



Manual of Astrology

A Summary of Guidelines for
Astrological Interpretation

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Natal Interpretation Guidelines

When one is an experienced astrologer one can jump right into a chart and swim around in it, going, often by instinct, to where one needs to focus. This is more difficult for beginning students, most of whom feel more comfortable having a definite agenda to follow. So I'm presenting you with the one I follow, sometimes carefully, at other times loosely, depending on the situation.

The first thing to look at in a chart is whether or not there are **oppositions**. Next tabulate which planets are in **fire, earth, air, and water**, and which are in **cardinal, fixed, and mutable** signs. Check to see which element and modality predominates. To have predominance there must be at least 4 planets in that element without having an equal number in another element. The same rule of 4 holds true for checking preponderance by modality.

Next check to see if there is a **sole dispositor** to the chart. (If you do not already know what this is it will be explained later in this document).

Check to see if all planets are in the upper half (houses 7 – 12), lower half (houses 1 – 6, on the east side of the chart (houses 10 – 3), or the west side (houses 4 – 9). Check also to see if there is a single planet in any one of these hemispheres. (See article called "Hemisphere Emphasis.")

Look at **chart formation**. (Also to be explained later).

Check to see if there are any squares in the chart (it is extremely rare to find a chart without them), and then find **the square that is the closest-to-exact**.

Check for major aspects between the four planetary departments: (1) Sun/Moon (The Department of Vitality) (2) Venus/Mars (The Department of Efficiency) (3) Jupiter/Saturn, (The Department of Motivation or Morality) and (4) Uranus/Neptune (The Department of Significance).

Next, determine how many of these four departments are activated by aspect.

Measure the distance from the Sun to the Moon, and then referring to the table in the article called "Lunar Mansions: An Introduction" determine which Lunar Mansion the Moon is in. Once you have done this you can then proceed to the corresponding Lunar Mansion interpretation found in the various articles covering this subject.

Once you have completed all these steps the interpretation of the chart you're looking at is a matter of synthesizing the information into a coherent whole, which is the art of astrology. You will find that the more familiar you become with the information contained in this manual and the more charts you do following this method, the easier and clearer it will become to see how all the various parts combine to make the whole. May the planets guide you in clear and right ways as you explore the zodiac!

Cardinal, Fixed, and Mutable

A good way to understand the difference between cardinal, fixed, and mutable energies is to think of them as equating with three different aspects of fictional literature: **cardinal** in this context would be the **plot** of a narrative, that is, the action – what happens. **Fixed** would be the **ideas and concepts** that the work is expressing, in other words, the theme(s), whereas **mutable** signifies the unique personalities of the **characters** in the work.

Some works of fiction function more on plot and action – such as James Patterson books. Adventure stories carry a cardinal vibe. Now this may sound strange at first, but most horror novels carry the energy of the fixed signs, because fixed signifies moral issues – the question of good and evil, right and wrong, and most works of horror fiction are about the moral issue of overcoming evil. I'm thinking here more of the old style horror novels like "Dracula" and not the gratuitous violence/extreme grotesquery type.

Of course there are other types of fiction that exemplify the fixed type. "Pilgrim's Progress" by John Bunyan illustrates an extreme type of a novel based on concepts and moral ideas.

Some books focus mainly on characters, and the more unique and vivid those characters are, the more they are like the mutable signs. I'm thinking here of romance novels, for certainly the plots are based on formulas – mainly based on misunderstanding that get cleared up, and there is no real message. The focus is usually on the characters and their unique traits.

The way to tell whether an astrological chart is dominated more by cardinal, fixed, or mutable energies is to consider the oppositions. If there is a single opposition in the chart, then one has only to look at the signs in which the planets in opposition are in to tell whether it's cardinal, fixed or mutable. Of course sometimes one can have an opposition where the planets are near the beginning or end of the sign and so even though the planets are in opposition the signs are not. For instance, Mars in 28 degrees Gemini opposition Venus in 2 degrees Capricorn. In this case the opposition cannot be used to tell whether the chart as a whole is primarily cardinal, fixed or mutable.

Sometimes the chart has more than one opposition, and if these oppositions are not both cardinal, fixed, or mutable but different in modality from each other, then oddly enough **THE DOMINATING MODALITY WILL BE THE MISSING ONE**. For instance, an opposition of planets in cardinal signs and an opposition of planet in fixed signs in the same chart will mean that the mutable modality predominates in a person's character. This happens because the conflict between the cardinal and fixed is most easily resolved through the missing third term, which is the mutable.

If there are no oppositions then one may count up the number of planets in cardinal signs, fixed signs, and mutable signs, and see which has the most. Sometimes one sees a chart that has

oppositions in cardinal signs and fixed signs and mutable signs. This signifies a person who can see things from many different points of view, but who may have a hard time figuring out how to enter into experience and/or what to do exactly, because their consciousness tends to jump around a lot and hence they change tend to frequently change their approach to situations.

Also, if one has no planets in one of these modalities it is quite significant. No planet in cardinal means the individual is unruffled by what happens, and can kind of overlook events, that is, easily get beyond them. No planets in fixed means that the person is freed from moral conflicts and doesn't worry much about having to justify themselves. As you may imagine, this can be a very good thing, or a dangerous thing if the person chooses to use it in a pathological way.

No planets in mutable signs mean that the person can overlook people as individuals, and is freed from issues of character. I did the chart of a woman who worked for a large wine company. She said very many people had quit working there because they couldn't stand the boss. I said, "How can you stay there?" She said, "I just ignore his viciousness and lying and his other bad qualities and carry on with my job." She had not a single planet in mutable signs, and so was beyond being affected by the quirks of his personality.

Although a lack of something in a chart – a lack of cardinal planets, mutable ones, fixed ones, a lack of planets in water signs, fire signs, earth signs, or air signs, a lack of squares or other aspects, etc. can show a deficiency, the lack can also create a special power, and/or function as a freeing influence.

Marc Jones gave the three concepts "situations" (cardinal) "ideas" (fixed) and "people" (mutable) to help to explain these different modalities. The cardinal likes to be in the thick of things, where the action is, and to be confronted with challenges. The fixed operates at the greatest remove from experience, for its focus is on the future, where things are headed, and why. These are the most difficult to understand, for their motives tend to be the most complicated of the three. They are the most concept-oriented of the three and are also the best at holding firm under pressure.

The mutable type is the friendliest of the three, and the most compromising. They excel when they are with people they like and can relate to and they tend to like nearly everyone for their unique and individual traits. They are supportive in nature and are the ones of the three most likely to get walked on and taken for granted – at their worst they can be wishy-washy.

Chart Formation

Marc Edmund Jones describes 7 different chart formations in his book “The Essentials of Astrological Analysis.” The information given here follows his basic plan with modifications, especially when it comes to detailing exactly what the limits of a specific formation are. Jones was somewhat more vague on this than I am.

Chart formations are a good way of getting an overall idea of a chart before looking at any other specifics. Formation has to do with the general pattern of planets as a whole as they are situated in the wheel. Sometimes it is quite easy to take a glance at a chart and see immediately what the chart formation is. At other times one has to do some more exact measuring to determine what the formation is.

Chart formation is determined by the gaps that exist between planets, with a gap of 60 degrees or more being significant. Any space in a chart that is less than 60 degrees and contains no planets is not considered to be a gap. Of course it IS a gap – just not one big enough to be considered a MAJOR GAP. From here on in this essay when I say GAP I mean a space of AT LEAST 60 DEGREES in where there are no planets.

Also, in chart formation we are **only** considering the seven traditional planets plus Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. We are NOT taking into consideration Chiron, any of the asteroids, the Moon’s nodes, Part of fortune, or any other point in the chart.

The first formation I shall speak of is called the SPLASH type. This is a type that is actually rarely found. The SPLASH formation occurs when there are no gaps whatsoever. If we follow this definition to the letter we will indeed encounter a SPLASH chart very infrequently. Here I do hedge a little and say that there might be one gap, but if there is, it should not be over 90 degrees. If it is, then the chart actually falls into a different type of formation, as we shall see later.

The SPLASH formation

The SPLASH formation is into a lot of different things, and tends to live a variegated life. This person is the opposite of a specialist. I always symbolically think of this type as a movie director, for a movie director needs to think of actors, plot, lighting, costumes. Makeup, camera angle, etc. In other words, since movies are about life, anything and everything might be involved with the making of a movie. The SPLASH type scatters energies.

Before going any farther I would like to say that one of the most important points I want to make in my work as an astrologer is that to be a good astrologer one must cleanse one's perceptions of taken-for-granted biases. For instance, we tend to think of scattering energies as a bad thing – and it is not – at least not in every context. A SPLASH type of person might make a very good administrator, because they could be into every aspect of, say the manufacturing, marketing, and sales of an item, together with personal relations, hiring workers, and maybe fixing the toilet when it get stopped up. In some contexts, scattered energies can be just what is needed. If a person with a SPLASH chart tries to focus or limit their energies and involvements too much, they will not be happy. Of course, for the sake of survival, they need to be encouraged to focus on something enough to gain enough skill and expertise to make money at it, but whenever possible, they need to be allowed to spread themselves as broadly as the planets are spread in their chart.

Another great occupation for a SPLASH type might be a writer, for obviously a SPLASH type is a gatherer of experience, and as a writer would probably range very widely in this process of gathering things to write about.

The SPLAY formation

The splay chart pattern is formed when there are **THREE GAPS**. What these gaps do is divide the chart into three different groups of planets.

