



SOLAR WRITER

KINDRED SPIRITS REPORT

A SOLAR WRITER REPORT
for Bradley Cooper



Esoteric
technologies

COMPLIMENTS OF

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Natal Chart

5 Jan 1975

5:09 am EST +5:00

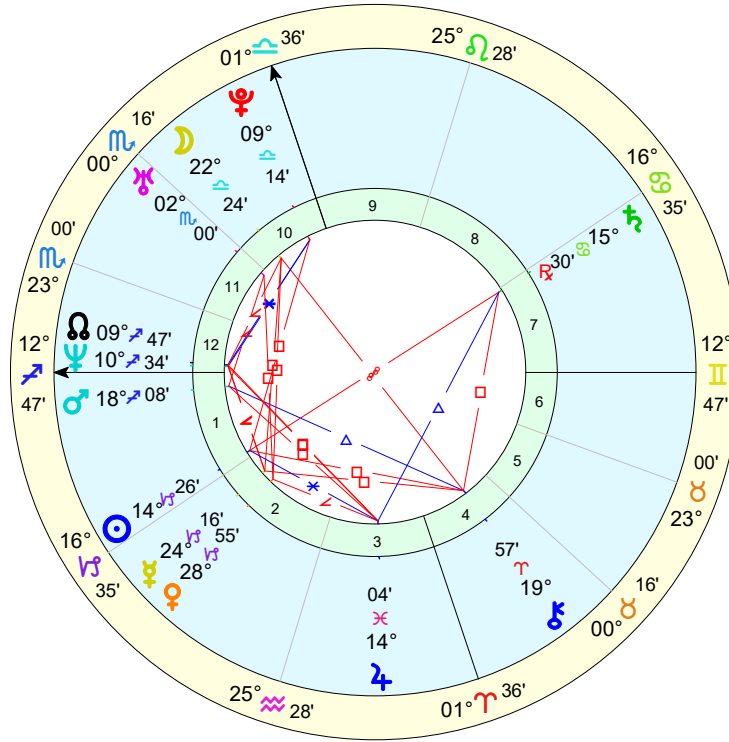
Philadelphia

39°N57'08"

075°W09'51"

Tropical

Placidus



Astrological Summary

Chart Point Positions: Bradley Cooper

Planet	Sign	Position	House	Comment
The Moon	Libra	22°Li24'	10th	
The Sun	Capricorn	14°Cp26'	1st	
Mercury	Capricorn	24°Cp16'	2nd	
Venus	Capricorn	28°Cp55'	2nd	
Mars	Sagittarius	18°Sg08'	1st	
Jupiter	Pisces	14°Pi04'	3rd	
Saturn	Cancer	15°Cn30'	7th	
Uranus	Scorpio	2°Sc00'	11th	
Neptune	Sagittarius	10°Sg34'	12th	
Pluto	Libra	9°Li14'	10th	
Chiron	Aries	19°Ar57'	4th	
The North Node	Sagittarius	9°Sg47'	12th	
The Ascendant	Sagittarius	12°Sg47'	1st	
The Midheaven	Libra	1°Li36'	10th	

Chart Point Aspects

Planet	Aspect	Planet	Orb	App/Sep
The Moon	Square	Mercury	1°51'	Applying
The Moon	Square	Venus	6°31'	Applying
The Moon	Conjunction	Uranus	9°36'	Applying
The Moon	Opposition	Chiron	2°26'	Separating
The Moon	Semisquare	The North Node	2°22'	Applying
The Sun	Sextile	Jupiter	0°21'	Separating
The Sun	Opposition	Saturn	1°04'	Applying
The Sun	Square	Pluto	5°11'	Separating
The Sun	Square	Chiron	5°31'	Applying
Mercury	Conjunction	Venus	4°39'	Applying
Mercury	Semisquare	Neptune	1°18'	Applying
Mercury	Square	Chiron	4°18'	Separating
Mercury	Semisquare	The North Node	0°31'	Applying
Venus	Semisquare	Jupiter	0°08'	Applying
Venus	Square	Uranus	3°05'	Applying
Venus	Semisquare	The Ascendant	1°08'	Separating
Venus	Trine	The Midheaven	2°40'	Applying
Mars	Square	Jupiter	4°03'	Separating
Mars	Semisquare	Uranus	1°07'	Separating
Mars	Trine	Chiron	1°49'	Applying
Mars	Conjunction	The Ascendant	5°20'	Separating
Jupiter	Trine	Saturn	1°26'	Applying
Jupiter	Square	Neptune	3°29'	Separating
Jupiter	Square	The North Node	4°17'	Separating
Jupiter	Square	The Ascendant	1°17'	Separating
Saturn	Square	Chiron	4°27'	Separating
Neptune	Sextile	Pluto	1°20'	Separating
Neptune	Conjunction	The North Node	0°47'	Separating

Neptune	Conjunction	The Ascendant	2°12'	Applying
Pluto	Sextile	The North Node	0°32'	Separating
The North Node	Conjunction	The Ascendant	2°59'	Applying

INTRODUCTION

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

– L M Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Kindred Spirits and Soulmates

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

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

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

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

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

IN THE BEGINNING IS FAMILY



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

Lunar Legacies

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

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

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

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

relationships are a function of the Moon. Ironically destiny challenges you in your adult relationships to find healthy ways to nurture your personal needs. Therefore it is of prime importance to come to know your Moon as intimately and as respectfully as you can.

