals, it is about the relationship between the two individuals and how one affects or infects the other... and I do mean “affects” and “infects”.

This technique is called *synastry* and gives the nitty-gritty detail of a relationship. Most of our computer programs do this aspect-like comparison automatically, and you can print out a grid that details those connections and aspects for your delineation convenience. For much of my astrological life, such computer conveniences were not available and I learned to do it by hand; tedious, but instructive. As any good cook making a piecrust will tell you, involving the hands makes a more satisfying crust. True, just ask.

I also do an extension of such synastry work, not because I am detail crazy, but because I can produce additional and at times contradictory results which can be useful to me. Construct the two natal charts involved as a bi-wheel, with person one on the inside including their house cusps and person two's thirteen primary positions on the outside, placing them where they belong in person one's chart. Then make a new chart but reverse the positions, person two on the inside, cusps and all, and person one's thirteen primary positions on the outside. This uses the same information, but the layout and application are totally different. This technique gives organization to the effects of one person (outside positions) on another person's life (inside positions/cusps). What are the thirteen primary positions? They are the ten planets, Midheaven, Ascendant and North lunar Node.

But relationship reading does not stop there. When a relationship occurs, a new entity called "the relationship" comes into being (i.e., Mr. and Mrs. Joe Smith as a couple). We are never truly quite the same with any other person we encounter. My relationship with each of my four children is unique and each has a shape and texture of its own. Each pairing is a unique entity that must be read individually. These charts pertain only to one unique relationship. That chart must *not* be read as belonging to either individual involved because that is a false application. This is tricky to remember when you are reading charts created for relationships. The individuals you are reading will continually attempt to apply personally the information generated for the collective. You *must* keep your focus on the collective value.

Birth charts talk about the individual. Synastry charts show how individuals interact with or affect one another. Relationships charts are about the unique relationship itself, not individuals. Of course since humanity likes multiplicity, these charts can also be done multiple ways.

Composites For the longest time, composite charts were the name of the relationship chart game; it was the only mathematically viable choice. The basic premise of a composite chart is: what happens if two people in a relationship meet each other halfway on all issues...which is a

pipe dream. The composite chart does just that. It is a mathematical construct and not a real-time chart. It filled the bill quite nicely for generations of astrologers. But it was easy to forget that the composite was not a real time chart and that participants in a relationship *rarely* met each other halfway on any issue much less all issues!

Mathematically, it is reasonably easy to construct the composite, a midpoint chart. Add the two Midheavens together, divide that sum in half to create a new position halfway between the two Midheavens. Planet-wise, same procedure: add the two Suns together, divide that sum in half to create a new position halfway between the two Suns. You would then do the same with two Moons, two Mercuries, all the pairings, etc. There are two ways to construct the Ascendant but for this explanation stay with the add / divide method. Once you have the figures you construct a basic chart. Once you have constructed the composite chart you would then read the chart as a unique relationship entity. This process is so much easier with the advent of computers. Just push a button and out pops the sky map of a unique and specific composite relationship!

You would then read the chart as usual, but from a relationship viewpoint. Carefully correct your clients when they attempt to turn the reading into a personal statement about their chart and life. That just will not work. It must be read as a unique relationship, a union of people or issues.

As you can tell, we created a chart that is a construct. Those positions never existed at that time and place but the chart itself is useful as an illustration of the potential of a unique relationship. There can be an inherent flaw to a composite chart if the astrologer forgets it is not a real time chart and relies on it as the total expression of the relationship itself, which it is *not*.

For more information, see <http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/composites-what-is-the-potential-of-any-relationship/>

Relationship An accurate, real-time, trustworthy chart does exist. Just a few years ago it was so difficult to construct by hand that few astrologers would attempt it. You had to find the midpoint in actual time and space between the two birth times, the time standards in effect, dates, 365 ¼ days per year (and believe me that ¼ day could bite you), longitudes and latitudes. When you got all done doing the math, it was a calculated guess because there was no way to proof it without doing it all over again involving hours and hours of hand work. I was an astrologer who would attempt it, but it would take so much time and effort and was very frustrating. It was done infrequently. Because I teach concepts, I had to

learn it and apply it as part of my student's learning curve. When teaching the technique, my students looked at me like I had lost my mind. I am sure they rarely tried it since composites were so much easier. With the advent of computers, accurate relationship charts could be generated instantly. Eureka!

Sometimes we can be quite lazy. Why throw out what has been working so beautifully over the years to learn a new trick? Composites are still the most popular form of relationship charts. We now have one real chart and one not-so-real chart. The not-so-real has filled the bill reasonably and competently for generations. The real chart has less history, but it is gaining in usage. Do you throw the baby out with the bathwater? I pondered on this and monitored my reading results for a while. My conclusion was that both charts had value, they simply showed different aspects of a relationship. The composite chart showed the *potential* of a relationship... what could occur *if* each met the other person halfway on all issues. That is not most people's reality, but it is that which lures us into such relationships because we can see the potential. The accurately calculated relationship chart shows the *actuality* of the relationship, how it works in real life.

My version of a famous saying is, "What you sees is what you gets." In real life sometimes we do get what we see, but more often we do not. So how do we determine this in a relationship? The closer the two charts, composite and relationship, resemble each other, the better the chance that you are going to get in real time what the potential, artificially constructed chart, shows you. The more different those charts are, "what you gets" in real time is *not* "what you sees" in potential! I have read these charts this way for well over thirty years. It works for me.

I hope this material has given you a decent overview of the possibilities of reading relationships. In succeeding chapters we will look more specifically at these three main relationship chart techniques one at a time.

For more information see

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/relationships-synastry-who-are-you-who-am-i-how-do-we-affect-one-another/> and
<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/relationship-chart-what-you-see-is-what-you-get/>

Relationships – Synastry – Who are You? Who am I? How Do We Affect or Infect One Another?

Relationships are probably the single most important teaching tool for our development as human beings. With 7.9 billion people alive on this globe at this time, it is getting a little crowded. Relating is definitely a dominant and necessary skill. But not everyone is skilled in relationships. Astrologically, there are several techniques that can help us understand one another. It does take a little work and some skill, but astrology is a clean, uncluttered-by-emotion-and-bias method of looking at any relationship pairing whether it be business, social, marital or other possibility. In this chapter, we will take a deeper look at one of the techniques for determining the relating skills of individuals and the affect we have on one another: synastry.

No man is an island. Most humans crave association with and feedback from other humans. Of course there will always be the exception to any rule, in this instance, that would be a person more hermit-like in experience. However, our society has no idea what to think of or what to do with those who do not relate well or with specifically anti-social types.

Some form of relationship is necessary to even the staunchest “loner” due to day-to-day living requirements. We usually think of person-to-person relationships, but there are other forms. I have a number of people in my life who relate better to animals than people. I have met incredibly smart people who seem to be absent social skills. This is accommodated because of their contribution to society, but is not necessarily understood or appreciated by those who have relatively normal relationship skills...whatever normal is. An example...

Once upon a time, many years ago, I picked up an astrological speaker at the airport and went to dinner with him prior to a group meeting. Imagine my chagrin when he arrived disheveled, a true space cadet, and got more of his dinner on his clothing than in his mouth. I was horrified in the restaurant. I cleaned him up as best I could, tucked in his shirt, and tried to help him make the transition from disheveled to reasonable for the meeting. I prayed that the club members would not lynch me for scheduling him as speaker and dutifully took him to the meeting. After all, he was a famous author. He was introduced to the group and began his presentation stumbling through the first few words while I held my head in my hands. I was watching him intently and I saw the most amazing transformation take place. Something shifted in his eyes. He straightened up, stood tall, and transformed into the “eagerly anticipated” author/speaker. At the end of his long and absolutely wonderful astrological presentation plus a Q & A session, his eyes shifted again and my disheveled dinner companion again occupied his body.

What was that all about, I mused? I realized immediately that his brilliance was worth whatever effort it took on my part. I would have been willing to supply (if I could) whatever social graces were necessary to help him inform and educate his audience so competently. I read much later that something similar was observed about Albert Einstein. He was not great on social graces, but what a mind the man possessed. I honestly do not know about food on clothing where he was concerned. There are people lacking in social skills, perhaps too wounded to function or not educated by those whose job it was to prepare them for a life that requires relating. These and other examples fall into the exception rather than the rule category. The lack of social skills could become a handicap to such people living within a society with high relating expectations. Social skills are the front of that particular coin and lack of social skills the flip side.

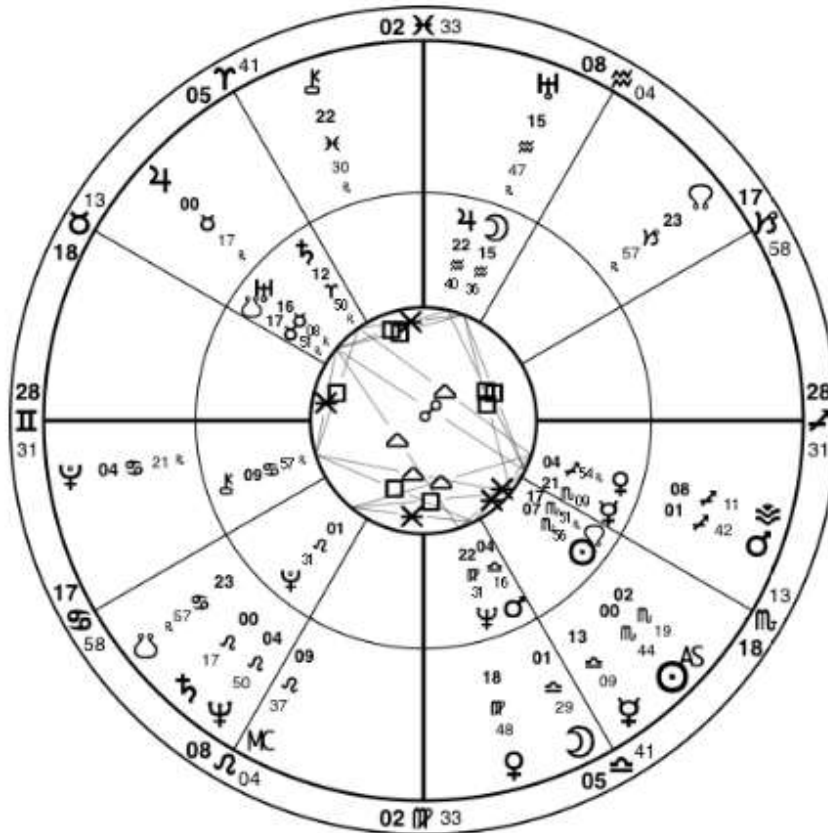
Individuals Last chapter, I wrote about the importance of first reading each individual natal sky map in the relationship to learn about each person’s individual strengths, weaknesses, foibles, talents and relational needs, as well as their ability to give in a relationship. At best, any relationship is dependent on the give and take that is involved. Of course, balance is ideal. If we have a relationship that is ridiculously skewed between giving and taking, that relationship will run into trouble quickly. If an astrologer can define each person as his / her individual self without the influence of another, it gives a cleaner view into their relating ability. A clean and uncluttered look at an individual is a gift to the astrologer while attempting to identify or gauge the possibility of relationship. It is fairly easy to zero in on the key issues for each individual as well, those areas of life that are of paramount importance to each.

Stage two would be to compare two natal maps to see the dynamics that develop *between* the two maps. This technique is called synastry, which comes from the Greek word synastria, meaning similarity of stars. In our usage, it is an astrological technique for relationship charting. As described in the overview chapter, each position from one chart is compared to each position in the second chart, one combination at a time. Astrologers seek out and compare the similarity and potential for interaction between the two individuals as represented by their natal wheels and the aspects that form between them. We also seek out areas of contention or disruption. Please remain aware that the potential of anything may be modified by the free will choices we make.

Following are examples of this type of charting.

MM Natal
Reference Chart
 Natal Chart
 Monday, October 31, 1938

MJ Natal
2nd Chart
 Natal Chart
 Tuesday, October 24, 1916

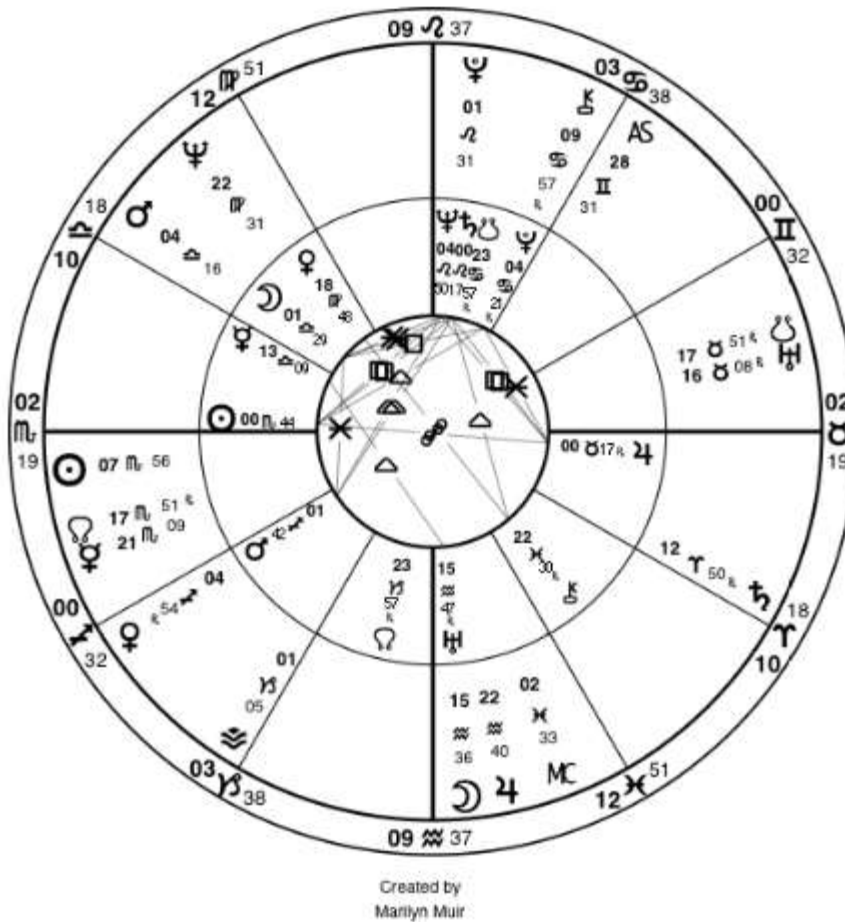


Created by
 Marilyn Muir

MM Natal is inner wheel and cusps; MJ natal is outer wheel.

MJ Natal
Reference Chart
 Natal Chart
 Tuesday, October 24, 1916

MM Natal
2nd Chart
 Natal Chart
 Monday, October 31, 1938



MJ Natal is inner wheel and cusps; MM natal is outer wheel.

A variation or extension of such synastry is to construct bi-wheels of the pairing. As described previously, one chart is used as the base including house cusps. The positions from the second chart including Midheaven, Ascendant, ten bodies and the north node are positioned zodiacally around the outside of the base chart. I prefer to use two colors to help me keep them distinct. Each chart would then be read as to the effect one person has upon the other. A computer chart sample of each wheel is provided above to illustrate the layout technique.

Next, we would reverse the roles and construct a second bi-wheel using the other chart information as the base including house cusps. The positions from the second chart would be positioned zodiacally around the outside of this separate base chart. Again, use two colors to keep them distinct. That chart would then be read separately as to the effect one has upon the other.

How do you read these bi-wheels? The person in the center of the chart is primary and the person on the outside is supplemental to that inside person. The person on the outside disrupts or benefits, affects or infects the person on the inside. The chart on the inside of the wheel is a stand-alone about that person as an individual. The person listed on the outside brings something new to the table. It may be a positive, a negative or absolute confusion. Read that chart thoroughly, being sure to keep the primary “I” and secondary “you” in correct relationship. There’s that “r” word again.

Next, put that chart aside and look at the reversed position chart. Same rules apply, but now the story is about the other person. The other person becomes “I” and the paired person becomes “you”. Read that chart thoroughly, being sure to keep the primary and secondary in correct relationship. This allows you to read this two-person relationship twice, once from each individual perspective. You have just generated a ton of information which can keep those two people busy for decades!

This comparison provides you with both sides of “here is who I am” and “this is how I am affected by the addition of this additional energy”. How many marriage counselors or therapists have such an objective tool at their disposal? Yes, they can perform individual and couple counseling by educational or psychological techniques, but they do not start with the advantage of an objective map of those individualities and their potential for interaction. Sky maps are really handy when traveling the relationship route. Such comparison and combination become of particular importance when an individual’s key issues are triggered. Is the second person in the relationship only a trigger or are they an asset for those key issues? Aspects provide action.

How to do it This synergistic comparison provides the nitty-gritty of a relating between two people, the detail. How do we map this synastry? As previously described, two natal sky maps laid side-by-side, comparing one to the other should start the flow of information. You would look at common factors such as Sun to Sun, Mars to Mars, etc. Then you look at cross factors such as Mars to Moon or Mercury to Ascendant between the two maps, to mention just a couple of possibilities. Stay with

the major aspects initially: conjunction, opposition, square, trine, and sextile. As your skills develop, you may choose to add in additional minor aspects. Quincunxes could show areas of adjustment, adaption, or compromise. Quintiles could show areas where talents may be shared or explored. Semi- or Sesqui-squares could show areas of agitation or frustration.

Perspective A list of natal “hits” or connections called aspects, from one map to the other, should isolate the truly important issues. Important issues tend to repeat or be reflected throughout the reading. The beauty of it is that you would only have to construct such a comparative aspect list once for each pairing. However, as previously mentioned, it would be good to list the aspects from each person’s perspective. For example, if there is a Venus/Saturn conjunction between the charts, #1 Saturn on #2 Venus would provide one perspective and #1 Venus on #2 Saturn would provide the other perspective. As you practice this technique, you will see that the reading of each aspect usually differs from one perspective to the other. Reading both perspectives will give a fuller picture of that relationship.