One thing we can say about the splay chart is that they tend to have their own unique way of doing things, are will not feel happy or fulfilled until they place themselves in a situation where they are free to discover how they want to go about performing their work. The SPLAY type is also a natural artist who is trying, in whatever they do to engineer something unique and which has on it their personal stamp. This type tends to be more attuned to subjective experience – their inner life and their emotions, than to the outer world. Almost always the SPLAY type will be an **INTERESTING** person, due to their unique approach to life.

The SEE-SAW formation

This is actually the chart formation you will encounter the most frequently as you look at chart. It is formed when there are just two gaps in the chart, dividing the planets into two distinct groups. It does not matter what the size of these groups are – they could be divided evenly, five and five, or they might be divided two and eight. If they are divided with nine planets on one side and one on the other, then you do not have a SEE-SAW type – you have a bucket, which we will talk of later.

Also, you need to know that it doesn't matter whether or not these two groups of planets are across the chart from each other — just so long as there are two gaps. One of these gaps could potentially be as much as 210 or more degrees, with the other gap being say only about 60. This is just a hypothetical example to show you that the SEE-SAW could be very skewed. The point of the formation is that it has these two groups, and NOT whether or not they're directly across the chart from each other.

The SEE-SAW type is a person who has two basic areas of interest in their life, and who is trying to balance these two areas with each other to produce harmony. The SEE-SAW individual can have a hard time making up their mind, for they tend to often be pulled in two different directions at once. If you want to know more about what these two areas of life have to do with, you can look at the houses occupied by the two different groups of planets. Sometimes these two different groups will be divided from each other by the horizon line (1st house/7th house axis) or by the Midheaven/Nadir line (10th house/4th house axis). If this is the case it actually makes the interpretation of the chart somewhat easier, for then the divisions within the person's life are between purely self-oriented involvements on the one hand and more interactive, relational involvements on the other (in the case of the dividing line being the 1st house/7th house axis), or between their strictly private life and their life out in the world (in the case of the dividing line being the 10th house/4th house axis).

The BUNDLE formation

In this formation there is only one gap, but it has to be no less than 210 degrees to create the formation. Of course it can be more than 210 degrees, but anything less and the chart becomes classed as a different formation.

The BUNDLE chart is the opposite of the splash. This person is a natural specialist. Whatever they are involved with they like to go into in depth. Ray Merriman once said at a class of his I attended that the bundle type can make mountains out of molehills. It is definitely in their nature to put all their eggs in one basket.

Let us say, for example, that a woman brings me a chart of her son, and tells me that he is obsessed with collecting all types of seashells as well as books and information on them, and that she is worried about the intensity of his focus. If I were to look at his chart and see that it was a bundle formation I would tell her to allow him to obsess on sea shells to his heart's content – for this is his natural way of being. Who knows – maybe he will one day become the world's leading authority on sea shells.

Of course it could be that this same boy isn't doing well in school because he's not giving enough time to his studies, due to his sea-shell efforts. In this case I will tell her to explain to her son that if he gives enough time to learning those things that the world expects him to know, that this will free him, ultimately, to follow what he is most interested in. Compelling a child of this sort to be "balanced," is something which disturbs me a great deal. Every person has their own balance, which is different from every other persons'. Balance for this individual might just be a life devoted to sea shells.

Do not think that a BUNDLE type always sticks with the same things – for they can shift interests, but whatever their interests are, we will always tend to find this depth plumbing going on. It is most likely, though, that if a bundle does shift focus it will be thought out beforehand – there will most likely be a build-up to it – it won't be just a whim of the moment.

And yes, I hear a student asking, is the narrowness of focus connected to the tightness of the BUNDLE? Yes, it is – a gap of 210 degrees (being the loosest bundle) would tend to have a looser focus than a bundle contained within 90 degrees and hence having a 270+ gap.

The BUNDLE person probably needs less encouragement from the outside world than the other chart formations do. The BUNDLE tends to go on its own steam, take care of itself, and be self-contained.

In these last four chart formations which I'm talking about in this particular essay, we also have the phenomenon of one of the planets in the formation taking precedence over the others. In the bundle, bowl, and locomotive formations this planet is known as the cutting planet, and the way to find it is to place your finger anywhere in the bundle and slowly rotate your finger CLOCKWISE until you come to the last planet before the gap.

The cutting planet is the most important one in the whole chart, and so when one has a bundle, bowl or locomotive formation it makes it easier for the astrologer to determine the chart's focus. The cutting planet is said to be in "high focus," as is also the single isolated planet in the bucket formation. And so in these four chart types, BUNDLE, BUCKET, BOWL, and LOCOMOTIVE there is always a high-focus planet.

Marc Jones gave special keywords to the ten planets when they are in high focus. When the Sun is in high focus the word is "masterly," meaning the person attempts to be so thoroughly versed in whatever he or she is doing that he/she comes to master the subject or discipline he/she is involved in. the keyword for the Moon in high focus is "intense." The person with this indication wishes to live a lot that is not bland or humdrum but which is vivid and intense. Frederick Chopin had a high focus moon — and he wrote nocturnes night pieces.

The keyword for Mercury in high focus is "inquisitive." The person is curious and will dig into and uncover information, going as deep as possible to uncover the truth and find out how things work. Louis Pasteur's chart has a high focus Mercury.

The keyword for Venus in high focus is "intimate," meaning that life is never approached in a cold or distant or impersonal way. Quite the contrary, the person thinks of every experience encountered as special, as having its own unique personality and needs, and as being something they want to get as close as possible to and interact with in a very personal INTIMATE way.

The keyword for Mars in high focus is "indomitable," meaning that the person will never let anything ultimately get the best of him/her. They refuse to be under anyone's finger. If defeated, they will simply put their mind to figuring out a way of being successful in the next skirmish. Abraham Lincoln had a high focus Mars.

The keyword for Jupiter in high focus is "paternalistic." I have a bucket with Jupiter as the handle planet, so Jupiter in my chart is in high focus. At first I had a hard time wrapping my mind around this word — but it truly is me. I'm being paternalistic right now, in that I'm trying to protect and support the tradition of astrology so that I can hand it down like a FATHER (pater is Latin for father). Isadora Duncan had Jupiter in high focus. It might be strange on first thinking about it to envision such a feminine individual as a father. But she was extremely intent on fostering a revival of the dance of the ancients, and of passing down this tradition to her students.

The keyword for Saturn in high focus is "shrewd." This is a person who is extremely sensitive to the limitations of any situations, and of what is required in a practical sense to get done what one wants to do. Emily Dickenson has a high focus Saturn in her chart, and what makes her such a wonderful poet is her extreme sensitivity to the limitations of WORDS, and of what one must do

with them to make them say what one wants them to say. Saturn, also, is the exact opposite of superficiality, and in her lightest verse there is always a sense of depth.

The keyword for Uranus in high focus is “experimentative.” This person is very open and willing to try new things. Even after they have found a way of doing something that works they will not settle down to a routine way of being, but must always be exploring new territory be it out in the world or inside the self.

The keyword for Neptune in high focus is “authoritative.” This comes from holding on strongly to the high ideal that Neptune always signifies. Eleanor Roosevelt had a high focus Neptune.

The keyword for Pluto in high focus is “Transcendent,” for the transformative nature of Pluto is always looking to transcend problems — to rise above the realm of limitation.

The BUCKET formation

The BUCKET formation is actually a see-saw with the two groups of planets divided by having nine in the one group and just one in the other. The BUCKET is very zealous about whatever it is doing. It may feel like it has a mission in life, and the mission is usually shown by the one planet that stands alone. The bucket can have the intensity and narrowness of focus of the BUNDLE type, but unlike the bundle type it tends to approach whatever it is focused on from multiple angles. It may be into many different things, but somehow these things are collected together, unified through the singleton planet. This singleton planet becomes the most important one in the chart. It is often a singleton in hemisphere, which will, of course, then give that particular hemisphere strong emphasis and cause it to take precedence in the life over the other hemisphere.

The BOWL formation

The BOWL formation occurs when there is one gap, and that gap is between 150 degrees and 210 degrees. A gap smaller than 150 degrees causes the chart to be classed (at least in my system) as a BUNDLE chart, and a gap of more than 210 degrees causes the chart to be classed as a LOCOMOTIVE pattern. The bowl is looking to enter experience with the whole of the self, that is, they tend to be an “all-or-nothing” type of person. They need something they can immerse themselves in, something they can be completely devoted to. This chart type also has a cutting planet – found just as you did with the BUNDLE type.

The LOCOMOTIVE formation

The LOCOMOTIVE formation occurs when there is one gap that is between 90 and 150 degrees. (A gap less than 90 degrees is a SPLASH type). The LOCOMOTIVE type is, just as you might expect them to be, a driving and driven person. They have a lot of energy and at their most intense can be like a steam roller. They can be very motivated and will get to where they are desiring to go one way or the other, whether slowly and patiently, or through relentless pushing. And their engine, or major source of energy is the clockwise-most planet that sits on the edge of the gap.

These are the seven types of chart formation that Marc Jones describes, but I want to add another one – one that is rarely found, though I do see it occasionally. It's referred to as the CLOSE PAIRS type. This chart is formed when all of the planets (ideally) are in a conjunction with another planet – ideally forming “close pairs” of planets in the chart. A chart can still be considered a CLOSE PAIRS chart even if two planets are not involved in the conjunctions. It can also be a close pairs chart if, say, you have three planets in conjunction together in one or several places, rather than just two.

CLOSE PAIRS

The CLOSE PAIRS individual has special gifts to offer the world, and what it takes to manifest these special gifts is a coordination of their energies directed toward a specific purpose. No one can tell them how to do this coordination – their nature is too original, too different, to be able to assimilate easily the advice of others. It is their instinct that brings about this coordination. When it happens they can be extremely successful, because they have found their own way to reach their goals, and they have marshaled their energies in the way that felt right to them – and turned out to be right.

