

Astrology for Relationships // How I use astrology for relationships.

Being fluent in the symbolic language of astrology is nothing short of a gift. If we open our hearts and our minds to what astrology wants to teach us – we realise that embedded into astrology's structure is a whole way of viewing life and existence. We realise first and foremost that there is a fundamental order to things, there is meaning, and there is logic in life's cyclical unfoldment. We also realize one more thing: astrology does not *explicate* so much as it *reveals* that there is an underlying pattern of existence. To engage with astrology is to have a bit of a glimpse into the Cosmic Order. But that Cosmic Order, does not, certainly from this third dimensional level of existence, reveal *all* of its inner workings. As we expand our awareness and therefore have greater dimensional access, we *see more*. The more our consciousness expands, the faster our vibratory rate becomes, and more pours in to our perceptual awareness. As we expand our awareness, the more astrology will reveal to us.

When we penetrate deeper into the mysteries of astrology, we also intuitively realize that the energetic pattern revealed by someone's birth chart isn't accidental – it is *supposed* to be that way. As I see the birth charts of clients, friends and family members, I am always struck by how unique each one is. Astrology reminds us that we are each our own profound Universe, and it points us toward the self-love and self-acceptance that comes when we realize that we were *not designed to be like someone else*. In relationships, even in challenging ones, we may begin to realise that other people are designed to be the way they are. Differences in energy attunements between people are a perfectly right and natural part of existence. People are not *wired* to perceive reality exactly the way we are. This is okay.

Elemental Emphasis

When using astrology to help me understand relationships between people, the first thing I do is to have a sense of the overall elemental emphasis indicated by each natal chart. We want to understand first and foremost whether one person is dominant in say, fire and air, and the other in say, water or earth. Elements in a chart indicate the dimensions of experience that are *real* to us, and how we perceive reality. To someone with a dominant air emphasis, the realm of concepts and thought are *real to them*. Air becomes the easiest and most natural mechanism by which they interact with life. To someone with a dominant water emphasis, feelings and yearnings are *real* to them. The subterranean emotional and energetic currents of life are immediate and present. (I should also add here that a secondary thing to do is to look at the placement of planets in fire, air, earth and water *houses*. This adds another layer to our understanding of the elemental emphases of each person in the relationship).

I was once in a relationship with someone who had the Sun, Mercury and Mars in Aries (fire); and Ascendant, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune in Sagittarius (more fire). Planets in Sagittarius were conjunct his Sagittarius ascendant, and obviously trined his Aries placements (can anyone say call the fucking fire brigade). With a dominant emphasis in water and earth, it was very difficult for me at the time of our separation, to appreciate fire's impulsive *need to move on and impose itself on life*. This way of being is totally at odds with the general feeling-retentiveness of earth and water. With so much Scorpio in my wiring, I needed *time to process the emotional significance of my experience* with this person, and also to develop emotional resiliency from the experience. With time (of course), I understood the thing that Life and Astrology were trying to teach me: *not to take it personally*. I understood that it was impossible to ask Fire to be anything

else other than it was. Fire's almost callous way of moving on was just the way *Fire is*. It is how Fire deals with life, and Fire isn't wrong for dealing with life in this way.

We should also note here that there is a *quincunxial* (150 degree) relationship between Aries and Scorpio. It means that they have *nothing in common* – by element (FEAW), by modality (fixed, cardinal or mutable) or polarity (masculine or feminine). Put into relationship terms – it means that Aries and Scorpio represent *points of view* that see life and reality in very different ways.

This brings us to what we need to consider next when considering a relationship from an astrological perspective: contacts between two charts.

Interaspects/Angular relationships: the nature of the energy flow between two people

Very generally speaking, the elemental emphasis in each chart tells us how each person is likely to view reality, and whether these perspectives are generally compatible. Elemental emphases also tell us the general nature of two people's self-expression (retentive, feeling-focused, conceptual) and whether these are at odds with, or whether they positively reinforce each other.

How the planets in one person's chart stand in relationship to the planets/angles in another person's chart gives us information of the specific kind of energy flow between them. On deeper levels, it allows us to understand, from a *soul* and *evolutionary* perspective, what two people in an interaction are working out, what each person is giving to the other to mutually catalyse each other's growth, and the nature of the energetic dynamic that is seeking resolution in this timeframe of reality.

I had a client whose ex-wife's Saturn in Leo was conjunct his Ascendant. He experienced his ex-wife as controlling, and as inhibiting (Saturn) his natural self-expression and freedom to be himself (Ascendant). With Saturn here on his Ascendant, he experienced her as projecting her authority (Saturn) as a means of control. The relationship was fraught with the imposition of rules (Saturn) by his ex-wife. When Saturn transited his IC/fourth house planets, and transiting Uranus conjuncted his Moon, he gathered the courage to break free (Uranus) from her influence, and moved out of the family home (Moon, 4th house).