Which aspects provide which kind of energy? Easy aspects should provide reasonably easy experience and difficult aspects can indicate a red flag that may not be visible initially. Why? Sooner or later these flagged aspects will provide stress, but those issues may take time and experience to develop. In the first blush of a relationship, we are all on our best behaviors, looking for the best, acting our best, invested in making the relationship work. This ideal behavior is not realistic and cannot be kept up for a lifetime. Sooner or later we will revert to type, to our natural being or way of handling issues. That which was so right at the beginning may change as we relax into normalcy, whatever our normal is. This alteration over time is particularly true of aspects in wider orb. *Width of orb can equate to time to develop.*

Orb and Timing For a standard orb for comparison between two charts, I would stay within five degrees. Closer aspects show up sooner in a relationship, wider aspects may take more time to develop, but they may still be valid. What if a key issue were fine in the early blush of the relationship but promises trouble later in the relationship? It is really difficult to rain on someone’s parade during that first blush when they want you as astrologer to validate their relationship. They come to you for a reading on the relationship, but they do have a personal agenda. You as an astrologer must be fair if you are providing relational information on which people might base critical decisions. You cannot play Pollyanna and just leave out the bad stuff. Pointing to a potential source of trouble

can allow the relationship to focus on the positive side of an issue to prevent or minimize trouble. Would you rather spend your time on prevention and cure or allow something beautiful to die of an inherent flaw that was potentially visible but ignored? The time spent on preservation and prevention might satisfy the promise of such a flaw in a positive and productive way. Note also if those connections are of prime importance because they hit key issues within the maps.

Aspect grids Computer charting and the aspect grids provided are an aid to any astrologer. It will depend on which method gives you the most significant information flow, that which you generate by handling the chart personally or that which is generated by a computer. For myself, I prefer the hands-on approach. This may come from habits developed before there were computer-generated charts. This technique allows you to see the individualities and the interaction between those individualities. We may *affect* one another or we may *infect* one another. It seems to me that would be an important consideration. You may be able to control those issues if you remain aware that they can surface from time to time.

Receiver or catalyst? As previously described, another application of synastry would be to use the overlay of the wheels to provide a visual aid to how those connections affect the physical issues or experience of each individual in the relationship. The person placed in the inside natal wheel would be receiver of those connections and the person on the outside is the activator or catalyst of such activation.

The second bi-wheel with person two as the center wheel and person one as the overlay provides the alternate perspective. Fancy that... the overlays offer the astrologer both viewpoints without specific input from the individuals involved and is free of bias until and unless bias is added. Again, this could be a psychologist's dream technique.

Houses In addition, the bi-wheel overlay takes you deeply into house matters to illustrate where such connections affect physical reality. This is another layer to consider as you work to understand the dynamics of the relationship. This house overlay technique provides clues to the effects each makes on the physical arenas of life. An aspect has a general quality, such as Mars conjunct (on) Saturn or Saturn conjunct (on) Mars... tremendous difference in the readings. It will tend to express that quality in the matters of the house(s) of occupation and rulership, similar to any natal chart. If an astrological principle works for one application, it should hold true for other applications or it *cannot* be an across-the-board astrological rule.

This comparison between charts (or synastry) is the bread and butter of relational chart reading. While our focus for this book is family, this technique is applicable for all other forms of relating: parent / child or sibling, employee / employer, business mergers, criminal / victim, etc. Once you learn the basics, the sky truly is the limit in application. Right now we are learning one on one application, family, but the core of the technique does not change and may be applied to any person, place or thing.

Progressions An additional layer to your understanding and reading would come from use of the progressed maps for the two individuals involved. The natal map is of the inherent potential of an individual... who they are at their core level. However, this is a sky map for a newborn infant. Life for any individual has moved far beyond that first indrawn breath. The individual has grown, developed and experienced and is forever changed by that growth and experience. Progressed maps can give the current view of each person and generate new and important information that can then be applied to the relational question.

The same procedures as previously described for natal would be followed for these progressing maps. It is important to remember that progressing charts are temporary in nature, changing continually, but you are viewing the “at that moment or current state” of a person or a relationship. They are maps of the journey itself as that journey continues, and they are in constant flux with the Moon changing most rapidly. Through the use of progressions, you will be reading a growing and experiential, yet temporary, map. More on progressions as we travel through this workbook.

More than two individuals in the relationship? Throughout this material, I have stayed and will continue to stay with the concept of two individuals in union, as it is necessary to keep these explanations as simple as possible. It is possible to do this work for more than two in a relationship but it does get increasingly difficult. As you add people, you can drown in detail. For an amateur or beginner, stay with two-person synastry until you develop the skill to go further. I have done multiples in composite charting over the years. I have been at this nearly half a century, and I still find it difficult to do more than a two in a relationship.

The relationship itself Synastry offers the reading between individuals in great detail, but is not about the relationship itself. Natal synastry readings stay with the individuals involved in the relationship and are about each personal perspective. To read the relationship, we must combine those individuals to map the relationship as a distinct entity in its own right. As mentioned, there are two types of charts that can be cast, composite and / or relationship charts.

While not books specifically dedicated to synastry, I do have several suggestions for resource books and have provided an outline of each and their application to synastry in Appendix A. They are:

- ✓ Michael Munkasey's *Midpoints: Unleashing the Power of the Planets, Astrological Thesaurus, Book 1, the Houses, and The Concept Dictionary*
- ✓ Reinhold Ebertine's *The Combination of Stellar Influences*
- ✓ *Planets in Composite* by Robert Hand

These are not one-time read-through books. They are continual reference books that are worth the investment and the room on your bookshelf close to your desk.

Composites – What is the Potential of Any Relationship?

You have just met the most fascinating person. You toy with the idea that this might be the person of your dreams. You have visions of a knight in shining armor or the female equivalent, Maid Marian... or perhaps someone more exotic. The first meeting was magical and the preliminaries intoxicating and alluring. A few more exchanges, and both of you are getting serious. *Note:* the relationship will *not* progress if only one is serious. Is this relationship worth pursuing? Or is it one of many you can encounter as you seek “the one”? Astrology to the rescue!

Previously, I explored relationships from the standpoint of the individuals involved, which is astrologically termed synastry. Each of the two people in any type of relationship is viewed individually for their personal relating potential. Once each is individually described, a comparison between the two describes the more intimate details of their interaction. However, there is more than that one way to look at all forms of relationships.

At the moment any pairing occurs, a new dynamic is produced, which is termed a relationship. Relationships occur on so many levels: parent and child, marriage, boss and worker, teacher and student, siblings, in-laws, law and criminal, doctor and patient, stalker and victim, clergy and parishioner, to name a few.

Regardless of how many people we meet and the circumstances under which we meet them, in a split second of time a unique relationship is formed. This is a relationship that did not exist prior to that moment and will cease to exist if the two people involved choose not to pursue it. Some of these meetings are brief, such as a waitress handing you a cup of coffee. Some last a lifetime, such as family members or marriage partners.

The bond that occurs between a mother and a child at the moment of birth is unique. After many years of refusing to allow the father to be present at the birth, the medical establishment currently encourages the father’s participation. The split-second bonding that the mother has always experienced is now once again available to the father. Yes! Nothing can equal that incredible moment and nothing can recapture it once it has passed without the father’s participation. The mother really does not have

a choice at childbirth - her participation is mandatory and she is not always happy to be there.

Many years ago, I took a live workshop by Joseph Chilton Pearce in which this birth moment bonding process was explored. I immediately went home and told my son and his then pregnant wife to be sure they were both part of the birthing process if it were at all possible. Many grandkids later, my whole family encourages this experience because of the bonding that occurs for both parents and the child at the instant of birth. The value to the individual and the family is enormous. Should you be interested in the author's work, there is a series of books. I suggest you start with Pearce's *Magical Child* or *The Power of Bonding*.

Unique relationships Suppose I have ten friends. Each pairing provides a unique friendship. This takes nothing away from my other nine friendships and all of our lives are enlarged because of those friendships. I am bettered and my friend is bettered by our friendship. If I am a better person because of that friendship, I will be a better person to all my other friends, family, co-workers, etc. Whatever adds to my personal dimension in a positive fashion affects everything I do and everyone I touch with my more positive self. Conversely, if I am in a relationship that is negative, that negativity also affects all other relationships in which I participate if I am in any way diminished or compromised in the experience of that one relationship. I have been lessened, therefore I am less than what I could be with all with whom I come in contact.

Stages of Relating To me, there seem to be parts or stages to relationships in general. There is an initial introductory part... the beginning. Next comes the process, duration and nature of the relationship. A third stage might have to do with endings or finality. This would translate loosely to a beginning, a middle and an end. I am sure there are other divisions or stages to explore. Each stage has myriad possibilities for experience as each relationship is unique. Astrologically, we can easily look at the potential of any relationship (the beginning), and we can also look at the reality of the relationship (the middle), possibly leading to the end.

At times, the potential and the reality of a relationship work harmoniously and "what we sees is what we gets". At other times, a relationship does not live up to its potential - what we sees is *not* what we gets. It would be helpful to compare both possibility and reality to determine which relationships have a better chance of success in real life terms. In this material we will examine the potential of the relationship using the composite wheel. The reality of a relationship wheel will be covered in the

following chapter.

To review, the method by which you construct a composite wheel is to start with the natal (birth) wheels of each of the two individuals involved. As mentioned, there are thirteen major points that are traditional when reading astrologically: the Sun, Moon, eight planets, Ascendant, Midheaven and lunar node. Thirteen points are primary out of a possible 360-degree circle for each person. You construct these points by separately adding together the two Suns, the two Moons, the two Mercurys, etc. Once you have obtained those totals, you divide each of them by two and that gives you the new figures for the composite wheel. Example: Sun #1 plus Sun #2 divided by two equals the composite Sun. The new wheel is drawn by traditional rules and is called a composite. In our modern era, computer-generated wheels do all the work for you. You have a wheel. Please remember that Mercury and Venus should end up somewhere close to the Sun. When calculated, if Mercury and Venus are across the chart from the Sun, keep the degrees and minutes and reverse the sign - you want the closer midpoint. You can generate the intermediate cusps following the same formula. Preserve the natural order of the signs and positions within a sign.

Oblique Ascendant Earlier I mentioned the midpoint method to construct the Ascendant. There is a better method. If you own a Table of Houses, look up the composite Midheaven at the top and travel down that column to the latitude location of the relationship itself (the physical location on Earth where the people established the relationship). Copy the Ascendant and intermediate house cusps from that latitude line onto the chart. Generating the cusps in that way provides the Oblique Ascendant, which is considered the most reliable. If you do not have a table of houses or a computer-generated composite, obtain the Ascendant and the intermediate cusps for the chart by doing the add-together / divide-in-half math described previously. Computers usually calculate the Oblique Ascendant based on the birth information. Do check out your computer choices; ignorance is never your friend.

If you like, you can experiment with the composite Ascendant and the Oblique Ascendant to see which Ascendant gives you the best answers.

We are all individuals. What is easiest and most reliable to me may or may not be easiest and most reliable for you. Simply drop the composite Ascendant into place, perhaps labeling it CA2, to differentiate between the two. See which figure works best for you as the primary Ascendant. Do this with a few charts to identify your preference. My personal preference is the Oblique Ascendant, which to me also has more reliable intermediate

cusps.

Again, at this point you must do a very unusual thing with your mind. You must stop thinking of the individuals involved and keep your focus on the relationship as an entity. This wheel is *not* about the individuals involved, no matter how much one or the other individual wants to slant it in their own direction. This map is about the potential of the relationship that is formed and not the individual people involved. I am repeating the word potential for a reason. Because of the mathematics involved, this artificial wheel assumes that the two people involved will meet each other half way on all issues, 50 / 50, and that is not remotely possible in any society. There must be give and take between the two people involved in any relationship, but equalization on all issues is a fantasy. The composite allows you to see the idealized potential which may not fit the actuality of the experience over time. Why?

As I mentioned previously, at the beginning of any meaningful relationship, the people involved really have high hopes for the relationship and are on their best behaviors to ensure that the relationship continues. This is an unnatural behavior because none of us can be on our best behavior forever. Sooner or later, we will relax into whatever normal is for us, and that produces change in the relationship. It is not necessarily faking or intentional, it is natural. Most of us will do whatever we must to cement a relationship, and then we relax. Over time, the potential that enticed us may not turn out to be our actual experience. This can be disillusioning and disappointing, but it may not be a deliberate attempt to deceive.

Eventually we each will be true to our own selves as the “ideal” gives way to “reality”. If we have made the mistake of putting one another on pedestals, this could be devastating as one or both fall off those pedestals. The repercussions from such falls can get very nasty. You do know that the only direction from the pedestal position is “off”, don’t you? Use that knowledge to help your participants. Pedestalizing one another is not helpful - it is a set-up for failure.

Composite charting is the technique that has been easily available to astrologers for many years, both as hand-cast wheels and also computer printouts. It is an excellent tool for exploring the potential of the relationship and has been the most popular choice of astrologers worldwide.

The alternative is called the relationship wheel and is based in reality but was extremely difficult to calculate by hand. With the advent of computer

printouts, this other wheel has become increasingly available. The body of information and experience to support this alternative technique is growing, but far more information is currently available for the composite technique.

How to Read a Composite

A relationship in its initial stages can be such a delight. Our imagination and our wishes for a good life are in full bloom as we explore the possibilities. The question is, will the ongoing relationship live up to our expectations? It is not individuals who disappoint us. It is our unrealistic expectations that cause failure and frustration. A person on a pedestal has only one action, and that is to get off the pedestal. We might discover that our knight in shining armor is flawed with a nasty disposition or that any female energy involved may not be the virtuous and kind Maid Marian, to name a couple of possibilities.

- ✓ The composite Sun describes the inherent nature and identity of the couple's relationship potential by sign and the arena of strongest influence by house.
- ✓ The composite Moon describes the nesting urge and the emotional makeup of the couple's relationship potential by sign and the arena where those issues will play out by house.
- ✓ Composite Mercury describes the communication and decision-making function of the couple's relationship potential by sign and the arena where that will play out by house.
- ✓ Composite Venus describes the relating ability and social and financial values of the couple's relationship potential by sign and the arena where that will play out by house.
- ✓ Composite Mars describes the action, assertive and aggressive functions of the couple's relationship potential by sign and the arena where that will play out by house.
- ✓ Composite Jupiter describes the expansive, philosophical and worldview of the couple's relationship potential by sign and the arena where that will play out by house.
- ✓ Composite Saturn describes the traditional, responsible, organizing function of the couple's relationship potential by sign and the arena where that will play out by house. Can you say rules and responsibility, structure or restriction?

- ✓ Composite Uranus describes the forward-seeking, non-traditional, unusual facets of the couple's relationship potential by sign and the arena where that will play out by house. Can you say chemistry? Here's where we don't like rules!
- ✓ Composite Neptune describes the imagination, inspiration or the delusional function of the couple's relationship potential by sign and the arena where that will play out by house. Can you say fantasy?... or delusion?
- ✓ Composite Pluto describes the power, manipulation or obsessive/compulsive function of the couple's relationship potential by sign and the arena where that will play out by house. Can you say psychological power plays?
- ✓ The composite and/or Oblique Ascendant shows the couple's projection, coping skills, and response to the environment of the couple's relationship potential by sign. The Ascendant is the first house cusp...how the relationship itself is viewed by others.
- ✓ The composite Midheaven shows the couple's drive to goals, stature and potential for success as the couple's team relationship potential by sign. The Midheaven is the tenth house cusp. This is what expresses the couple's need or lack of need to achieve or accomplish.
- ✓ The composite North lunar Node shows the group interaction and collective influence of outsiders to the couple's relationship potential by sign and the arena where that will play out by house.

The traditional use of aspects will illustrate the inter-relationship between the composite planets and points. I do keep the orb of effect to five degrees because the composite is a construct and not a real time and space wheel.

Again, and I am sorry I keep repeating this but it is important, *always remember that the composite and the reading is about a couple and not the individuals*. Include the word potential in your readings because the composite represents what the relationship is and how it will work *only* if the couple meets each other 50% of the way on *all* issues.

Composites are quite valuable in the initial stage of the relationship because that is what the people involved are seeing and experiencing. If you have concerns about what you see in the composite as an astrologer, it will not be easy to get the participants to see your concerns clearly. They see the relationship through the filter of wants, needs and expectations. They want it to succeed, so it is difficult for them to accept that problems may be lurking. Sometimes you have to rain on someone's parade to point out all the facets you see and not just the positives. The reality check occurs in the companion relationship wheel that is based on real-time calculations.

Progressions There is such a thing as a progressed composite via the same math system. Each of the thirteen points from the two progressed charts are added together and divided by two for the composite points. Then you read each new position and aspects as the energy available for the potential of that relationship at the progressed moment. This new reading does *not* supersede the natal and has only temporary validity.

Again, recommendations for good reference books for reading:

Midpoints by Michael Munkasey

Planets in Composite by Robert Hand (see review in the Appendix)

Combination of Stellar Influences by Reinhold Ebertine

Relationship Chart – What You Sees is What You Gets

Relating is a primary motivation within the human kingdom. We not only want physical proximity and mating, but we want intellectual, emotional, spiritual and social connectivity as well. We search the world for our significant other and find a variety of possibilities. The lure of a wonderful and perhaps perfect relationship is an instinctive drive, and we do our best to find our perfect mate. Have you noticed that experience may be a little different from our personal perspective, especially when time is involved? Astrology is a useful technique to understand the difference between the potential and the actuality and the effects of time on the relationship.

There is a human function we all experience called “relating” with the word “relationship” as its most common reference. On a separate note, there is a tendency in the English language to use single words to describe more than one concept, and it can cause confusion. For example: bear = animal, bear = carry, and bare = naked or deer = animal, dear = expensive and dear = affection. I am continually explaining such examples to my grandkids, but I can never explain why it is necessary. The subject of this material falls into one of those oddities of language. While the field of astrology does extensive relationship work for people, there is also an astrological technique called relationship charting. I could not remotely tell you why another title was not chosen. I need to make sure you know there is a distinction between the field and a specific technique. Please realize that what I am referring to in this section is an astrological technique rather than the relationship field overall. This material is primarily about an astrological tool.

We have astrologically looked at relationships in general. We have looked at individual relating matters, synastry and composites. This next technique is simply referred to as a relationship wheel. Just to be sure, remain aware that what follows is a reference to a specific technique and not necessarily the concept of relationships in general.

To recap, synastry is the direct comparison between the wheels of two or more people and shows their effect on one another as individuals. The composite is quite different. The two natal wheels in question are combined by adding each individual facet such as the Ascendant together.

You then divide the answer in half to achieve the composite facet. That is done with each key position until a whole new wheel is constructed. This wheel is an expression of the potential of the relationship *if* each person were to meet the other halfway on every issue. This would represent the ideal of that relationship, but in my estimation, people in relationships rarely pull off the ideal. Try to see the composite as a wheel of *potential*, but not necessarily practical or real. Why? It is because this wheel is a construct and never occurred in real time. The real-time wheel is called the relationship wheel. This is an actual astronomy/astrology pattern that occurred midway between the two births of the people in question.

