

BIRTHCHART ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Bachelor of Arts, June 10, 1977, George Williams College

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Atlantic University
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS TRANSPERSONAL STUDIES

ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Virginia Beach, Virginia
October 1992

ABSTRACT

BIRTHCHART ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Atlantic University, 1992

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The similarities and variabilities of 20 astrological analyses of one subject's birthchart were studied according to three criteria of competence: accuracy, analysis, and synthesis. The various astrological topics and life themes identified by the astrologers were compared and evaluated. Interviews with the subject and others clarified and verified specific contents of the analyses. Findings are discussed in the context of astrological theory.

It was expected that competent astrologers would be identical in birthchart calculation accuracy and, although varying in style, would relate similar, recognizable descriptions of the subject and would include personal insights and intuitive synthesis in their reports. The results indicate that 11 of the 20 astrological analyses exhibit competence as outlined in the three criteria; six are flawed; three are calculated inaccurately. Expectations are met by 55 percent of the participating astrologers. However, 85 percent of the astrologers identify the subject's career and accurately forecast future conditions in the subject's life.

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FRIEND'S BIRTH CHART

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INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSES OF STUDY

The November/December 1990 issue of *Venture Inward* included the following invitation: As part of a new course offering by Atlantic University, entitled "The Measure of All Things: Methods of Transpersonal Testing," students will explore how to research the reliability and validity of astrological horoscopes. A.R.E. members who are practicing astrologers are invited to participate as co-researchers in this educational activity. If you are interested in casting and interpreting individual horoscopes for Atlantic University students, send a work sample (natal horoscope and interpretation, with current transits, for January 14, 1944, 3:13 a.m., EWT, Miami, FL), a resume and your fee schedule, to Henry Reed c/o Atlantic University...(p. 8).

During the Winter of 1990-91, 19 A.R.E. astrologers sent their analyses to Professor Reed.

As a student of Atlantic University, I met Professor Reed in May 1991. I expressed interest in the results of the above astrological research project. I explained that I was a member of A.R.E. and an astrologer certified by the American Federation of Astrologers. Professor Reed asked me to organize and compile the 19 astrological analyses for the students of the course "Methods of Transpersonal Testing." He suggested that I, too, write an analysis of the subject's birthchart. I became the 20th astrologer represented in the project. The compilation and indexing of the 20 analyses became for me a three-credit independent study course at Atlantic University. From June to December 1991, I compiled and indexed the 20 analyses into a single reference book for the students of Atlantic University. The purpose of the compilation was to provide and familiarize the students with various astrologers' work. The students now have an opportunity to choose among 20 astrologers when having their birthcharts analyzed.

In the process of compiling the analyses I realized that this was a unique opportunity for me, as an astrologer, to study the analyses of 20 different astrologers. Similarities, variabilities, and accuracy could be measured. The various assessments of the subject's personality, past and present concerns, and the overall relevance and helpfulness of the birthcharts could be appraised through interviews with the subject. However, if birthchart analysis is to be considered reliable, the results of 20 competent astrologers should show definite similarities in content when applied to the same birthchart.

For the purpose of this thesis, it seemed necessary to develop a means by which the 20 analyses could be evaluated. I established 3 criteria of competence:

1. Accuracy: Astrologers should be mathematically accurate in their birthchart calculations, whatever system or method employed.

2. Analysis: The astrologer's analysis should present a recognizable description of the subject's personality, concerns, and life conditions as revealed in the birthchart.
3. Synthesis: The analysis should be organized into a cohesive and understandable report with references to what astrological factor(s) led to the astrologer's expressed opinions.

These three criteria have the advantage of being uncomplicated, relevant, and inclusive of all astrological systems. They will be discussed and elaborated in the following chapters.

The purposes of this thesis are

1. To present similarities and variabilities among the 20 astrological analyses by using the three criteria of competence as a basis for evaluating, comparing, and contrasting.
2. To introduce the subject's responses concerning the analyses' relevance and helpfulness.
3. To provide the students of TS 518 "The Measure of All Things: Methods of Transpersonal Testing" with a reference text to the 20 Astrological Analyses.

METHODS OF STUDY

The First Task

In late May 1991 I received the 19 astrological analyses from Professor Reed. Previously, five of the analyses had been transcribed from audiotapes to typewritten pages. Ten of the analyses had been copied to WordPerfect computer files. I was given all 19 of the typewritten copies, as well as a disk of the 10 computer copies to enter into my computer's WordPerfect files along with my own analysis (making a total of 11 computer copies). For lack of time, nine analyses had not been subsequently typed into WordPerfect.

My first task was to make three printed copies of each analysis. Secondly, I compiled and alphabetized the 20 analyses within hard-cover binders. Each analysis was given a code number. One compiled copy of the analyses was filed in the Atlantic University's library for student's research in the course "Transpersonal Testing: Measure of All Things."

Recording the Information

I read each astrologer's report several times. Certain key words were repeated in the

various reports. I designed a worksheet to record the key words that were most often used.

For example, if I wanted to find out how many astrologers used a specific key word in describing the subject, I employed the "search" mode on my computer. If the key word was used, the computer found it and I checked the topic space next to the astrologer's number. I used a colored underlining pen to mark key words and phrases in the texts of the analyses that were not on the computer files, marking the results on the corresponding worksheet.

I examined and compared what the astrologers had to say about various astrological categories such as the subject's Sun, Moon, and ascendant signs. Life themes studied included the subject's relationships with parents, spouse, and friends; career indications; and life purpose.

For each category or theme, I tabulated on worksheets how many astrologers used the same key words or similar phrases about a topic, or whether the topic was considered at all.

I searched for similar as well as unique descriptions of each category and theme. For example, in describing Sun sign personality tendencies, Church (1981) cited the Cayce readings regarding the positive and negative qualities of each Sun sign. Capricorn's positive traits are listed as unselfishness and purity; the negative is self-aggrandizement (p. 204).

Myrna Lofthus (1983) also used positive and negative key word qualities. She wrote that the positive key words of Capricorn Sun sign were ambitious, responsible, practical, efficient and patient; negative were worry, retaliation, suspicion, stubbornness, and intolerance (p.135).

Whether or not the 20 astrologers used the same key words, most used similar terms in describing the Capricorn personality. Concerning Capricorn practicality, some astrologers "painted" the same picture of practicality through analogy, metaphor, or description without using the key word "practical."

For example, one astrologer wrote that the subject "possesses a good conservative business sense" (16). A "good conservative business sense" may be perceived as a clarification or extension of the key word "practical."

Establishing a Degree of Commonality

An interpretation for each topic was established for both the astrological categories and life themes based on a degree of commonality among the astrologers.

For example, 10 of the 16 astrologers who discussed the ascendant sign used the key word "emotional" to describe the subject. By a degree of commonality, emotional was considered an interpretive key word of a Scorpio ascendant.

Four of the astrologers did not discuss the ascendant. By excluding the ascendant analysis, 20% of the astrological reports could be considered scanty, if not incomplete.

On the other hand, two of the 10 astrologers made precise comments about the Scorpio ascendant's emotionality. One stated that the subject wants to appear cool and unemotional (6). Another astrologer said that the subject was not in touch with his emotions (16). These clarifications of "emotional" were considered as synthesis, rather than strict analysis because the astrologers included a more creative and detailed description of the subject's emotions, rather than simply calling him "emotional."

Length Variation of the 20 Analyses

The analyses were in different typing styles. Some were typed single-spaced; some double-spaced. Five had been transcribed from audiotape to much smaller type than others.

I determined the length of each analysis by estimating the words on each page. I counted the average number of words in a few sentences and how many lines were on each page. By multiplying the number of words by the number of lines on a page, I came up with an approximate number of words on each page.

I divided the total word count by 500 to estimate the number of single-spaced pages each report contained: the results called "equivalent lengths."

The equivalent lengths of the 20 analyses ranged from 2 to 37 pages; the average lengths between 7 and 14 pages (50% of the analyses).

The two longest reports (37 and 31 pages) were both transcribed from audiotapes. Perhaps it took less time for some astrologers to "talk" a birthchart, than compose a written analysis. I found that to be my own experience in writing/composing the analysis. If I were to do the project again, I would audiotape it.

The Composite Analysis

I made a composite analysis incorporating the astrologers' comments on various themes and categories. I reduced each astrologer's offering to one or two sentences concerning each topic. Also, I edited the composite analyses by using the pronoun "you" throughout, rather than "he," "the native," or "this person." In some instances, capitalization and punctuation were changed. The editing was done to provide clarity and continuity with no judgement intended concerning the astrologer's style.

Criteria of Competence

What should a client expect to receive in a birthchart report from a professional astrologer and what are the criteria for measuring an astrologer's competence? In a typewritten or audio taped report from a professional astrologer, a client has the right to expect:

1. Accuracy: A copy of the client's birthchart with accurate calculations and statements as to what systems (tropical, sidereal, house system, etc.) the astrologer is using.
2. Analysis: A discussion of the clients Sun, Moon, ascendant and midheaven signs, as well as their planetary rulership connections. The report should include an analysis of the individual's personality, self-image, relationships, career indications, and other life conditions.
3. Synthesis: A discussion of the strengths, talents, challenges, adjustments, and obstacles which may manifest in the client's life experience and what astrological data led to the astrologer's opinion. Any repeating themes in the birthchart should be stressed.

The worksheets were helpful in tabulating the criteria as well as other results such as page lengths of the reports, house system employed, and calculations.

Interviews

Several times during this study I interviewed the subject on other various points. I wanted to know:

1. What was the impact of so much information?
2. What style or content of information was having what kind of effect?
3. Did the transit reports reflect the present conditions of the subject's life?