The Moon is in Libra

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

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

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

Feeling Secure in an Insecure World

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

Mercury is Square The Moon

When Mercury aspects the Moon, the need for communicating your feelings is highlighted. In the ancient way of thinking both the Moon and Mercury ruled the mind. Mercury was like the Magician who was logical, rational and communicative; the Moon was like the High Priestess who was imaginative, intuitive and silent. In contemporary terms Mercury rules the more rational side while the Moon rules the more conceptual and imaginative side. Astrologically the planets are aligned implying a lifelong learning curve of how to balance

your emotional responses and your rational judgement.

In terms of early attachment and bonding communication is vital. You learn to feel safe and be bonded in the family system through expressing your feelings and being open to learning. Communicating your needs is imperative and hopefully your parents encouraged your individualistic expression of feelings and asking for what you needed. This support would encourage you to be open to learning new things and expressing your thoughts and ideas. Without this active encouragement to express your feelings you feel your own needs are submerged in the system, lost in translation. This might mean you were able to express the needs of the system, but not your own, being the translator, go-between and deliverer of messages. Therefore your curiosity and urge to learn were compromised.

When Mercury and the Moon are in such a powerful aspect, the patterns of learning, communication, listening and how you express your feelings and perceptions are brought into focus. Memory is vividly linked to emotional sensitivity; you learn best when you feel safe but also are deeply impacted by emotional trauma. You have an innate sensitivity to the inner world of images, dreams feelings as well as an uncanny ability to read other's feelings and reactions, therefore need to know that this ability to know on other levels is validated in relationship. A child learns to feel safe and be bonded in the family system through expressing their feelings; therefore the ability to be open with one's feelings and inner experiences are grounded in the family system. In order that you could be open to learning new things and to expressing your thoughts and ideas you needed to feel protected and safe. Your perceptions and feelings needed special attention as you most probably developed in your own unique way, being more imaginative, perceptive, inner orientated and visual than most. Therefore an important question to ask is, 'did my family recognize my unique learning needs, my own way of expressing feelings and the difficulty I might have had with thinking linearly and logically'?

You may have instinctively voiced the unexpressed needs of the family system through being the translator, the go-between or the deliverer of messages. Your curiosity and urge to learn might have been compromised by a lack of support or being directed into a learning system that did not suit you. This aspect already suggests that expressing feelings in the family might be an issue and that you are probably the one who struggles to make sense of what is unexpressed. In later relationships it is necessary to recognise that your urge to interpret your partner's actions, feelings or responses may not be how they see it.

Other scenarios may be that the relationships between your mother and your siblings was confused; mother being more like a sister or you either mothered or were mothered by your sibs. This might also point to an important sibling issue in your mother's family that permeates the atmosphere of the home.

In later relationships it is important for you to recognise that it is not necessarily a difficulty you have in expressing feelings but rather a unique way of expressing them. Therefore it is important to pursue different ways of learning things. Through your different learning experiences and pursuits you will find the like-minded others who you can communicate with. Communication is a key to feeling you belong and you will find many a kindred spirit who shares your way of knowing things. And that way is a much more spherical, obtuse and imaginative way than most. Therefore in later relationship it is important to recognise that those you love do not always understand your feelings and perceptions.

Venus is Square The Moon

When Venus aspects the Moon, two powerful feminine archetypes are highlighted. Two powerful feminine forces are highlighted when the planet Venus combines with the Moon. While both are feminine by nature, they not necessarily feel or want similar things, having their own unique values, urges and desires. Astrologically the planets are aligned; however not necessarily psychologically, bringing stress into their relationship. This stress may be focused around family values, likes and dislikes as well as the comfort of having what you want. In later years it might surface through needing to live harmoniously with others even though they may not always share the same value system as you.

Attitudes towards wealth, the experience of money and having things in the family system underlie your sense of security. The likes and dislikes of your parents were strongly impressed upon you. Hopefully this meant

your parents supported a healthy sense of self-esteem and showed attractive qualities that helped instill a sense of worth and value. Your choices between what you liked and disliked needed encouragement and support so that you learned how to make your own valid choices and decisions. In a family where self esteem and personal values are not supported it is more difficult to feel connected to your own inner sense of worth. Without this supportive value system you might feel you did not know how to make healthy choices, unsupported in the development of your personal tastes and values. As a young boy you may have felt valued when partnering your mother's needs, or as a girl you might have felt that your feminine values were denied in the family. Either way you may feel you have no choice.

It is important to reflect on the family attitudes towards both the feminine aspects of life and females in general. There may have been conflict in developing a safe and supportive relationship to the feminine in previous generations of women in your family. Therefore it is important to know how to value your needs as well as support your values so you feel appreciated and valued for yourself and not a role scripted by others. The family attitudes towards femininity and sexuality may not have supported you contributing to your adolescent angst. When younger the entangled feelings of self worth and relationship to others might have been focused on your weight, your attractiveness, and your sexuality; when older it might be directed towards money and security. Wherever the focus is, the inner urge is to accept your worth and value. For a man it is important to recognise that your relationship with women may be complex, as there are many competing and often conflicting needs. For instance boyish charm and seduction may be motivated by the need to be taken care of rather than the urge to be in relationship. Or the strong urge to relate might be intermingled with the feelings of having to be responsible and care taking for others.