How do we produce this real-time wheel? Mathematics. By hand, the relationship wheel is a not easy to construct. With the advent of computers, they are now quite easy to generate. They are becoming more available, and therefore more usable and more researched. They are more applicable as a reading tool. Simply put, a real-time wheel is constructed using the midpoints between two birthdates, two birth times, time zones and standards, and the two longitudes and latitudes. This is not a speculative wheel. It is a wheel that did actually exist halfway between the two births. I read it more as the *actuality* of the relationship.

I asked you to think about the fact that when we enter into a new relationship, we are full of high hopes that it will be successful. Most of the time we are on our best behavior - not because we are being false but because we are earnest in our efforts to succeed. Best behavior is not something anyone can keep up indefinitely. Sooner or later we will revert to whatever normal is for us, and that is just being human. That “normal” may or may not work for this pairing. That is why the “time is on your side” advice tends to be reasonably accurate. With an investment of time and patience, you will have a better view of the actuality of that pairing. The composite is excellent for the beginning, the flush of possibility. The question is, “Is this is what we believe and wish” (composite)? What do we really “get”? That is the function of the real-time relationship wheel.

The more alike the composite wheel and the relationship wheel are, the more actuality will match potential. When the two wheels are markedly different, careful study is necessary to see what those differences mean to the value and the reliability of the relationship itself. The composite wheel is more about what is possible and the relationship wheel illustrates the actual experience and outcome. I believe both techniques are useful. They just are different approaches and provide different definitions.

Composites have a long, successful history. The relationship wheel is now easily available and the body of information to support its use is building rapidly. If you are in a relatively new relationship and want to examine what you are experiencing and what the end result will look like, cast both the composite and relationship wheels and do a comparison. If you are in a long-term relationship and want to know what happened between the promise and the delivery, this technique can also be a useful tool. Read the composite first as an examination of potential. Then read the relationship chart for the results and actuality of the relationship in question.

The method of reading the chart once it has been cast is similar regardless of which one you choose, composite or relationship. The only difference between the charts is that one is an artificial construct and therefore a chart of possibility and the other is a timed chart that had actual existence. Interestingly enough, the 50% approach of the composite is oddly configured into the relationship equation as well. How? The midpoint in time and space is essentially just a different 50% measure. The difference between the two is simply that the relationship chart was actual in proximity to the nats, while the composite never existed in that form during the time in question.

Do not hesitate to use the three books I recommended for composite charts to also read relationship charts. While not written for that purpose, repurposing it works quite well. I have used this for many years in that way. I love finding alternate uses for well-written books. Understanding both the potential and the actuality of the relationship between two people is an excellent tool in the hands of an astrologer who has the skill to read all available wheels. Similar uses can be made of the midpoint books – repurpose them.

The basic rules for reading the composite wheel are similarly applied to reading the relationship chart. The differences are well worth paying attention to because the relationship chart tells it like it is, rather than what you wish for it to be.

At the risk of repeating one time too many, the one proviso I always add to reading both composite and relationship wheels is to keep firmly in mind that these wheels should *not* be used as personal readings for the two people represented in the wheel. While synastry is all about the individuals and the effect they have one to the other, composite and relationship wheels are strictly about the nature of the relationship itself and not the individuals.

Event charts Additionally, if an event chart is cast pertaining to a relationship, it is not about the individuals, it is about the event. As mentioned previously, when you as an astrologer discuss such relational issues, there will be a natural tendency of the individuals involved to want to personally relate to the material under discussion. Be sure to keep the reading clean and on target. When reading the composite, relationship or event wheels the reading is about the combination or the event, it is *not* about the individuals involved.

What events might be charted for relationships? The time of first meeting, a business or personal proposal, an investment, an engagement, a marriage or contract, a divorce or termination of contract, to name a few possibilities.

Progressions As mentioned previously, any natal chart can be progressed. The method of progression may change from mode to mode, but all are possible. Relationship charts and composite charts may be progressed to any moment in time. We will cover that shortly.

Degree Significance in Relationships

How many ways can we look at a relationship astrologically? Usually we look at planets...in signs... in houses... in aspects to determine the nature of the individual elements of the people or entities involved, the relationship between them and the possible effects on one another (synastry). And we have noted that more relating information can be harvested from composite and relationship charts. The pairing is shown as potential in the composite, what “could be” and as reality in the relationship chart, “what you gets!” Those techniques, synastry, composites and relationship, are the three primary astrological tools for reading any relationship. And then there is always the handy-dandy event chart set for the moment of beginning of any relationship, should you be paying attention to your watch!

Do the possibilities stop there, or are there more techniques that can add to our understanding and not just repeat the same information? Can they provide us with truly significant insights? It depends on how much work you are willing to do. There are several other techniques to reveal more elements of relating such as progressions, karmic patterns and connections, or why two (or more) people are brought together to learn a shared lesson.

We know that each individual is revealed primarily through their personal chart, which generates further elaboration through their progressions... who I am and what I came here to do and be is reflected in the natal. Who I am at a given point in my becoming is reflected in the progressed chart.

The comparisons (synastry) can be repeated with the additional information provided by the progressions. An adult forming and maintaining a relationship is not a newborn infant trying to relate to another newborn infant as reflected in the natals. The individuals have grown and become, and it is important to include those emerging characteristics and their effect on the existing relationship. Remember that any natal chart can be progressed, whether that is a person, an animal, a corporation, a city, etc. That also means the composite chart, the relationship chart and any pertinent event chart may be progressed and read. We will explore such possibilities in our progressions chapter.

We could also look at the relationship through its karmic perspective, but that is an area of specialty with few practitioners. I personally know of only three astrologers who successfully practice that technique. I am sure there are more, but in my 47+ years of astrological practice I have not personally encountered them. I will leave karma for a separate chapter.

In this chapter, we will look at the significance of single degrees and what they mean to a pairing and the relationship itself.

Degrees It is important to realize that any significant relationship should have close degree connections. Why? Such positions are necessary for simultaneous activation in the lives of the individuals in a close relationship. The aspects themselves may be varied, but the timing or triggering of natal degree positions must be tight. Why? Such impact is to be felt all people in a relationship. Looking at a single degree is not difficult to understand. Use tight orbs of 1° plus or minus. What do I mean by varying aspects?

For someone who has a natal position at 15 fixed, their partner may have a natal position at 15 cardinal or mutable. Both can receive triggering from a single transit or other activation, but due to the aspect itself, the effect will be different for each individual. Perhaps one has an accident and the other becomes caretaker. Both are affected but in completely different ways. In order for important events to occur in any groupings of two or more, there should be some connection by degree.

In addition to the individual charts connecting by degree, a significant event such as a contractual partnership or marriage which unites the pair as a single unit should also have similar degree connections to the natal charts. Any event experiences a birth with a natal chart for the moment the event takes place. Those event natal placements also should connect to the degree ties that affect the individuals involved.

An example would be a wedding ceremony that becomes legal at the moment the official declares, “I now pronounce you man and wife.” This new chart provides a snapshot of the marriage itself, and that non-physical but living entity will be illustrated through its own progressions. The marriage chart is the map of a living, experiencing relationship, a non-physical entity. Such a chart is not read for the separate individuals but represents the marriage itself. It represents the uniting moment “and two shall become one”, and has a life of its own, whether or not it is deemed successful. This can be an additional tool for understanding relationships and experience.

People who live together, such as in families or in other major relationships or who have major business ties, must have strong connections to one another whether that relationship is functional or dysfunctional (flip of our coin). The aspects involved between the charts will describe the interaction between the pairing. One point... do not assume that hard aspects make trouble and soft aspects sweeten the pot in all instances. Hard aspects stretch us, challenge us and make us grow through the challenges they present. Soft aspects do create ease or flow and are welcomed in a chart, but they are sometimes lazy, perhaps even an attitude of entitlement... I “deserve” my good. Our relationships and our selves do not always live up to expectations if we are not pushed or challenged in some way.

A few illustrations are in order. A female with 3 Pisces on the Midheaven has a child with Pluto at 2 Virgo on the opposition point or fourth house cusp. Another child of this parent has Jupiter at 3 Pisces and another child has Pluto at 4 Virgo. A single activation can trigger these four members of the family, but the aspects themselves may vary from chart to chart. There may be other members of the family with no close degree positions and they remain relatively unaffected by that particular event. Not everyone in a family is profoundly affected by every event - some are and some are not. And the concept applies to all types of relationships. An example...

“Extensive research on the USA natal chart and each of the 43 presidents show the importance of close degree connections. In addition, the planet or points involved can describe the overall effect on the individuals and their inauguration and service. For example, the USA natal Moon is 22.5 Aquarius, which is also President Lincoln’s Ascendant, President Grant’s North Node, and President Kennedy’s Uranus, to name a few. The USA Uranus is conjunct the USA Midheaven at 9 Gemini, as is President Jackson’s North Node, President Taylor’s Pluto, President McKinley’s Sun, President Garfield’s Uranus, and President Hoover’s Saturn, all within 1°. These people were pivotal to the country they served as leaders. The tight degree connections reflect their involvement with the country, as well as the country’s involvement with them.” This example was the core for the research for my 2009 *Presidents of Hope and Change* book.

A study on marriages and royal couples within the British monarchy serves as a good example for this instructional material and is explored more fully in a later chapter. *Note:* More than usual is expected of the uniting of a royal couple because of the effect on the country and its populace.

“The wedding of George V and Mary of Tech was ruled by Venus / Leo / tenth with Saturn exalted in Libra on the Ascendant and in the first. While there is a Moon / Saturn opposition across the Ascendant / Descendant axis, this opposition has trines and sextiles to five planets in the 9th and 10th houses. The Moon is trine Venus / Mars / Mercury in Leo and sextile Neptune / Pluto in Gemini. The Saturn end of the opposition is trine the Gemini positions and sextile the Leo positions. The rulers of the Ascendant / Descendant axis are conjunct, which is excellent for the couple depicted in this marriage.” *Note: The degrees involved in this major pattern are early cardinal and very tight. Other non-cardinal placements from the charts also join in with various aspects.*

I mentioned shared lessons in the first paragraph of this section. We will cover that material next.

Relationships: Repeating Aspect Patterns

Did you ever wonder how some people in relationships ever found each other? I am not talking only about romance but also families, business relationships, friendships. They might be antagonistic or thrilling, etc. Of course, we do not get to choose our families or perhaps we do not *remember* that we got to choose them. Family is our primary schoolhouse for developing our relating skills. I know of some wonderful, successful graduations. But what appeared at my astrological reading doorstep was far more of those that did not work out well. If the family in question does not know *how* to develop those skills successfully, how can they teach it or show it by example? What you do not know how to do you cannot teach...and to expect that one can is illogical.

“The gods visit the sins of the fathers upon the children.” Euripides*

The Lamsa Bible. Exodus 10:5 “... for I the Lord your God am a zealous God, visiting the offences of the fathers upon their children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me...”

That which my father has done can be visited upon me? That’s truly scary! How do I know what my father or his father might have done? How many generations? According to Hawaiian philosophy, Huna sees issues affecting the generations through the maternal line down to the fifth generation. That can be a lot of people whom I might never have met, and over a very long period of time. Does the karma run out after a certain period of time? Is there a fixed number of generations that are “owed” in some way or that can bring that lesson to a successful conclusion? What brings us together to learn a common lesson? Can it be seen from generation to generation? Does this affect only families or do we have all seven plus billion people alive on the globe as potential partners? There is another scary concept.

Quite by accident, I discovered that people hang around together for common development. I have been doing astrology charts since 1973 - many thousands of charts. The lesson was probably there the whole time,

but a few years into my practice, I got such a blatant example of why people connect to learn particular lessons that I just could not avoid the realization. Sometimes the universe has to rap quite hard on my head to get my attention. This was my very first recognized example and it was a lulu...

- ✓ Woman client: Moon / Pluto conjunction
- ✓ First husband's chart: Moon / Pluto conjunction
- ✓ Client's two children by first husband: both Moon / Pluto conjunctions
- ✓ Second husband's chart (no issue): Moon / Pluto conjunction
- ✓ Second husband's brother's chart: Moon / Pluto conjunction
- ✓ Second husband's brother's wife's chart: Moon / Pluto conjunction

WOW! Before we even examine what a Moon / Pluto conjunction means, we can see that these seven people managed to come together to share a common experience. Perhaps they learned from each other and played teacher as well. This is way beyond the usual individual signature aspect in a chart – it's a way of life for this group. What would Moon / Pluto encompass? Powerful emotions, emotionally obsessive, emotionally manipulative, psychological, intense, emotional underground. Those are a few keyword definitions to help you develop the theme.

Here is an example of a friendship pattern in which friends, not family, got together to learn a common pattern:

- ✓ Client with seven planets in Leo (stellium) recommended two friends for readings.
- ✓ One friend had multiple planets in Taurus (stellium),
- ✓ and the other had multiple planets in Aquarius (stellium).

Did you notice that these “friends” have stelliums in T-square? I wish I still had this contact to ask if there were a fourth friend with a stellium in Scorpio to complete a grand cross. The experience was too long ago and too far away. I will always wonder about this.

Here are examples of aspect patterns connecting female family members using the family tree for data. The same holds true for males, but these examples were just easily accessible.

- ✓ Mother with a Sun / Pluto square;
- ✓ A daughter with a Sun / Pluto square and her daughter with a Sun / Pluto quincunx;
- ✓ Another daughter with a Sun / Pluto conjunction and her daughter with a Sun / Pluto square;
- ✓ A son does not have the pattern, but his daughter has a wide Sun / Pluto opposition.

Hmmmm...that generational heredity concept may have some evidence here.

- ✓ Woman with a Mars / Uranus square,
- ✓ Her sister has a Mars / Uranus conjunction,
- ✓ Her brother has a Mars / Uranus quincunx and his wife a Mars / Uranus conjunction,
- ✓ And the father to the brood has a Mars / Uranus conjunction.

For a woman with Saturn in Aries, her teachers (Saturn) are:

- ✓ An Aries husband,
- ✓ Two Aries sons,
- ✓ One daughter with Aries rising,
- ✓ One daughter and one daughter-in-law with Aries Moons,
- ✓ Three Aries natural grandchildren plus a grandchild by marriage,
- ✓ And one grandson has Sun / Mars conjunction (read Aries quality).

Within families, aspect patterns have the opportunity to repeat themselves for generations. This can be true of any group relationship and is not restricted to families. Do you study or practice genealogy? You have a

perfect generational ladder on which to practice. You do *not* need birth time or place. If you are lucky enough to have full birth data, use the natal chart. If you only have date and place, set a sunrise or noonmark chart. If you have date only use a generic equal house, Aries rising chart to *easily* determine if there is an aspect pattern that repeats throughout those generations. You might quickly see the family lesson. Perhaps there is more than one.

I'm lucky. I have done family trees for my four grandparents as far back as possible and as completely as possible. I have at least 1200 names and dates with which to experiment. Do you have such a data source? Develop one using your own family. It will serve a double purpose, that of astrological research and also act as a basis for personal family trees. Use it to teach yourself about relating and group life lessons, or family heritage lessons. You might also see if certain degrees specifically or generally keep repeating through the generations.

Most of the earlier examples took place within a family setting. What if it were friendship- or business-oriented? What if it showed up between competitors or rivals? What if it played out as a country or as a corporation? The same theme would govern, but the application and choice of descriptive phrases would be somewhat different. Even though there aren't the same sort of generations inherent in family groupings, corporations or countries can have far longer lifetimes than humans in order for a lesson to play itself out.

I have researched what happens between a company and its founder. Again, the company has the potential of a far longer lifetime than its founder. When the founder died, the company continued. The interesting part is that you can see major company events in the founder's chart long after his or her death. The first example I encountered was that of a well-known Japanese company and its founder. I chose to really study that research so I could verify or dismiss the concept. First, I verified the work presented using the example charts. Then I verified the technique using another founder / company pairing: Walt Disney and his entertainment conglomerate.

I then later applied the same principle to the USA chart and its presidents. It worked as well, with a slight but necessary modification to terminology as it was not a physical "giving birth" arrangement. The weaving between charts is so much broader than we understand. As I do my research, I am continually astonished as to just how complex all of this is. It is no wonder that at times we struggle with meanings and application. This is a book about family relationships, but I will reveal more of a corporation example in a later chapter.

As you can see, there are visible indications that bring together people and also non-physical entities such as corporations / founders or countries / presidents. Perhaps you have witnessed some beautiful tumbled stones appear out of a rock tumbler that originally contained ugly, misshapen rocks. A little grit and a lot of rubbing together over time produced beauty and value. Think of our life and our experiences with one another in much the same way. The tumbler is life, the non-descript rocks that become beautiful tumbled stones are people, perhaps you or I, and the grit that polishes us into our beauty and value is the aspects and patterns of our interaction. Our experiences are purposeful and our evolution occurs. Play with this concept.

*Euripides, Greek tragic dramatist 484 BC – 406 BC

Source: <http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/24157.html>

Relationship Progressions

Note: Because the concept of progressions deserves an entire book, this explanation must of necessity be brief. My progressions workbook is an ongoing project.

All natal charts are transit charts. I know that is probably hard to believe, but think about it for a moment. The heavens are continually in motion. We freeze frame a split second of that movement to obtain a snapshot of a sky pattern for that moment... birth... the natal chart. The sky never truly stopped moving. To believe that our lives are bound up in a single sky map is just plain wrong. Life and living are an ongoing series of sky maps. According to Carl Jung who embraced astrology, “Whatever is born or done at this particular moment of time has the quality of this moment of time.” It unfolds from its beginning point in a universal pattern - one that is measurable, discernible, and therefore somewhat predictable. Sharpen your skills, it’s “not for sissies”!

Astrologers understand the nature of progressions that illustrate the unfolding process for any natal chart. Notice the word “any” in that previous sentence. It does not matter if the birth chart in question is of a bird, a plane, a person, a country, a corporation, or an abstract. Every “thing” begins some “time”; every “thing” has a process. Some are abbreviated and some are elongated, but all have a beginning, a middle and a supposed end.

Even an explosion, which is usually of very brief duration, has a process. Some prior activity or lack of it caused the initial “boom!”... But it is not usually over. The explosion sets in motion a series of results related to the explosion itself. Because of the nature of an explosion, we tend to see that initiating or resultant series of events as separate from the explosion. An explosion is both caused by something and is causative and has results. You are not limited to people, you can use progressions whenever you wish. You can even run progressions backward to see what went on before birth. Oh dear, another concept to research and teach (converse progressions), but not in this book - maybe in the progressions book.