References

Various respected authors are cited in this thesis to substantiate or clarify some topics being discussed. Edgar Cayce, Myrna Lofthus, Alan Oaken, and Dane Rudyhar are the main sources for astrological theory and philosophy.

I cite Edgar Cayce because of his connection with A.R.E (as founder) as well as the depth of astrological information found in his compiled material.

Myrna Lofthus and Alan Oaken are chosen because I believe that their works express the transpersonal ideology to which many contemporary astrologers aspire.

With his writings, Dane Rudyhar started the upliftment of the astrological community-mind, from prediction-centered to transpersonal-centered, as far back as 1936.

To my knowledge, there are no published data on this particular type of astrological research: 20 astrologers analyzing one birthchart. However, there are extensive data published consisting of vast numbers of birthcharts examined for particular factors such as careers, personality traits, diseases, etc. (See Doane, 1956 and Gauquelin, 1982).

Matrix and Kepler computer software programs were employed to verify the astrologers' birthchart calculations.

Terms

The term "horoscope" was not used in this thesis, except in rare instances, because of its obvious associations with newspapers' daily horoscopes. Contemporary terms for a natal horoscope include birthchart or birth chart.

The names of the astrologers and the subject are not used in this thesis. The subject is referred to as Friend or subject; the astrologers by numbers 1 through 20.

CALCULATIONS OF A BIRTHCHART: FINDINGS

Definition of Birthchart

A birthchart is a map of the solar system as it appears at a particular moment, from a specific place on earth. The birthchart includes the signs of the Zodiac as a backdrop of the solar system. From the viewpoint of earth, the Zodiac is a path, called the ecliptic, through which the Sun, Moon, and planets appear to travel. The Zodiac is divided into 12 signs, which are not to be confused with the 12 constellations of the same name.

Edgar Cayce spoke about the study of birthcharts:

For, as given from the beginning: the planets, the stars are given for signs and for seasons and for years; that many may indeed find their closer relationship in the contemplation of the universe. For man has been made a co-creator with the Godhead. Not that man is good or bad according to the position of the stars; but the position of the stars indicates what the individual entity has done about God's plan in earth activities, during the periods when man has been given the opportunity to enter into material manifestations. (5124-1)

As requested in the Venture Inward invitation, all astrologers sent a birthchart (natal horoscope) along with their analysis.

The Significance of a Birthchart.

Many contemporary astrologers regard a birthchart as a map or tool for raising consciousness. Jungian analytical astrologer Alice O. Howell wrote: chart, to me, yields a description of how a person is likely to process experience. As Carl Jung wrote,

'In the end, all reality is psychic reality.' In view of this, astrology does not (in the case of an individual horoscope) describe the actuality of a situation but rather how each person would tend to respond to it....What the chart does is describe the ways in which we are likely to experience, and because this can be quite accurate, it can help us become more conscious of how we tend to see things. The next step...is to realize that we don't have to do it only this way, but have free will and free choice. We can use our newly-won understanding to guide us to new growth...much of what the chart points to is our habitual or unconscious way of reacting to things...the chart becomes a guide to self-acceptance and self-realization (p. 2,4).

Some astrologers consider the spiritual/soul dimension of a birthchart. One of the 20 astrologers wrote:

"The birthchart is a mandala of your soul. The planetary pictures within the birthchart reflect the particular rhythm and melody of your life. Edgar Cayce held that a birthchart is more a picture of where you have been, rather than where you are going. Whether you create a symphony in the world, or a discordant note, is subject to the choices you make, the attitudes you hold, and your will" (7).

The Problem of Birth Time

One main concern of astrologers is the correct time of birth. Even when the birth time is recorded on the birth certificate, often it is incorrect. This is because of discrepancies in the definition of birth time, the hurried duties involved in the delivery room, and the insignificance given to the exactitude of birth time by the medical profession. Unless a delivery room nurse is familiar with and sympathetic to astrological theory, the birth time recorded may be 15 or more minutes off! I have asked at least four delivery room nurses, "When do you record a baby's birth time?" One nurse said, "Whenever I get time to look at the clock." Another nurse told me that sometimes the delivery room was so busy that she could only record birth times at the end of her shift: she estimated the birth time for each child. I suspect that these cases may be common procedures, rather than exceptions, in birth time recording.

Contemporary astrologers would most likely agree with Alan Oaken (1988),

"A child is considered as being born when it takes in its first breath. At that moment, all the cosmic energy which is in the environment is taken into

the child through its life's breath. This breath or prana is the first impulse of the life-force which starts the child on its road to an independent destiny outside the physical womb of the mother" (p. 17).

Isabel M. Hickey (1989) wrote,

"In the Aquarian Age more and more individuals will demand that the exact time of the first breath be clocked in the delivery room and written down at that time" (p. 262).

Birthchart Calculations

To a professional astrologer, the mathematical calculations of a birthchart are simple and precise. They may be done by hand with the aid of reference books, but take less time by computer. It takes the average astrologer about 30 minutes to calculate a birthchart by hand, with major aspects noted. An average computer can do the work in two minutes, saving hundreds of hours yearly for professional astrologers. Computers are accurate if the information given to the astrologer is correct and if the astrologer types the correct data into the computer.

When calculating a birthchart, there is only one correct answer. If Matrix and Kepler computer software programs are given the correct birth information, their answers will be the same.

Astrologers, properly instructed in the calculation of a birthchart, derive the same degree and minute on the ascendant as the Matrix and Kepler computer programs.

A birthchart is calculated for the exact moment of birth (first breath), from an specific place on earth, through the conversion of birth time to sidereal (star) time, and by using the birthplace coordinates expressed in longitude and latitude. Sidereal time is measured by the earth's daily rotation, as is our 24-hour clock time. However, sidereal time is approximately four minutes shorter than 24 hours because it is measured by how long it takes for the earth to rotate to the same fixed celestial point each day. The four-minute daily time increment is listed under the "sidereal time" column in reference books called Ephemeris/Ephemerides. also list daily positions of the Sun, Moon, and planets for any given year.

Calculated sidereal time of birth establishes the houses (See House Systems following) of the birthchart wheel. The exact degree and minute of the ascendant, midheaven, and other houses (12 in all) are calculated precisely (interpolated) from reference books called Table of Houses. Popular house systems include Placidian, Koch, and Equal, all of which were represented in the 20 astrological analyses.

House Systems

A house system is used for dividing the birthchart into twelve areas or departments (i.e., houses) concerning an individual's life experience. This division is done by

interpolation, a process aided by the use of logarithms, calculator, or computer. The most popular house system in the United States is the Placidian system. Until the 1960's this was the only house system readily available for American astrologers to use. Concerning house systems, Robert Hand (1981) wrote:

Houses are one of the basic symbol systems used in horoscope delineation, yet at the same time they are one of astrology's greatest sources of difficulty. Their central idea is simple: it is that planets affect different areas of life, action, and experience according to where they are located with respect to the horizon of the birthplace....If one is going to talk about houses, one is more or less forced to choose a house system. (pp. 255, 257).

House Systems Used by Other Experts

Myrna Lofthus (1983) advocated the Placidian system of houses in agreement with 70% of the A.R.E. astrologers. (p. 10).

Robert Hand (1983) stated, "My present choice is the Koch or Birthplace system of houses." (p. 257).

A discussion of the Equal house system rationale is found in the momentous work of Derek and Julia Parker (1990, p. 175).

House Systems Used by the 20 Astrologers

The A.R.E. astrologers used various house systems:

14 used Placidian
4 used Koch
1 used Equal

One astrologer did not state which house system was used. As the birthchart ascendant was incorrect by four degrees, it was hard to determine which house system was used.

Results of the Different House Systems Used

The difference of the subject's birthchart houses was only three degrees between the Placidian, Koch, and Equal house systems.

In many other birthcharts, there is a greater contrast between the various house systems. Planets may fall in different houses resulting in dissimilar interpretations. However, in the subject's birthchart, there was no difference in interpretations, whatever house system was used by 19 of the 20 astrologers.

The choice of a house system is largely a matter of preference and personal experience. Which system is "correct," is still debated among astrologers.

The Calculation Accuracy of the 20 Astrologers

The subject's exact ascendant is 15 degrees, 02 minutes of Scorpio, verified by Matrix and Kepler computations. If astrologers calculated the ascendant to within three minutes of exactitude, I considered the calculations accurate. This was a subjective decision on my part which made allowance for computer systems other than Matrix and Kepler. Also, the figure of three minutes appeared in other instances. There was three minutes' difference between the Coral Gables and Miami birthplaces as expressed on the ascendant. (See Incorrect Birth Data.) Also there was three minutes' variance on the houses between the Koch, Placidian, and Equal house systems used by the various astrologers.

Allowing the three minutes' leeway, 16 of the astrologers (80%) were accurate in calculations.

If the three minutes' leeway were disallowed, only 12 astrologers (60%) were accurate in the calculation result of 15 degrees and 02 minutes of Scorpio on the ascendant

The four results that I considered incorrect:

- 15 degrees Scorpio, 07 minutes.
- 14 degrees Scorpio, 44 minutes.
- 15 degrees Scorpio, 35 minutes.
- 19 degrees Scorpio, 00 minutes.

For all practical purposes, all of the astrologers calculated the correct ascendant, midheaven, and planets' signs, but three of the astrologers' calculation mistakes on the ascendant were from 28 minutes to 4 degrees. One astrologer was border-line at five minutes off.