I know a woman with a CLOSE PAIRS chart who, when she got out of college went to work for a store. The store owner said the business was failing and he couldn't give her a salary or hourly income but only commissions on what she sold. She went ahead and took over the store, he let her run it the way she wanted to, and within a year her commissions were averaging \$10,000 a month. She related to the product she was selling and found her own unique way of selling it, and by doing this was fantastically successful.

The First Planetary department: VITALITY (Sun and Moon)

The Sun/Moon pair is the first of four planetary “departments,” as described in the work of Marc Jones. The aspect between the Sun and Moon is of great significance in the chart, for it set the tone for how the individual’s energy is used in the world. In Jones’ system, there are six possibilities of aspect: conjunct, sextile, square, trine, opposition, and no aspect. When it comes to looking at planetary departments, no aspect between the two planets has a definite significance, which I will speak of in each of these four essays on the departments.

Sun/Moon conjunction: This has an all or nothing feel to it. The person plunges into experience with the whole of his being, focusing on the moment rather than thinking much about how his or her acts will affect the future. The individual tends to feel vitally connected to activity, or rather completely disconnected.

What is needed to fulfill the potential of this aspect is for the individual to become aware of his/her own energy flow, then to go with it, working when the mood strikes him/her, or waiting for the right time when his/her energy is down or out of sync.

The extremes of this aspect can manifest as mood swings and are sometimes pretty severe. These can be minimized if the person will not try to push themselves, not try to go against their own energy. Joy of being comes to the person when they wholeheartedly go with their own energy surges, and when their energy is at a low, allow themselves to rest or float free until the next wave of energy comes to them.

Sun/Moon sextile: This individual is highly affected by whatever they are exposed to, in terms of either positive or negative reinforcement, and so they need to find people who will bring out the best in them, and encourage them to rise to their highest potential. Without having this, it can be difficult for them to grow and unfold. They are natural assisters — helping and benefiting the process of whoever they come in contact with.

My friend Sandra has a Sun/Moon sextile, and she has assisted me tremendously in being more focused and productive. I want to emphasize here that it’s not just what she says to me, or the way she encourages me, but the very energy she emanates that I pick up on that automatically motivates me. Our Sun/Moon aspect is a force we radiate, not just the acts we perform or words that we say.

Sun/Moon square: This person has a tremendous amount of energy that spills out of them. If they don’t guide it, it manifests haphazardly, causing all sorts of problems. If this person is not in attunement with their spiritual core, they can be a trouble maker and a source of discord to the life around them. With some meaningful structure to follow, and just the right sort and amount of

discipline, they can be real power houses, using their energy constructively and stimulating all those around them to higher accomplishment.

Sun/Moon trine: This individual easily falls into patterns, structures, and routines. They are a creature of habit. They can become so entrenched in the momentum of their everyday life that they fail to ever look deeper or go further. At worst, life for them can become merely a quest for comfort, a well-lubricated machine that, in the end, takes them nowhere.

Of course, the habits they adopt could be bad ones, and in that case they can also become quite comfortable with those, and have a great deal of difficulty ever overcoming them.

Sun/Moon trines need to get outside themselves. If they think of doing something, but it seems like a lot of trouble and inconvenience to do it, they need to overlook the hassle, and **JUST DO IT!** Jump in there and let your life become messy and chaotic for a while — it will do you good, it can teach you new ways of looking at things!

Whenever structure and regularity are needed — say, in the setting up or maintaining of a business, for instance — the Sun/Moon trine people are great at doing so. They just need to beware of becoming imprisoned by their own ruts.

Sun/Moon opposition: One of the most basic theories of astrology is that we want to **GO WITH THE ENERGY** in our chart, for through flowing with it we learn from it, and become increasingly more in harmony with the universe. The opposition is the greatest separation between two planets, so this person's job, if they are going to go with their chart, is to keep their Sun and Moon energy apart from each other.

What does this mean? It means: don't let the conscious and rational part of yourself (your Sun) inhibit or repress your emotions. Let your enjoyment of the moment (your Moon) be free and full, rather than dampened by considerations about the future (your Sun). By the same token, when you are taking care of business (Sun), don't allow intrusions by your private life (Moon) or personal feelings (Moon) or distractions of the moment (Moon). In other words, when you are taking care of business, take care of business, and when you are indulging in pleasure, keep business out of the way.

Marc Jones' keyword for the opposition is **AWARENESS**. The Sun/Moon opposition is certainly aware of much, but **YOU CAN ONLY DO ONE THING AT ONE TIME. IF YOU TRY TO DO EVERYTHING AT ONCE, YOU WON'T GET ANYTHING DONE, YOU WILL BECOME STUCK.** So go ahead and be aware, but then go from thing to thing as needing, focusing on the activity at hand, rather than allowing yourself to be pulled apart by all the conflicting needs of life.

Sun/Moon no aspect: When one gives a 17 degree orb to the Sun, which one should do when employing this technique, there are actually more people with a Sun/Moon aspect than with no aspect. The Sun/Moon aspect is psychologically free to use their energy any way they want to. How they interact with the world is up for grabs — they are a free agent. The problem is, are

they going to just float around aimlessly and randomly, or are they going to anchor and focus themselves enough to be able to make a significant and viable contribution to life?

The Sun/Moon no aspect can make tremendous strides in life, accomplishing a tremendous amount, but first they have to get all their horses galloping in the same direction, rather than just being a roaming herd. And of course, even when they do coordinate their efforts, there is always the potential of reverting to a state of randomness.

I have Sun/Moon no aspect. People are often surprised about how much I get done, but can be equally surprised when suddenly my current effort stops and once again I'm floating free, or off to another thing.

The Second Planetary department: EFFICIENCY (Mars and Venus)

The Venus/Mars pair of planets is called, in Marc Jones system, the department of efficiency. It charts the manner in which anything is accomplished. Mars signifies the initiation of any activity, the impulse to do anything. Venus, as its counter opposite signifies the completion of anything. Mars in a sense signifies dissatisfaction, for we do anything because we WANT something, and we WANT something because we find what we have INADEQUATE. Mars never rests – it's not its job to rest. Mars is, in fact, so restless that if it can't find something positive and constructive to engage in, it will find something negative and destructive to do. The repression of this destructive tendency is one of the hallmarks of mental and emotional health. When it runs wild, criminal activity can be the result.

Venus is the planet of satisfaction – the coming to a point of being able to APPRECIATE what is, or at least a part of it. We all need to have a certain APPRECIATION of and SATISFACTION in life to keep going. If, though, Venus is too strong, and negatively manifesting, we might be lazy, and not expect much of ourselves in terms of excellence.

I have often jokingly told people that after my death I wish to be remembered for “Sandbach's Principle.” This is a simple magic formula that has the ability to make one happy with each and every aspect of life, and to rid one of any and all problems. It is so simple that it can be stated in three words: LOWER YOUR STANDARDS. This is actually a Venus joke – it's what the lazy Venus does when it wishes not to have to put forth Martian effort.

As I did with the Sun/Moon pair, known as the department of vitality, we shall cover the conjunct, sextile, square, trine, and opposition, as well as the lack of aspect between Venus and Mars.

Venus/Mars conjunction: Since there is no space between the planets in a conjunction – other than the orb of its inexactness, the conjunction has a feeling of instantaneousness – of everything happening at once, on the spur of the moment, without development, springing forth whole. And so Venus and Mars in conjunction carry the feeling of wanting to plunge in to experience in a totally direct way, without considered what the consequences will be. This can be very exciting, it can be fun, it can be adventurous, but it can also be dangerous, can create messes, can be scary. Marc Jones uses the term “dangerously unrestrained” to describe. I remember once I was at an astrology conference and we were at lunch sitting around a table. A young man was there with long wild blond hair, black leather pants, a tank top and high black boots. He happened to mention that he had a Venus/Mars conjunction. I told him that Jones said it could be “dangerously unrestrained.” “Dangerously unrestrained!” he repeated, and laughing loudly, gave me a wild, devilish look. “I can dig that!” I've always carried that picture in my mind of the

Venus/Mars conjunction. I sometimes also refer to it as the Lucille Ball aspect, and frankly, I've never checked her chart to see if she has it.

Venus/Mars sextile: These people need assistance (keyword for the sextile) to be efficient. I have a Venus/Mars sextile, so I can speak from experience here. If I don't surround myself with the right supportive influences, I have a really hard time getting things done. On the other hand, when the supportive influences are there, I can get a great deal done. For instance, right now writing this blog my friend Sandra is the supportive influence keeping it going. She reads it every day. She points out errors to me. She comments on the quality. She tells me what she likes most and suggests when I might write about. I DO NOT WORK WELL IN A VACUUM, and it is she that keeps this activity from happening in a vacuum. Another support is the 6 FOLLOWERS this blog has, so far. Another support is the hope that these writings will be used as teaching tools for astrology.

As a side note I will say that actually I have, between Venus and Mars, a septile aspect. The exact septile is 51 degrees and 26 minutes. The distance between my Venus and Mars is actually 52 degrees and 49 minutes – 1 degree and 23 minutes off of being exact. The orb for all the major aspects – conjunction, sextile, square, trine, and opposition – is 10 degrees, unless the Sun is involved, at which time the orb is upped to 17 degrees, or the moon, at which time the orb is upped to 12 degrees and 30 minutes. So we might say that even though I do have a sextile between Venus and Mars, MORE SPECIFICALLY the aspect is a septile. This signifies a strong intuitive urge, a nearly compulsive need (septile) at times to accomplish particular things. It in no way negates the sextiles showing that I need SUPPORT for accomplishment, it simply enhances and amplifies it.