Receptivity, magnetism, grace and sensitivity all combine to make you attractive to others, something you might not actually know. So it is that sense of something familiar in the other, a feeling of being valued and appreciated and a warmth of connection that converge in your adult relationships. Your kindred spirits value you and you feel safe and receptive when in their presence. You feel nurtured in relationship when you are able to express your individual tastes and values without compromise.

Chiron is Opposite The Moon

Chiron is not a Planet in the astronomical sense, but as a celestial wanderer it fits the ancient tradition of a Planet. In many ways Chiron is marginal to the herd of Planets and metaphorically parallels these feelings of being an outsider. In aspect to the Moon it highlights the sense of feeling displaced. Often this is experienced through dislocation, abandonment or relinquishment.

Chiron combines with the Moon in a way that is akin to that uncomfortable feeling of being a stranger in a strange land. For many this combination has been experienced as their mother's postnatal depression, a family separation, an adoption or emigration. It is also possible that a parental wound of displacement or exclusion may have psychically harmed your sense of safety. However this presents in your life experience, it suggests your process of being close to your caretakers has been bruised by feelings of exclusion that infected the family atmosphere and your feelings of security. You may harbour feelings of marginality with the need to be accepted often resulting in a feeling of exclusion. Your task is to accept that your apex of security is not at the centre of the system, but on its fringe. Your fate may be to wander or feel displaced before your sense of belonging can be established. Or you may have had the experience of your family being the outsider in the culture or society you grew up in. This family wound of feeling marginal may have hampered your ability to leave the enmeshed family unit. You may feel that your family has perpetuated and confirmed a myth that the pain of living is great. If this is so, then you may feel that your spirit to adventure and explore beyond the family and its culture has been compromised.

When you feel secure, you know you can be heroic when faced with being foreign or marginal in the system within which you find yourself. If your parents encouraged a healthy sense of feeling different and demonstrated freedom was possible by not being part of the system, then you internalised a healthy sense of being foreign. You would have developed the self-esteem to be secure in a foreign environment and acquired the ability to be compassionate and caring about others who suffer the same sense of disenfranchisement. In many ways this is the task of this aspect.

However if there was not enough parental support, you felt orphaned from your family unit. Your sense of attachment may have suffered due to a parental wound. When a parent's spirit is broken, the shade haunts the family atmosphere, leaving you feeling helpless and unprepared to become part of a greater community. Your destiny is to engage in the depth understanding and healing of the family wound that keeps you feeling disenfranchised.

Feeling marginal and peripheral you are at risk of recreating relationships where abandonment or exclusion impedes intimacy. Healing comes through the forging of close bonds with others who accept you. Your kindred spirits accept you into their inner circle and celebrate your differences. They engage with you on your own level without making you feel that you need to be one of them. Through your close relationships with soulmates your feelings of exclusion and marginality are healed.

Uranus is Conjunct The Moon

Disengagement and separation are themes that resonate when the Planet Uranus and the Moon combine. The possibility of a fractured or dislocated family atmosphere or the lack of an unconditional bond is suggested, whether perceived or real.

Individuality and independence are important hallmarks in your family, whether actualised or not. Urges to adventure, take risks and be emotionally self-sufficient are aspects of family life that you would want to have valued in your family matrix. Surprises and unexpected change may have also been part of the family landscape. If they weren't then you felt suffocated in the atmosphere of suppression. Part of your family history may include a thwarting of independence, rejecting intellectual pursuits or an inability to live outside the square. Scratching beneath the surface of your family ancestry you might find that the disowning of individual freedoms has contributed to a disengaged family atmosphere.

If your attachment was secure, you were encouraged to be a unique individual in the family system and given enough space and freedom to pursue what was important for you. Always prepared for the possibility of sudden changes you were encouraged to develop other support systems outside your family unit; especially peer groups and others with common interests. Your facility to be individualistic and risk taking is sensibly supported and encouraged. With this aspect you need to strive for your own freedom and intellectual pursuits even if that isn't fully supported by the family.

If your family atmosphere was polluted with anxiety and tension, you feel the need to disconnect and separate from the family, as it is difficult to feel safe. As a child you might have been shocked and surprised by sudden changes, contributing to you becoming anxious that something unexpected could disrupt the status quo. As a means of protection you may have learned to be hyper-vigilant and intuitive in order to try and control what might happen in the future. If your parents were emotionally unavailable, unstable or absent then you are never sure who to rely on. This leads to an inability to settle down and a sense that to feel safe you need to leave, be alone or detach. A cold family climate or an unconscious memory of feeling abandoned or cut off from security emphasises your need to be disengaged. Therefore freedom and separateness are at the expense of closeness and togetherness. If the safe container of your childhood was punctured by a sudden or unresolved severance, then your own ability to sustain adult relationship could be compromised.