Progressions are really not complicated. Biblically, “I have given you a day for a year” is a well-known concept (Ezek 4.6) and is a beginning point for astrologers. Each day after birth astrologically represents one year in the life of an individual or whatever is represented by the chart,

starting with the birthday as the “0” year. If a computer is available, simply select progressions, choose the date for the progression and press enter. A whole new chart emerges - one that is good for that moment in time... a temporary, moving map starting with the progressed date provided to the program.

Alternately, you can take a line right out of the ephemeris day-by-day, which translates chart-wise to year-by-year starting with the day of birth. You need to determine which day in the calendar year lines up accurately with the positions you are using in order to provide accurate timing in your reading. Therefore, you would need to learn some math. That tends to scare current astrologers but it is not really that difficult. This is called the Progressed Ephemeris Date or the Adjusted Calculation Date and it saves time and continual recalculation of the positions listed. My suggestion is that you use the computer to learn the concept of progression itself. I mentioned in other workbooks that I prefer that my students know how to do the math. You miss a lot of delineation information when you do not understand the math! If you choose to learn, there is yet another workbook in process addressing that subject.

You can read that new progressed map as a stand-alone. You can also read that map as activations to the natal. This includes all natal maps, and not just human births. We are looking from a relationship perspective for this material, therefore:

- ✓ the composite chart can be progressed,
- ✓ the relationship chart can be progressed, and
- ✓ the natals of the pairing involved can be progressed which provides brand new synastry information.
- ✓ If there has been a ceremony or a contract, that ceremony or contract can be progressed.

Can you see what opens up for you in terms of understanding and expanding a reading? How would you do that?

- ✓ You can progress each natal chart and do synastry from those two progressed charts.
- ✓ You can use those progressions to do a progressed composite chart.

- ✓ You use those progressions to do a progressed relationship chart.
- ✓ You can progress *any* event or ceremony chart throughout its lifetime.

Why would you do all this extra work? It opens new doors of information. If you compare only the natals, you are really working with newborn-to-newborn information and the relationship they produce. This does have value because your natal chart really reflects who you are and what you came here to do and to be. Your progressing charts are the “becoming” or evolving process itself. You are continually changed by your experience. A new you is present at every moment and is visible or could be if you were paying attention and if you had the courage to embrace each new you. When I am teaching the progressing Ascendant in individual chart readings, I term the progression as the new layer of makeup over the same old face of the natal. Each of us are a combination of the natal framework, the experience we have had, plus our current experience. All of that is shaping what we shall become.

This is what I would suggest for your learning curve. For every chart you encounter, this would not be remotely possible. Let the technique teach you so you can apply the learning to your chart work on a spontaneous basis. If you find a relationship that is critically important, bite the bullet and do the work.

As a rule of thumb, remember that natal wheels are always at the core of any reading. They do hold their value throughout the life of an individual. A progressed wheel is a temporary value but does represent the current evolutionary status of the entity(ies) plus current growth or lack of it.

Family Multiple Relationships

Most of this material has been on relationships in general and family in particular, but the concepts taught can be easily applied to all types of relationships. I preferred to concentrate specifically on family dynamics and readings for this workbook. Applications to other relationship types are noted throughout the material. Just be aware that the material and the concepts (with a little tweaking in descriptive phrasing) can be applied to most relationships.

The family is a group with two or more people and can be any combination of relating: parent / child, spousal, sibling, generational, extended, marital joining, etc. Some family groups are functional, but many are dysfunctional. Dysfunctional are the ones that typically appear at my door because those are the relationships that might need astrological assistance. With the astrological tools we have at our disposal, we should be able to develop some insights into the relationships themselves. Perhaps those insights could be used to heal many wounds and further the relationships in a positive way.

We will return to the basics (synastry, composite and relationship charts), and we will invent a nuclear family to establish a baseline for our study (mother and father with two children).

That makes four individuals with natal charts for each, the natal synastry between those four charts, plus a natal composite and relationship chart. If I counted right, I think that is ten charts!

You must also progress each of the four charts, perform synastry on those progressions, and calculate progressed composites and relationships for these four people. Many moons ago while I was doing my own learning curve, I did work up a four-person composite chart... the Beatles... as my subject group. Relationship charts were not in my repertoire at the time I did that research, all by hand, and with no computer assistance. That composite chart did work, but the time spent casting and proofing it was huge. Once cast accurately, you then get to read it all. That should tempt any researcher's heart.

Think about the four people in our pretend nuclear family and the myriad relationships that are formed just within that tiny group. There is not just one relationship, there are several distinct relationships.

- ✓ Mom and Dad should come first, perhaps as a chance encounter or a partnership, possibly a marriage, and specifically between the initiating couple. That is two natals, synastry, a composite, a relationship and possibly an event chart. And of course there are always the progressions.
- ✓ Along comes the first child (a new natal, plus progressions for two). That parental relationship changes plus a new relationship forms between the three people in the family (two parents / one child). Additionally unique relationships form between Mom / child and Dad / child, synastry.
- ✓ A short time later the family is blessed with another child (a new natal) and the changes (progressions for three) are reflected not only in the existing relationships but also the new relationships that are introduced and formed as above, synastry.
- ✓ The addition of children (progressions) does change the existing relationship (progressions) between the parents and between both parents and the previously existing child #1 relationship. Life has changed, therefore each relationship is affected by such change, synastry.
- ✓ Now we must add the Mom / new child and Dad / new child relationships, synastry.
- ✓ Plus we must add the new sibling relationship between the children, synastry.

There are so many separate unique relationship dynamics here that I've lost count. The family as a whole has a new and unique relationship that did not exist prior to the birth of child #2. That means that for our nuclear family of four, there are multiple relationships that can be studied. Are your eyes crossed yet?

I remember when my second child, a boy, was born and my first child, a girl, was feeling very motherly and domestic at nineteen months and declared, "The baby is cold" (and yes, she did speak early as befit a budding lawyer). "Oh God"...as I pulled the pillow off the newborn boy and hoped he was still breathing. He was. It was quite different when I

introduced boy #2 to boy #1 (then age two) as “our baby”. His response was, “Take it back.” Children react completely differently, and at times unexpectedly, as the family grows and enlarges. It would be the function of progressions to watch the growth, the changes and perhaps understand the causes and the effects as the relationship dynamics change.

Synastry While the nuclear family descriptions were valid in terms of time and effort, they are amazing in terms of information flow. Despite the time and effort required, you would learn the concepts thoroughly.

My suggestion is that you pull out the four natal charts and just do synastry on the pairing of the people. Lay them out one pair at a time on bi-wheels and read the interaction one on one. You may want to compare how each one affects the other by placing first one of the pairing in the center with the other on the outside ring. Then reverse the process, new bi-wheel, and put the other #2 person in the center with the #1 person on the outside. That is how to see who affects who, in what way.

Standard reading rules apply. I suggest you write it out or record your notes so you do not ever have to do it again! Once is more than enough. If you use a three-hole notebook and paper, you can add additional insights where appropriate as you encounter them. That is how I studied and learned over all these years: five x eight index cards and three-ring notebooks. Or you have such an advantage of entering all that you learn in computer notes, movable at will.

Multiple Composite How do you develop a composite for four people? At the time I studied this there were no computers available for me, it was all hand cast charts. It takes time, but if it is important to you, you can do it.

- ✓ If you have a computer, do two pairs. You can read any of the pairs you create as a composite chart for those two people only as well. Take the two constructed composites and again pair them: $2 + 2 = 4$. You will have two pairs combined to produce one composite of four people. This sounds simple, but just be careful that you are accurate. Careful proofing is key.
- ✓ If you must do it by hand, list each of the planets, Midheavens and Ascendants in separate columns and use zodiac degrees and minutes to make the math easier. Add them together, then divide each total by four to reach a median placement for each planet and point. Cast the chart as usual. Rough but usable. As described earlier and if you know how to do it, use the Oblique Ascendant

and intermediate cusps from the table of houses Midheaven degree. For my own work, the Oblique Ascendant seems to have more value than the Composite Ascendant. Do *not* take my word for that but check to see what works best for you. Our minds and comprehension work differently.

How do you read this thing? First of all, remember that Mercury and Venus must end up somewhere close to the Sun. If either is mathematically across the chart, keep the degrees and minutes and reverse the sign (i.e., use the opposite sign – Ares for Libra, Taurus for Scorpio, etc.). Also remember that none of the planets, Midheaven or Ascendant have changed their intrinsic meanings.

Hold in your mind the fact that you are not describing an individual, which is a specific. You are describing a relationship, which is far more subjective and intangible. No pointing of fingers, blame or applause for any individual. Just read planets in houses, in signs and in aspects for the mini-group dynamic. You can train yourself to do it. When you read live for people, they will always try to make it specific to themselves. That is not what a composite is, so keep your mind and your interpretation on the relationship itself. Do not let yourself be drawn into a personal reading. Bear in mind also that the composite is the chart of possibilities rather than reality. I call this, “**Is** what you sees what you gets?”

Relationship Chart How do you develop a relationship chart for four people? In much the same way you did the composite for four people. The composite is a chart of potential, how the relationship will be if all four meet each other halfway on every point and issue. That is not remotely likely when there are four individuals involved. This chart never existed in real time; it is a construct, but it does work to examine potential.

The relationship chart, on the other hand, is a chart that did exist in real time midway between the oldest and youngest person involved. The math will be far more difficult, so you will have to go slow and proof your work carefully. The midpoint you are looking for is of time and space, which is four birth times and dates with time zone corrections, longitudes and latitudes. I sincerely hope you have access to a computer or are a mathematical wizard. Because this chart does occur in real time between the oldest and youngest person, this is a chart of the reality of the relationship. I call it “What you sees **is** what you gets”. There is a huge difference between this sentence and the similar sentence for the composite chart. Make sure you understand the distinction. Both composites and relationship charts have their value. Success depends on your patience and skill and your willingness to put in the effort.

Other than family It is possible to use this technique on small social groups such as the singing group I mentioned (“The Beatles”) or a small business group. By comparison, four would be relatively easy to do on the computer, but other multiples may not be as easy and probably will need to be done by hand following my earlier instructions. Just think about what you are trying to accomplish and then take the steps necessary to accomplish it. It is merely an extension of basic astrology. I have faith in you. You can do whatever you set your mind to! If you got this far in this instruction workbook, *you are not* a sissie!

Relationships from the Karmic Perspective

– To Be or Not To Be

“It’s my karma and I’ll cry if I want to” could frequently be our society’s lament. Karma is originally an eastern concept adopted by our western culture. As usual, words and their inherent meanings can get lost in translation and that is true of the word karma. What is karma to the western mind? The concept is easily misunderstood. Know that it is not a punishment, it is a teacher. Each of us have a history, a present we are living and a future that unfolds through living. Life is a process, and each moment presents us with opportunity and also with results. Karma develops naturally through that process. And we are not alone in the developing and experiencing of karma. We can and do develop relationships where we blend and combine karmic patterns and build our collective experiences into future karma. That is referred to as dharma.

Where to begin? Karma is such a vast subject and there are literally hundreds of thousands of interpretations of what it is and how it affects us. I do not have the space to wax philosophical in this book. My aim is to describe the astrological karmic concepts of relationships. In its simplest terms, the eastern concept of karma is what is called the Law of Cause and Effect in western philosophy. To me, life is not a series of random and unconnected moments. Life is more like a continuum, with each experience following in a natural sequence. Or... we can be a confused human trying to figure out our experiences. I have managed to experience both awareness and lack of awareness over my lifetime. I’m sure you have as well.

Whatever you participate in or set in motion through your personal actions will have natural results that definitely belong to you even when you do not wish to own them. You may take direct action, refuse to participate, attempt to ignore - and the list continues. All these possibilities and more set something in motion which belongs exclusively to you whether you know it or not. Life does not require that you be conscious or accepting, it just needs you to be available or it knows how to find you.

Know now that the common sequence for karma is initiation, process and results, consciously or unconsciously, now or in another lifetime. You may not be able to connect the results to the cause every time. Think of life as a circle that is actually a sine wave in experience. At times you are on top of that curve and at times you are on the bottom. Eastern philosophy sees mankind on the wheel of life, doomed to repeat experiences at the same level until enlightenment removes us from the wheel. Western philosophy is not comfortable with pure fate, so free will must enter the picture. We have a few popular phrases that illustrate this concept:

- ✓ For every action, there is an opposite but equal reaction.
- ✓ That which you sow, so shall you reap.
- ✓ What goes around comes around.
- ✓ Sometimes you get the bear; sometimes the bear gets you.
- ✓ Sometimes you are the fly; sometimes you are the windshield.

Karma is a description of the process of experience. Somehow, we set experience in motion and those experiences produce results. Sometimes the response comes quickly. At other times, long passages of time obscure the cause from the effect and we become puzzled and occasionally feel victimized.

Collective or Shared Karma Enter another person... and you were having so much fun by yourself. You have your karma and they have their karma. You have both decided to share karmas, hopefully 50/50 or at least fairly, but usually with some unintended surprises. You have not figured out your own karma and now you have two karmas to work through, your own karma and a virtual stranger's karma. Good luck! How do we look at karma in a relationship? What are the signposts? Even if you know what the signposts are, will you understand what they mean? Are both of you awake and aware enough to make this a positive experience?

Enter Astrology Know that relational karma would require an entire workbook, so consider this an introduction. On a rudimentary level, we can look to the nodal connections between charts to determine if any past life relationships are in play. In western astrology, if the connection is tied directly to the south node, that indicates a link from the past. The planet will describe the nature of the connection. If the connection is most direct to the north node, that indicates a link to the future.

Did you realize that eastern astrology has quite different definitions for Rahu and Ketu, the north and south nodes respectively? Vedic nodes are virtually opposite in meaning to western nodes. Since the nodes are paired, there will naturally be aspects to both nodes, so choose the strongest aspect to start, but do look at the potential of both positions. I personally have one of those in my own chart: Uranus on my south node and Mercury on my north node, full opposition, and that combination has been teaching me my whole life. Since the nodes we use for charts are lunar in nature, aspects to the natal Moon will be primary. Additionally, there are planetary nodes, but they will not be covered in this material. Anyone up for research? My research plate is full.

In our western practice, the south node represents karmic relationships that are rooted in the past, the reaping part of the life cycle. The north node represents your new direction or the developing or sowing of new karma. It is quite valuable to know whether you are drawn to a person because of your largely unconscious past associations or because you have experiences to share in a now-to-future framework.

Not all relationships are comfortable, and that is true of those with karmic overtones. For that you can look to their stress aspects to your nodes. Sometimes you meet a person and instant dislike arises. It's irrational but potent, and that can interfere with relationship forming or can serve as a warning. Sometimes you meet a person that you feel like you have known forever even though you've just met. Look to the benefic aspects. Should you encounter a person whose nodes are the exact reverse of yours, you can yell, "Bingo!" This shows you have been tied together in the past and that you also have experience to do together or perhaps complete in this present-to-future timeframe. Perhaps it is unfinished work, perhaps it is contemporary work, but the past from the charts should support one another as you move forward in experience. Do not assume that this will work well every time. Earth is a schoolhouse and we have all sorts of lessons to learn.

To me, the most difficult thing that humans do is to relate successfully. The underlying concept is that you take any two people, put them in a room, lock the door and demand that they relate successfully every moment, 24 / 7 until death do they part. That is not remotely realistic. We should learn from each other and hopefully grow and evolve within any relationship. If we are not part of each other's growth, there is no real reason to stay in an unsuccessful relationship. It is not your karma to stay

with a bad, no-growth-possible situation. Karma is often misunderstood to mean just that. You should both be growing or you should change experience. If for whatever reason you must stay together, such as being in the same rowboat, attempt to put it on a positive footing for both of your sakes. You are here to grow and become, not to stagnate and devolve. It is both of your responsibilities and your choices. Do not blame karma!

Synastry Next, astrologically you would look to the synastry between the charts. Place the two wheels side by side and look at the connections overall. Remember that one will be the receiver and one will be the activator in each pairing. Put on your karmic hat and use karmic definitions. There is no point in doing natal work twice. Look to the evolutionary prospect and spiritual growth for your meanings and definitions.

Once you have worked your way through that pairing, reverse the charts and do the same procedure for the second person. Having one as activator while the other receives keeps the reading clear and simple, but it is just one half of the complete sine wave. Using the same individual chart information, simply reverse the activator and the receiver. That will illustrate the other half of the relating sine wave. Again, stay with evolutionary, developmental, and spiritual definitions.

Once you have the general conditions between the participants, look specifically to the outer planets to determine success, failure and potential karma - the difference between benefic or malefic synastry aspects.

- ✓ Saturn brings about responsibility, structure, duration and tenacity... or roadblocks, imprisonment and depression. Choose wisely - you will not like being trapped. Saturn is past-oriented and supports a traditional formation.
- ✓ Uranus can bring charisma, magic, and excitement, but may not stick around long enough to enjoy it. Uranus will not accept boundaries, rules, or unrelenting commitment. If you can stay loose and just enjoy the ride, without demanding what Uranus cannot and will not deliver, the relationship may continue. If you place no demands, you may get duration (a Saturn word). Uranus is progressive or future oriented.
- ✓ Pluto can bring about psychological depth to any relationship on many levels, but it can also bring turmoil, power and control issues, manipulation, possession and obsession. Pick your poison.

- ✓ Ah... now comes Neptune. Here comes imagination, creativity, inspiration, sympathy, spirituality and all those lovely descriptions of unconditional love. But since every front has a back, we must look at the other side of Neptune to see the parts we may not want to know about such as deceit, illusion, delusion, and disillusion. With Neptune aspects, be sure to stay honest in your evaluations. I call that keeping the lights and your glasses on, and calling a spade a spade!

To read these karmically you just have to remember to stay focused on the information being generated and to apply it on a cause-and-effect level. Karma has a history, a process (in the now) and has threads or influence into our future.

I will mention that these outer planets can affect many people simultaneously, so all people born within a general timeframe will aspect one another's charts in a similar fashion. This can be described as group karma.

In a long-ago workshop, Astrologer Carol Rushman taught that the true spiritual partnership between two people is illustrated by solid and positive Venus / Neptune connections between the charts. These are the people who are so in tune that they know what each other is thinking, can finish each other's sentences, can take a long drive without talking and still be comfortable with one another. That is the true magic, when two souls are in a harmony that transcends physical limitations. That sounds to me like it would be the perfect opportunity to work on that shared karma which is formed when two people enter into a relationship.

We can have multiple soul mates, but we can only have one twin soul. Having met my twin soul in 1981, I went through a learning curve psychologically and karmically that I would not wish on anyone. If I came out of that experience learning anything, it was that astrologically, latitude aspects have been seriously underestimated!