Venus/Mars square: This person is capable of accomplishing much, but it may not be easy, for they may offend whoever they have to work with. They may be very demanding in the process of accomplishing something. They may jam the gears of efficiency by their attitude. Sometimes if they push too hard to accomplish something it will actually slow down the process rather than speed it up. As an astrologer, I feel that if I simply tell this to the person, and if they then take it to heart, and work extra diligently to be more diplomatic and to adopt a more flexible attitude, they can become much more adept at accomplishing whatever it is they set out to do.

Venus/Mars trine: The trine's keyword is MOMENTUM – this is the word that Marc Jones gave to it. He was so very good at keywords. I think many astrology students miss the point of this particular one, though. A BODY IN MOTION TENDS TO STAY IN MOTION, AND A BODY AT REST TENDS TO STAY AT REST. This is the significance of momentum. We could also give the words INERTIA as the keyword for the trine. (The above statement which I place in caps is actually the definition of inertia). In the unenlightened astrology, trines were always thought of as good. This is not right. Trines can have a terrible effect, potentially, for if they manifest in negative or discordant ways, there will be a MOMENTUM to this as well.

The Venus/Mars trine signifies a person who likes things to be accomplished in an orderly fashion. They prefer progress to be slower, because they feel like it's safer, steadier, and more to be depended on. They don't much like a change of direction, especially if it can be justified, isn't, to their mind needed, or is uncalled for. In essence they are conservative. If you can show

them a compelling reason for doing something, they are much more likely to go along with you, and to be supportive of the activity. They like things done on a regular basis, preferably in a formulaic way. Their stability helps to balance out the unpredictable and experimentative ways of the Venus/Mars conjunction.

Venus/Mars opposition: The opposition is where the two planets in question have gotten as far away as possible from each other. They are, in essence, trying to encompass the whole chart. So the Venus/Mars opposition tries to be complete in its efficiency – to account for everything. They can sometimes be nosy, for their efficiency can extend into your life. They need to learn when to quit. Also, since the opposition always signifies the process of RELATIONSHIP, the Venus/Mars opposition needs to be always negotiating its efficiency with others by letting others know what it is doing, what it is thinking, and by modifying its acts in such a way as to make for greater harmony between itself and others.

Venus and Mars in no aspect: This just simply means a person for which efficiency is not a burning issue. At worst, they are inefficient because they don't think enough about efficiency, at best, they have the ability to try different ways of being efficient – they aren't psychologically bound to one method.

The Third Planetary department: MOTIVATION or MORALITY (Jupiter and Saturn)

The Jupiter/Saturn pair of planets is referred to by Marc Jones as the department of motivation. Jupiter signifies enthusiasm, or positive motivation, and Saturn signifies sensitiveness, or that which causes us to have caution or a sense of reservation when engaging in any activity. Jupiter is expansive, always wanting to spread out, take on more, and ultimately to include everything. Saturn on the other hand is contractive, and economical, spare, desirous of paring down, holding back, using less, and conserving.

I sometimes refer to this pair as the department of morality, for Jupiter has to do with whatever we think is good for us to do or to believe, whereas Saturn signifies those things which we have decided are bad for us, things which we ought to avoid or at least minimize.

Jupiter/Saturn conjunction: This person needs to decide for themselves what it is they need – what is beneficial for them, and what is not. They will not be happy adopting ready-made guidelines for living. They do not readily take in advice or encouragement from others, for they are meant in this lifetime to be self-supporting and self-affirming, rather than dependent on the opinions or moral guidelines of others. The Jupiterian desire to expand is slowed down by the influence of Saturn, and the Saturnian desire for organization and gradual, stable process is encouraged by Jupiter. Hence the person's progress may be slow, but it will also tend to be steady. This individual is either patient and persevering, or life will present him/her with situations and circumstances which will compel him/her to be so. Of course the house this conjunction falls in becomes all important as the area of life where this slow steady progress will unfold.

Jupiter/Saturn sextile: This person can assist others in being more motivated and disciplined, and needs this same assistance from others. If given the right reinforcement the person can accomplish much. One problem with this aspect, though, is that the person may align themselves with people who reinforce their negative traits and beliefs, in which case these might be followed just as strongly. And so picking ones associates carefully is a major need of this aspect.

Jupiter/Saturn square: This individual readily gets into moral conflicts and situations in which it may be difficult to stand up for what they believe in. At worst they may experience a lot of guilt for not doing what they think they should do. They need to beware of being too critical and exacting of themselves, and of turning too many situations into moral dilemmas. At times they may see both sides of an issue as being right, or both as wrong, and then have a difficult time deciding the relative value of each side, and therefore difficulty in making a decision as to how to act. They are being challenged in this lifetime to learn patience, as well as to accept the imperfections of their judgment, knowing that as they grow in consciousness this will improve.

Jupiter/Saturn trine: This person can see anyone's and everyone's point of view, and so tends to go along, at least on the surface with anyone who they happen to be around. This can make them seem superficial or insincere, when in actuality they simply do not care to confront moral or ethical issues or turn them into a source of conflict. Often the person with this aspect holds deeply entrenched ideas about right and wrong, but may not voice these to others because of wanting to avoid being challenged. It can be a problem when these staunchly held values are negative, or based on traumas of the past that have produced neurosis. Bringing these negative beliefs to the surface and uprooting them can be a major life challenge.

Jupiter/Saturn opposition: There tends to be a schism in this person between the beliefs held and the actions based on them. Sometimes the person is very idealistic, and though they voice their ideals they don't really base their life on them. After a time, though (it might even take half a life or more) the individual turns a corner and starts to practice what they preach and to being the process of moving more toward becoming the person they always felt they should be.

No aspect between Jupiter and Saturn: This person is not so concerned with right and wrong in a way that causes any difficulty for them – in other words it can be easy for them to avoid moral and ethical issues. For this reason they may have a hard time disciplining themselves, and they may tend to allow other people to dominate them too much and to determine what they do with their time and energy. They need to stand up more for what they believe, and to practice patience and perseverance in the pursuit of those ideals which their soul tells them are of the greatest importance. My own chart has no aspect between Jupiter and Saturn.

The Fourth Planetary Department: SIGNIFICANCE (Uranus and Neptune)

The Uranus/Neptune pair of planets is referred to by Marc Jones as the Department of Significance. This pair has to do with the individual's relationship to society and to their fellow human beings as a whole. Uranus signifies a person's most unique and individualized traits, as well as where he or she in life needs freedom, needs to be independent so that his or her special gifts can be nurtured. Neptune on the other hand has to do with the connections between all of us, and our obligations to help and uplift each other. It is interesting that Uranus was discovered in 1781 – very near the time of the American and French Revolutions – a time when people were gaining more personal independence. Neptune was discovered in 1846, about the same time as the first spreading of Marxist ideals.

Uranus/Neptune conjunction: Note: because these planets move so slowly, their major aspects between each other will last for about 10 years. Uranus and Neptune were in conjunction from 1817 - 1827 and again from 1987 - 1998.

These people tend to get extremely immersed in whatever they are into and can even neglect personal needs in trying to fulfill ideals they think are going to help society at large. They see possibilities of social evolution with a fresh eye, unclouded by the doubts of the past, and so can give others new hope and desire to grow and evolve. They manifest a whole-hearted desire for social progress.

Uranus/Neptune sextile: This happened from 1850 - 1859 and again from 1962 - 1971. These people are very anxious to get people to work with each other, to share social responsibilities, and to have everyone use whatever talents they have for the purpose of social betterment. They want to expand human connections for the purpose of world growth and the furthering of the security of everyone. There can be a tendency, though, with these people to think that whatever progress the world is making is enough, so long as there is at least some progress being made. They may adopt an unrealistically optimistic view of what is happening and thereby actually slow progress through avoiding the differences and conflicts between social groups.

Uranus/Neptune square: This happened from 1866 - 1875 and again from 1950 - 1959. These people really want to get big things done, or at least want to see grand and momentous things accomplished in the world by themselves and/or other people. They have big expectations when it comes to social evolution. They can be so into their own rights and privileges, though, that they become jealous of what others have.

They are often very hard-working, possibly excessively so, and expect others to be the same way. These people can be very adept at handling social conflicts, as long as they can keep their

personal and selfish interests at bay. The square between Uranus and Neptune produces a crop of hard-core individualists.

Uranus/Neptune trine: This happened from 1879 - 1887 and again from 1934 - 1944. These people tend to be satisfied with their place in life, and want, primarily to enjoy whatever they can. They tend to feel that if things are going along in an OK direction that this is fine. They can lack a bigger, grander vision of the future. At worst they can become very elitist, and selfish as well, and from this vantage point just watch the world go by. They need to get out of these sorts of ruts and always be looking toward a fulfillment that goes beyond what they already have.

Uranus/Neptune opposition: This happened from 1902 - 1912. These people are aware (keyword for opposition) that things in the world need to change in a very fundamental and basic way. But they need to avoid rushing into difficulties in an attempt to remedy them without enough forethought, plan, or staying power (this is a manifestation of negative Neptune energy). On the other hand, they also need to avoid being destructively critical of people in power and of institutions (a manifestation of negative Uranus energy). There is a need with this aspect to integrate ones urge to help the world (Neptune) with one's need to help oneself (Uranus).

Uranus/Neptune in no major aspect: This can signify a person who isn't particularly interested in the flow of world events, human social evolution, and the stresses and strains of world history. At best, though, this freedom from these concerns can allow these individuals to pursue their spiritual evolution in their own free way and to make contributions to the world in many different ways, depending on the person. At worst it can signify a tendency to insulate themselves too much from the evolutionary currents of humanity as a whole.