The urge to leave, restlessness, anxiety and lack of commitment permeate your ability to forge adult attachments. A common experience is to feel connected when you are separated, yet when you are separate you long for closeness; this is the dance of intimacy where you push your partner away to feel close again. To avoid the dance of approach and then avoid, you need to engage with your soulmates who acknowledge your free spirit as being a vital and attractive aspect of yourself. It is your kindred spirits who know the secret of giving you enough space and freedom to be engaged. However it is also important that you know too how to gain your own space and freedom when you need it, not push others away to get it. Having experienced an attachment style that was erratic or disengaged, unique at least, it is important to consider that the result may have left its mark on adult relationships. This would be the discomfort at committing, the swings between closeness and freedom as well as the roller coaster ride of feelings.

Home is Where We Start From

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

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

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

Chiron is in the 4th House

Chiron is a maverick in the planetary pantheon. Since its discovery in 1977, it has defied categorisation. Similarly with Chiron in your 4th House you might have first experienced this feeling of being a maverick in your family of origin. Your family may have been marginal to the mainstream culture that you grew up in. Themes of abandonment, estrangement or displacement may have permeated your family atmosphere. These may have been lingering feelings left over from an emigration, displacement or family schism that left your family on the outside. But the question that is important is what extent did these feelings of marginality contribute to your feeling unsafe and not belonging. No doubt this placement suggests that you are an individualist and a nonconformist but are you comfortable with this role? To be secure you need to accept that you are different from the rest of the herd. These differences provide the secure base upon which you will build your life.

If the family is the outsider in the society, then you may feel that safety can only be sustained in your family, leaving you at risk of venturing into the wider world. Your family myth may imply that the pain of living is great, wounding your will and the spirit that promotes adventure and exploration outside the family and culture. Has a family wound left you with a handicap? If so then it is important to reflect on how this essential aspect of your character may be used to your advantage. If not, then consider your responses to those who are disadvantaged or on the edge since you will cross paths. This also might literally suggest that one parent was wounded in some way; generally this is a loss of spirit due to feelings of excommunication that took place in their family. You are sensitive to this theme. Another way this might have manifested is that a trauma, injury or affliction may have affected a family member. And due to this, the family attention was directed towards pain rather than comfort. This contributed to making the wound the centrepiece in the family. However this may have also been the inspiration for you to find your spiritual self. Deeply embedded in your inner self is a healing and compassionate side born not from inspiration, but often desperation. Freud wrote about the phenomena of Family Romance, the child's feeling of being alien to their family of origin and therefore romanticising their parents and siblings. While you might not have romanticised your origins you might have felt alien and adopted when growing up. This is your deep feeling that will spur you to find where you do belong.

In mythological tradition, the heroes are often cast out and abandoned, left to fend for themselves. In Greek mythology the orphaned were brought to Chiron to raise and in his home cave he taught them the heroic skills to become a warrior, a healer and a bard. This mythic motif underlies your family experience. It is the

disenfranchised aspects of your self that teach you to be heroic. And ironically you are most daring when you are helping others accept their own personal limitations. Why you stand out is not because you do not fit in, but because you are one of a kind.

Being one of a kind, you are drawn to others who are marginal. Your kindred spirits understand what it is like to feel a misfit and support and encourage you to belong in your own way. You find a haven away from the normalcy of everyday life. In fact when you bring what is different about you into the heart of your life you find where you belong.

PRIMARY RELATIONSHIPS

Our Early Soulmates

Siblings, Cousins, Neighbours, Playmates and School Chums



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

The Third House

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

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

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

Following are some illustrations of your 3rd House energies which may help you reflect on your earliest

relationships, especially those with siblings, cousins, neighbourhood chums, schoolmates, sports buddies and friends.

3rd House Cusp is in Aquarius

The Air Sign Aquarius on your 3rd House Cusp suggests that friendship, independence, intellectual stimulation along with freedom and space to experiment were primary qualities of relationship that you may have sought with your siblings and early friends.

You wanted your siblings to be friends and companions. Your ideal would be to include them in your circle of friends and to be part of your communal life. Democracy and equality are important ideals; however this does not guarantee your siblings and circle of friends are that easily integrated, only that your good will would have been there. As a true ideal you carry this urge for fairness, companionship and exchange into your later relationships.

Separation or separateness might have been experienced early in your childhood. Disconnection from a sibling or an early mate may have been registered as a shock, leaving you feeling separate or not connected. On the other hand separation from your sibling may have been difficult because of your spirited connection and may only be realised through a physical separation, such as attending a different school, etc. With this image your experience may be that you find your separateness early through your participation with siblings and friends. The motif of individuality and partnership is woven early into relationship. In the laboratory of early relationships you learn about your need for space and freedom. This complex task of feeling the urge for connection but also your need for separateness might swing back and forth into and out of relationship until you discover how to find freedom within a relationship by taking your own space and freedom. Until you are able to discover individuality within a relationship you may feel ambivalent about your closest relationships feeling like fleeing out the back door of a close relationship, yet at the same time wanting to stay.

As you mature your early experiences of equality, democracy, group participation and friendship influence the level of comfort you feel in relationship. No doubt you need space, you need to air your opinions and feel the spirit of fairness and friendship in your relationships. Comradeship and communication are cornerstones to your relationship. Deep inside the soul you know your kindred spirits when you meet them because they enliven the atmosphere with ideas and repartee that draw you to them.