How do you get the best out of a relationship while working on the karmic patterns between the two of you? Talk about it, plan for it, work the plan, create non-judgmental and benign signals to work through the off moments that enter every life. Encourage each other, support each other, commit to both of your personal growths in every way possible. Respect, honor and promote the common good and the good of each individual. That is a tall order, but if you are committed to working through the karma while maintaining a good relationship, you can do it. Yes, you can!

Relationships - Resonance and Attraction: Same / Opposite

Having done so many charts in my astrologer lifetime, interesting tidbits of information surface from time to time, little treasures that may or may not have made it into my teaching or my writing. As I have been developing this family relationship series, some of these little gifts from the universe have surfaced and I have dutifully written about them. This particular material is about two of those gifts or awarenesses: resonance and attraction. There has been no statistical or other research on my part for these concepts - they are merely observations via experience.

Resonance The best example I can think of to explain resonance is a tuning fork that is usually employed to tune pianos or other instruments or to create a sound key for singers. I have had the good fortune to learn about sound vibration in healing, and I have a full set of blue steel tuning forks with lovely clear tones. For those of you not familiar with tuning forks, they are somewhat Y-shaped with elongated limbs. You could also turn the lower-case letter “h” upside down to help you picture the shape. The single bar supports the two side-by-side parallel bars. Tuning forks come in a variety of proportions, but the basic shape is the same. They are substantial in weight and dimension. Mine are about 6” long, with a very short single support bar and elongated twin bars. Aside from a tuning or healing instrument, they can provide a wonderful illustration for this astrological material.

If you had a room full of tuning forks of various keys (my one-octave set has thirteen) at rest not touching each other *and* you sounded a C note, all the C tuning forks in the room would start to vibrate until you had a spontaneous orchestra of the note C. None of the other tuning forks would activate. Could they activate? Yes, but you would have to sound their particular notes. The originating C note does not have to touch any other tuning fork, but all the C tuning forks will spontaneously vibrate and add their sound in the moment. People are like that and experience can be like that.

I have already discussed common aspect patterns found in various types of relationships and the tuning fork explanation can be added to that description. We can gravitate towards others with a similar vibration - it

is natural for us to do so. We are in resonance. Perhaps we do not have a lot in common other than that vibrational tie, but it will draw us together in our commonality.

An astrological aspect example would be good here. Some people are born with a Saturn / Uranus conjunction which occurs in approximate 45-to-46-year cycles. It occurred in 1897 in late Scorpio, 1942 at 29 Taurus, and in 1988 in late Sagittarius. It will occur again in 2032 in late Gemini. When Saturn and Uranus repeated their conjunction in 1942, those born in 1897 who had that aspect in their natal charts started to resonate to the coming conjunction even before it perfected itself. The same thing occurred in 1988 for those still alive from 1897 and those born in 1942. At that time, I did a lot of searching to find out why activations were happening earlier than expected and why it was registering in charts without a close aspect. That is when I discovered that we resonate to this type of energy pattern from our own charts, and we do not require an exact degree hit.

Saturn / Uranus is the decisive point as to whether we stagnate and repeat old patterns or move forward into the future. Saturn rules structure and tradition and Uranus is the bolt out of the blue that changes things. Once every 45-46 years, they come together to form a bridge and those who have that in their natal charts can feel like they walk with their feet in two different worlds. Since we know what the nature of the energy is, hopefully we can counsel people as to their best application. We know that Saturn does not like change and will dig in its heels to preserve what is past and present. We know that Uranus is *not* going to leave things alone, so it would behoove us to take advantage of opportunity. This energy, and the people in which it resonates and activates, can become the bridge between the past and the future, even when the aspect or degrees are not truly in usual aspect. It is the energy pattern itself that calls us to action through resonance. It is the choice of the individual whether or not to act as a bridge or to place one's self at the mercy of the energy generated. To me this is a do-or-be-done-unto pattern.

On a simpler scale, ask a Full Moon person what it is like for them at the time of any Full Moon. They will resonate. Ask a person with Gemini, Virgo or Mercury rising what is happening in their lives as Mercury makes major aspects, or stations and retrogrades. They will resonate. Have you ever had an activation you could not locate in the chart? You would be surprised at how many energy patterns resonate in unsuspecting people's charts. Why unsuspecting? Because these energies do not activate through our usual aspect patterns, they activate by resonance.

Attraction and Antagonism This is what makes the world go 'round for relationships. Sometimes we meet and antagonism rears its head. Sometimes we are attracted and the potential for relationship exists. Sometimes a chance meeting is a non-event and we blissfully ignore each other. *Apathy* does not lead to a relationship. It does not usually start trouble either unless one is more interested than the other. So we are left with attraction and antagonism. We will look at antagonism first.

Antagonism Have you ever noticed that some people initially cannot stand each other, the fur is flying, and then you are invited to their wedding? The movie "When Harry Met Sally" comes to mind. We are attracted to who and what we are or are not in the strangest ways. Look at your Ascendant / Descendant axis to view who and what you are willing to do and be (Ascendant). Then look at what you are seeking for your potential partner to do and be (Descendant). Why? Because many times you do not want to experience that other part and so you project it on another, your shadow self.

Now, that is fine up front. Sparks can fly and it could be fun. How are you going to feel living 24 / 7 with someone who is doing and being what you do not want to do or be, especially if they do their role masterfully? What if you eventually learn how to do or be those unwanted or neglected characteristics yourself? Will you want to remain with someone who represents an old and now unnecessary lesson because you are now handling the pattern yourself?

An example might be Sagittarius on the Descendant or Jupiter in the 7th. You may be looking for a risk taker because you do not want to take risks yourself. You may be looking for a philosopher or a religious type, a teacher, a salesman or a promoter, or... you get the picture. If you take your lessons into your own hands down the road, what happens to the now superfluous person who has done a superb job doing and being what you did not want to own yourself? Thank goodness you learned your own lesson, but that removes the purpose for that person being in your life moving forward. Uh oh!

Attraction What about attraction (and we do love that... chemistry)? Opposites do attract for much the same reason I discussed in the prior paragraph. We seek what we are not. Sameness does not usually stir our juices most of the time. At times, another can fill in our missing spots, contribute that balance and make us more as a couple than we are

individually. It is alternately possible that we could get very aggravated at someone being our diametric opposite 24/7. Sometimes the difference creates fires. Is the fire thrilling and warming, or is the fire a raging-out-of-control disaster? We usually judge a relationship book by its cover when a longer, more patient look would be wise.

What about attraction between people who are similar? That occurs as well. It should be helpful to a couple if we had the same or similar aims, goals, motivations, social needs, financial attitudes, family disposition, etc. My concern again would be the long term-effect. Are the missing characteristics caused by similarity between the charts being addressed? Is the sameness producing boredom? Not everyone wants to be either bored by sameness or stay excited for a lifetime (chemistry).

I have used common relationship terms to describe the interactions. But this is a book about the family itself. The concepts work in all forms of relationships, romantic, business, family, cultural. We simply make a slight change of word choice to fit the situation because the energy remains the same.

We pick our own poison. This is a big schoolhouse and we are all in school. We are not perfect and probably will not be perfect. Neither is or will be our partner or our family members. If we are growing and learning together, even with some rough spots, this is a good thing. If we are simply aggravating each other, bound by circumstance and not growing, it may be time to move on, without rancor, as we each progress in our individual journeys. Re-read the karmic chapter if you get stuck.

Section Four

Unique Relationships

The final section of this book explores some very special relationship issues that I have studied beyond the usual family concepts. I used three very unique relationship subjects to whet your appetite so you can examine my perceptions and conclusions with charts of your own. At this point you will have to put on your thinking caps as these unique examples are *not* beginner's level, or as I call them "Not for Sissies" astrologically.

We Are the World, We Are the Children – A True Story

This is a true story. When I first began my studies of spirituality and metaphysics in 1970, I received many seemingly random and varied messages from many sources about my life, my budding spiritual gifts, and my eventual path through life. Most of what I was given was quite confusing, did not fit any of my knowns at that time and came with little explanation. One set of those long-ago messages were about my involvement and work with children other than my own. I was not given the ages or names of these children or their purposes. I was not given a time or a method of reaching them. Instead, when I questioned the information, I was told I could not look for them, and they would find me. As an absolute amateur with spiritual guidance at that time, I dutifully recorded all the messages I received from whatever sources and put them aside because life as a single mother of four demanded constant attention with little time for obscure messages.

Imagine my surprise in mid-March of 1985 when I heard a knock on my door and there was a group of very confused eighteen-to-twenty-year-olds, children close in age to those in my own growing family. These were strangers who somehow just “knew” that I would help them, so they found me. Remembering my earlier set-aside message on helping children and that *they* would find *me*, I invited them in. We got to spend a few days together in my home. They had the strangest tale to tell me.

Apparently, they were each living life, separately, as late teens to early twenties kids do, day to day, doing what was necessary, studying, working and living. Their story was that one non-specific day they woke up and life was somehow different. They “knew” they had something in particular to do. They “knew” they had the talent and ability to do whatever it was. They did not know where or how they got that talent and ability. One day they just woke up with the knowing. They were not sure why they had the ability or what to do with it. They did know they needed to find me. I don’t know if that was an individual knowing or a collective knowing once they found each other. I did not think to ask that question at that time, but find me they did. Supposedly I had the answers. Answers to what? I was not sure, but I would “know”. Oh joy! I was clueless.

It was wonderful. These were boys and girls with the most amazing inner gifts for feeling, and teaching, and healing, and manifesting. They each had an innate skill that had awakened one fine day without prelude. I did not know how they found each other. Again, I didn't think to ask at that time. They each had an innate trust in each other because they were unique but "together". They each came to me for ??? and they trusted me to provide ??? I watched as one young woman sat behind a young man in great personal anguish. She wrapped her arms around him, closed her eyes and removed his pain and anguish. I watched another young woman drop into teacher's mode as she instinctively knew what each needed to hear, what to say and how to say it. I watched as energy poured from one to another as needs arose and were met.

I fed them and held them and talked with them as each needed. I did their astrology charts. What was my part? I think that as an adult I gave them permission to be who they were without question or reservation and to honor the gifts that had awakened within them. After a few days they moved on out of my life. Many years later one of them called me, again led to me by whatever guidance was provided her. Again I gave friendship, comfort, acceptance, and reassurance on the phone, and that was it. As mysteriously as it began, it ended. I have asked "why" many times since then, but the universe has been strangely silent.

While they were with me and we talked, I had attempted to find out when their awakening had occurred and had identified that it was "shortly" before they "found" me with slight variations as of "shortly". At that time, I was unable to identify when and by what means they had awakened.

Fast forward a couple of years. A wonderful, though currently nameless person, provided me with a piece of astrological information that gave me the answer to my question, "What woke up the children?" I received the astrological data and cast the charts as any astrologer would do. I am so grateful for that information, and although I have the original note in someone else's handwriting, it is not signed with a name. I do not remember who to thank or to give credit for that data. To the thoughtful person who provided me with this information so many years ago, I give my profound thanks and wish I could give personal credit to them.

It took a little time to realize what I had been given. The data for an actual event was a short time prior to the arrival of the children at my door. This was both a process *and* an event leading to the knock on my door and the arrival of those children in my life. The data coincided with the wake-up call I had been searching for and what a wake-up call that was!

On January 28, 1985 in Los Angeles, CA, USA, a group of America's most talented singers got together for an amazing recording, a chorus of glorious voices called USA for Africa. The official beginning of what was to become a monumental song was at 10:30 PM and lasted until about 8:00 AM the following day. As the evening led into the early morning hours of the next day, the scheduled solos commenced around midnight of January 29th and were completed at 5:15 AM. The last solo recording was on February 28th. Then, all that was left was the mixing and releasing on March 7th, 1985. The world did the rest. The original recording and release of "*We are the World, We are the Children*" is now a part of our world's history.

Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie wrote the lyrics and the music, with the completed magic produced by Quincy Jones and Michael Omartian. Michael Jackson was also the rallying force around which everything coalesced. The chorus and soloists of the brightest and best of that day and age was amazing. Even my great-grandchildren sing this song and know its history.

For me, I was able to identify the wake-up call for the children who found their way to my door back in March of 1985. "*We are the World, We are the Children*" was a universal soul note that awakened those children into a world that definitely needed all the healing and help it could generate.

And this was also done for the second time to help the victims of the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti on January 12, 2010. On February 1, 2010*, again in Hollywood, CA, another all-star singing cast did an awesome re-make of the original. It was spearheaded by Lionel Richie and Quincy Jones and released February 12th. I listened to the new recording with my teenaged great-grandson one morning shortly after the release. Through the amazing power of technology, Michael Jackson was able to join this ensemble as well.

When you watch the videos, be prepared for tears as you look at the good we do when we humans work together. When I Googled for this, there were 112 million entries for my search. Amazing.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Are_the_World
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZ26DMkMFks>

The children who came to my door in 1985 are full adults now, probably with children of their own close to the same age as their parents were at the time I met them. Those wonderful children who awoke with their gifts fully functional *should* have children of their own. The soul note that woke up my 1985 children with talents and abilities ready to go was the first

recording of “*We are the World, We are the Children*”. Will the children of “my children” be those who awakened with the new recording of “*We are the World, We are the Children*”? I would like to believe that the universe has provided a new soul note at a time when we need all the help we can generate for our world. Another group of “children” might have recently awakened. I sincerely hope they find each other and are encouraged and nurtured to provide their gifts to a needy world.

Epilog: I thought this material was finished, but lo and behold I heard television comments on whether or not the re-make of the song should have been attempted. Lots of pros and cons were being expressed. I had to laugh. I truly believe the universe sounded a soul note because of my personal experience. I therefore believe it may have just sounded another soul note, slightly different from the first, but with the potential of being just as powerful as an awakener. Apparently, it is not for me to know. I doubt that human opinion matters much if that which is universal decides it is time for something wonderful or provocative to occur. That last part smacks a little of destiny does it not?

We all experience individual consciousness from the reservoir of universal consciousness, sort of a Universe-R-Us concept. If we are religious in nature, we label that universal consciousness as deity. If we are evolutionist by nature, we label the universe as mathematically or scientifically based. If we are spiritually driven, we simply label it as consciousness. The label really does not matter because it is merely a preferred nametag. The universe by any name would still be the universe. Our universe has magnificent patterns and rhythms that I study as an astrologer. Life seems to me to be purposeful as opposed to chaotic and random. The Universal Consciousness that permeates the whole of existence, including us, is a little bit bigger than personal opinion, don't you think?

Summary The recent re-make of the recording "*We are the World, We are the Children*" with an amazing ensemble of singers was recently released. While very different from one another, both recordings are very well done. However, as with all things human, there is bound to be controversy. The first recording was for African aid and the second recording is for Haitian aid. These inspirational renditions help to keep us aware of our humanity and that we are each our brother's keeper. But in my experience, they have done far more as Universal Consciousness used sound to awaken the sleepers. It's as if God spoke and the sound itself created. There is now a new sound. Is it possible there is a new awakening?

*I do not have the actual time for the second recording, but it spanned fourteen hours on February 1, 2010 at the same recording studio as the first recording: Henson Studios. Here are some internet links you can explore. My Google search for information displayed over two million entries.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Are_the_World_25_for_Haiti

<http://www.mtv.com/news/1631021/we-are-the-world-25-for-haiti-artists-include-kanye-west-miley-cyrus-justin-bieber/>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1709224/>

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/SHOWBIZ/Music/02/01/haiti.we.are.the.world/>

Los Angeles, California (CNN) -- Dozens of recording stars converged on a Hollywood studio [fourteen hours of recording]

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/music_blog/2010/02/an-allstar-we-are-the-world-remake-for-haiti-relief.html

Corporate Charting – Is a Personal Natal Wheel Valid After the Death of the Founder?

Does a person's life end with their physical death? Or can their wheel still be read as if they were still alive? Is there a solid connection between a personal natal wheel and the wheel of a business that a human created? I have children, and their sky maps are clearly connected to my own. A physical child is a child of the body. A poem, an artistic creation, a legacy, or a corporation is likewise a child, but it is a child of the intellect or the spirit. Anything born in a moment of time, whether that be animal, vegetable or mineral, human or non-human, takes on the characteristics of that moment in time. It is born; it has a life function; it can be mapped. If I were to pass into spirit, the children of my body would still have life and those lives should reflect in activations to my progressing wheel and experience. For example, my very modest estate may be settled after my passing, and my chart should reflect that activity in my name. The same is true of the children of our minds or spirits. The effects of our life survive us after we pass out of physical existence and that does reflect in our personal progressions.

During astrological research in 2009 on the USA as a country and all our presidents, I adapted a corporation charting method with a wider application than originally planned. It can be somewhat time-consuming to do a thorough job using this method, but it is not difficult. The original application was for corporate charting work and could definitely turn out to be an advantage for anyone studying or doing corporate astrology. This technique stems from older published American Federation of Astrologers (AFA) material, but I cannot locate that original article to give the author much-deserved credit. Apologies. For this material, personal research for the corporate example given and references for adapting the technique for the presidential study will be given.

Using the research on the original material, it was studied carefully, examining the points the author made to verify each activation. The original example was accurate, valid and worked as presented. With a good database of corporate information available, I selected another well-known corporation and its founder, which had ample dated events. The original material was used as an instruction manual to apply the theory. It was amazing how well the technique worked on the corporation and founder chosen for that second study, just as the author said it would. My applause to the unknown author.

As with much of my research, once curiosity is satisfied and learning is gleaned from the study, the material was put away. During the presidential research, this old technique came to mind. It had to be re-worked with minor adaptations for a country and presidency instead of founder and corporation, mostly re-labeling of the concepts. The technique worked amazingly well for our emerging and evolving country.

As astrologers, when we want to view development in individuals we look at important events or milestones in the life of that individual. Dates such as marriage, divorce, accomplishment, accident, surgery, birth of children, or deaths of significant others in the life are examined. If we were doing such work for a non-human entity such as a corporation, the dates used would be those of opening of the business, public offerings, stock splits, expansions or contractions, partnerships, takeovers (hostile or otherwise), mergers, and various failures or successes. The same is true of the development or milestones in the life of a country. All that is required is the re-labeling mentioned previously. The astrology wheel of a country is the map of a collective of humans operating as one body - a "humanity being" so to speak. That humanity being's progressions can show the needs and conditions of that ongoing process, a timeline of sorts.

The original material example had to do with a Japanese corporation and its founder. The verifying research for the validity of the technique dealt with Walt Disney and his entertainment conglomerate. The presidential research example was that of the USA Virgo rising wheel and each of the 43 presidents who had held the office of president during our history to that time. *Note:* Grover Cleveland was president twice, tenures separated, and that is why the number was given as 44 presidents. This work did not include the recently inaugurated President Donald Trump.