The Need for Accuracy

It is important to have an accurate birthchart for one main reason: the projected timing of events (forecasting) in a person's life. Every major event in a person's life will be reflected in the birthchart by progressed aspects between the ascendant, midheaven, and planets. This fact may be verified by any competent astrologer.

Progression is done by traditional formulas and projects the birthchart forward in time. It is through the progression of a birthchart that an astrologer forecasts present as well as future decision-making times in a client's life. (The birthchart may also be projected backwards in time. This process is used in rectification or confirmation that a given birth time is correct.)

If the birthchart's ascendant, midheaven, and planets have not been calculated

correctly, there will be little or no correlation between the progressed birthchart and current decisions or major events in the person's life including marriage, moves, promotions, honors, induction into the service, children's births, the deaths of close relatives and friends, or any event which the person deems important.

A difference of one degree off in computing the midheaven/ascendant axis can result in a whole year off in the timing of events using progressions and transits.

One degree of a Zodiacal sign is equal to four minutes of clock time. Therefore, if the birth time is reported inaccurately by eight minutes, the midheaven/ascendant will be incorrect by two degrees; the forecasting of major events in the subject's life will be two years off. Also, nothing in the client's past will correlate with the birthchart.
Incorrect Birth Data

If accuracy is of such importance, what happens if the subject gives the astrologer incorrect birth data? This was indeed the case in the Venture Inward invitation. Miami, FL was given as the birthplace. In fact, the subject was born in Coral Gables, FL. The longitude and latitude of Miami, FL are 80W11 and 25N47; Coral Gables are 80W16 and 25N45.

However, the difference of five minutes of longitude and two minutes of latitude makes a small variance in the calculation results. The two cities are very close and, for a city as large as Miami, Coral Gables may be considered a suburb. The two birthcharts vary by only three minutes' difference on the ascendant.

In Friend's case, the incorrect birth data given was insignificant to the results. However, this example of birth data error is reported to point out how little attention some people pay when reporting birth data to an astrologer. The exact birth date, time, and place, as shown on the birth certificate, is of utmost importance. One should not "guess" when giving birth data to an astrologer.

BIRTHCHART ANALYSIS: COMPARISONS

A.R.E. Astrologers

All of the twenty astrologers were members of the Association for Research and Enlightenment (A.R.E), so it was expected that they had certain similarities in philosophical outlook. Since Edgar Cayce was the founder of A.R.E. and had much to say about astrological analysis, it was surprising to me that only four of the 20 astrologers mentioned Edgar Cayce or his philosophy in their analyses. I expected more references to Cayce's astrological material, particularly concerning the subject's

ideals and purpose in life

For example, one astrologer wrote:

"You are a mystic, innately, and the following extract from Edgar Cayce could well have been given for you:- 'The influences in Neptune make for associations with the mysterious forces in action in the universe, as well as in the experience of self' (497-1, 12.6.1887)...The words that might be given, reflective of the Ideal are from the Bible: "Comfort ye My people," and we find in this all the qualities that denote attendance and waiting, healing and harvesting, asking little for the self (1)."

The Astrologers' Initial Approach

Because of popular Sun sign astrology, included under "Horoscope" columns in leading newspapers, it was expected that most people knew their Sun sign and a few astrological key words about themselves. Sun sign analysis was a familiar introduction to seven of the astrologers' reports.

Five astrologers approached the analysis with an overall view or general analysis of the birthchart.

One example of an "overall approach:

Overall initial impressions of this birth pattern indicate a life that is to be lived creatively, in pursuit of knowledge and in teaching others. Your destiny, in a very real sense, is to follow the Unknown...Hence innately a scholar, and yet there is a deep personal involvement in your work/studies. Your personal life and discoveries, moreover, seem to touch upon the development of large numbers of people. You are a true artist, though perhaps not in a formal sense, and your vocational/career life, which stands out as being very important to your overall life purposes, draws upon deeply creative levels of self (1).

Two astrologers initiated the report with an analysis of the ascendant sign. One wrote:

In meeting 'others,' your ascendant Sign is usually the first impression that they receive about you. It is the 'face' that you show the world because it is safe for you to do so. Your Scorpio survival mechanism has been layered from many years of experience...naturally adopted and sculpted by you as you have interrelated with others in your environment...For that reason the ascendant (persona) has in its makeup many of the 'shoulds,' and 'oughts' that you have decided to assume as your own (7).

Two began their analysis with astrological theory--a teaching approach.

Four astrologers started their analysis in a unique and creative manner. One began the analysis with a discussion of the four angles of the chart; one with the planetary pattern of the T-Square; one with a discussion of the planetary ruler of the chart, Pluto.

The most creative and synthesized approach listed six major themes of the subject's life. The first page:

NATAL CHART

Major Themes in the Life

- 1. Extreme intellectual emphasis with talent for writing, speaking, reporting, teaching and any form of communication.*
- 2. Difficulty in partnerships, marriage and relationships due to unlovingness in past lives/lack of domestic harmony.*
- 3. Personal transformation and regeneration through the career.*
- 4. Difficulties with self-centeredness, "me-first" attitude and headstrong, self-willed desire for independence.*
- 5. Problematic concerns with power, control and authority figures.*
- 6. Childhood problems with a parent, probably the mother, that created hypersensitivity, insecurity, fear and an overly perfectionistic attitude (6).*

The main considerations of the birthchart were established at the beginning of this report; personality, abilities, as well as relationship and career inclinations. Each of the points was then elaborated in considerable detail. The report included the planetary positions and aspects that influenced the astrologer's analysis. This astrologer rated the highest overall in the three criteria of competence.

Astrologers' Style

The 20 astrologers' composition style made little difference regarding competence. Some astrologers preferred to list the twelve areas (houses) of the subject's life experience and discussed what each meant. Other astrologers discussed the sign qualities of the Sun, Moon, and planets, with less attention paid to the houses. Many astrologers considered the aspects between the planets as the most significant factors of the birthchart.

However, five of the 20 analyses were structured like computer service reports. Computer service reports are organized in short paragraphs. They list many isolated "facts" without regarding the "whole" person as reflected in the birthchart. Computer service reports are designed for "masses" of people. Therefore, no synthesis of birthchart factors is involved.

Astrological "Jargon"

Some astrology clients prefer that the astrologer not use technical terms or jargon when analyzing their birthchart. A person wrote to me:

I have had many excellent and useful astrology readings over the years. However, I have resisted learning and remembering basic astrology terms like ascendent, aspects, and trines, let alone yods and t-squares. I know there are many others like me, who firmly believe in the value of the information, but do not care to add such 'technical' terms to their daily understanding.

While honoring a client's preference, it has been my experience that for as many people who do not want their birthcharts discussed in technical terms, there are as many who do want the technical information. Unless an astrologer is meeting a client one-on-one and can verify his or her preference, it should not be assumed. In a student research situation, such as the *Venture Inward* invitation, the use of technical terms seemed important.

Two of the 20 astrologers found unique methods in solving this dilemma. One astrologer analyzed the birthchart in non-technical language, but noted the astrological factors in the left-hand margins. The other astrologer also used non-technical language, but noted the astrological factors in parentheses at the end of each paragraph.

The Factors of a Birthchart

Personifying the astrological factors in a birthchart is a method of simplification. The ancients personified the planets by considering them as Gods and Goddesses. We continue to use the ancient names of the God and Goddess planets. However, most contemporary astrological/psychological theories contend that the planets represent archetypal ideas common to all humankind. As archetypes, these ideas are imbedded within the very "stuff" (physical/emotional/mental/spiritual DNA, so to speak) that underlies our common, evolving consciousness. (See Howell, 1987).

Birthchart factors include planets, signs, houses, and aspects. Comparing a birthchart to "Theater," the planets are like actors; signs are like costumes; houses are like a stage; aspects are like action/scripts. Through the Theater simile, Friend's Capricorn Sun in the third house quincunxing Jupiter becomes:

The Sun (actor 1) is in Capricorn (costume) in the third house (stage 3) interacting (action/script) with Jupiter (actor 2) in the 10th house (stage 10).

One astrological interpretation of these factors:

Your individuality [Sun] is based in the sign of Capricorn which is a very ambitious and enterprising placement. The focus of your ego [Sun] is in the 3rd House [stage 3] of communication indicating a need to shine intellectually...It is very important [Jupiter] that you receive recognition in your chosen career...(6).

Capricorn Sun Sign: Individuality, Ego, Yang Principle

Analyzing the subject's Sun sign, one of the 20 astrologers wrote:

Almost everyone knows their Sun sign, even if they know nothing else about astrology. The sign where the Sun is located at birth is a very important factor in a natal horoscope. The Sun represents who you really are--your individuality and personal statement of being. The Sun in Capricorn is goal oriented. Capricorn is the sign of achievement, also the sign of structure, tradition and status quo. Respect and recognition are important. In your chart, the Sun is located in the 3rd house of communication, possible public speaking...(4).

Seventeen of the astrologers analyzed the subject's Capricorn Sun sign.

Nine of the 17 astrologers used the word "practical" in their analysis.

Nine of the 17 astrologers revealed that the third house placement of Friend's Capricorn Sun indicated "communication" would be a career probability. Six astrologers mention writing in particular.

Seventeen astrologers mentioned teaching or education as a probable career.

Planetary Aspects

A planet's interpretation by sign is clarified by its house position. (For convenience of expression, astrologers call the Sun and Moon planets. We do know that the Sun is a star; the Moon a satellite.)

A third consideration in birthchart analysis is planetary aspects. Aspects are designated by the division of the 360 degree circle by a number.