The Life Approach

The Life Approach is my term for how the four Planetary Departments, (the Sun/Moon Department of Vitality, the Venus/Mars department of Efficiency, the Jupiter/Saturn Department of Motivation, and the Uranus /Neptune Department of Significance) interrelate with each other. There are sixteen different possibilities in this, and here they are, together with their interpretations:

(1). In a very few charts you will find that there is no major aspect between any of these four pairs of planets. This is a rare occurrence because first of all, more than half of all charts will have a Sun/Moon major aspect simply because we are giving the Sun such a large orb (17 degrees). Then, even if we have no Sun/Moon opposition, there also has to be in the chart to oppositions between the other three pairs of planets

When you find this situation in a chart, you know that the person you are reading for is a wide open individual – capable of being influenced by anything and everything. At worst this can mean it's difficult for the person to consistently and/or steadily apply him/herself to anything, because all the time there will be new energies coming into their field, which the person has difficult ignoring. If the individual can, through an act of will, create enough order in his/her life to keep chaos somewhat at bay, they are then more likely to find happiness and fulfillment. On the positive side, when a person has none of the four Planetary Departments activated the openness this creates can help the person to be very innovative, and to engage in adventures that many other people would have had to pass up, because they were busy being consistent about whatever structures they had created in their life.

(2). At the opposite extreme you may occasionally find a situation where a person has all four pairs of planetary departments activated by major aspect. This person will feel pulled in many different directions and have a desire to get involved in a lot of different things. Their dilemma is really very similar to having none of the planetary departments activated, but in their case rather than the OPENNESS that was created by no aspects now becomes a FULNESS, most likely an OVERFULLNESS – a feeling of a kind of glut, together with a difficulty of choosing where they are going to focus. This person needs to edit out certain involvements so that they will have time and energy enough to cultivate other involvements.

In instance #1 spoken about above we symbolically have a person who plants a garden but then can't weed it because they find the weeds as interesting as whatever else they've planted. In this instance – the one we're talking about – #2 – the person is planting a garden that has way to many things in it – there's no room for weeds, but there's also no room for anything to grow properly, because THERE'S MORE VARIETIES OF LIFE FORMS THAN THERE IS SOIL. This person needs to do some deep soul searching to determine what it is they really want to do, and then, difficult as it seems, they need to JUST SAY NO to involvements that they know are not as important to them as the ones they've chosen. The problem with doing this is that even if

they do what I have suggested, then later they may be very tempted to change their mind or re-decide their priorities, and if they do this too much, they're back to the same challenge.

(3). More often you'll have a situation where only one of the planetary departments is activated, and this will clearly show where the person's focus is. If the one planetary department activated by major aspect is the Department of Vitality (Sun/Moon), the individual is very into the basics in life, very grounded, may even have a kind of earthy or primitive quality, and will tend to have a lot of energy. This person is good at establishing themselves in life in a practical way. They would hardly ever get lost in the clouds.

(4). If the single planetary department with a major aspect is the Department of Efficiency (Venus/Mars) the person has a tremendous capacity to get things done. This is the situation in my chart. People are always telling me I'm very accomplishment oriented. Yes, I see that, but it just seems like a natural thing – when I want something, or want to get something done, I just make a b-line for it, and that is that! The down side of this is that I don't really have much of a long range sense of what I'm doing – it's just the task at hand that I'm getting done.

(5). If the single planetary department with a major aspect is the Department of Motivation (Jupiter/Saturn) the person is extremely good at keeping before him/herself WHY he or she is doing what they're doing. They tend to stand up unequivocally for what they believe. Their actions tend not to be random, but for a reason and purpose. The individuals with this setup in their chart are very good at not getting involved in meaningless activity, or in anything that doesn't suit their purpose. They automatically save their energy for their goals and purposes, for what they feel is right and good to do.

(6). If the single planetary department with a major aspect is the Department of Significance (Uranus/Neptune). These people focus on the welfare of their fellow human beings and the welfare of the world at large, and tend to commit every action as a means toward the general betterment of everything. Also, their primary urge is to enlarge their awareness and understanding of the nature of the universe and of spirituality.

(7). There can also be the situation where three of the planetary departments are activated by major aspect, with the fourth department unactivated. When this is the case, it is the unactivated department that becomes the focus of the life. And so if there is a major aspect between Venus and Mars (the Department of Efficiency), as well as Jupiter and Saturn (the department of Motivation), and also Uranus and Neptune (the Department of Significance), but NO ASPECT BETWEEN SUN AND MOON (the Department of Vitality), then we can see that the person needs to be like #3 above, and if they can bring these qualities into their life they will have found the missing piece that will lead them to success and fulfillment.

(8). The same procedure that we used to interpret the missing Sun/Moon aspect in #7 we can use to interpret the situation in which all planetary departments are being activated except for the Department of Efficiency (Venus/Mars),

(9). As well as when the Department of Motivation has no major aspect (with the other three having major aspects), and

(10). The Department of Significance has the same situation.

When Two of the Departments Are Activated

The following interpretations cover the instances where two out of the four planetary departments are activated by major aspect, with the other two not having a major aspect between their two planets. You will find one of these six possibilities present in about 40% of the charts that you do.

(11). Sun/Moon (Vitality) and Jupiter/Saturn (Motivation) both activated by major aspect: The individual with this combination tends to take **a personal approach to the circumstances of life**. That means, essentially, that no matter what he or she involves him/herself in, the tendency is to take whatever happens personally.

We hear people say so often, “You shouldn’t take that personally!” in an attempt to try to help the person they are speaking to. Actually taking things personally can be a positive thing. It can signify a teacher who gets to know his/her students individually, and who will try to work with each and every circumstance of life that comes up as a unique scenario that requires unique responses. In other words, “personal” here may translate as “personable.”

Queen Elizabeth II has this situation in her chart, and her great popularity over the years is because she seems like a real person to the people – she approaches her job personably.

On the darker side, Hermann Goering also had this setup in his chart – another very personable leader, who, in fact, as Marc Jones says, “encouraged millions of the German people to think of him affectionately as “The Man.”

(12). Venus/Mars (Efficiency) and Uranus/Neptune (Significance) both activated by major aspect: This person takes **an impersonal approach to circumstances**. They might, sometimes, seem cold, distant, or aloof, but this mindset might aid them in focusing on what they are doing, and help to insulate them against negative criticism, censure, or any kind of chaos or static that might disrupt someone else, who, if involved in the same circumstances did not have this setup in their chart.

(13). Sun/Moon (Vitality) activated with Venus/Mars (Efficiency): This person tends to focus on their **function** in life, and to do so **objectively**. This can mean that self-fulfillment for them will require at least some amount of self-discipline. This person tends to play a definite role in life. They figure out what this role requires, and then try to fulfill those requirements.

(14). Jupiter/Saturn (Motivation) activated with Uranus/Neptune (Significance): These people, like #13 above are also playing a role in life, but with this combination the **functioning** is **subjective**, that is, rather than focusing on what is needed from them by the outside world they

look within to see what it is they have to give to the world, and then their role and functioning is based on this. These people need to allow their role in life to come forth from themselves.

Both numbers 13 and 14 are like actors playing roles on the stage of life, with number 13 playing their role more methodically and consciously, and number 14 merging with the character they have conceived and playing more by instinct. Both of these types can be uncompromising and self-obsessed. Remember, though, this is not necessarily a bad thing.

(15). Sun/Moon (Vitality) activated with Uranus/Neptune (Significance): This person focus on **activity** – on what they are **doing**, and does so in a **conjunctive** way, meaning they are not apt to let anything get in their way as they proceed with their agendas, and refuse to allow their actions to be thwarted by trivialities. They are willing to try anything and everything to see if it will suit their purposes, and are always trying to connect what they are doing with what others are doing and to what is going on around them.

This person is intent on working with the structures they find already in place in the world around them. They are trying to be a part of things.

16. Jupiter/Saturn (Motivation) activated with Venus/Mars (Efficiency): This person also focuses on **activity**, but unlike #15 does so in a **disjunctive** way. They want to sample many different things because they are trying to get a feel for all the various energies around them so they can assess how they might be used. They tend to take different sorts of energies from many different areas of life and then to put those energies together in their own individual way. They love to experiment, and the ultimate purpose of their experiments is self-discovery.

This person, rather than working with the structures they find already in place in the world around them are intent on creating their own customized structures for themselves.

HEMISPHERE EMPHASIS

It is always important, when interpreting a chart, to see if all the planets fall in the upper half of it, (from houses 7 through 12), in the lower half (houses 1 through 6), all in the eastern half (houses 10- through 3), or the western half (houses 4 through 9). When either of these four possibilities is the case, the chart is sharply pointed toward one area of experience.

Another important possibility that relates to these four is when 9 of the planets fall in one of these quadrants, with the 10th planet in the opposite quadrant – for instance when 9 of the planets are in the upper half of the chart with the 10th planet in the lower half. When this is the case, **THE SINGLE PLANET (CALLED THE “SINGLETON IN HEMISPHERE) WILL SIGNIFY BY ITS PLACEMENT THE HEMISPHERE OF EMPHASIS.** Many astrology students have a difficult time comprehending this, for they often tend to think that the hemisphere emphasis should be indicated by the one that has the most number of planets, i.e., where the 9 planets are. **THIS IS NOT THE CASE.** Through dominating the hemisphere it is in, the **SINGLETON IN HEMISPHERE** gains great power, for both itself and the hemisphere in which it is found.

To be able to use this indication as an interpretative tool, it is important to understand the meaning of the hemispheres.

The upper hemisphere (houses 7 through 12) signifies the world at large, outer experience, people as a whole, and outer life. The lower hemisphere (houses 1 through 6) signifies one's inner and private world – away from society at large. You might think of the upper hemisphere as being like the big city, and the lower hemisphere as living in the country.