Whatever is born in a moment of time is imprinted with the energies available at that moment in time, and that is true of all beginnings. A map can be cast and read for the intent and the potential, and then progressing maps outline the unfolding experience. The two companies researched

were founded by individuals. The corporations took on lives of their own distinct from their founder, but were clearly connected to that founder as ongoing events could be simultaneously seen in both the company and the founder wheels.

A company founder will grow old and eventually die, but the corporation as a created child of the founder may live on. It may experience new management or ownership, but will continue its own independent life cycle. It was amazing that ongoing corporate events could be seen clearly in the founder's wheel continuing after the founder's death. This required suspension of prior judgment that had been based on ignorance of possibility. It also raises an interesting question: how do you continue to map a person who has already passed on? The answer is that you do it the same way you mapped that person while alive, with no change in technique.

You could extend this concept to regular natal wheels and the relationship between parents and children as an example. Astrologically, a theory should hold up through various applications. Have you ever noticed that events in a spouse's life can still show up in the other spouse's wheel even when they are no longer together? That actually happened in my own chart 31 years after our divorce with the death of my ex-husband.

You can have activations involving a mother figure even when the natural mother is no longer on this earth plane? Perhaps as a foster or adopted mother, a grandmother, an older woman friend or one who has been cast as an affectionate mother figure. How would you find this? Simply continue regular individual progressions past the portal we call death. Think about this.

There is actual activity for a person past death such as funerals, estates, selling or other distribution of property, memorials. Look at what has happened since Michael Jackson's death. His legacy lives on. The birth wheel of a deceased person is still a map which can illustrate that individual's experience. Anyone interested in contributing some research?

The USA as a country requires a slightly different reading. A country is the child of a group of minds such our Founding and our Framing Fathers. They as a collective attended multiple meetings over a few years to formulate and to set into motion what we call our country. That activity even included war. That would be similarly true of the formation of any other country. To repeat the concept, a group of people collectively form or give birth to a governing entity. The USA was born in a moment of time and a location in space. That entity, the country, takes on its own identity, intent, and potential. It has ongoing experience and it has its own sky map.

In the USA we elect a leader, our president, to a four-year term. Occasionally circumstance and events shorten that term and an elevated but not directly elected president may be inaugurated. From what I described earlier as an individual founding a corporation, we must make simple adjustments. A group of individuals founded the country and the country became an entity, what I term a “humanity being”. This humanity entity has needs and requirements and attracts to itself a leader to fulfill those needs. In this adaptation, a comparison was made between the country and the presidents inaugurated as temporary leaders of the country. Eight years is our current maximum for one person to be president. Also, a corporation or a country should have a much longer life span than an individual. In this instance, the USA was 237 years old in 2013.

The universe is amazing. It provides us with maps of its patterns and continually changing energy. We have known how to read them for thousands of years. It takes a little training and skill to learn to construct and read those maps, just as it takes training and skill for any other endeavor. To not use the maps the universe provided is silly, but humanity continually gets stuck in fear and superstition. We fear what we do not understand and we negate anyone else’s efforts relative to what we individually fear. And so, over the centuries, a few brave souls maintained the knowledge and educated succeeding generations. Still all were subject to the fears and superstitions of those who did not possess the skill. Remember the old sayings about if we were meant to fly, we would have wings? It took much time and experimentation, but it did happen. We fly. Flying is neither evil nor demonic, it is actually quite convenient. We are now working hard on flying even farther, flying into space itself, beyond our earthly home. The universe is a continually changing map and we are developing the skills to read and explore that map.

The original example for this exercise was a Japanese company and its founder. My example for the experiment was Walt Disney and his incredible entertainment conglomerate. The conglomerate’s ongoing activity is clearly reflected in the progression of its founder while he was alive and continued past his death. Could it be done? Yes. Does it work? Yes. This comparison was one of the methods adopted for the much larger presidential research. This specific technique could not be simpler, but as always, it does take a little time and effort to do research. I used standard Naibod progressions. You may duplicate my efforts as a teaching tool. Using the Walt Disney research example:

- ✓ Set Walt Disney’s personal wheel and the wheel for the beginning of his business.

- ✓ Set each natal chart that materially affected the company, such as the incorporation, IPO and re-incorporation, to name a few.
- ✓ Progress Walt Disney's personal wheel to each event date to see the connection between his personal energy and corporate events during his living years. Compare progressed to natal and progressed to progressed, and look at the transits to both.
- ✓ Progress the Disney business wheel to each important event. Compare progressed to natal and progressed to progressed on each important wheel, and look at the transits to both. All of these charts should be and were connected to each other through close degree activations.
- ✓ Walt Disney passed on, but his chart remained alive; his wheel continued to work even after his death. Continue to progress his natal wheel as if he were still alive, and compare it to the business wheel and the other important wheels for new events that substantially affect the company and its survival.
- ✓ Cast new natal wheels as important corporate events make it necessary, and incorporate them into the progression procedure.
- ✓ There should be connections between the natsals, progressed to natsals, and progressed to progressed for whatever date is applicable, plus look at the transits to both. You will find that it does not matter that Walt Disney is no longer on this Earth plane.

Once you have worked your way through this practice project, do the same procedure with the corporations and their founders in which you are interested and can access the birth information and activity dates. This technique was employed in my presidential research with the keyword adaptations mentioned, and this technique does work well.

Recently I completed writing my diurnal workbook. At the time of the original Disney research, I had not applied diurnals to my study. Diurnals are a personally specific transit technique, and they could be applied to this study as well. Full instructions are given in my soon to be released diurnal workbook.

For astrologers who want to check out this method, the basic Disney data used for that long ago research is provided below. There are many new Disney dates that can also be used. There may be newer or more valid information than what was originally gathered, but this is the data used for that research so many moons ago. Enjoy your journey!

Database:

- ✓ Birth of Walt Disney: December 5, 1901, 12:35 AM CST, Chicago, Illinois
- ✓ Date of Walt's Death: December 15, 1966
- ✓ Mickey Mouse: created in 1928 for a silent cartoon entitled "*Plane Crazy*" that never debuted
- ✓ "*Steam Boat Willie*", the first-ever sound cartoon premiered at Colony Theatre, New York City, NY, November 18, 1928, used noonmark
- ✓ "*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*" premiered at Carthay Circle Theater, Los Angeles, CA, December 21, 1932, used noonmark
- ✓ Walt Disney Company, December 16, 1929, Hollywood, CA, noonmark
- ✓ Walt Disney Company incorporation, September 30, 1938, Sacramento, CA, noonmark
- ✓ Opening of Magic Kingdom, Disneyland, July 13, 1955, 1:35 PM PDT, Anaheim, CA
- ✓ IPO Disney, November 12, 1957, 10:00 am EST, New York, NY (standard IPO time)
- ✓ Opening of Walt Disney World, Lake Buena Vista, FL October 1, 1971
- ✓ Ray Merriman DIS business chart February 19, 1987, Wilmington, DE
- ✓ Opening of Epcot Center, Orlando, FL on October 1, 1982
- ✓ Re-Incorporation Disney July 28, 1995, 3:45 PM EDT, Dover, DE

Revisiting History: The British Monarchy (The Ultimate Family)

The public is fascinated by royalty whether that be hereditary or governing, and for reasons of loyalty or purely entertainment. This material could turn into multiple books if I were to cover the possibilities of royalty in general, so I will have to leave such musings to others who can give it the time and attention it deserves. For this teaching material I choose to look at:

- ✓ The commonalities for those who became monarchs and who might still become king
- ✓ Five royal couples and their weddings. They are...

King George V and Queen Mary of Tech,

King George VI and Queen Mother Elizabeth,

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip of Greece,

Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer (who became a princess), and

Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton who were married April 29, 2011. To my knowledge Kate is considered to be a Duchess and has not been titled a Princess, even though she is the mother to heirs to the British throne.

This young couple's nuptials were the inspiration for this study. Chart information for the ten individuals and their weddings are provided, as is a spreadsheet synopsis for ease in seeing connections between the charts.

Royal Births:

- ✓ Kings George V and VI and Queen Elizabeth II were / are actual monarchs, but were Princes and Princess at the time of their marriages.
- ✓ Prince Charles and Prince William are potential monarchs.
- ✓ The overview shows three births from 1:18 to 3:05 AM: George V and VI and Queen Elizabeth, all monarchs. All had strong first houses.
- ✓ Charles and William had births 9 to 10 pm. Charles has a strong 4th house, William a strong 9th. That might raise a question as to whether either of them would eventually become monarch.

Data sheets with the birth and wedding information are provided as is a chart position compilation. See additional article <http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles-old/revisiting-history-british-monarchy/> for charts, spreadsheet and resources.

Forceful conjunctions, stelliums or clusters (using the ten planets only)

Stelliums are a basic astrological concept. I have noticed through my research that many people or events of strong impact show such clustering or emphasis through forceful conjunctions with tight orbs or stelliums (three or more planets in one sign). I have also noticed that similar impact can be shown by several planets clustered within a tight orb, but not necessarily in the same sign. See Neil Michelson's *Tables of Planetary Phenomena*, page 128.

- | | | |
|---|--------------|---|
| ✓ | George V | 3 planets / Taurus with <u>4 planets within 38°</u> |
| ✓ | George VI | 2 planets / Gemini, 4 planets / Scorpio, 3 planets / Sagittarius, <u>7 planets within 46°</u> |
| ✓ | Elizabeth II | 2 planets / Aquarius, 2 / Pisces, 1 / Aries, <u>all within 43°</u> |
| ✓ | Charles | 2 planets each Libra / Scorpio / Sagittarius, <u>4 planets within 37°</u> |
| ✓ | William | 2 planets / Cancer, 3 planets / Libra, <u>4 planets within 22°</u> |

Note: While not part of this presentation, you can also look at Donn and Leona Forrest's work on Overloaded Houses (house clustering) from their book *Astrological Chrestomathy*.

Chart Rulership

- ✓ George V Mars / Leo / 5th and George VI Ven / Sco / 1st
- ✓ Elizabeth II Sat / Sco / 9th conj MC and Charles Sun / Sco / 4th
- ✓ William Jup / Sco / 9th conj MC and Nep / Sag / 12th conj Asc

Commonalities

- ✓ George V Jup / 9th / wide conj MC
- ✓ George VI Jup / 10th / conj MC
- ✓ William Jup / 9th / conj MC
- ✓ Elizabeth II No Sat / 9th / conj MC
- ✓ Charles No Sat / 9th / 16° to MC

By comparing Prince Charles' and Prince William's natal charts to those who ascended to the throne, William appears to me to be more likely to ascend to the throne than Charles. It's my best guess, but I am definitely not an expert here.

Royal Couple Marriages Wedding times are approximate from news sources stating the planned start time for the ceremony. The exception is the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana, which is more recent and supplies actual seconds. As an ordained minister who performed many marriage ceremonies, I would prefer the time for the pronouncement of "I now pronounce you man and wife". My best guess is that that moment should have been approximately fifteen to twenty minutes from the start of each ceremony, so there is minor play in four of the five wedding charts, and that would equate to up to 5° on the Midheaven. Update: The Prince William / Kate Middleton pronouncement was twenty minutes from the start as I thought it might be.

Since all the weddings took place late morning to early afternoon, all the Suns will be in or near the 10th house. This is a natural time of day effect, not a key pointer. Mercury and Venus always travel close to the Sun, so these are natural positions and also cannot be key pointers.

It is important to realize that any family grouping should have close degree connections because it is necessary for simultaneous activation. The aspects themselves may be varied, but the timing or triggering of the natal degree positions is specific. The two natal chart positions should also connect to points in the wedding chart. We look at planets in signs, in houses, and in aspects to determine the nature of the relationship itself. However, the individual charts must also tie to the event chart that unites the couple. These examples are not your usual relationship reading because of the added element of the monarchy and the effect on the collective populace of that country. The natals represent the individuals and the marriage chart represents the uniting (“and two shall become one”) that will move forward into experience as a single unit. We do give up some of our own selfhood when we become united in this way. Tight degrees are specific.

King George V The wedding of George V and Mary of Tech was ruled by Venus / Leo / 10th with Saturn / Libra, exalted, on the Ascendant and in the 1st. While there is a Moon / Saturn opposition across the Ascendant / Descendant axis, this opposition has trines and sextiles to five planets in the 9th and 10th houses. The Moon is trine Venus / Mars / Mercury / Leo, sextile Neptune / Pluto / Gemini. The Saturn end of the opposition is trine the Gemini positions and sextile the Leo positions. The rulers of the Ascendant / Descendant axis are conjunct, which is excellent for the couple depicted in this marriage. Worth mentioning here is the conjunction of Neptune / Pluto in Gemini that is a 500-year cultural age indicator and which occurred at the turn of the 19th to 20th century.

King George VI The wedding of George VI and Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon has Leo rising, with ruling Sun / Tau / 10th, and with a friendly Sun / Moon trine and Neptune rising towards the Ascendant. This indicates a spiritual value to their relationship, which is supported by Venus at 29 Pisces in the 9th. During my research, I read that he who would become King George VI was stubborn and would consider no other bride... a beautiful start to a lifetime together. Even though the bride’s birth data is somewhat speculative (Rodden DD)*, we still can see significant connections.

Queen Elizabeth II

This wedding has Capricorn rising, as do the natal charts of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip of Greece - strong in tradition and responsibility, one that should get stronger with time. The ruler Saturn is in a Leo stellium in the seventh, and united they stand: regal, loyal and ceremonial. With the south node right on the Midheaven conjunct the Sun, I believe they have walked this way together before and had a strong sense of the rightness of the partnership and their collective duty. It would not have always been easy with the Leo stellium squaring the Sun / Node / Ascendant and opposing the Moon / Aquarius, but they would stay united and very private. The Queen has her south node conjunct her natal Ascendant, which means she would respond to her conditioning and lifetime, current and past habits. The marriage Moon opposite Saturn / Mars is across Queen Elizabeth's Mars / Jupiter conjunction and opposed her Neptune. It also connects with Prince Philip's Moon, all between 20 to 25°.

Prince Charles

The marriage of Prince Charles and Diana, a "Lady" who became princess after her marriage, sets up similarly to the marriage of George V and Mary of Teck at 5 to 13° cardinal. It involves Charles' MC / Venus / Neptune and Diana's Sun / Mercury. Many years ago, I took a workshop by astrologer Carole Rushman relative to soul mate ties within individual charts, whether or not the soul mate is available, incarnate, age appropriate, related, etc. Some are, some are not, but the desire to reunite drives us in our relationship choices. Charles does have the soul mate tie; his soul mate is available and possible. Diana does not have availability of her soul mate for this lifetime. That might explain why Charles has been so connected to his second wife Camilla for decades, much to the detriment of his marriage with Diana and the eventual dissolution of that "storybook" marriage and Diana's subsequent tragic death.

Prince William

The start time for the marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton was announced and can be compared to the four royal weddings above. Note the disclaimer, because the bride's birth time is not available. We cannot trust her Midheaven or Ascendant, plus the Moon can be off by several degrees, actually 1° every two birth clock hours. Even with that caution, we can still see connections. Look at the wedding 9th house containing six of ten planets, five in an Aries stellium, clustered within 25°: Saturn opposite the Venus / Mars conjunction, opposition William's Libra stellium and square his New Moon birth. As if that were not enough, this also connects to Kate's Libra stellium. Her speculative Moon approaching the Full Moon phase is a close square to those degrees. We now know that the legal pronouncement occurred twenty minutes after the start of the ceremony.

By the time I did this research, diurnals were a standard technique in my astrological arsenal. Complete instructions for the setting and use of diurnals will be given in my diurnal workbook. For additional study...

- ✓ progress each natal to the day of the wedding.
- ✓ Cast a diurnal transit chart** (date of wedding) for each individual.
- ✓ Each person should have a natal, a progressed and a diurnal chart to show their individual participations and experiences on the event of their wedding.
- ✓ Note the mental reservation for inaccuracies with Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon's chart and Kate, the current bride's, chart, and that the official time of four of the five wedding charts could be moved forward fifteen to twenty minutes to reach the "I now pronounce" moment.
- ✓ Cast an event chart for the ceremony itself.

Your work will still be reasonably accurate *and* you may be able to rectify the charts if you have patience and apply your skill.

Remember the diurnals will be similar to the wedding chart. Why cast them? Diurnals are specific to the individual. The wedding chart is specific to the event. The major differences between the two personal diurnals and the matching marriage chart are the Midheaven, Ascendant and Moon.

Should you include Arabian Parts in your study, note that they can change dramatically if the birth time is off by much. Use the spreadsheet provided with this material and make several computer copies to play with the individual and additional data. Just copy and paste as needed within the computer. Keep your original clean. If you hand-cast your charts or do your research by hand, make several photocopies and cut and paste as needed. Again, keep your original clean.

**Frances McEvoy writes (12/90) that the "official records" were never official and Buckingham Palace never gave a recorded time. In August of 1980, Queen Elizabeth herself announced that the customarily given data was in error and that she'd been born in London, not Herts, as stated. She then told the story of the family being detained from going to the country Friday night because of her mom going into labor. Her dad, after making sure that his wife and child were well, was away after Saturday breakfast to his country home, and he did not record the birth until six weeks later.*

Frances McEvoy continues, "I have had English friends on the trail for years and one, Cicely Waterman, an acquaintance of Princess Diana's grandmother, came up with the time of soon after midnight on August 4th and no later than 1:00 AM for the birth of the Queen." Source: Frank Clifford, UK (From the Rodden database)

***Diurnal: Plug natal chart info into the computer then change the date **only** to the event date.*

One other point... As I mentioned earlier, if you and I were to live together, we will be simultaneously stimulated by events, perhaps somewhat different in effect, but occurring at the same time. Therefore, there must be common degree points, with very little orb, to be triggered simultaneously. Orbs need to be tight, 3° or less, and closer is better; exact, less than 1°, is what I am always seeking. Tight orbs! I have had the good fortune as a researcher and as a participant to have charts of entire families and have been able to watch these simultaneous activations. They do work, particularly with major events. Build yourself a group of charts for a family, perhaps yours(?) and research important dates for simultaneous activations.

Update As I edited this supposedly completed book yet one more time, Prince William and Lady Kate Middleton had a little boy. Prince George of Cambridge was born July 22, 2013 at 4:24 PM GMD at St. Mary's Hospital in London, England. He joins the long line of British Royalty.