For example, dividing a circle (360 degrees) by two results in an opposition (180 degrees). Two or more planets 180 degrees apart are considered in an opposition aspect.

Dividing a circle by three results in a trine (120 degrees); dividing by four produces a square (90 degrees); dividing by six produces a sextile (60 degrees); and so forth. Traditionally, aspects formed by the division of two and its multiples are rated challenging; aspects formed by three and its multiples are called flowing or easy. Friend's chart contains 27 conventional aspects. All of the astrologers mention one or more of the 27 aspects in their analyses. The subject's Moon aspects were the most frequently mentioned.

Virgo Moon: Emotions, Anima, Yin Principle

Concerning the Moon's meaning in a birthchart, Myrna Lofthus (1983) wrote:

The basic personality function of this planet is to stimulate our responses to the conditions we live in...the moon is the sum total of all our past lives' habits and experiences combined into our present personality....Picture the moon as a mirror which has collected our feelings and experiences from our other lives and now reflects them to others through our personality. (pp. 66, 68).

Eighteen of the 20 astrologers included the Moon's aspects in their analyses.

Sixteen astrologers noted that the subject would attract challenging relationships, implied by the Virgo Moon and its aspects.

Three astrologers discussed the probability of difficulties with the mother. Nine astrologers used the term "perfection" or "perfectionistic" in describing the subject's Virgo Moon personality.

The Cayce Material

Edgar Cayce, a noted psychic and founder of the A.R.E., gave 2500 "Life" readings regarding astrology. He gave those readings while in a trance and knew nothing about astrology while in a normal waking state.

An interesting comparison between Friend's birthchart analyses and the Cayce material (readings) was noted. Concerning the Moon, and also the Moon's adverse relationship to Venus, Mars and Uranus, Cayce (1985) said:

Being under those influences of Moon and Sun also, we find in the Sun the strength and in the Moon the weakness (2990-2).

...the Moon those various changing phases of man's consciousness, and the Sun as of righteousness. (3037-1)

The Sun indicates strength and life, while the Moon indicates

change...5746-1).

As to those influences in the life of the present plane's forces, as exercised in the force of Moon and Venus, we find this brings many of those troublesome forces to all conditions relating either to the physical or bodily love, and of the strange marital relations that may exist in the present plane (2553-8).

Venus we find afflicted with the Moon...Thus we will find there are periods when the entity is attracted to, and attracted by, the opposite sex. Let not thy overfeelings in such bring any period of anxiety or of doubts in these directions, or to cause self to do that for which it would be sorry--just for the gratifying of a desire (1664-2).

In Venus we find the greater ruling influence; afflicted, as may be astrologically termed in the Moon. Thus we find, in this entity, one beautiful in purpose, in hopes, in desires; of the universal nature. Oft not understood by those where that of material love life would find expression...Those that are attracted to the entity are those who need the entity for that of, oft, the sacrifice the entity must make in its own emotions to be of a helpful influence in the experience of the associate. Thus may the world, may individuals find the entity as rather strange, rather distant; and yet the entity giving--giving of self makes all influences in the lives of those the entity meets better for having known or been in association with the entity (2620-2).

Mars as an affliction in the Moon...One, without respect of will, that may be termed by others as quick-tempered; oft regretting the expressions of self, yet would not acknowledge it for many reasons best known to self...(1740-1).

...when there is the ultra-activity or influence of Uranus...in the life...at various phases of the Moon...the entity may be called one that is moody and eccentric at such times (2108-1).

Cayce referred to the Sun as strength and the Moon as weakness. This referral supports the astrological-Jungian principles which define the birthchart Sun as the Ego (center of consciousness/Yang principle); the Moon as the Anima (mediator to the personal unconscious/Yin principle).

Some A.R.E. Astrologer's Comments

Some comments of the astrologers concerning the subject's Virgo Moon compared with the Cayce material:

The Virgo Moon could manifest as a highly critical nature leading to anima conflicts with mates and close associates...Moon squaring Venus may indicate trouble in marriage or unwise sexual involvement...With the Moon squaring either Mars or Uranus, relationships with women would be problematical...The Mars element may make the native prone to emotional aggression and intimidating outbursts. The Uranus element brings rapid mood shifts and emotional unpredictability (2). (Compare with the above Cayce readings 2553-8, 2108-1).

The Moon in Virgo is a very perfectionistic and often worrisome placement, hard to handle emotionally. The Moon in challenging relationship to Mars and Uranus...makes for difficulties in holding relationships as you tend to draw in brilliant, but high-strung people (12).(Compare with the above Cayce Reading 2620-2).

Virgo Moon...if it's challenged, then there could be a nervousness--a worrisome insecurity--a fussiness and an inability to see the forest for the trees...we would have to say that the desire nature, Venus, is working at cross-currents to the personal security need, the Moon, and is working counter-current to Mars/Uranus. I believe that this person could be acting and behaving in a way that works against or moves against what he or she desires in partnership situations (19). (Compare with the above Cayce readings 1664-2, 1740-1).

Virgo Moon at its worst is picky, over-analytical and critical...the picture that we get is one of a brilliant flowering cactus which everyone loves to look at, but doesn't dare touch--it's too prickly...(7). (Compare with the above Cayce reading 1740-1).

Even though the Cayce readings were given almost 50 years ago, one can see the similarities between Cayce's personality analyses and those of contemporary astrologers.

The Mars/Uranus Factors

The subject has a Mars/Uranus conjunction in his birthchart. A conjunction means that two planets are together and powerfully combine their energies. Mars and Uranus are considered to produce volatile, explosive, and disruptive energy when in conjunction. This energy may be expressed through the subject's personality in various ways.

Cayce stated that negative Mars energy may be identified as anger ("madness" [900-10]), in another reading he said: *"From Mars we find the urges for activity, the intensesness with which the entity gives itself to that it chooses"* (3299-1).

Considering Uranus he said: *"From the Uranian influences we find the extremist"* (1206-3).

Putting the two factors of Uranus and Mars together we assume that the subject may be an extremist in anything that Uranus aspects, if he chooses. Cayce always cautioned others to be aware of choice and will in any given situation.

According to the Cayce material: Uranus with Mars shows possible urges for extreme activity, extreme drive and energy, and extreme anger. Uranus with the Moon shows possible emotional extremes.

Uranus with Venus shows possible extremes in the love life. Synthesizing the Uranus, Mars, Venus, and Moon aspects, one astrologer stated,

"Your moods are so changeable and you are so restless and full of energy that it can be very difficult for others to deal with you on a regular basis" (15).

Scorpio Ascendant: Self-projection and Persona

Jeanne Avery (1982) wrote a definitive work on the 12 ascendant signs and their meanings. Concerning the ascendant, she explained:

The ascendant is interpreted as indicative of the individual's personality as well as his appearance. It also indicates the circumstances of childhood. The rising sign is one of the most important parts of a chart because it describes the influences that become a part of a person's being the very moment he takes his first breath. It describes, most of all, the vehicle chosen by the soul to carry us through life and the earth plane experience...More importantly, it indicates the decisions he makes about survival...The ascendant can act like a wall or a facade that an individual erects around himself. It is often like a mask that he hides behind, simply because it is concerned with survival issues...It is also how a person allows others to see him...The ascendant also describes the psychological devices we use to keep us safe (pp. 16-17).

The A.R.E. Astrologers' Analyses

Sixteen of the 20 astrologers analyzed the subject's ascendant.

In addition to emotional, nine of the 16 astrologers used the word intense or intensity in describing the subject.

Some dictionary definitions of intense: Of great intensity; extreme in degree, strength, or size; involving or showing great concentration or strain; deeply felt and profound. Even though I had used the term myself, I felt that "intense" was generic; not precise enough. It seemed more like a modifier, i.e., intensely charming or intensely emotional. I interviewed four of Friend's acquaintances, asking whether "intense" was a good description of his personality, presence and appearance?

All four agreed that "intense" did indeed describe Friend's personality. The most graphic comment was, "When he walks into a room, it's like his presence just fills it!" Evidently, some people consider Friend to be intensely intense! The fact that Friend has the powerful ability to charm and hold people's attention is shown in the birthchart by Pluto (ascendant co-ruler) in the ninth house, but in the sign of the tenth (career). Pluto makes flowing, sextile aspects to the other two transpersonal planets, Uranus and Neptune. This is highly indicative of people who have the gift and opportunities of becoming a "transpersonality."

Transpersonality Defined

In 1987 I coined the word "transpersonality" to describe a person who lives beyond personal concerns and in accordance with transpersonal values and ideals. One example of a transpersonal ideal is in regarding oneself as part of a larger whole; not separated, but one with all.

Puryear (1982) elaborated on Edgar Cayce's view of oneness: *"The primary premise of the Edgar Cayce readings is the oneness of all force. The One Force is the Spirit of God and all that we know or experience is a manifestation of that force"* (p. 38).

Dane Rudhyar (1980) wrote:

...the concept of holarchy inevitably leads to the realization that a state of more-than-individual (or 'transindividual') existence is not only a possibility, but the only unglamorous, realistic and practical way to give meaning and direction to the presentday struggle of individuals and nations toward what many people, often naively, call the New Age (p.xv).

Rudhyar's "transindividual" is nearly synonymous with transpersonality. Since he was deeply impressed with Jungian theory, Rudhyar probably coined transindividual to coincide with Jung's concept of individuation. In Jung's theory, individuation was a process of consciousness unfoldment that normally began in some individuals during their second half of life.