The eastern hemisphere (houses 10 through 3) signifies purely personal concerns, apart from any consideration of how they relate to the outside world. The western hemisphere (houses 4 through 9) signifies everything outside the self – the “not-self.” This is the realm of negotiation and all the outer things that we have to come to terms with.

When all 10 planets are in the upper hemisphere (houses 7 through 12) the person tends to be very publicly and socially oriented. What is most important to them is how they relate to the world at large. Usually their career is very important to them, as well as the affairs of the world at large rather than just the affairs of their own country. They are very concerned with what other people as a whole – as a culture and a race – are doing. This is their most natural frame of reference, and where they tend to be at their best.

When all 10 planets are in the lower hemisphere (houses 1 through 6) the person tends to be private – primarily concerned with their own little world, meaning the close friends they have made, and their family, or near neighbors. Their life has an intimate quality. I think that unfortunately many people tend to place a negative value judgment on this, thinking that somehow it's better to be a social activist and involved with the world at large. The fact is, a person with all their planets below the horizon can do many good and wonderful deeds for

humanity, but they will tend to do it at A GRASS ROOTS LEVEL. The person with all the planets in the lower half of their chart tends to greatly value their privacy, and if everything is going well in their personal and private world, they are happy.

When all 10 planets are in the eastern half of the chart (between houses 10 and 3) the person is primarily concerned with their own personal self, rather than with the lives, needs and demands of others. This sounds selfish, but isn't necessarily so. Let's say we have an architect who has this setup in their chart. They may need to deeply search their being to decide what types of houses they want to build. They may be acutely aware of their own needs, and if these needs are fulfilled, it can satisfy them to the extent that they might bring into the world marvelous buildings in which people are happy to be for many years, or even centuries. Is that selfish? Being self-oriented in the right way is not selfish, for what is truly good for you spiritually HAS TO BE GOOD FOR OTHER PEOPLE. Yes, a person with all their planets in the eastern half of the chart can be selfish in a negative way, but if this is so it is neurotic behavior – a kind of selfishness that never truly centers the self. A person self-centered in spirit radiates love. We may approach the spiritual through self, or through others.

Another important quality of the person who has all their planets in the eastern half of the chart is an uncompromising nature. Now if what they are being compromising about is something positive, then they often have the power to compel others to change, to compromise, to come to them, to go along with them, and this can be wonderful if they change they are effecting on other people through this is of a positive, life supporting sort.

If all the planets in a chart are in the western half of the chart (between houses 4 and 9), the person is oriented toward the needs of others. They are at their best when they are aware of how to most fully and completely relate to other people. They can be very aware of others' needs, and can often achieve success through finding positive ways of fulfilling these needs. This setup in a chart says, "I can't be happy unless you're happy." At worst it could be self-effacing and neglectful of the self.

Whenever there is a singleton in hemisphere, the nature of that planet will show the type of approach the person has to that hemisphere, and the house placement of that planet will show the type of circumstances through which this person approaches the whole of that hemisphere. To give an example of this, I have Jupiter as singleton in the western hemisphere. This means that all of my relating to the outside world is dominated by an enthusiasm – the desire to encourage, to relate whole-heartedly, to be generous. If this is to manifest negatively it can come out as going too far, trying too hard, doing too much in terms of trying to relate. And the fact that my Jupiter is in the 4th house means that my whole means of relating to this outside world is through an intimacy (4th house), through getting close, and through trying to help others to feel more secure. I enter easily into the private world of others – I love to do so. 4th house signifies ones private world.

Let's give another example: say a person has Moon in 8th house as singleton in the upper hemisphere. This individual is socially oriented, and approaches this from a feeling standpoint, wanting probably to be nurturing to the world. There is an emotional need (Moon) to bring

change into the world (8th house). In my mind I can hear a student asking, “but wouldn’t this always be true of moon in 8th house?” The answer is yes, but when the Moon in this position becomes a singleton in hemisphere IT IS MANIFESTING WITH FAR MORE INTENSITY, AND IS NOT CONFINING ITS INFLUENCE TO JUST THE 8TH HOUSE, BUT TO THE WHOLE UPPER HALF OF THE CHART, THE 7TH, 8TH, 9TH, 10TH, 11TH, AND 12TH HOUSES!! It’s going to affect how they relate (7th house), their philosophy of life (9th house), their career (10th house), their choice of friends and the groups to which they belong (11th house) and their intuition (12th house).

I just heard another student say to me, “but if the 11th house is the house of friends, how come it falls in the public, upper half of the chart, and not in the private, or lower half.” The answer to this is that there are two types of friendships. Friendship as defined by the 11th house is more open-ended, that is, where the relationship is not exclusive, but is part of a network – you and your friends have other friends, many of them possibly mutual. Maybe the bunch of you are organized into a group or a club. The fourth house rules family BUT NOT JUST BLOOD RELATIONS. THE FOURTH HOUSE RULES ANYONE THAT COMES TO FEEL LIKE FAMILY TO YOU PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY. So, for instance, I have a lot of friends in the 11th house sense, but only some of them are what I would consider family – in the 4th house sense.

This preponderance by hemisphere and singleton in hemisphere is highly important. Try to always keep it in mind when you find it in a chart, and adjust your interpretations accordingly.

SOLE DISPOSITOR

A dispositor is the planet which rules the sign that any other planet is in. For instance, if Mercury is in Libra, the dispositor of Mercury is Venus, since Venus rules Libra. To figure dispositors, you need to know which planets rule which signs. Here is a list:

Aries is ruled by Mars
Taurus is ruled by Venus
Gemini is ruled by Mercury
Cancer is ruled by the Moon
Leo is ruled by the Sun
Virgo is ruled by Mercury
Libra is ruled by Venus
Scorpio is ruled by Mars
Sagittarius is ruled by Jupiter
Capricorn is ruled by Saturn
Aquarius is ruled by Saturn
Pisces is ruled by Jupiter

The only planet which doesn't have a dispositor is the one that is in its ruling sign. In this case we might say that it disposes itself, which is true, but not the term commonly used in astrology. Instead we simply say that the planet is in its ruling sign.

Any planet in its ruling sign is doubled in power by its placement – this is what the Greek astrologer Ptolemy said in his classic work “Tetrabiblos,” an ancient text on astrology. Think of the sole dispositor – which is always in its ruling sign – as magnifying the power of a planet even more.

At times we find the case where a planet, say Mercury, is in Libra, which is disposed by Venus, and Venus will be in Virgo, which is disposed by Mercury. In other words, Mercury and Venus in this instance dispossit each other. When such a thing happens, the two planets are said to be in mutual reception, and when this condition exists, there is no sole dispositor of the chart. My chart has this, for I have Venus in Cancer and Moon in Libra.

At other times we might find three planets that dispossit each other in turn, such as Jupiter in Capricorn, Saturn in Virgo, and Mercury in Sagittarius. In this case, Jupiter is disposed by Saturn which is disposed by Mercury which is disposed by Jupiter. There is no technical term for this setup – but we might simply call it a rulership loop. There are seven traditional planets, and we can have in a chart, conceivably a situation in which a full six of them might be included

in one of these rulership loops with the seventh one left out. In this case, there is no sole dispositor because:

The sole dispositor of a chart is a planet in its ruling sign that all the rest of the planets in that chart can be traced back to, when we look at the rulers of the signs they are in.

In doing this, note that we ignore Uranus, Neptune, Pluto and Chiron, because even though some modern astrologers think of them as ruling particular signs, when considering whether or not a chart has a sole dispositor we are only concerned with the TRADITIONAL RULES OF THE SIGNS.

It is also not possible to have a sole dispositor if we have more than one planet in its ruling sign.

INTERPRETATIVE VALUE OF THE SOLE DISPOSITOR

The sole dispositor of a chart represents a planet whose energy affects all others, and so an energy that, rather than tending to manifest in certain situations, tends to color through its energy all situations, endeavors and impulses of the person.

The SUN as sole dispositor (it will always be in Leo), signifies a person who approaches life in a purposeful manner, at worst in an egotistical and self-important manner. At best it's a person who can always bring what is most important in a situation to light, and who proceed always with a self-confidence which instills trust and admiration in others without seeming arrogant or grandiose.

The Moon as sole dispositor (it will always be in Cancer) signifies a person who approaches life emotionally and subjectively. At worst there may be a constant wavering due to their actions being strongly influenced by feelings. This might make them undependable. At best they approach life intimately, always with a feeling of emotional kinship with whoever they come in contact with. They have about them an aura of always nurturing other people.

Mercury as sole dispositor (it will be in Gemini or Virgo) signifies a person who is curious about everything, and thinks about everything, or maybe thinks all the time, and always wants as many of the facts about a situation as can be obtained. When this sole dispositor is in Gemini there is an edge of cleverness and aliveness in everything they do. If the dispositor is in Virgo the person is thorough, perfectionistic, and attends to the details of everything he or she touches. They may also be constantly critical about everything.

Venus as sole dispositor (it will be in Taurus or Libra) signifies a person who is artful in everything he or she does, wanting to bring a sense of beauty and excellence to all endeavors. The person may be a natural peacemaker – especially when the sole dispositor is in Libra. At worst this individual could be selfish or greedy or lazy – the negative manifestations of Venus.

Mars as sole dispositor (it will always be in Aries or Scorpio) signifies a person who is aggressive in everything they do. They approach life with a lot of energy and autonomy, and have a great urge to both create and destroy – for instance they might enjoy clearing a field, or tearing down a house that is no longer needed. There is an edge of aggressiveness about everything they do.