Another client had a difficult and confusing relationship with her father. With her father's Saturn conjunct her Uranus, an important part of her growth was to liberate (Uranus) herself from his influence (Saturn). Neptune-Mercury contacts indicated how challenging the communication between them was. There was a kind of "veiled communication" in which no one really knew what the other was thinking, and an absence of forthright exchange. With her dad's Saturn also conjunct her Venus, this seemed to show how the affection between them was inhibited or strained, and how her dad seemed to want to control (Saturn), how she expressed her love and affection toward him. Her Venus squaring his Moon however seemed to reveal an inexorable problem: the way she expressed her love (Venus) did not seem to satisfy her father's emotional needs (Moon) in the relationship. Lastly, with her father's Pluto squaring her Midheaven, it seemed that part of the evolutionary task of the relationship was the way in which it challenged her to claim her power (Pluto) and express it in the world (Midheaven).

Increasing understanding of the relationship and the other person

We may use astrological information to help us approach our relationships in far more empowered ways. If we know for example that our Moon is square our partner's Moon, this need not be a death sentence for the relationship, but a call to exercise far more patience. With our Moons 90 degrees apart, it means that it is often difficult to understand our partner's moods and feelings, and that it could take time, patience and effort to find a harmonious way of relating which reduces frictions. With another challenging square aspect between Mars and Mercury, we may experience challenges in communicating, and we may experience argumentativeness or aggressiveness in the relationship. (Think 5 of Swords in the Tarot for a challenging Mercury-Mars combination!). There are difficulties in communicating, but armed with some objective information, we may begin to bring some higher *awareness* to our partnership.

With a little astrological information, we may understand that our partner's Aries Moon means that he needs to feel like he's *doing something* about a situation in order to feel comfortable with himself. We ourselves may not act so impulsively, but at least we have a framework of understanding.

Astrology cannot tell us the outcome of a relationship

An astrological chart is not a person. An astrological chart reveals the energy attunement of a person. A synastry chart (a chart which combines the birth charts of two people) is not a relationship. *It is a symbolic rendering of the energy flow between two people.* We cannot therefore, by looking at a chart, discern the level of consciousness of a person, nor can we discern the place of awareness from which two people approach their relationship.

Not because the astrology indicates that there may be friction in the energy flow between two people means they may not conduct a successful relationship. We know that patience, tolerance and kindness may be brought to bear on any relationship which may help to ease tensions, and foster deeper and more enduring love.

We also need to, when examining two charts in relation to each other, look at the *total picture*. Sometimes someone may be primarily strong in a sign principle that we are secondarily strong in – but this gives us a basis to relate, and helps to smooth out tensions. In a therapeutic setting, it may be tempting to overemphasize the challenging aspects of a relationship which are demanding our attention, but equally, we must be aware of what is working well. Harmonious Sun-Venus or Venus-Saturn contacts can provide some stabilizing energetic architecture to a relationship that helps us to meet challenges with grace.

Astrology isn't a substitute for actual relationship experience

Fortunately (or unfortunately – depending on your perspective!) we actually have to *live* our lives. Astrological information is not a substitute for lived experience. If we are inclined to pursue a relationship, we ought *not* to use astrology to pronounce on its success if we have not allowed ourselves to actually have the experience (“He’s a Scorpio Sun, I’m an Aries Moon – this is *never* going to work!”). Life has a funny way of giving us exactly what we need – and sometimes people with contrasting energy attunements and fundamentally different ways of viewing life are exactly what we need. Sometimes our souls force us to grow out of old patterns

by having us interact with one of these dear people, and it seems to me that not because a relationship is short-lived means that there isn't *value* when seen from a higher evolutionary perspective.

While I cannot say that I enjoyed that painful relationship experience I spoke of above, the simple truth is that I have a lot to thank Mr. Fire for. I have to thank him for being who he was, because it gave me an opportunity to do the very same. The chart doesn't show us the behind-the-scenes (fun), but I like to think about how our souls sat around a table of sorts, and discussed the meeting of our personalities:

"Well, alright. I'll come in – I'm thinking an Aries-Sagittarius dominant wiring will suit me – you know I have so much to get done down there. It's going to be good to be back. So I'll wait for that alignment of planetary and sign energies. I'm going to need it. Let me check with mom – yes, she plans to meet up with dad, and I'll join with that little fiery baby. See you when I'm 32. Let's do London for old time's sake. Are you sure you want me to do this? It mightn't be so nice you know. You might not know it when we get down there, but I'm going to need this from you too..."

"Mhmmm. I'd like to take on some big stuff really early. You know me. I like to get the big stuff out of the way. This will be what I need. I'll get over it – but I'm going to really need this. It will really help me get moving. Aries-Sagittarius eh? Have you done that before? I'm going for a triple dose of Scorpio. We're gonna be so different. But we'll recognize each other anyway. You know how it goes. I'll wear a skirt when we first meet. I think you'll like that!"

"Ha! Sounds like a plan! Looks like it's time to get moving. I'm going to start going down. It's almost time to be born..."

It gives us insight into, let's say, the unique chemical reactions between the substances of each chart.