On the other hand, transpersonality is more closely associated with a person who is continually striving to understand, develop, and refine his or her basic personality

structure, ever aware of life's interconnectedness. A transpersonality is convinced that "as I evolve, the world evolves," and acts as if the smallest increase of consciousness in himself increases the consciousness of everyone. This transpersonal ideal answers, "yes" to the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Pluto: Transpersonal Ruler of the Birthchart

In Friend's birthchart, Pluto is the ruler of the birthchart. Pluto is conjunct (together with) the North Node in the ninth house of teaching, publishing, higher ideals, and spiritual understanding. As such, Pluto brings transpersonal energy within the subject's personal grasp; spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. Friend must consciously decide how to unify this powerful transpersonal energy with his personal ideal.

BIRTHCHART SYNTHESIS: COMPARISONS

Beyond calculation accuracy and analysis, the greatest talent of competent astrologers lies in the skill with which they synthesize factors in a birthchart. Astrological synthesis is the ability to express viewpoints and conclusions based on the unique combination of acquired astrological knowledge, solid experience, and intuitive perception.

Isolated points of analysis are like separated pieces of an intricate puzzle. They only make sense when all of the pieces are put together, i.e., synthesized.

The following examples show the subtle difference between strict analysis and creative synthesis:

Moon in Virgo: The Moon in the sign Virgo indicates an exacting, hardworking, practical nature. There is great regard for neatness and cleanliness in personal hygiene and housekeeping. These people are particular about food and diet and concerned about health...There can be excessive preoccupation with inconsequential detail and a carping and critical attitude (15).

We see your greatest successes are going to come when you adapt a form of communications through your behavior and actions that not only support your emotional needs and desires, but also allows understanding, or at least an open communication of other people's needs...giving love without attachment, whether or not it makes the other person love you more, is a very difficult lesson to learn, but you are indeed seeking to separate yourself from an unconscious and self-defeating need for approval (19).

The first example contains statements of strict analysis. The statements are valid and an essential part of an astrological report. However, if an astrological report consists entirely of analytic information, it would resemble a computer service report. One may not want to pay a high fee to a professional astrologer for the same information that can

be purchased from an inexpensive computer service.

The second example is a fine synthesis of Friend's emotional nature with an integration of the Moon's factors: T-square, trine to Mercury, 10th house placement, etc. It contains subtle and discerning advice, which he may find helpful. However, if an astrological report consists entirely of synthesis, it seems like a psychic reading. One is at a loss to know where the opinions, statements, and information came from if they are not backed up with some astrological precepts or principles. Philosophic views, intuitive insights, and spiritual advice are often appreciated, but should not be the whole of an "astrological" report.

For nominal cost, accuracy and a basic analysis of a birthchart may be obtained through a reputable astrological computing service. However, a competent astrologer provides synthesis, including intuitive insights, details, and discernment of which no computer is capable.

Planetary Patterns

Planetary patterns are formed by three, or more, planets connected through three, or more, aspects.

Friend's Capricorn Sun forms one planetary pattern in the birthchart. The pattern is called a yod, which is comprised of one planet making two quincunx aspects (150 degrees) to two other planets which are 60 degrees apart.

Robert Hand (1981) called the yod a "twelfth-harmonic syndrome" and stated:

Even though the yod has the static, passive qualities of the three-series, it can also signify crises in which the energies have to be faced directly and specific courses of action taken in order to work out positively. Thus the yod contains the germ of its own resolution in a way that simple quincunxes do not (pp. 146-147).

Concerning the yod, Myrna Lofthus (1983) wrote,

A yod has been called 'the hand of God' and 'the finger of destiny.'...The two inconjuncts (quincunxes) indicate a need for the individual to adjust his thinking and emotional responses to the planets, signs and houses involved. If spiritual knowledge is not sought with the view of uniting the higher self, the inconjuncts will bring health and work difficulties according to the planets and signs involved. The sextile indicates an opportunity to be productive and/or creative. However, the energy must be consciously used in order to benefit (pp. 252-253).

A.R.E. Astrologers and the Yod Planetary Pattern

Only five of the astrologers discussed the yod. Specific comments of the five astrologers:

The yod is a great source of creativity, and it brings an almost magical quality to much

that you do: the ability, for instance, to tell a story and to convey ideas in ways that captivate the imagination of the listener (1).

In this yod, the Sun is the focal planet through which some major life adjustments must be made, and Jupiter and Saturn, which blend well together offer some kind of opportunity when you reach a detour sign along the road of life (4).

...the relationship of the Sun to Jupiter and Saturn adds a very important dimension to this horoscope....There can be limitations in the sense of taking on some sort of an attitude that will alienate people that you must depend upon for support, or co-workers who balk at the authority that they see in you. They feel as if you are too heavy handed. There's a strong dedication to work, though...If you are in a position to make laws, or write things that are going to be published on a large scale--this is where the blending of these influences can come out for the good of everyone , and where you can make a contribution (5).

Your central purpose in life may revolve around continuous personal adjustments and major self-correction. You need to alter the manner with which you demonstrate your will, power, authority and self-pride...You tend to overextend yourself, become too involved with work, doing your own thing, or letting others take advantage of you...When you have learned how to handle your ego, you will undergo a dramatic change in character (6).

So, as you consciously "play" back and forth between the two energies of Jupiter and Saturn you find yourself needing to expand self towards the world and its people. Then you very much need a time to withdraw into self and privacy to recharge and gather your forces. All of this in time and practice becomes a very natural rhythm and melody of your life's symphony (7).

The five astrologers who discussed the yod were aware of the significance of planetary patterns within a birthchart. The Sun quincunxing Jupiter and Saturn is not nearly as significant as the fact that Jupiter and Saturn are connected, too, forming a completed planetary pattern.

The T-Square Planetary Pattern

Perhaps the most complex placement in Friend's birthchart is the Virgo Moon. The Moon is involved in a planetary pattern called a t-square and includes Venus, Mars, and Uranus. A t-square is comprised of an opposition (180 degrees) between two or more planets, with both ends of the opposition forming 90 degree angles with another planet.

Some astrologers include Saturn in the t-square because of its opposition to Venus,

as well as the fact that Venus is the opposite midpoint between Mars and Saturn, and Uranus and Saturn.

Four astrologers specifically mentioned the t-square pattern:

The moon's square to the conjunction is virtually exact, making it a powerful part of the native's character. With the Moon squaring either Mars or Uranus, relationships with women would be problematical. The fact that the square is to a nearly exact conjunction of these two volatile planets exacerbates this factor....The Uranian element here brings rapid mood shifts and emotional unpredictability. The Martian element may make the native prone to emotional aggression and intimidating outbursts. Moon squaring Venus may indicate trouble in marriage or unwise sexual involvement. Venus opposite the conjunction could bring overemphasis of the gratification principle, a taste for exotic or aberrant sexual experience, etc. All of these factors coalesce in a trait constellation which could be very problematical in intimate human relationships....T-squares are very dynamic patterns and provide very clear directions for growth. The short leg of the square is the key. In this case it is the Moon which rules the flow of empathy and emotion....The Virgo Moon could manifest as a highly critical nature leading to anima/us conflicts with mates and close associates. Again, the key is to try and empathize and not emote in critical or angry ways. (2)

You are a person who is easily hurt with a quick temper and a hypersensitivity to the surrounding environment. You are able to readily pick up on the feelings of others and absorb the atmosphere of your immediate environment. When in the company of negative persons, you will absorb their negativity so it is very important for you to surround yourself with positive thinking people. Security is important to you and you are likely to withdraw deep within yourself to try and escape the tension of external stress. Your feeling nature is hyperactive and you are prone to mood swings. In addition, you are touchy and unusually receptive to others. You can be overly concerned with nurturing others and being a caring, sympathetic individual because you need to be nourished yourself internally. You may have experienced very unsettling conditions concerning your mother and this erratic childhood situation could have caused you to separate yourself from your feelings as a defense mechanism. You are also prone to intellectualize your feelings. When you finally connect with your inner feeling self, you can be very effective in the healing field. You will then be well-suited to deal with the public and encourage and nurture others (T-square to the Moon in Virgo, Moon square Mars/Uranus). (6)

T-squares tend to operate on an unconscious level for most of us throughout life. They work like "battles" we continually fight within ourselves, and in our relationships. We seem to draw the same type of people and situations into our lives in order to work out our inner pattern. (7)

The T-square denotes the dynamic of pressure and tension which can grip the individual for a lifetime unless resolved. The opposition at the base of the T-square is an

awareness-process in which the individual is trying to integrate the energies of the two "ends". The apex of the T-square is the dynamic principle that is a tensional point in this integration. The opposition reflects an attempt to balance the affectionate, harmony-loving Venus with the explosive temper of the combination of Mars and Uranus, specifically in the area of the personality on the one hand, and the area of close one-to-one partnership/marriage. The friction caused by interaction with other people can trigger unexpected angry responses from him, a tumultuous disruption in the behavior pattern. There might be difficulties in marriage, which could be a stormy affair for him. It is also possible that he experiences a love/hate syndrome for those he cares about, causing a great deal of suffering....The T-square midpoint (the point directly across the chart from Moon apex) and the midpoint of the Open Angle Pattern both fall in the sign of Pisces, ruled by Neptune. The qualities here symbolize compassion, a feeling for the oneness of all life, dissolution of all barriers. These represent the ultimate gain when the T-square is resolved...(16)

T-sextile: Planetary Pattern

In Friend's birthchart, the t-sextile pattern between the transpersonal planets Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto was a generational pattern and in all birthcharts of people born between October 1942 and May 1945. The pattern formed again briefly between December 1945 and February 1946. Perhaps not all people born during those dates will be concerned with transpersonal values. The astrological pattern must be studied in relation to all other factors in a person's birthchart.