Jupiter as sole dispositor (it will be in Sagittarius or Pisces) signifies a person who is enthusiastic, positively motivated, and tends to always have an optimistic attitude. They think in

big terms, possibly too much so, to the extent that they might fail through taking on too much. They always have to beware of going too far, saying too much, etc.

Saturn as sole dispositor (it will be in Capricorn or Aquarius) signifies a person who is very serious, who may take a long time to do things or to develop. Also a person who can be very organized or structured. They may have difficulty having fun, and childhood might be a lot more uncomfortable for them than it is for most people. They might tend to seek out people who are older and wiser from them to learn from. They can be very persevering in what they do, and may tend to be happier with a simple life than one in which they have too many things to do.

The sole dispositor is an important consideration, and should always be taken into account when interpreting ALL OTHER AREAS OF THE CHART, for like a drop of colored ink placed in water, it colors everything.

Example Chart: Interpretation of Natal Chart for Edward Winston

(The birth data for this chart is: February 6, 1996, 1:42 PM, Kansas City Missouri).

(A different name has been given to this person to conceal his identity).

The Natural Disposition of your chart is mutable, meaning that you are tuned in to people as unique individuals and that you tend to put your own personal stamp on whatever you do. You're also very supportive and flexible as well, for whenever you encounter a conflict between yourself and others you are always ready to try to find a way to modify your behavior or approach to resolve the issue.

(1) Your chart is what's known as a Bucket formation with the Moon as the handle planet.

(2) When we look at your Lunar phase we see that it's number 17, which is ruled by the Moon, and

(3) The closest square in your chart is between the Moon and Pluto. These three observations point to the very obvious fact that the **Moon** is the most important planet in your chart. And so you will always tend to choose subjectivity over objectivity, for you tend to be most in harmony with yourself when you're listening to and following your instincts. You are a nurturing person, and like, probably, to play the role of mother to others, taking care of them, and can be staunchly supportive. You love nature because it is the realm that your instincts are most feel a part of, and you derive much sustenance from exposure to it. You are more prone to living in the moment and going with the current flow of energies rather than focusing on long-range goals, and even when you do focus on long-range goals it is important that you try your best not to do so in a way that represses or denies your instincts. The strong Moon energy in your chart makes you very receptive to the energy of others, that is, very impressionable to whatever they're putting out. The down side of this is maybe a tendency to become emotionally burdened by the problems and attitudes of other people (that's something that will be mentioned again later in another context in this interpretation).

The Moon is in your 4th house, so you have a great need for family – not necessarily your biological family, but to spend your life with people you consider as being a part of your soul family. Your intimate relationships tend to be more important to you than the affairs of the

world at large, and with your Moon in Virgo you have a need to refine and perfect whatever you are doing and to do as good a job as you can, as well as to have work you find meaningful and to be industrious. In the context of your family you can tend to play the role of nurturer, meaning that you would probably play a parent role even to your parents. The 4th house signifies security of any and all kinds, and the only way you're ever going to find true security is to continually develop your ability to be aware of your own feelings, and to clear out the negative emotional accumulations of the past so that your feelings can flow through you freely.

One of the most uncomfortable feelings a Moon in Virgo can feel is the imperfection of life, the flaws everywhere to be found. It is important that you work to clear these, and that you strive for refinement and meaningful attention to detail any work you're doing, and to not allow thoughts of your own inadequacy to over-burden you.

Wherever the Moon is in a chart a person tends to have a distorted view of that area of life because it is so colored by emotions. This means that you cycle through feelings of security and insecurity on a regular basis, and this is because you are learning in this lifetime how to flow with these changes, and to become more and more aware of what is causing you to feel insecure and why. You have a very great need to get to the bottom of things, which you have a great ability to do, and to do this you are more in harmony with yourself when you are doing it through following wherever your instincts are leading you.

One of the symbols for the degree in which your Moon is located – 12 Virgo – is “A dog sniffing a dead animal.” This shows you have a highly refined instinct especially for understanding the processes of nature, plus an innate and intuitive knowledge of how things break down, rot, decay, and so based on this the possibility of knowing what part of them needs fixing and how to do it. Another image for this 12th degree of Virgo is, “The wind blows away a woman's veil.” So you have the ability to reveal things, to lift the veil from them so they can be seen more clearly – a way of exposing the true identity of things. The fact that your Moon is in the 12th degree of Virgo means that it's very important that you learn to let go so that you unburden yourself, rather than psychologically and emotionally taking responsibility for this that you can do nothing about. The 12th degree is learning how to accept things as they are and just go with the flow.

Moon in 4th house has a concealing effect on your emotions – they tend to be naturally hidden from the world. So if you want people to know how you feel you have to put extra effort into making them aware of it. It also means that no matter how much physical security you commandeer for yourself in your life you will never feel truly secure until you let yourself flow with whatever is happening around you and develop the ability to accept whatever it is you're

feeling. Your security depends far more on your own emotional state than it does on physical concerns.

(Sun/Moon aspect: No). You tend to use your energy in a highly free-form way, meaning that you are not psychologically limited to doing particular things, but might involve yourself in a multiplicity of endeavors. At worst this could cause you to scatter your energies in an overly random fashion, but on the other hand when you get your various energies all going in the same direction it is amazing what you can accomplish.

(Venus/Mars: No). You are not particularly efficient, and may have to work on being more organized and proactive in deciding the order of things you have to do to reach your goals.

You have no aspect between Jupiter and Saturn either, meaning that you may tend to lack discipline and so might have to consciously compensate for this by willfully building a structure and pattern in your life that will foster accomplishment.

Uranus/Neptune: Conjunction. You think, live and breathe cosmically. You are innately spiritual and even mystical in your orientation. You would like to do something for mankind at large, and this does not negate what I said earlier about being more into privacy and intimacy rather than world affairs. What I am saying is that you desire (and have the ability) to spiritually uplift the world from the perspective of your own intimate and private world.

You were born, Edward, during the 17th Lunar Phase, the ruler of which is the Moon. The major challenge of this phase is disillusionment. You're aware of pretty much everything that is wrong on the planet and between people, and at worst it can feel so heavy to you that it prevents you from doing almost anything positive about it. And oftentimes you can sense something is wrong but may not even be able to define or voice it. The way out of this is to find new ways to communicate – you almost have to kind of ignore the bullshit and take the dialogue to a higher level. Rise above all that is petty and all that diverts your attention from what you feel to be truly important. Put frankly, you're here to clean things up, and what keeps you from falling prey to the toxic waste as you do so is focusing on your own light and progressively buying less and less into the old, dysfunctional stories. Or, put another way, don't deal with the dysfunction on its own level, get on a level above it and compel it to meet you there, then go even higher. This is the way up.

You have an extreme desire to fix things, and to get to the bottom of what is really wrong with them rather than just superficially patching them up. You need to be really careful of the

tendency to accumulate guilt, possibly stemming from the idea that you should do more, or that you lack the skills you need to do what you're trying to do. And no matter how much knowledge you accrue or how much education you obtain your ultimate power lies in your superfine instincts.

The Moon and Pluto form the closest square in your chart, signifying that you are a very intense person emotionally, and have an extremely active subconscious. It also implies that the effects of repression are worse on you than they are on most people, and that a key to evolving in this lifetime is allowing what is inside you to come forth in the form it most wants to take rather than trying to hold it back. The Moon/Pluto square tends to make all of your relationships with other people intense, for what is wanting to happen is a breakthrough to new levels of relating and interacting as well as the mutual stimulating of new levels of self-awareness between yourself and others. You need, of course, to pick people to be with who can handle this, and who are willing to explore the deeper and hidden areas of themselves along with you. And you absolutely have to stay away from the idea that somehow you never do things as correctly or perfectly as you should have. Do not let the tendency you have toward perfectionism get in your way or prevent you from expressing yourself. Repressing your own energy for the sake of making others feel comfortable will not work, in the long run – the discomfort you can make other people feel through the expression of your own passions is most often exactly what they need to trigger their own opening up and growth.

Sun=Venus/Jupiter with both Venus and Jupiter in novile to Sun. This signifies that you are learning in this lifetime how to love yourself more fully and to be satisfied with yourself. What can make this difficult is your Moon in Virgo, which tends to cause you to be critical both of yourself and others, because you're always wanting to better and eventually perfect whatever you encounter. You're also learning how to project yourself in a bigger more visible manner, so that you get more attention from other people. When you psychologically get on a success wavelength, that is, when you expect success and just know you will be successful you will tend to draw success to you, as well as the help, assistance and support of other people.

The Moon's North Node in your chart is in Libra, and is conjunct the 5th house cusp, signifying that creative endeavors and experimenting will greatly help you to evolve during this lifetime and so any artistic work you engage in will tend to have a very beneficial effect on you. And I am not referring here to just those things which we normally think of as "art," but rather what I mean is the taking of the artist's approach to anything and everything you might do.

With Moon's South Node conjunct the 11th house cusp in former lives you were future-oriented, good at planning, having a vision, and knowing where you were going – and so in this lifetime it's easy for you to focus mainly on those sorts of things because they're familiar to you. It is

NOT good, though, in your current lifetime to focus *too much* on the future and on agendas. It is more important for you have fun – not superficial fun but truly rewarding and fulfilling fun, to spend lots of time engaging in creative endeavors, taking risks, staying on a **JOY** wavelength, and not worrying about the outcome of them – and if you have to chuck the agendas to make room for creative time, do so. Self-expression is of great importance to your personal evolution.