Jupiter is in the 3rd House

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

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

Jupiter is a planet of socialisation, and therefore your siblings' social progress, their choices of studies, extra-curricular activities, striving to achieve were important to you. They may have become a benchmark that you judged your own progress against. A sibling may also have been your guide to a wider social world, introducing you to new horizons of belief and culture. On the other hand your siblings could also be experienced as rigid and unwavering from their beliefs and with who you were at odds. One of your sibs or

schoolmates might have taken on the role of Zeus in the system, claiming dominion over you and the others and becoming a 'larger than life' personality. Ego inflation in your friends and partners, perhaps in your relationships, might have been an issue you have been challenged to address. The early experience with your sibling—peers gives awareness of your need to feel spiritually compatible with your adult partners and friends. In later years you may find that although you may be physically, spiritually or morally distant from your siblings, the urge to reconnect is a catalyst for the examination of our own beliefs. Your kindred spirits bring out your innate wisdom and challenge you to explore what's on the other side of the mountain pass.

Being Kind to our Kin

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

Venus is Conjunct Mercury

When the planets Venus and Mercury aspect each it may point to feminine themes in your sibling system and depict how you were influenced by the feminine attitudes that the family displayed. These attitudes influenced the equality and roles of women in the family system. Your relationship as a sister or to your sister laid the groundwork for future relationships. Your interactions would have influenced your values, self-esteem, the ways you share what is important to you and your feelings of equality. In some way your partner and your friends are connected to your sibling. If you did not have a sister, the attitudes towards equal relating still underscored the family atmosphere. In adult relationships you might find a sister in your partner. Both friendship and love are components of your adult relationships and you are probably one who states 'my partner is my best friend'.

The Moon is Square Mercury

When the Moon and Mercury are at right angles to one another, themes of caring and nurturing may have been an issue in your sibling relationships. How were the feelings of closeness and companionship communicated? An older sibling may have been placed in a parental position and resented this role. Your experience may have been as the one who had to care for others or the one who was cared for by elder siblings. There may be a confusion or lack of boundary between the parenting and sibling roles in your family of origin. Mother may have preferred to be a sister, vacating the role of mother to an elder sister or brother. Hence in adult relationship roles may get confused. On a positive note this suggests that roles are fluid and changeable. Either way it might be important to reflect on the two different ways of being in your relationships, either as a carer or as a companion. This aspect alerts us to the possibility that these ways of being are often in conflict in yourself. Your task is to find functional ways of being both a friend and a parent in your relationships.

Communicating the way you feel is important. This stems back to your early experience with siblings and schoolmates. Your patterns of communication, sharing your ideas and learning were strongly influenced by these early relationships. You may still remember the emotional impact of your siblings' lying, name-calling and gossiping. And when it quieted down, you would interpret the silence between you and your sibling to try and comprehend the feelings trapped beneath their lack of communication. You learned to read and interpret emotional subtitles. This could have crystallised into an adult pattern of articulating your friend's or partner's feelings. The ability to express feelings is an important aspect of relationship, perhaps first learned in association with your siblings. You might feel you struggle with memory. Usually this is not the case as your memory is acute when there is feeling. An inability to remember may be a way of forgetting the emotional pain that comes with the memory. Therefore it is even more important in adult relationship to reverse the pattern by expressing your feelings, even if they feel negative.

Chiron is Square Mercury

The combination brings the themes of mentoring, wounding and healing together with the image of your sibling. Perhaps your sibling fostered your spiritual development, encouraging you to be heroic. On the other hand your brother or sister may have been an agent of wounding. This could have manifested in many various ways like name-calling, abandonment or rejection. You may feel alienated or separated from your siblings, as if exiled from your community of peers. Literally, this image suggests a sibling that is handicapped in some way, an adopted sibling or the separation from your sibling through death or a schism in the family. While this not necessarily may be your experience, you may feel that you are separated from the others in some way. You might feel cut off from others due to communication having an early experience of wounding through communication, speaking a foreign language, distinct learning patterns or simply feeling misunderstood. Therefore your kindred spirits are unique and in communication and relationship you find the freedom that comes by not being identical to others. Through your adult relationships you are able to heal your earlier feelings of exclusion.

KINDRED SPIRITS

Friends, Acquaintances and Colleagues



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

The Eleventh House

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

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

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

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

your passions, witness your successes and share your burdens. Both the Zodiac Sign on the Cusp of this House and the planets contained in this sphere will help you reflect on your friendships and group affiliations

11th House Cusp is in Scorpio

The 11th House represents your community, the groups you encounter and belong to outside the family: groups that you belong to because of your interests, your passions and your professional affiliations. Eleventh House experiences include your first class photo, your circle of friends, Girl Guides and Boy Scout experiences, the school council; groups where you were part of the community without other family members. But this House also describes your friends and kindred spirits who share your hopes and wishes and contribute to making your world the ideal place to live in.

With Scorpio on the Cusp of the 11th House, it is natural for you to take your time forging friendships as you bring your deeply passionate and soulful side to your friendships. You want to be involved on a deep level, not superficially, and therefore you need friends to engage with your emotionality and power. You prefer intimate gatherings to large crowds and therefore are more prone to finding your kindred spirits within groups that are more serious and substantial.