A.R.E. Astrologers' Comments: T-sextile

Nine A.R.E. Astrologers commented on the subject's t-sextile pattern:

When a complete aspect pattern is formed between a number of planets, such as the triangular pattern between Mars, Neptune and Pluto (Mars and Neptune joined by a trine, with both planets joining Pluto by sextile) this is known as a talent triangle, and it gives a specific life pattern. To understand its meaning you bring the meaning of each of the planets together: Mars (action), Neptune (spiritual matters) and we have the talent potential for one who can work successfully with spiritual transformation. Again, you should look at the Houses: Mars is in House Seven of Relationships, Neptune is in House Eleven of Groups, Friendships and Ideals, Pluto is in House Nine, they are of seeking Universal Truth. Hence we have a pretty powerful potentiality. (1)

Mars makes a very beneficial trine aspect to Neptune...This is the aspect that gives you the ability to communicate in a more pleasant way. There seems to be a very strong interest in the occult and spirituality. Neptune is quite a spiritual planet. Uranus is more the intuition, the mental part of the psychic ability, while Neptune is more the feeling part. Both of these planets are involved with Mars, your ascendant ruler. And both of them make good aspects to Pluto, your other ascendant ruler. Neptune is very

imaginative energy and it rules your 5th house of creativity. Both Libra and Gemini are signs that involve communication. In addition to speaking, which I think would be one thing you would do, writing is certainly another avenue of expression, and I would be surprised if you hadn't done that. (4)

In your life, in order to be of service to others, you have had to overcome a desire to put yourself first. You put great energy into your work and may at times be impatient and irritable with your co-workers. You are headstrong and independent when it comes to your work and continuously starting something new. Mars is conjunct Uranus trine Neptune sextile Pluto)...At some time in your life your philosophical beliefs will undergo a radical and complete change. You are passionate and intense about deep philosophical subjects. You have a personal investment in seeking the values of truth, honesty and the meaning of life. All things involving deep spiritual and universal knowledge intrigue you and make you want to dig down and explore them to the fullest. In fact, you may become so involved with these types of subjects that you go to extremes regarding abstract principles. (6)

Pluto is involved in a planetary pattern with is indicative of many people born within a few years of yourself. That pattern I call a T-sextile. It is Neptune (in Libra), trine Uranus (in Gemini), both sextiling Pluto (in Leo). Trines indicate a natural 'gifts,' and sextiles provide 'opportunities.' So, I conclude that some of you born with this beautiful configuration of transpersonal planets will be our leaders in the coming Age of Aquarius. How is one to know which person is the best leader to follow? 'By their fruits we will know them.' (7)

...Mars is harmoniously aspected by Neptune and Pluto. The Mars trine to Neptune configuration gives an easy flow of positive energy which could be used in healing work, intuitive perception, and any creative movement (like hatha yoga, dancing). Furthermore, the Mars connection (sextile) with Pluto gives additional regenerative abilities and a potential harmonious use of the will and physical energy, which would help cancel out the previous challenging aspect of Moon square Mars. The life areas enhanced by these aspects would be personal relationships (7th house), educational, philosophical, spiritual pursuits, long-distancetravel (9th house), and friendships, group activities, and personal life objectives (11th house). (9)

Mars/Uranus conjunction trine Neptune: A very dear friend. Compassionate and reasoning to friends and individuals in need. Very artistic. This individual is concerned not only of others stability, but also their own. Very creative and fruitful mind. Gentle in dealings with others. Sees both sides of an issue...Intuition and an ability to focus in front of groups, the ability to speak with a gentle yet direct approach comes with this. Someone who can interpret symbols and dreams...Mars/Uranus sextile Pluto: An interest in mental health and research in diseases such as schizophrenia/multiple personality disorders...Excellent communication skills gained through teaching and risks taken to acquire these talents. (11)

...Neptune is gentling the explosive Mars/Uranus conjunction, and the relationship between the intellect and Mars/Uranus confers a well-developed (that is from the deep past) gnostic faculty with occult overtones and a creative, holistic perspective. (16)
Mars sextile Pluto: This aspect indicates great beauty in the partner, but a desire to change all old things and bring about a completely new way of living. Mars trine Neptune: This aspect indicates that you should very carefully examine your intuitions, thoughts and ideas about anyone you are considering for a partner in any regard. The aspect is generally favorable, but needs some thought and care. Neptune/Uranus sextile Pluto in 9th house: These are indicators of spiritual help from other planes by way of dreams, visions and revelations. Careful attention should be given to these matters in order to bring forth help for others. (17)

You are quite possibly a spiritual psychic--or could be. (Uranus trine Neptune) And, boy, do you resent being told what to believe--whether it be spiritual or political! You want to decide for yourself. You have an inherent distrust of politicians and want to know everything about them before you bestow your vote. You probably think it's just fine to include their private lives in that knowledge, for history has taught you what blindly following a charismatic leader can do. (Uranus trine Neptune) You have a fine-tuned ability to perceive deceit and dishonesty and may at some point actively participate in the political process. Freedom is one of your most important possessions. (Uranus sextile Pluto)... You are very articulate and can be a dramatic speaker who is able to hold your listeners attention. You are just as articulate about your intentions or position on any question and appreciate the same directness from others. Subtlety to you is a waste of time. You have strong opinions and are forceful in communicating them. It would behoove you to be willing to compromise, though; once in a while, someone else has a good idea, too. (Mars sextile Pluto) (18)

Psychological Awareness

Birthchart synthesis provides psychological awareness. Historically, astrology could be considered the "mother" of psychology, as well as philosophy, astronomy, and theology (see Parkers, pp.10-45).

Florence Estep (1961) explained one way astrology is applied in the field of psychology: "Modern astrologers have developed systems of reading the horoscope [birthchart] to show the underlying complexes and compulsions of the individual, as well as his social adaptability (p. 5).

In psychological astrology, planetary patterns do indicate "the underlying complexes and compulsions of the individual, as well as his social adaptability." A discussion of planetary patterns is an important part of birthchart synthesis.

Orb Allowance

Fifteen of the A.R.E astrologers did not discuss the yod pattern. They may have omitted discussing this important planetary pattern because of orb allowance. An orb is the distance variance between planets. If the distance variance is too wide in their estimation, astrologers ignore the aspect or pattern.

For instance, a sextile is exactly 60 degrees. Some astrologers will determine that five degrees on either side of 60 (from 55 to 65 degrees) is an "allowable orb" for a sextile aspect.

Robert Hand (1981) wrote that a sextile aspect (60 degrees) is considered if planets were from 57 to 63 degrees apart; a three degree orb (p. 111). In the subject's case, Jupiter and Saturn are 64 degrees, 35 minutes apart.

Yet, Myrna Lofthus (1983) allowed a six degree orb for the sextile aspect and a four degree orb for the quincunxes in a yod pattern (p. 252).

As in other astrological decisions, the answer to orbs depends on the astrologers' viewpoint. Bil Tierney (1983) explained that orbs of influence must be extended for planetary patterns, such as a yod, when the apex planet is the midpoint of the other two (p. 148).

I suggest, because one of the quincunxes from the Sun to Jupiter and Saturn is applying (will occur after birth), the yod pattern becomes more significant and the orb allowance for the sextile from Jupiter to Saturn should be exempt from Hand's three degree rule.

The yod pattern is a dynamic source of energy in Friend's life concerning ego consciousness, career, finances, publishing, society, his extension of self towards the world, and his attitudes toward his limitations within the world. I believe that the yod is one key to Friend's unfolding consciousness and transpersonal awareness. It affects his insights, motivations, attitudes, will, and choices in life.

The Transpersonal Approach

Admittedly influenced by the psychology of Carl Jung, Dane Rudhyar (1970) concluded, "...the first and immediate purpose of astrology is not to predict events in terms of statistical probability, but to bring to confused, eager, often distraught persons a message of order, of 'form,' of the meaning of individual life and individual struggles in the process of self-actualization....The goal of astrology is the alchemy of personality" (p.xiv).

In Rudhyar's earlier books, he compared the purposes of astrology to those of humanistic psychology. However, in *The Astrology of Personality* (1970), the following statements are comparable to two principles of transpersonal philosophy;

oneness and wholeness. He wrote:

...the fact is that astrology...is essentially related to psychology, and its main purpose is to contribute to the successful completion of the Great Work of man--that by which man reaches fulfillment and operative wholeness, and as a result becomes an organic function or cell within a greater Whole --the 'Greater Individual' or the 'Planetary Individual,' or the Seed-Manu, or the Logos, or God--as one may wish to name this next greater Whole of which the spiritually perfected human personality becomes a part (p. 400).

An Example of Synthesis

One A.R.E. astrologer wrote:

The thinking can be far reaching and open to influences from beyond the earth, but there is also a sense of nebulousness and uncertainty. There can also be a susceptibility to the illusions and the escapist tendencies that Neptune can bring. For Neptune is a transpersonal influence, and this can present difficulties to the ego-personality consciousness, which can be eroded. The ego's defenses can lie in drink or narcotics or in other forms of escapism, and there can be confusions in relationships and in the definition of boundaries between self and others...But Neptune also brings compassion, illumination and universal love, accessible through prayer and the Ideal. Without the opening of self to some form of spiritual guidance, it would have been almost impossible for you to come through. In that opening, however, you found healing, and in turn became a healing force in the lives of others; all the greater because you were the 'wounded healer', who could put his gifts of knowledge and his unusual personal insights, at the disposal of those in need (1).