Little Prince George of Cambridge and the Star of David

We have a new heir to the throne of the British Empire: Prince George Alexander Louis of Cambridge, son of Prince William and his wife, Lady Kate Middleton. He is the great-grandson of the reigning Queen Elizabeth II and the grandson of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana. Of course, there are a lot more relatives to list, but this article is about the new Prince-who-may-become-King. In 2011, All Things Healing published my article about the British Monarchy so it was interesting to me to see the new possibilities of who will next ascend to the throne. I was also a huge fan of Princess Diana, so the birth of her grandson was awesome. Congratulations to the parents and extended family, and to the citizens who celebrate this child.

Astrologically, there seems to be some controversy about various charts being published. For my part, I have used the Time Cycles IO program (forever it seems) with accurate results. Just to be certain, I went to the international time standard website and double-checked. The child was born at 4:24 PM BST (British Summer Time) on July 22, 2013 at St. Mary's Hospital in London. The chart this information produced shows 27 Scorpio 11 rising. I have seen a Sagittarius rising chart that would be produced if the Summer Time one-hour correction were not applied. I will not address the controversy in this book about families. This part of the article will focus on the Scorpio rising chart.

To me, this is a chart that has a very strong destiny pattern throughout and I do not say this lightly. I do a great deal of intense research (yes, I'm a Scorpio) and several markers bring me to this conclusion. Why? People and events that have more than ordinary impact often have either a stellium or a clustering of planets in a compact group as evidenced in the prior research and article on the British Monarchy. Our little Prince has four planets in Cancer, a stellium, in the 8th house of destiny. A famous example of an 8th house cluster was U.S. President John F. Kennedy, who has impacted the U.S. and multiple generations at one point in U.S. history.

In my experience, strong eighth house, Scorpio and the co-rulers Mars and Pluto, point to potential destiny. It may be one or a combination thereof. In this instance, the destiny factor is multiple in nature: our little Prince has not only Scorpio rising, but he has four Cancer planets in the eighth, plus the co-rulers Mars and Pluto in opposition (with Mars in the eighth). All three are destiny possibilities.

What else can we see? He is about as cuspal as can be. His Sun is 29 Cancer 58'43", a scant one and a quarter minutes to Leo. Since there are no fences in space, the last degree of Cancer and the first degree of Leo will be blended and he can show both qualities. I do feel that since the Sun is still posited in Cancer, it will have a slightly stronger influence, but the blend is life-long. Cancer is very prominent in the royal family with his father, Prince William's, New Moon birth in Cancer and with Prince George's Mother's Moon also in Cancer. It is fun to look back through the baby's heredity. His grandmother, Princess Diana, had a Sun / Mercury conjunction in Cancer and his grandfather, Prince Charles, has Uranus in Cancer. Strong, strong family, clan energies.

This is a soon to be Full Moon child with about four clock hours from full illumination and power. There is that cuspal energy again. Born under the Cancer / Capricorn axis, with the full power occurring in the Leo / Aquarius axis. Both axes are operating, one visible, one waiting in the wings.

The Capricorn Moon is not the easiest expression for this strongly Cancerian child. To be raised as a royal child has huge demands, and his private emotions must not be worn publicly on his sleeve. But as long as affection is freely given to him and not strictly locked to his behavior, he will learn to balance the dichotomy.

As if that were not enough for a newborn to handle, the old chart ruler Mars is conjunct Jupiter in Cancer. That is a positive aspect, but both oppose the newer chart ruler Pluto in Capricorn. The three of them square Uranus in Aries. I really do see this as Destiny's Child. Much is always be expected of an heir to the British throne. There is more...

The Star of David I don't know if you were paying attention, but we recently experienced a rare Grand Sextile on Monday, July 29th, 2013. I came a little late to the party and did not get to do as much research as I would like, but for about twenty hours starting close to 8 AM EDT and completing itself around 2:00 AM July 30th, the Moon moved from planet to planet in this major configuration, triggering and retriggering all the points in the Grand Sextile. The Grand Sextile and all its points are the Star of David Hebrew symbol. According to Astrologer "Moby" Dick Jacobs, his astrological birth Grand Sextile was emblazoned on the battle shield of David, who became King of the Jews. Supposedly he served warning to his attackers that he was under universal blessings. I have no way to verify this, but it sure makes for interesting reading.

Once I understood how the pattern and its activations worked, my healing group was able to take the information and run healings on our world and our country for each of the trigger moments and combination of energies. Why do I mention this here?

At the time of the Prince's entrance into this physical life, that pattern was forming and was very close to fruition. Five of the six required bodies and positions were in place, and the energy of the potential Grand Sextile was awaiting the arrival of the sixth body to inhabit the final position to complete the overall pattern. Look at the chart of our little Prince. Look to Jupiter conjunct Mars, sextile Venus, which was sextile Saturn, which was sextile Pluto, which was sextile Neptune. That is six bodies but only five positions in the overall pattern. The Taurus position was vacant at the moment of his birth, but not for long. Only the Moon could move that swiftly and she did just that. She moved into Taurus July 29th and the Grand Sextile was complete. As she moved from aspect to aspect, the pattern was alive with energy. Six sextiles, two grand trines, and three oppositions within those trines and sextiles. The last two positions that could be included in the Grand Sextile pattern were both lunar nodes, particularly the south node, and the Healer, Chiron. And that is the energy that our healing group worked with. What does that have to do with our little Prince?

Prince George was born one week before the pattern completed itself. As described, five of the sextiles had already formed and were in place awaiting the arrival of the last body to complete the grand pattern. This baby (and honestly all babies born everywhere in the world for that week) were born with an absolutely rare energy and opportunity. All those babies were born with four / fifths (4/5^{ths}) of that amazing pattern intact. All born at that time including our baby Prince were born with that rare approaching Grand Sextile as part of their makeups. It will perfect itself through personal progressions. I have high hopes for this young man, once he has the opportunity to develop and demonstrate his potential. Remember, he is in a position to make a world impact... and he is not alone. He will have help. Perhaps this cluster of children who will also experience this Grand Sextile by progression can help our poor world, because the adults have really been beating up on her, especially recently.

"Teach your children silently, for someday sons and daughters will rise up and fight while we stood still." That is a line I have never forgotten from the song "*Silent Running*" by Mike and the Mechanics. "And a little child shall lead them" might be the promise of this group of special children.

Perhaps these children will be part of the spiritual awakening I talked about in “We Are the World, We Are the Children.” Humanity needs positive children to lead us out of the morass we have created for ourselves. Our problems are not the “Wrath of God”, they are the “Stupidity of Man.”

There will be a plethora of articles on this child as astrologers and their readings are very individual. Hopefully this one was a little different.

For your files: In 2015, Prince George and his family celebrated the arrival of his sister, Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana of Cambridge on May 2 at 8:34 AM GDT, St Mary’s Hospital, London, England (Rodden AA). This baby Princess is also in line for the throne of England. Prince William’s third child is Prince Louis of Cambridge (Louis Arthur Charles) born April 23, 2018, 11:01 AM, Paddington, England (RoddenA).

Prince George’s original birth article online can be viewed at: <http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles-old/little-prince-george-of-cambridge-and-the-star-of-david/>

This completes this astrological workbook on family relationships. Hopefully you have a better grasp on how to locate family members in a chart and how to read them as relatives in a chart. It will always be best to have an accurate natal, but that is not always possible. Some parts of this workbook were easy, some parts definitely “not for sissies”, but all parts were intended to create insight into families.

British Monarchy and Weddings Research

Name	Midheaven	Ascendant	Sun	Moon	Mercury	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus	Neptune	Pluto	True N Node
King George V	00 Cap 46	02 Ari 01	12 Gem 26	01 Lib 03	18 Tau 28	09 Tau 38	05 Leo 35	25 Sag 40R	24 Lib 03R	28 Gem34	10 Ari 08	13 Tau 24	29 Lib 16
Qu Mary of Tech	05 Sag 36	06 Aqu 00	05 Gem 12	08 Pis 24	29 Tau 20	03 Tau 24	15 Leo 26	06 Pis 02	19 Sco 42R	06 Can 33	14 Ari 20	15 Tau 05	20 Vir 11
Wedding Geo V	06 Can 25	04 Lib 56	14 Can 33	08 Ari 58	10 Leo 26	02 Leo 05	03 Leo 59	23 Tau 22	06 Lib 41	06 Sco 39R	12 Gem 15	10 Gem 06	25 Ari 04R
King George VI	06 Le 53	27 Lib 08	21 Sag 55	24 Sco 51	18 Sag 14	05 Sco 45	01 Sag 21	08 Leo 35R	14 Sco 45	22 Sco 07	16 Gem 30R	11 Gem 34R	06 Pis 55R
Qu Mother Eliz**	16 Aqu 59	22 Gem 47	11 Leo 09	14 Sco 46	06 Leo 40R	07 Can 57	25 Gem 59	01 Sag 04	29 Sag 07R	08 Sag 31R	28 Gem 19	17 Gem 21	08 Sag 51
Wedding Geo VI	19 Ari 46	09 Leo 40	05 Tau 12	03 Vir 33	22 Tau 57	29 Pis 52	07 Gem 01	15 Sco 13R	15 Lib 21R	16 Pis 16	15 Leo 22R	09 Can 17	19 Vir 38
Princess Eliz QII	25 Sco 33	21 Cap 23	00 Tau 12	12 Leo 07	04 Ari 39	13 Pis 57	20 Aqu 51	22 Aqu 30	24 Sco 26R	27 Pis 21	22 Leo 02R	12 Can 42	20 Can 06R
Pr Philip/Greece	07 Sco 09	13 Cap 16	19 Gem 21	22 Leo 15	13 Can 31	05 Tau 43	24 Gem 35	10 Vir 47	18 Vir 20	09 Pis 38	11 Leo 36	07 Can 55	25 Lib 40R
Wedding Q Eliz II	23 Sco 22	18 Cap 38	27 Sco 18	22 Aqu 38	07 Sco 53	17 Sag 16	25 Leo 43	05 Sag 54	22 Leo 29	25 Gem 12R	12 Lib 09	14 Leo 57R	23 Tau 24R
Prince Charles	10 Ari 04	03 Leo 14	19 Sco 24	24 Pis 03	02 Sco 31	12 Lib 44	18 Sag 42	29 Sag 16	05 Vir 05	00 Can 01R	14 Lib 02	16 Leo 33	04 Tau 54
Diana Spencer	23 Lib 03	18 Sag 24	09 Can 40	25 Aqu 02	03 Can 12R	24 Tau 23	01 Vir 38	05 Aqu 05R	27 Cap 48R	23 Leo 20	08 Sco 38R	06 Vir 02	28 Leo 10R
Wedding Pr Chas	10 Can 17	07 Lib 53	06 Leo 12	13 Can 29	23 Can 21	05 Vir 50	07 Can 25	05 Lib 42	05 Lib 20	26 Sco 04R	22 Sag 25R	21 Lib 44	01 Leo 42
Prince William	02 Sco 25	27 Sag 26	00 Can 06	04 Can 57	08 Gem 58	25 Tau 39	09 Lib 12	00 Sco 29R	15 Lib 30	01 Sag 29R	25 Sag 32R	24 Lib 09R	13 Can 19R
Kate Middleton*	23 Sco 22*	18 Cap 43*	18 Cap 45	11 Can 59*	05 Aqu 34	07 Aqu 23R	10 Lib 17	07 Sco 12	21 Lib 49	03 Sag 06	25 Sag 27	26 Lib 48	22 Can 26R
Wedding Pr Wm	23 Ari 39	12 Leo 13	08 Tau 48	26 Pis 45	14 Ari 21	10 Ari 01	21 Ari 01	21 Ari 56	12 Lib 00R	02 Ari 39	00 Pis 36	07 Cap 24R	24 Sag 30R
Birth of Prince George													
Prince Cambridge	20 Vir 37	27 Sco 11	29 Can 59	28 Cap 17	13 Can 32	00 Vir 08	06 Can 07	05 Can 58	04 Sco 59	12 Ari 31R	04 Pis 52R	09 Cap 47R	13 Sco 40R

Legend for 2 articles written 2011 and 2019:

King George V Jun 3 1865 00:18 AM GMT London, England	Queen Mary of Tech Mar 26 1867 11:59 PM GMT Kensington Palace, England	Marriage Geo V/Mary Jul 6 1893 12:30 PM GMD London, St. James, England	<p>(***There are other royal charts not used in this research) (original research 2011, updated 2019 and 2020) Compiled by Marilyn J. Muir, Astrologer</p> <p>*sunrise chart ** DD: speculative</p>	
King George VI Dec 14 1895 3:05 AM GMT Sandringham, England	Queen Elizabeth Bowes Lyon** Aug 4, 1900 (Queen Mother) 00:30 AM GMT London, England	Marriage Geo VI/Elizabeth Apr 26 1923 12:00 PM GMD London, England (Westminster)	<p>Spencer and Middleton are commoners but are considered appropriate for royalty</p>	
Queen Elizabeth II Apr 21 1926 2:40 AM GMD London, England	Prince Philip of Greece Jun 10 1921 9:46 PM EET Corfu (Kérkira), Greece	Marriage Princess Eliz/Philip Nov 20 1947 11:30 AM GMT London, England (Westminster)		
Prince Charles Nov 11 1948 9:14 PM GMT London, England	Diana Spencer (Princess) Jul 1 1961 7:45 PM GMD Sandringham, England	Marriage Prince Charles/Diana Jul 29 1981 11:17:30 AM GMD London, England	Children: Prince William and Harry	3rd child of Prince William Prince Louis *** Apr 23 2018 11:01 AM GDT Paddington, England
Prince William Jun 21 1982 9:03 PM GMD Paddington, England	Catherine Middleton (Duchess)* Jan 9 1982 8:13:42 AM GMT Reading Berkshire, England	Marriage Prince William/Kate Apr 29 2011 11:00 AM GMT London, England	1st child Prince George of Cambridge Jul 22 2013 4:24 PM GMD St Mary's Hosp, London, England	2nd child Princess Charlotte*** May 2 2015 8:34 AM GDT St Mary's Hosp, London, England
Prince Henry (Harry) *** Sep 15 1984 4:20 PM GMD London, England	Meghan Markle (Duchess) *** Aug 4 1981 4:46 AM PDT Canoga Park, Los Angeles, CA	Marriage Prince Harry/Meghan*** May 19 2018 12:39 12:39PM Windsor Castle, England	Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor*** May 6 2019 5:26:00 AM GDT London, England	

Book Review of Robert Hand's *Planets in Composite*

Book Review - Astrology

Planets in Composite

Author: Robert Hand

Astrology is an incredibly vast subject because it really does cover all of life and experience. After almost forty years of studying, reading and teaching astrology, three categories initiate most astrological readings. They are relationships, business/success, and health. Robert Hand is a master astrologer and a favorite author because his work is rich in content, well researched and organized, yet is easy to read and apply.

Composite charting is an excellent tool for understanding the *potential* inherent in any relationship. Each relationship is unique depending on the people involved and takes on a non-physical life form of its own. In *Planets in Composite*, Mr. Hand provides an overview of the composite chart process including the casting of the chart itself, the nature of the chart and its application in human experience aka “how to read a chart”. He then provides several excellent relationship studies applying those general principles which include two ordinary, down-to-earth couples and three high-profile couples. He enlarges some of those composite studies by including marriage charts and the progressions pertinent to each composite - a full plate of information. And we are only up to chapter three.

Mr. Hand then explains the use of the twelve composite houses as arenas of relationship experience. For example, in a standard natal chart the first house is a description of an individual and their immediate response to the environment. The first house in a composite chart is a description of the united energy of the relationship itself, not the individuals involved in that relationship. The setting of the stage for reading the whole chart and relationship has now been established.

Once the houses have been established, Mr. Hand goes directly to the “nitty-gritty” of reading the potential of the relationship itself using the ten physical bodies we collectively call the “planets” plus the Lunar Nodes. Each of the ten bodies in a natal chart usually reflect ten component parts of a single human entity. In this instance, Mr. Hand describes ten component parts of a unique relationship. First, he describes the function of that body in the composite chart and then incorporates the meaning of its house position. He then turns to aspects between the composite positions such as Sun to Moon, Sun to Mercury, etc. to Pluto. There are very clear definitions for each pairing for conjunction, sextile, square, trine and opposition. Delightfully, he also adds the aspect of that body to the composite Ascendant. And that is a single chapter. Each succeeding chapter covers another of the ten bodies: its function, its house position, and its relationship to the other bodies (and the Ascendant) in the composite wheel. The final chapter delineates the Nodes and aspects to the ten bodies plus the Ascendant.

If you have paid attention and taken careful notes, you will have a full-bodied and very detailed description of the *potential* of that composite relationship. Do all relationships live up to their potential? No, but even that can be visible in the composite chart. I have used this book for many years. To me, *Planets in Composite* is a solid reference book to be consulted frequently over the years and is well worth the investment and the shelf space. My rating: ***** 5 stars!

Marilyn J. Muir, LPMAFA

Note: There are two other books that I consider to be outstanding in this area: Reinhold Ebertin’s Combination of Stellar Influences and Michael Munkasey’s Midpoints: Unleashing the Power of the Planets. For more Information, please see the “Reference Books” Appendix following.

Unmasking the Mystery - The 12th House of the Horoscope

Recently I have seen several online astrology articles with multiple approaches to the reading of the twelfth house. Some of those articles were quite good, but some left me questioning whether the general basics of the twelfth house were fully understood. It is truly not one of the easier houses to understand and read. This article will take you back to basics, twelfth house basics. All remarks will be based on the Tropical Placidus system. First of all, what are astrological houses?

The sky is full of stars at the most amazing distances from each other and from Earth. Yet, through the centuries we have been able to generate an “as above, so below” set of references. We study the patterns of the sky and their general effect on our earth and its inhabitants, the energies in signs and aspects. That is the “as above” part of astrology. What about the “so below” part of the process? My description starts with the fact that when we look at the area of chosen effect, our local physical space and our lives, we must therefore make our reading physical. As a planet in a solar system, we are contained within those sky bodies we see, but because this is our common footing, we do not count ourselves among the stars. This footing is physical reality for us, earthly experience. Cosmic energies are continually bombarding and influencing us, affecting and sometimes infecting us, the physical inhabitants of the physical earth. The first realization should be that houses have to do with our physical reality.

When you look at any standard chart, the entire sky is laid out in its actual circular pattern, usually around the outside of the wheel form. We have an arbitrary starting point, the Ascendant, but it is a complete 360-degree circle. What is *not* readily understood is that the center of that circular chart contains the Earth itself. Let me repeat that. Earth and its inhabitants are in the very center of every chart. *You* are in the center of your chart and the point that represents your individuality is the Ascendant. To

attempt to study all of human experience in one bite is just too difficult, so we must break down that experience into smaller increments to achieve understanding. The whole of the chart is you and your experience. The divisions we use to create understandable compartments are the houses, arenas of physical reality and experience.