Still waters run deep and you bring this depth, intensity and privacy to your friendships. This suggests your friends know you will be there when they need you, that you are trustworthy and will tell the truth when they ask you to be honest with them. Friendship is sacred territory and you respect the mystery and intimacy of your close companions. However the other side of the coin suggests that you might get caught up in triangles or intrigues with your friends. The intensity of feeling may be experienced through secrets and lies, which while uncomfortable, feeds your need for intensity. An intimate friend and a dangerous enemy could be the same. Therefore it is prudent to be aware that you unconsciously invest friendships with a power and potency that often ignites feelings and emotions amongst your circle of friends. It is also wise to use your faculties of discrimination when you give your trust to friends. Not all may honour that.

This combination is not as easy as you might wish, as you bring the power of emotion to the arena of equal friendship. Therefore it might be difficult for you to draw the line between intimacy and friendship. However you know when you stepped across the line. That's often why it is hard to be friends after you've been intimates. A friend and a lover are not the same, but you may have been prone to trying to bring them together. Hence you've learnt that emotional boundaries between friends and lovers are a necessity.

A handful of close friends is more appealing than a clique of acquaintances. You have a great capacity for deep and personal friendships that are enduring and supporting. Sharing personal crisis and tragedy as well as the successes and accomplishments with others binds you even closer to them. You urge to share your innermost feelings with your companions; hence your friendships are ultimately a very private affair. In your heart you hold them dear and you expect the same. Your kindred spirits are your therapists, confidants and your emotional barometers. With friends you have the opportunity to experience the depth of love.

Uranus is in the 11th House

As the modern ruler of Aquarius and therefore the 11th House, the planet Uranus seems at home in this sphere. As a transpersonal planet in the collective sphere it suggests that you have a capacity to bring idealism, innovation and enlightenment into any group situation. While Uranus is rebellious by nature, being in the 11th House you have an innate understanding that unity comes through diversity and the capacity to understand, tolerate and accept other points of view. Uranus in the 11th symbolises a form of utopianism where all are equal; you are democratic by nature.

While kinship with others is important your Uranus in the 11th suggest you can also act out rebelliously within a group. If the group is too static, traditional or stuck in a rut you become the revolutionary that disrupts the status quo. Therefore this placement can also suggest that you might feel separate from the group, the outsider, the black sheep, the 'strange one'. Therefore your creative role in the group is the one who catalyses the group into change. You are the one who brings in another point of view, perhaps out of left field. You might shock and awaken the group and its leaders out of its complacency, propelling the group into a new and

liberated direction. As the agent of change it might be important to reflect on differentiating between the compulsion to change the system for change sake and the authentic need for revolution. With this placement you are able to sustain many different friendships. All become a part of the whole and it is necessary for you to cultivate different relationships and nourish the differing parts of your self that are brought out in exchanges with others.

Like lightening, Uranus strikes, then disappears. For you, group involvement may be sudden and unexpected and may not last. Friendships too may flare up and be unpredictable. While your role may be the one to stir things up, it is also important to recognise the difference between this and being disengaged and detached. With your Uranus in the 11th groups and friends are important yet it is necessary that you retain a sense of separateness and space, or you may unexpectedly separate from the group or leave the friendship. Your urge for space, distance and adventure may be experienced when you feel stifled by commitments. With Uranus here it is important that you have many varying outlets for your independence and individuality so you do not project the need for space and freedom onto the group and view every collective as smothering and limiting. With Uranus in the 11th the freedom to be who you are is found through associations with others in the community. Your kindred spirits recognise you as unique and allow you to be who you are on any given day.

SOUL AND RELATIONSHIP

Intimate Friends and Committed Partners



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

The Seventh House

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

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

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

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

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

7th House Cusp is in Gemini

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

Your Ascendant is Sagittarius; therefore the Air Sign Gemini is on your Descendant or 7th House Cusp.

The Air trinity includes Gemini, Libra and Aquarius. This triumvirate of signs is compatible, at least theoretically, with relationship. It is natural for Air Sign people to want to share ideas and experiences. The Element of Air is constantly seeking its other half through the process of relating. However, Air seeks a multiplicity of experiences and may share its ideas and experiences in many differing relationships, being indiscriminate about privacy and containment. Relationships may be an arena of curiosity, and often at the beginning of the getting-to-know-you phase Air's inquiring and interactive manner is mistaken for a deeper emotional or more intimate interest.

Although you love to relate, you also need 'air', space between and enough breath to feel invigorated. You are comfortable with the idea of equality, sharing and the theory of relatedness but you may have difficulty in the sphere of intimacy and emotional constancy. It is natural for you to experiment with a range of possibilities in any relationship, because you like to satisfy your curiosity and inquisitive urges. You need a great amount of space, emotionally, physically and psychologically before you are comfortable enough 'settling down'. Changeability is natural, and without enough space, you feel stifled and unable to breathe, who may lead to restlessness, even anxiety within any key relationship. If the bond feels stifling, you are keen to escape. You really need to experiment within any relationship before an authentic commitment can be given. Also with your relationship with your siblings could be an indication of how you might explore ideas, relate, learn and adventure with another. A sibling is often experienced as the first partner you learned to relate to and gossip and experiment emotionally with. Communication on all levels within relationship is important, and if in the sibling system there was a lack of communication or sharing of ideas, this could adversely affect your outlook on adult relationships.