Birthchart synthesis goes beyond listing what one already knows about oneself: personality traits, virtues, and faults. The astrologer tries to reach into the "soul" of another; to connect, affirm, and inspire one to be the best one can be. Birthchart analysis begins with oneself (personal). Birthchart synthesis begins with interpersonal relationships: how a person's attitudes and behavior affects others. An astrologer, through questions, statements, or metaphors, may stimulate the subject to probe more deeply into his own attitudes, motives, and behavior as well as give him a picture of how others may be viewing him. For example, noting the t-square pattern in the subject's birthchart, an astrologer might question the subject: "Have you noticed any repeating conditions (patterns) in your life concerning relationships, particularly with females?" Or, as one A.R.E. astrologer stated: "I believe this person could be acting and behaving in a way that works against or moves against what he or she desires in partnership situations. " Concerning how the subject may appear to others, one astrologer wrote:

"...the picture that we get is one of a brilliant flowering cactus which everyone loves to look at, but doesn't dare touch; it's too prickly. One fears that one may come away

bleeding." (7)

The subject may question himself concerning the above statements: "How am I behaving that makes someone afraid to "touch" me? When has someone gone away "bleeding" after "touching" (contacting) me? Is this a repeating/destructive pattern of behavior in my life?" It is through the subject's inner search for answers that he begins to tread the path Rudyar called "the alchemy of personality." For, it is through knowing and cultivating his own personality that he approaches the alchemical: from personal knowledge, to enhancing interpersonal relationships, to transpersonal consciousness. A competent astrologer can do more for a client through birthchart synthesis than strict analysis. Analysis tends to break apart the personality into bits and pieces. Synthesis attempts to envision the whole personality expressed in patterns of relationship to a larger whole.

FORECASTING WITH TRANSITS: COMPARISONS

Definition of Transits

Transits occur as the planets' positions, from one's birth, continue to advance through the Zodiac--making aspects to the birthchart angles (ascendant and midheaven) and planets. The observation of transits is one method that astrologers use to determine a changing time or event in the client's life. Most professional astrologers do not consider themselves as predictors of fated events or fortunetellers. In fact, one A.R.E. astrologer made a statement which sums up the attitude of many modern astrologers, myself included:

Now we'll move on to what most people consider to be the most interesting part of the reading--the future. I want to make it very clear at this point, that I cannot predict future events, I can only see influences or certain types of energy that will be activating your natal horoscope. Then I speculate or make a few educated guesses about how those influences might affect your life. Through years of astrological study and statistical data, it has been found that certain influences usually result in similar activity, but much depends on your attitude and the choices that you have already made in life (4). In addition, one's current choices are also very important when dealing with current transits and their energies. Choices may be aligned with one's "ideal" and "will." Edgar Cayce said, "...but let it be understood here--no action of any planet or the phases of the sun, the moon or any of the heavenly bodies surpass the rule of man's willpower...The inclinations of man are ruled by the planets under which he is born..." (3744). We are "inclined" toward certain attitudes, behavior, or choices, but not compelled. Choice is always the most important factor in the results of any planetary transit, whether the choice be in one's attitude, behavior, or will to change.

A.R.E. Astrologers' Transit Reports

The A.R.E. astrologers were invited to send a list of the current transits along with their analyses. All of the astrologers but one complied. Current transits covered the

time period from Summer/Fall of 1990 to 1992.

Ten astrologers reported on the current transits of five planets: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. One astrologer added Mars to the other five in the transit report. The other nine astrologers reported on from two to four transits; most frequently Saturn and Pluto.

19 included Saturn transit natal Sun.

17 included Pluto transit the ascendant.

16 included Uranus.

16 included Jupiter and Neptune.

4 included Mars.

One astrologer wrote a page of forecasting without noting which planets were involved.

The Transit of Pluto

Concerning Pluto transiting the ascendant, Howard Sasportas (1989) wrote: Pluto transiting the ascendant and first house brings to light our hidden depths, what has been 'underground' in us, and breaks up previous complexes or rigid patterns of behaviour. This is a time of discovery, cleansing and renewal, a fertile period for any form of self-exploration or self-development (p. 307). Sasportas also explained that Pluto energy seems to enable one to change directions in life, "conservatives turn liberal; and liberals turn conservative." Some people who are happily single get married; some married people get divorced. Many times, people change in their physical appearance. Since the ascendant represents the physical body, physical changes are probable when the ascendant is contacted by transit.

The A.R.E. Astrologers' Consensus: Pluto

The following is a composite of some astrologers' comments concerning the transit of Pluto (conjunct) and the subject's ascendant at 15 degrees, 02 minutes of Scorpio. This conjunction was exact between January 22, 1989 and August 9, 1990, but in effect through 1992.

Pluto also rules the Scorpio Ascendant of your birth chart, and indeed has recently moved over this point by transit. There have therefore been changes in your relationships, and in the manner of relating...Pluto is concerned with elimination...Potentially...a period of crisis...(1).

...it marks potential for a total, complete psychic and spiritual housecleaning (2).

Pluto and Scorpio represent regeneration, so you may feel that part of your life has died away and you are making a rebirth (4).

It was a confrontational time; especially with a marriage--or a close relationship would have been greatly tested (5).

The 'identity crises' you have experienced in the past will finally be resolved with this Pluto transit. You will finally become comfortable with the extremely sensitive, magnetic, powerful, penetrating nature of your personality (6).

Pluto energy is also knocking at your physical body, getting you to possibly want to create and/or try other forms of health care...(7).

There is a compulsion to transform the personal expression, mannerisms, and even the physical appearance--to reflect the profound inner changes that are occurring (9). Frequent changes in physical appearance will be typical for this one. A stronger self-esteem will be present. This use of willpower may also be used to change the physical body (11).

...there can be a tremendous transformation process going on as Pluto digs into the underpinnings of the personality and grinds away to test the structure (12).

...a slow purging of the life, the goals of the life, career, and it seems to effect all the angles: the roots, the family, the relationships, and the actual identity of the person himself is totally changing (13).

...an enhanced charisma, great gains in leadership roles, penetrating insights, opening up of new resources, and the fulfillment of hard-gained goals...a possible separation or break-up of a marriage or partnership, and possibly a shift of vision in long-term goals (16).

The old you is being discarded (possibly kicking and screaming at times) so that a new you can emerge...You are struggling to claim your own power and to really be the Self that you can be. And you will do it. A bright and brilliant Phoenix will arise from the ashes (18).

Much of that new cycle this year will have to do with relationships. There will be an identity crisis...the individual is going to continually break free from the past and that includes all the past, traditions, beliefs...(19).

Although the crisis situation may have occurred in August, 1990, the changes will continue through 1992 as the deeper meanings are integrated through a process of unburying hidden conflicts, angers, resentments, and even memories of abuse or ungrieved deaths (20).

The issues confronting the subject concern his physical body, identity crisis, relationships, career, elimination, purging, regeneration, and transformation.

INTERVIEWS WITH THE SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS

Between October 1991 and September 1992 I interviewed the birthchart subject on four separate occasions. Those interviews were audio taped and amounted to four hours in length.

The First Interview: October 1991 I asked Friend whether some of the 20 analyses were more helpful than others. Friend replied:

"A few astrologers gave me a structure, a main thing, or main theme, or main aspect, around which to organize the rest of the information...for example, one said at the beginning, the main thing is your t-square...and that at least gave me a focus, so that I could feel that some aspects were more important than others, or gave me an initial place to put my foot into the chart so that I could begin to ask questions. Without this, I had but a list of aspects with interpretations, little tid-bits of facts about me, some positive and exciting, others depressing, some scary. So I would pay attention to them according to their emotional impact and not necessarily according to their degree of overall influence."

Friend confirmed that structure and focus in astrological, analytic approach were more appreciated than listing personality traits and seemingly isolated interpretations. He pointed out that, initially, an astrologer's focus on a particular topic or area of the birthchart (or issue of one's life) provided clarity and understanding.

The Second Interview: December 1991 I was concerned about the impact of so much information on Friend. When I began the project, I found that I could read only two or three reports at one sitting. After that, I would become restless and headachy. When I questioned Friend about this, he replied:

"After reading a few charts, I began to get overloaded, about what did all of this mean?...Interesting [though] to read all the different interpretations of a given aspect, as it showed me there was not one single meaning, and encouraged me to look up some references and begin to try to have a feeling for what an aspect meant."

Clearly, Friend was very serious in his intent to learn exactly what purpose astrological analysis could serve in his search for self-knowledge and awareness. Although "overloaded" with information, he continued researching other references to further clarify and understand the material. He appreciated the diversity of opinions and regarded the variable perspectives as an advantage in his growing understanding of astrological analysis.

The Third Interview: May 1992

Because so many of the astrologers used the term "emotional," I questioned the subject about his emotions. He said that in many situations he depended on the females in his life to "tell me how I really feel." His comment supported Astrologer 16's observation that the subject "was not in touch with his emotions."

Stage Personality vs Everyday Personality

I attended a lecture given by the subject, Friend. I observed Friend's charisma with an audience. He seemed to have a different personality on stage than I had observed at our other meetings. I questioned him about his "stage personality."

Friend stated,

"I'm a completely different person when on stage than I am at home." This duality between his "home" attitude and stage appearance is denoted by Mars, the ascendant co-ruler, in the communicative, dual sign of Gemini.