We use the number 12 for houses just as there are 12 signs. Our wheel is 360 degrees and 12 conveniently divides evenly into that number. Equal house charting reflects those equal thirty-degree segments. Have you ever noticed that life does not seem all that equal? When you add the dimensions of longitude and latitude, as well as date and time, those houses change in size and range. What was once equal becomes unequal. To me, unequal reflects reality. There are many ways to mathematically measure that division of space, but that is too large a subject for this article. I choose the Placidus house system because it works for me.

Just to paint a clear picture, date determines the broadest stroke of a chart. Time of birth refines it to some degree, but it is longitude and latitude that further refines it to the personal. No two objects can occupy the same space at the same time, so each chart cast must be different, occasionally marginally different as in the case of multiple births. When you add time of day to location of birth (longitude and latitude), a unique map emerges, one based on that local space at a particular moment in time, individual in nature. The local space is clearly defined and the increments (houses) of that specific space at that specific moment are created for that chart.

The twelve increments commence at the Ascendant and proceed counterclockwise around the chart, traveling a full 360-degree circle back to the Ascendant. Why counterclockwise? This is because the signs and their natural motion are measured clockwise (just look at any chart) and the Earth rotates one full circle every day bringing each degree of the zodiac to all points of possible charts every day. As the Earth spins on its axis, the point of the zodiac that signifies birth moves forward in the signs (clockwise) as the Earth rotates on its axis within (opposite direction for rotation or counter-clockwise). As you progress in your growth, your Ascendant and the balance of the houses attached to that progressing Ascendant move forward in the zodiac, and your whole chart view changes. You experience, grow and become, and that is reflected in your changing signs and bodies (as above), as well as your house system (so below).

There is a natural, predictable order to your growth and progress. You start as a helpless infant, reach out into life gradually, involving others. You experience, going through the full range of human activity until you reach

your sunset years and the end of that particular life cycle. If you are a believer in continuing consciousness, then each end must also mark a new beginning, hopefully on a much higher turn of the spiral of life. The houses reflect that growth and progress sequentially. You would be wise to additionally study hemispheres and quadratures, the 6th / 12th house axis and the common house breakdown of life, wealth, association and abstract to deepen your understanding of houses. I have featured these concepts in other writings.

The first house is I / me. The second house is mine. The third house is my immediate environment and my communication, (I am, I want, I communicate that want). With whom do you communicate? The fourth house brings in the whole family. You hopefully grow in grace and talent in your fifth house. You learn there is no free ride in the sixth house. You develop socialization skills in the seventh house. The “mine” of the second house must give way to “yours” or “ours” in the eighth house. Outside environments and communications develop in the ninth house. You will make it or break it in the tenth house. Your rewards or lack of them accrue in the eleventh house and you wind down in the twelfth house as you prepare for the coming change of cycle. Do you see the natural sequence? Not all segments are equal or easy, hard, rewarding, frustrating, or any other adjective you might choose.

This article is about the twelfth house as one of the least understood segments. Each of what are referred to as the natural “water” houses, the fourth, eighth, and twelfth, are naturally ruled by Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces respectively, the water signs. They are categorized as “abstract” houses. Now we are getting to the heart of why they are not easy to understand or read. Only part of the fourth house is confusing. We do understand home, hearth, family, and roots. But *endings* is such an abstract concept that we struggle. Part of the eighth house contains easily understood categories such as death, taxes, insurance, joint finance and indebtedness. Keywords and phrases such as catastrophe, destiny, or fate versus free will are abstract enough to be confusing. As close as I can tell, the twelfth house does not contain any easily understood concepts and is just full of abstract concepts that double the confusion. One thing for sure, the three abstract houses just mentioned, as natural water houses, are not as easy to define as most of the other houses.

When I am teaching, I use a keyword concept to create mental hooks for the beginning student. This “cookbook” approach is frequently frowned upon by other astrologers. However, I think it gives a jump-start to the prodigious amount of information an astrology student must learn just to get started. I see it is a temporary crutch that can be discarded once it has

served its purpose or retained because it makes it easy to find a beginning point for your readings. I teach three specific memory hooks for the twelfth house.

Common twelfth house references are self-undoing, self-sabotage, karmic, mental, and hidden. Why? No single house is totally good or totally evil, and I am not seeing any nice concepts in that list. When reading the twelfth for a new client, I whimsically say, "Into each life a little rain must fall," and then talk to them about their shortcomings, because that is largely how I see that energy. If their twelfth house is really difficult, you might say, "The twelfth house represents how I shoot myself in the foot." Use the first person rather than making someone else be the bad guy in this story. It makes it easier to swallow what you need to tell them.

I would like you to do a simple exercise I teach my students. Place one open hand a few inches in front of your face and then circle it around to the back of your head. At first can you see your hand clearly, but then you lose direct view. You know your hand is there, but you cannot see it. When your hand is directly behind your face (the Ascendant) at the back of your head (behind the Ascendant), you cannot see the territory or the issues. The twelfth house is therefore your blind spot. You may need another pair of eyes to see what you cannot see for yourself - a friend, a counselor, someone to peer into your own potential darkness. That is how we self-sabotage. We do not see how we misuse or misapply twelfth house energy. The sign on the cusp and planets in the house do give us clues to our blind spot. Hidden means just that, not easily accessed or understood or private. It does not mean anything dire or foreboding.

Earlier, I mentioned the sequencing of the houses. Use that sequencing information to organize the flow or stages of a life. What are you working on to bring to balance in this lifetime? Look to the twelfth house. Additionally, there is another way to use *sequence*. The twelfth could be what was present in experience just prior to the physical birth represented by the Ascendant. That could be the two hours prior to birth, prior incarnation or experience, prior debits and credits to our spiritual bankbook, or the potential of past lives with karmic implications. This is one form of karmic reading. A child born with a malefic (difficult energy) planet on the twelfth house side but close to the Ascendant could have experienced pre-natal birth trauma. Your reading can be as simple as a specific fact and still be valid. Perhaps abrupt, but absolutely valid.

My third theme is that of our so-called second breath. If we have used all that we consciously knew we had at our disposal, have expended all our time, experience and energy and are exhausted from the effort, some of us

are able to reach back inside ourselves and find a new wellspring from which to draw. In the west, we call that our second breath. I think that when you reach back inside yourself for qualities and abilities you did not even realize you had available, you reach into your twelfth house, sort of a fallback position.

When looking at any twelfth house, my three immediate themes to explore are:

- ✓ the source or pattern of self undoing, that which can sabotage us through our ignorance of its existence, hidden, unconscious, invisible;
- ✓ sequencing in all its forms: the natural sequencing of the houses, the past as it relates to the present immediately prior to birth or perhaps in prior experiencing such as karma and rebirth, as well as the drawing to a conclusion of any life cycle as it prepares for the new cycle to come;
- ✓ that second breath, a source of strength and resilience that we occasionally find within, our fallback position.

I have covered all the originally listed descriptions with the exception of “mental”. I do want to bring this forward, but this is a subject that takes much study and which must be handled delicately. If you are not a trained psychological counselor, recognize your limitations but do learn from your charts. Leave diagnosis and prescription to the trained professionals. Over the years, I have done many unusual charts that have taught me much about the sixth / twelfth axis. For example, I did the charts of several psychologists and their patients over several years. I noticed that the sixth / twelfth axis was always heavily involved, so to me this became the psychological axis. I have also researched the charts of over 100 serial killers in the last several years. The sixth / twelfth axis is heavily involved in their horrific activities. That does not mean that a strong sixth / twelfth axis will make you either mentally challenged or a serial killer, but I think it does point out the psychological implications. Put this concept in the back of your head to observe through countless charts and learn before you believe you are entitled to an opinion.

Hopefully, you have developed a better grasp of houses in general and the twelfth house in particular. As I mentioned previously, no one house is ultimately bad or good, but each is a mix of experience. Those houses that are not as easily understood and take a little more effort and practice, but they are definitely worth the effort. The twelfth house is our house of mystery. Mysteries are meant to be examined, explored, and eventually solved.

Reference Books

An extremely valuable resource is the book *Planets in Composite* by Robert Hand. Please see the full review earlier in these Appendices.

For the purposes of this workbook... Even though *Planets in Composite* was written for composite charts, it can as easily be applied to relationship charts. Just remember that composite charts represent the potential of any pairing, and relationship charts represent the actuality of any such pairing. The joining through the midpoint of the separate energies produces a unique combined energy that can be applied to your choice of either chart. The meaning of the combined energy does not change, only your application for that combined energy changes.

While they are not books specifically dedicated to synastry, I do have three suggestions for resource books and have provided an outline of each and their application to synastry in these Appendices. They are Michael Munkasey's *Midpoints: Unleashing the Power of the Planets*, *Astrological Thesaurus, Book 1 the Houses*, and *The Concept Dictionary*. See also Reinhold Ebertine's *The Combination of Stellar Influences*.

I am suggesting two books on a completely different subject that can help you with relationship readings or issues. First, I will describe what each book is about, and then I will explain how to use them for relationship understanding and reading.

Reinhold Ebertin's *Combination of Stellar Influences* is an older excellent reference text for Cosmobiology, which is a midpoint technique. It focuses on the ten bodies and the three most personal sensitive points: the midheaven, ascendant, and north lunar node as used in traditional astrological readings. These are the thirteen distinct energies or points of interest (points).

- ✓ Step 1 Each of the thirteen points are described individually as to their intrinsic meaning providing great natal reference material or base information about all of these points. Collectively, they illustrate thirteen facets of whatever is charted. The descriptions are valid for all applications because they represent core principles for each point.

- ✓ Step 2 The thirteen points are not individualized units that are or remain unrelated to one another. The joining of any two of these thirteen points provides another layer for what any single energy represents in the life of an individual. For example (and this is my personal application), Mercury represents communication and Mars represents assertion or aggression. When combined Mercury / Mars can represent assertive communication or communicative aggression. We see these additional layers through traditional aspecting.

There are 78 possible combinations of these thirteen points, which can expand or deepen the meaning of each of our points individually. The definitions describe the uniting of energies of the 78 possible pairings.

Any combination of two points effect both points individually as well. Mercury would remain itself, but is affected by its relationship to Mars. Mars would remain itself, but is affected by its relationship to Mercury. There is a midpoint between each possible pairing, an implicit relationship whether or not there is an actual aspect between them. This becomes very visible if and when that calculated midpoint is occupied by another of the eleven remaining points.

- ✓ Step 3 adds that additional element to the natal mix via the inclusion of one (or more) of the eleven remaining points of the original thirteen that, as mentioned in step 2, may be located at the calculated midpoint. This combination of three (or more) points completes what is termed a planetary picture, which can be then read in multiple applications, the initial of which is natal.

For example: Our natal Mercury / Mars midpoint equals the position of, let's say, the natal Moon. Mercury / Mars equals the Moon adds an emotional or emotive dynamic to the original meaning of this particular Mercury / Mars. Staying with our Mercury / Mars pairing for another example, remove the Moon association and show Uranus at the midpoint. Our assertive communication issue now takes on the unexpected, sometimes bizarre or inventive twist of Uranus, again adding a deeper layer to the initial Mercury / Mars meaning.

- ✓ Note that in Cosmobiology (the subject of this book), this combining of energies relates specifically to the planets and points in relationship with one another but includes only hard aspects:

conjunctions, oppositions and squares. I also include the half-squares: the semi- and sesqui-squares. Trines, sextiles or other minor aspects are not used in Cosmobiology.

- ✓ With the exception of the ascendant and midheaven, houses and signs are not specifically treated in midpoints. The addition of signs would add descriptive value to the planetary picture, supplying how it expresses and by what mannerisms. The use of houses would provide the location for the application of the combined energy of the planetary picture. Because I am a strong rulership reader, I would add also meaning by occupation and rulership.
- ✓ When you add motion such as progressions, directions and transits, step 3 takes on a whole new meaning. The natal midpoint combinations will continually be activated throughout the lifetime by progression, direction and transit, forming and unforming through time. Additional planetary pictures might reveal themselves through the moving cycles. These planetary pictures literally provide you with a slide show presentation of the activations and events for an ongoing lifetime. Cosmobiology is an amazing study.

A modernized midpoint primer was researched and written by my friend and astrological mentor, Michael Munkasey: *Midpoints Unleashing the Power of the Planets*. The initial chapters that set the stage for Mike's material is an amazing primer on so many astrological subjects it is worth reading just those chapters to deepen your understanding of many concepts.

For the purposes of explaining midpoints, Michael has taken the keyword approach. This provides a research tool that not only explains each individual concept as outlined above but also shows the reader how to apply it on multiple levels. While it is offered as a primer on midpoints, it works well with the Cosmobiology technique, which is a specific application.

Keywords are an astrological shorthand that I find very useful for learning any new subject. The first part of Mike's presentation defines the thirteen points in terms of...

- ✓ the basic idea or concept for each point,
- ✓ the relationship application for that point,

- ✓ the body or mind application for that point, and
- ✓ how that point will apply in politics and / or business.

Each point is presented as a single page keyword concept.

Mike's next section on midpoints provides the 78 pairings mentioned previously, with four pages per midpoint, basically following the same initial format. One more section is inserted under the basic idea:

- ✓ how that pairing will work in your personal life.

And that is only the first page of four for that specific midpoint.

Page two provides the pairings when they are involved with each of the eleven remaining points as described in the Ebertine book.

Page three is my favorite. It's concept page providing tons of ideas using the keyword concept in general.

Page four provides each pairing when it becomes involved with an activation from one of the two planets in the initial pairing. Using our Mercury / Mars example, that pair might be triggered by progressions, directions or transits by either of the planets involved (i.e., Mercury or Mars). This does not apply natively, but does apply in the moving charts. Definitely a Cosmobiology use, and beyond the simple application we will use for our purposes. This is also where Mike provides chart examples.

More reference material is provided through the use of Appendices.

All by itself, Cosmobiology and the use of midpoints amazing tools for reading someone's life, natal and progressing, and require far more explanation than I can provide here. Stay tuned for another workbook. However, I additionally use this technique as a relationship source.

Because it gives clear definitions for the effects of a planet or point on both single or combined positions within the chart of an individual, both books provide a unique perspective that also can be adapted to relationship charting. What did I mean by "also can be applied to relationship charting"? Either reference book is excellent for core principles:

- ✓ the Ebertine material from older sources and applications, specifically Cosmobiology,

- ✓ and the Munkasey material from a well-researched and organized keyword concept.

Take your choice of reference material, but studying the thirteen core principles will deepen your grasp of each principle. I have studied both.

For the purposes of this workbook, the 78 pairings are the relationship keys. When we are doing synastry in particular, our first job is to see what each individual is seeking and what they have to offer to the relationship.

It is simple to compare Sun to Sun or Moon to Moon, but we cannot stop there. We must compare Sun to Moon, etc. between the charts. These books provide you with access to 78 pairings from either book. The books were written for individual charting and the progressing life. Don't stop there.

The pairings can also be used to determine what type of energy operates between two individuals in a relating fashion. Just look up my Sun to your Moon and your Moon to my Sun through the paired descriptions. This opens the first doorway to understanding how the pairings will affect the individuals involved, and therefore the relationship as a whole. It is easy to see whose Sun energy affects or is affected (or infected). The really big doorway to understanding is on Mike's page three of each of the 78 pairings, the keyword concept page. This provides me and hopefully you, an amazing set of possibilities to incorporate into your synastry readings.

There is far more you can do with the material from these books, but this is enough to help you with this specific application. I will go further with this in my relationship workbook.

A marriage, a business contract, or other bona fide relationship such as parent / child is made up of unique individuals. That relationship itself produces a third entity called "the marriage". You can add the chart of and the reading for a unique event and it will add to your knowledge of the effect on the people involved, but...be sure you slant the reading towards the event or the contract, not the individuals.

Links to Original Articles

Many of the chapters in this workbook have been previously issued in whole or in part. Following is a list of the additional material:

Chapter 1: Social Conditioning Does Influence our Personal Perspectives

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/social-conditioning-can-influence-our-personal-perspectives/>

Chapter 2: Kids of All Ages Do Not Come with an Instruction Manual – Or Do They?

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/kids-of-all-ages-dont-come-with-an-instruction-manual-or-do-they/>

Chapter 4: The Derivative House System – Another Layer of Reading

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/the-derivative-house-system-another-layer-of-reading/>

Chapter 5: The Family: The People of the Astrological Houses

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/the-family-the-people-of-the-astrological-houses/>

Chapter 6: Where do You Find Mom and Dad in a Chart? The Parental Axis

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles-old/where-do-you-find-mom-and-dad-in-a-chart-the-parental-axis/>

Chapter 7: Parents – Who and Where is Mom in a Chart? – The Maternal Issues

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/parents-who-and-where-is-mom-in-a-chart-the-maternal-issues/>

Chapter 8: Parents – Who and Where is Dad in a Chart?

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/parents-who-and-where-is-dad-in-a-chart/>

Chapter 9: Relationships – An Astrological Look at Possibilities

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/relationships-an-astrological-look-at-possibilities/>

Chapter 10: Relationship – Synastry – Who are You? Who am I? How Do We Affect or Infect One Another?

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/relationships-synastry-who-are-you-who-am-i-how-do-we-affect-one-another/>

Chapter 11: Composites – What is the Potential of Any Relationship?

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/composites-what-is-the-potential-of-any-relationship/>

Chapter 12: Relationship Chart – What You Sees is What You Gets

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/relationship-chart-what-you-see-is-what-you-get/>

Chapter 13: Degree Significance in Relationships

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles-old/degree-significance-in-relationships/>

Chapter 17: Relationships From the Karmic Perspective – To Be or Not To Be

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles-old/relationships-from-the-karmic-perspective-to-be-or-not-to-be/>

Chapter 19: We Are the World, We Are the Children – A True Story

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles-old/we-are-the-world-we-are-the-children-a-true-story/>

Chapter 20: Corporate Charting – Is a Personal Natal Wheel Valid After the Death of the Founder

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/corporate-charting-is-a-personal-natal-wheel-valid-after-the-death-of-the-founder/>
and <http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/corporate-charting-is-a-personal-natal-wheel-valid-after-the-death-of-the-founder-2/>

Chapter 21: Revisiting History: The British Monarchy (The Ultimate Family)

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles-old/revisiting-history-british-monarchy/> and <http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles-old/little-prince-george-of-cambridge-and-the-star-of-david/>

Appendix B: Unmasking the Mystery - The 12th House of the Horoscope

<http://www.marilynmuir.net/articles/unmasking-the-mystery-the-12th-house-of-the-horoscope/>