What you are first attracted to in others is their youthfulness, their versatility, the way they make you laugh when they mimic your friends or tell a joke and the way they make you think when they are telling you about their latest intellectual discovery. They're so adaptable and communicative and witty. However while you may attract these qualities in your quest for equal relationship, you will also attract the opposite of these qualities. The life of the party may now seem adolescent, the intellect doesn't have enough soul and you're not feeling as special as you want to be feeling. But any relationship can also help you to forge meaning and make sense of all your ideas. Your own intellectual and storytelling talents begin to emerge through the process of relating to someone significant. But most importantly you find the ability that ability to navigate duality and be both separate and together in your relationship.

Qualities you admire and are attracted to in others include versatility, intellect, communication, adaptability and the constant curiosity about life and the way it works. And it is these very qualities that a partner helps you find in yourself. So don't be surprised when your friends and constant companions are very Geminian or change their minds day to day.

Saturn is in the 7th House

When it comes to your primary relationship you need security, stability, organisation and control. While not always so, in our culture, the planet Saturn has come to represent the patriarch, the conditional parent and the

rules of the system. But psychologically the task of Saturn is to become self regulatory, in control of our destiny, autonomous and the author of our own life script, developing the authentic self in the stern face of external authority, tradition and rules. You may feel vulnerable to others, seek their approval and try to please to feel acceptable. You might feel equality is earned by following someone else's agenda, rather than your own.

When you encounter others you feel that they are more worldly, more competent or more successful than you, triggering a 'father – child' pattern. Your partners may often be described as authoritative, limiting, cold, too responsible, controlling, which they often are when you are trying to live up to their standards and not your own. If you feel restricted by your partner and blame them for being so rigid, ask yourself what it is that you react to so strongly in your partner. Is there unfinished business with your father, other authority figures and rules? Do you seek approval from your partner and other equals? Are you still seeking direction and a meaningful occupation? Do you apologise for being in the world? If you lack structure and boundary in your life, you may unconsciously ask your partner to live this out for you, leaving you feel dissatisfied and unfulfilled.

Power and control may also be issues here, as well as work. All can be overdone. Your partner's control may seem to threaten or limit you. You might feel that their controlling behaviour inhibits you or does not allow you to be as free as we would want to be. You may feel confined and imprisoned in your relationship. But the answer is not to work on the relationship as you might feel but to work on yourself to find your position in the world. Ultimately your feelings of lack of control or knowing what is right for you are exaggerating the restrictive behaviour of the partner. You might be attracted to the worldly wisdom, the success and authority of your partner. But if you deny your innate needs for control and mastery, the supportive father you once saw in your partner turns rigid and patronising.

At this point it is important to reflect on your ambitions and need for acknowledgement through work. If you only see the accomplishment, status and success through your partner, your divine gifts of wisdom, stature and your role in the world feels diminished. You may unconsciously be giving your own power and ambition to your partner to live out for us. Then you find yourself blaming them for being a workaholic. You need to be aware of your own needs for accomplishment, authority and autonomy. You also need to challenge yourself to find a place in the world that acknowledges you. Ironically the most accomplished role you could play is that of a business partner, but first you need to be sure it is an equal playing field. You are astute at helping your partner become successful but it important that you are acknowledged as the equal partner. As the silent partner you may feel that your work is being undervalued and unacknowledged.

You might feel anxious meeting others, expecting them to criticise, control or dominate you. This might delay the process of relating and establishing a secure relationship. But ultimately, your partner mirrors the older and wiser aspects of your soul. Time allows you to honour and respect our own authority and soul wisdom. And when you do, you find accomplished others to share your life. Your kindred spirits are well respected for their integrity, focus and triumphs and they recognise and admire your contribution and support in their lives.

PLEASURE, PASSION AND LOVE

The Joys of Venus and Mars



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

- Herman Hesse

Venus and Mars

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

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

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

Mars is passion and desire. Whether spiritual, physical, intellectual or emotional Mars symbolises how you express your desires, frustrations and energy. In terms of relationship it suggests how you assert yourself,

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

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

Venus is in Capricorn

Successful Entrepreneur seeks Dignified Partner

Imagine this advertisement in the personal column of your local paper. It is a bit over the top, but on a lighter note there may be some truth in it for you. Let's be frank: you probably are successful at what you do and you are looking for quality in your relationships. Given the choice, you are going to choose items of good value, ones that are expensive, rather than ones that are on sale. Plus someone whose is skilled up, accomplished and has a good reputation does have appeal. But some projection might be at work here so you need to be aware that when you're feeling unworthy you have a tendency to credit others with the worth and excellence you feel that you are lacking. You can be highly self critical when you expect too much of yourself.

Because you are accomplished and capable it is never easy for you to rely on others. You are quite autonomous and self-reliant. However it can get in the way of relating and also is a good defence against the fear of being let down or the dismissal of your request for assistance. Demonstrating love or being affectionate does make you feel vulnerable so you might hold back. You may fear rejection but you'll get over it; it's more important to be in the relationship than alone in complete control. However you might also try to take charge of your partner when you're feeling vulnerable, so it is important to recognise how the urge to organise and manage comes up when you're feeling vulnerable. Your Venus sign is ruled by Saturn which brings the themes of work and relationship together, so issues of status, money, time or occupation may disturb relationship. Or you might meet your soulmates through work or work together; what if your boss is also your partner? How you deal with hierarchy and equality at the same time is the question.