The Fourth Interview: September 1992

After reading, again, all of the astrologers' forecasts (made between December 1990 and May 1991) concerning the Pluto transit, Friend said that the astrologers were "right on" in describing the conditions in his life. He is experiencing deep changes and his main concerns are with his body as well as self-identity, relationships, and career. Friend said that he recently became involved in three types of on-going physical therapies including Rolfing, osteopathic body work, and physical therapy. Rolfing is an intensive (sometimes painful) structural integration therapy which attempts to reach and release buried emotions through body manipulation. All of these therapies are indicative of Pluto on the ascendant even though it has been two years since the exactitude of the transit. Rolfing is particularly "Plutonian" in its intensity and purpose.

Pluto Transit and Elimination

During the Pluto transit, one of Friend's physical "eliminations" was smoking cigarettes; he quit smoking in April 1989. He also reported that January 1989 began a "Limbo time" in his life. Since Pluto is sometimes referred to as "Lord of the Underworld," Friend's "Limbo time" seemed a perfect description of Plutonian energy. He mentioned the "Phoenix" metaphor in astrologer 18's report. He said that the "ashes" effect related, perhaps, to the death of his old self-concept. Through the various physical therapies, Friend is taking positive steps that were indicated by the intense Pluto energy transiting his ascendant.

Scorpio: A Fixed Sign

Scorpio is called a "fixed" sign; others are Taurus, Leo, and Aquarius. Fixed is a good term for a basic attitude of the fixed signs: "if it isn't broken, don't fix it!" Notably, the fixed signs represent the most adverse attitude to change or changing conditions. In the September 1992 interview, I told Friend that he had transiting Saturn opposing his midheaven between May 1992 and January 1993. He could expect a changing or

ending situation in his life during that time. I explained that he could consciously choose what situation to change or end. I quoted Carl Jung who said that energy which remained unconscious within ourselves tended to manifest outwardly in what we called "fate." Friend could lessen this "fatedness" through his conscious choice. His reply, "What if I nail my shoes to the floor?" Only a fixed sign would express a question with an analogy of so much tenacity. I jokingly replied that if he nailed his shoes to the floor, he might be yanked right out of them by a greater force called "Fate." Pluto was a long-term transit with many far-reaching outgrowths. In Friend's case, the present Saturn transit denotes the ending factor of his life changes. When he sought physical therapies, his shoes were no longer "nailed to the floor." Whatever internal changes the Pluto transit represented to him, the Saturn transit will enable him to manifest or structure in his outer life.

ASTROLOGERS' COMPETENCE: RESULTS

A primary purpose of this thesis was to evaluate the 20 astrological analyses by comparing and contrasting through the three criteria of competence: accuracy, analysis, and synthesis. High-Quality Analyses Eleven of the 20 analyses (55%) were calculated accurately and were of high quality in analysis and synthesis as outlined in the criteria of competence.

Flawed Analyses Six of the analyses were flawed for various reasons. One astrologer explained that his offering was just a "sample;" not a complete analysis. However, I could not evaluate or compare the sample to the others because it was so limited. Four of the six analyses were structured like computer reports. They contained listed analyses, but little or no personal insight or synthesis. One report was off by five minutes on the ascendant, as well as not listing the requested transits.

Inaccurate Calculations

Four of the astrologers were inaccurate in calculating the birthchart. One of the four inaccurate calculations was included in the Flawed Analyses results above.

85% Of the Astrologers On Target Concerning Career

One of the greatest similarities among the 20 analyses concerned the subject's career. This study shows that 85% of the participating astrologers identified the subject's occupation or career tendencies. These opinions were based on Capricorn Sun sign (Sun ruling the midheaven/career) in the third house. Indeed, the subject is a teacher, author, and speaker.

85% "Right On" Concerning the Pluto Transit 85% of the astrologers accurately forecasted the subject's life conditions reflected by the Pluto transit. This was verified through interviews with the subject.

CONCLUSIONS AND COMMENTS

astrologers" (p. 19). The above statement seems rather critical of astrologers, but might be kept in mind when choosing an astrologer. Of course, it is indeed possible to find an astrologer who is also a "genuinely enlightened teacher." More often, an astrologer transmits information, not advice or teachings. Nevertheless, some people have read one or two books on astrology, or bought an astrology software program and gone into the "Horoscope" business. Since the advent of computers, anyone can set up a birthchart and, with a "gift of gab," call oneself an astrologer--charging substantial fees for birthchart readings. In most states there are no laws restricting or certifying astrologers. The old adage "buyer beware" is appropriate for anyone desiring an astrological analysis including private consultations, or mail, telephone, and audio taped reports.

Just a Beginning...

A written or audio taped birthchart analysis is just a beginning or introduction into the enlightening field of astrology and can not take the place of a one-on-one consultation with a competent astrologer. Astrologers who are dedicated to Edgar Cayce's philosophy are familiar with this teaching:

Know in self that in giving a helpful influence, the magnifying of virtues in others and the minimizing of faults is the beginning of wisdom in dealing with others. Not that the evil influence is denied, but rather that force within self is stressed which when called upon is so powerful that those influences about self may never hinder (2630-1).

A consultation with a competent, caring astrologer can be an uplifting and rewarding experience. Many people have claimed that the experience was a positive catalyst in changing their lives.

Personal Belief

Even though I am a professional astrologer, I don't believe that the "stars" control my life. However, I consider the continuing study of my birthchart as a guide for psychological/spiritual insight in making choices. As I grow in awareness, my question has evolved from "What's going to happen in my life...?", to "What can I create in my life...?" Edgar Cayce said that the birthchart is more a picture of where one has been (in past lives), rather than where one is going (in the present life). One's ideal, will, and choices affect the outcome of one's destiny. I truly believe that we create much of our destinies. A birthchart is, simply, a map to guide us in creating better ones: faster.

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NATAL CHART

Friend

January 14, 1944

3:13 AM

War Time

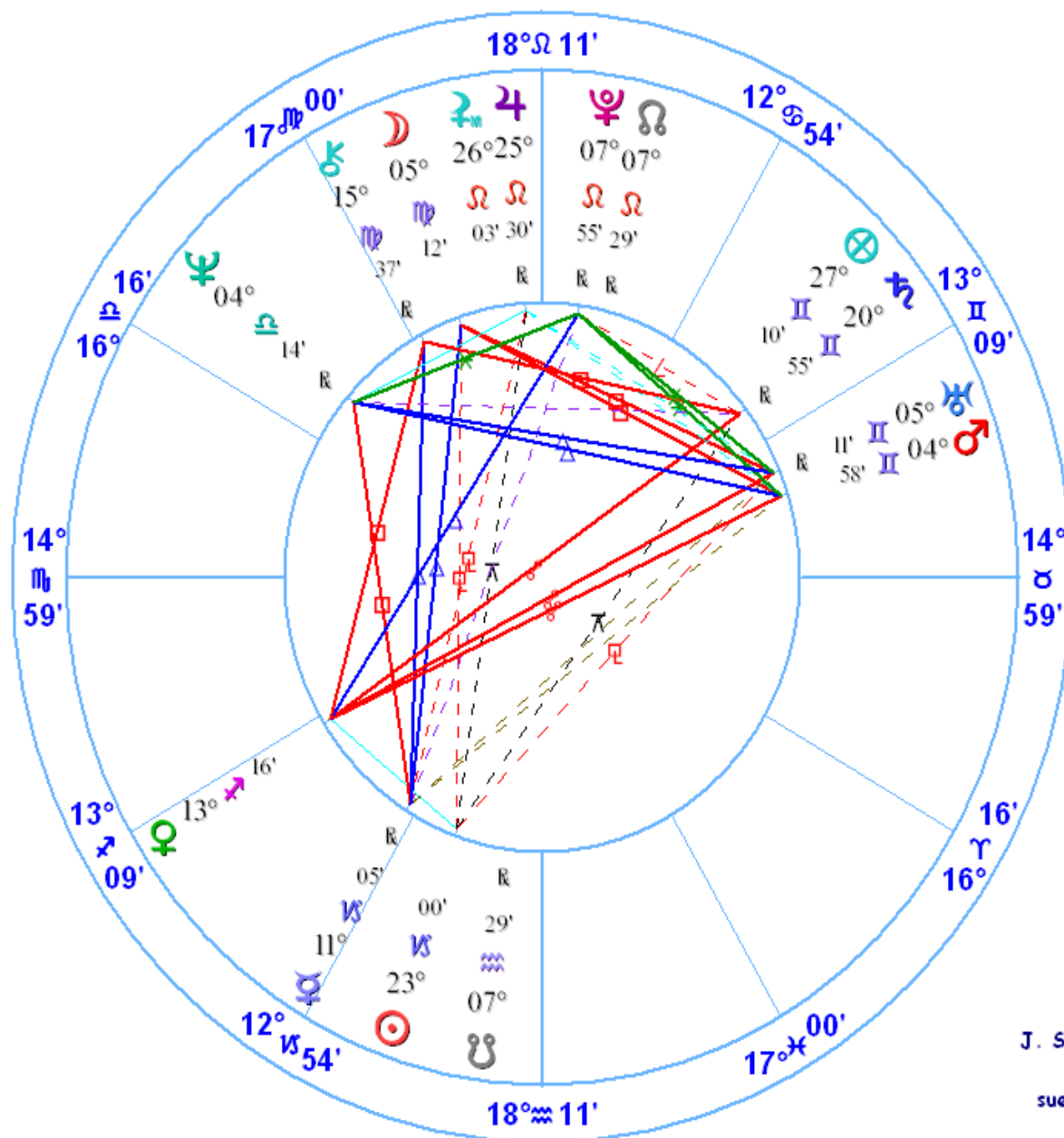
Coral Gables, Florida

25N43'16" 80W16'07"

Time Zone: 5 hours West

Geocentric

Tropical Koch



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