You value tradition, commitment and responsibility and therefore are someone we can count on to be there. Rules and regulations are important too but not at the expense of connection and rapport. Because you have a healthy sense of boundary and are supportive of your close mates you are lucky enough to have dedicated, dependable and trustworthy soulmates who share your life path.

Mars is in Sagittarius

How you assert yourself in your relationships and take the courage to be your own person is the domain of the Planet Mars. In the fiery Sign of Sagittarius it suggests that you shoot from the hip, but sometimes too much from the tip of your tongue. It's second nature to say it the way it is. To your mind, who has got the time to spend trying to make it any other way? You're also very far-sighted and can see way beyond the personal details and reactions into what you consider to be more meaningful. And that's the truth, as far as your are concerned. But as they say truth hurts. You are learning that, while it's natural to be impulsive, maybe a little discretion might be wise. For example, you go straight for what you desire like jumping headlong into a relationship. However when the relationship turns out not quite as freewheeling as you thought, you bail out just as impulsively. And you dash away, unconsciously humming the Mac Davis hit *"Baby, don't get hooked on me"*.

To be fair you've probably added excitement and adventure into other people's lives and so you leave having

injected fervour for life. Your warmth, generosity and optimism brighten up all your interactions. Perhaps in looking back you could have been a bit more communicative about what was happening for you, or perhaps admitted when you were wrong. But that's difficult because you don't like to stay in one place for too long, or to face the fact that you don't hold all the answers. By nature you are an explorer and your desire for learning and cross-cultural experiences is high. You are called by a faraway horizon, therefore in terms of being in relationship, it is important that you find the way to feel connected and be able to move.

You have a vital spirit which is a good barometer for how you are feeling. When you feel lethargic, even depressed, it's because you feel trapped. You might be inclined to try and rationalise your position but the truth is you need to move and express yourself. The more energy you expend the more you seem to get. This works well in terms of personal connection too, as you need to express that restless energy without fear of judgement. You love stimulation and variety in all your endeavours and you need your intimate others to be open to that as well. You bring a great deal of vitality and excitement into any relationship and what you hope to find in return is an accomplice who shares your search for meaning.

CROSSING PATHS

Close Encounters with Kindred Spirits



“Lovers don’t finally meet somewhere. They’re in each other all along.”
- Rumi

The Nodes

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

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

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

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

The North Node is in the 12th House

Consider what makes you light up and feel alive. Is it when you are able to feel grounded creatively and spiritually? Or when the indescribable can be related? Or when the imagination can be let loose? At these times you are reminded of the grandeur of spirit and how it plays its role in your life. It is at these times too when you cross paths with your soulmates, whether that is in your creative imagination or in real time. Your kindred spirits are part of your spirituality and you encounter them when you expose your creativity, participate with your spiritual life or let yourself flow with the currents of life. It might be in your painting class or at the Buddhist Centre where you meet your soulmates, but more often they appear just as you step out of your everyday anxieties and relax into your true self.

Your North Node is in the 12th House of your birth chart; the South Node is in the opposing 6th House. This polarity echoes the Zodiacal opposition of Virgo and Pisces where the extremes of science and magic, spirit and matter, dreams and waking, and order and chaos play out. Your North Node in the 12th House faces the pole of chaos. To the ancient Greeks chaos was a different concept than we use today. Chaos was the void through which creation emerged and therefore was honoured as the seminal moment in cosmology. In this respect your 12th House Node invites you to face your own creative potentialities. It invites you to make an effort to understand your own psyche, that soulful part of you which is as deep and mysterious as the ocean. You are called to learn how to swim and navigate the depths of your inner world. While at times the exploration of your creative possibilities and spiritual longings is a very private matter, it is also when you meet both your inner guides and outer kindred spirits. Let it be and you naturally cross paths with the soulmates that help you feel fulfilled in both your inner and outer life. It is when you are on holiday or lost in your own world, away from the routines of life, that you may cross paths with your kindred spirits.

You are drawn to the rich world of the imagination, wanting to utilise it to express your artistic talents, your healing abilities and your creative ideas. However you may get caught up in your own self-criticism and scepticism or be so involved in details and routines that you abandon your own ingenuity. This is where the discriminating eye of a soul mate or the tender companionship of a kindred spirit helps you recognise what is possible. In relationship you might be extra sensitive to criticism. Fearing the critical eye of a loved one you might misinterpret a harmless comment as disapproval. Unfortunately you are not perfect; neither do your soulmates expect you to be.

Instead they are very happy when you are not trying to fix things up or tidy the mess. There's something romantic about tousled hair; being impractical and idealistic at the same time is quite exotic. Consider whether your relationships follow convention or not. You may be more comfortable with relationships that are not part of the routine world. While you might feel safer in routine, your task is to develop your imaginative, creative and spiritual side. You're more likely to cross paths with kindred spirits when you are going with the flow rather than when you are doing what is expected.

CONCLUSION

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

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

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