Moon/Neptune=134.38=sesquiquadrate. This aspect between Moon and Neptune influences your health. You can stay really healthy, Edward, if you take care of yourself emotionally, that is, don't let stuff get to you, listen to your own emotional needs, and make every effort to fulfill them. This may sound weird but the type of water your drink will help you a lot. Drink water that is of as high a quality as possible. And stay away from unhealthy liquids – diet sodas, stuff with lots of sugar or alcohol, etc. And if you need down time, take it. With south Node in Aries in past lives you were always ready to confront the next challenge or crisis arising, but in this lifetime it's important to not let a continual flow of challenges and crises take your life over.

I would suspect you might have problems with allergies, and if you do they are probably mirroring emotional stress and can best be healed through sojourns into nature and making your diet more simple, basic, and full of “live” foods and staying away from people who stress you out. Digestive disturbances go with Virgo, and, of course, you have strong Virgo energy from your Moon being in that sign.

Your Mercury and Neptune are in conjunction meaning you're capable of subtle thinking and communicating. When others communicate you tend to be able to read between the lines of what they're saying and so are able to intuitively and psychically derive more information from what they're saying than they might have been intending to communicate. You are an imaginative thinker and the fact that your Mercury is conjunct your Part of fortune means that you are going to be able to successfully use this clever and imaginative communicating out in the world in a way that can easily lead you to success. This might be in the field of writing, or making videos, or certainly through the distribution of information which will tend to be done in your own unique and highly personalized way as stated before.

Your Mercury is in Capricorn, so your mind has a practical cast – you're able to communicate a lot in a few words, and are very good at getting to the heart of the matter and finding the bottom line. You have an ability to keep conversations on track and to find tangible, physical solutions to problems.

Venus and Saturn are in conjunction, meaning that you're more serious about love and romance than most people. You're best off when a romance develops in a gradual and grounded way, and

would tend to be attracted to people who have a mature quality – maybe they actually are older than you, or maybe just act very adult, or are serious and focused sorts of people. Venus in Pisces means that you can be extremely dedicated to the loved one – very devoted. Venus is said to be exalted in Pisces, meaning that the ancient astrologers believed this was really one of the best places for it. The worst part of Venus in Pisces is that sometimes they get romantically involved with people who use them and drain them and because you are a sympathetic sort of person it may be difficult for you to break off the relationship if you feel sorry for the other person, or think that they need you.

Jupiter in your 7th house, though, causes you to have a lot of potential luck where relationships are concerned, and to be very enthusiastic when you reach out to relate to others. On the negative side when there is a problem between you and someone else your generosity causes you to be the one to compensate for the problem, and if you get involved with someone who is selfish they may allow you to do this so that the relationship can tend to become one-sided, with you putting far more into it than the other person.

This year Neptune is crossing your Midheaven, which is something it will only do once in your lifetime, so it's very important. It means that during this years and actually for the next several years you are able to understand more and more clearly what you are here to do, and are able to use your vision and imagination to help you in finding your place in the world.

Example Chart 2: Alastor

(Birth data: April 28, 1969, 10:55 PM, Blackwell Oklahoma).

I am looking at the chart of a male, who I shall call Alastor, born April 28th, 1969 in Blackwell, Oklahoma, at 10:55 PM, Daylight Savings Time. A Naturopathic Physician and Homeopath.

The Star of Destiny (As determined by the Lunar Phase, which is number 12) is Mercury. With this Lunar Phase we find great powers of communication, cleverness, fluidity, and resourcefulness. As well as an ability to heal through communicating. Emerald, which in Ayurvedic astrology corresponds to Mercury, would be a beneficial stone for him to wear.

The Star of Destiny, Mercury, is only three minutes off of an exact opposition with Neptune. At its highest level there is an ability to communicate with great subtlety and imagination, to see deeply into problems, complexes and pathologies, and deep insights into how to solve problems. Negatively the mind can be unformed at times, and the thoughts vague, which can create miscommunications and misunderstandings. Frustration can result from his subtle communications falling on deaf ears – for even though Alastor can read correctly between the lines he can become frustrated by others not picking up on the subtlety of his communications.

The thinking is big and vast, like a shimmering aurora in the night sky. He senses much, and sees into subtleties, but can he form his thoughts and communicate them? He wants to be a writer of fiction. This is a very fitting manifestation of the Mercury/Neptune opposition, for he has a deeply poetic sensibility and a tremendous feel for all that is hidden – qualities that could blossom wonderfully in fiction writing. Mercury/Neptune is especially good for fantasy writing and for any writing involving the description of subtle and elusive states of mind.

Mercury/Neptune opposition is also an ideal aspect for a homeopath, for the effectiveness of homeopathy depends on how carefully and subtly the interview with the patient is conducted, because it is the interview, when carried out with clear insightfulness that reveals the subtleties of a person's energy field that then allows the homeopath to find the best cure for the patient.

Mercury/Neptune opposition also signifies the ability to channel information from many sources – one's higher self, angels, spirit guides, etc. As Neptune signifies psychic sensitivity and Mercury corresponds to the nervous system this aspect can produce a nervous sensitiveness that is prone to derangement by negative psychic atmospheres.

A method of looking more acutely at this opposition is to pin it down to the actual distance between the planets, which is 179 degrees and 57 minutes. If we measure from the slowest of the two planets – Neptune – to the fastest one – Mercury – we find a distance of 180 degrees and 3 minutes. We can analyze this opposition in a highly specific way by saying that it vibrates with

the 181st degree of the zodiac, which would be Libra 1, the exact degree of Alastor's Uranus. This means that he uses his Mercury/Neptune opposition in a Uranian fashion – meaning that all we have said so far about the Mercury/Neptune opposition comes to him in sudden flashes of insight, in maybe curious or strange ways, has an unpredictable quality, and is a highly unique expression of his own individuality. We can further analyze this opposition by referring it to 1 Libra, whose Omega Symbol is “An apothecary shop in which herbal concoctions and other medicines appear as needed (!!)” The two exclamation marks are a reaction to the eerie allusion to homeopathy carried by the degree. Alastor has a way of suddenly pulling remedies out of the atmosphere, and not just homeopathic ones, but words, looks, actions, stories, or anything else.

Yet another method of analyzing this Mercury/Neptune opposition is to add the positions of the two planets together, which results in the placement 25 degrees and 45 minutes of Capricorn. I call this the “plus point” of the two planets. Plus points reveal the complete merging of the two planets' energies, whereas the aspect refinement technique spoken of in the last paragraph I call the “phase analysis.” It shows the sort of process the planets are involved in with each other. The Chandra Symbol for 26 Capricorn – the plus point of Mercury/Neptune – is “A solitary grave in the midst of a cornfield.” To me it is an image of what has been forgotten and what wants to be remembered. It feels that the grave wants to be revealed.

As there are 91 pairs of planets and points when looking at a chart, and as each one of this has a “phase point” and a “plus point” there is a tremendous mass of information that can be looked at in every chart. Should we look at all of it? Probably not, but it's important to know it's there and we can access it whenever we're desiring to look deeper.

What cannot be over-emphasized is the phase point of Mercury/Neptune exactly equaling the placement of Alastor's Uranus. This is epic-making in the chart, and reveals in him a mind of truly cosmic proportions, though one that may have trouble dealing with mundane, earthly and trivial concerns. Remember, though, that the Mercury is in Taurus, which gives the mind a rather organized, patient and kind of slow quality, which can really help to ground all this cosmic vastness brought in by the acute contacts of Mercury with Neptune and Uranus.

II

Alastor's 12th Lunar Phase is highly aware of any and all problems connected with communicating – for this phase is about healing the internal and external wirings that hook one up to one's reality. There is a strong urge to investigate and solve problems. There can be immense resourcefulness, cleverness and fluidity in carrying this out. The problem with phase 12 is that it can feel lonely and alienated, left out of the loop, unacknowledged, unappreciated, and disconnected from life. It is not that they are any more alienated than anyone else, it is that they are so acutely aware of the alienation and disconnection that they find everywhere. I feel this sense of alienation also comes from the fact that anyone born under this phase always tends to be able to tune into and work with the energy of others in a beautifully facilitating and therapeutic way, and that others take what Phase 12 has to offer but often do not have the same level of caring and insights to give back.

I myself was born under this phase, and I think that the problem is that I'm so aware of communication problems, and of any and all lack of communication that it magnifies my awareness of the ways I am cut off from the world. What anybody born under this phase needs to realize is that this lack of communication is ultimately coming from them, and that the more they develop the ability to communicate with all aspects of themselves the more empowered they will be to solve communication problems outside themselves.

The ultimate antidote to loneliness is to realize the vastness of the self, for as each one of us is a galaxy, how can we every feel alone? All separation is an illusion, and as phase 12 comes more and more into this awareness it is empowered.

When living in harmony with its own vibration Lunar Phase 12 is able to invent itself in a highly fluid manner – for it has the ability to be nearly anything or to play any role in a highly mercurial fashion, and so as it sees what is needed it has the power to mutate into just the person that the situation calls for, and to emphasize or bring forth that aspect of a situation which will clarify, resolve and heal it. Moon Phase 12 is then able to thread their way through any and all complexities, untying knots and loosening cords as they go so that all flows more freely and openly toward higher consciousness. They can be tremendously effective facilitators. They are highly adept at naming and labeling things, by picking out what is the key point in a situation and then giving voice to it, which greatly helps other people to find their way through confusion and to process what is happening.

They need to be careful of how they take in flattery and accolades, for they want these things as a balm to soothe their feelings of alienation and non-acceptance. The problem is that praise can cause one to want to become consistent – to engage again in the same behaviors that brought the praise to one so that more praise can be received. But the attempt to be consistent, or to play to an audience never works for Moon Phase 12, for they are at their best when they are fluid, that is, inconsistent.

To more specifically understand Alastor's phase 12 moon we can look at the phase point between Sun and Moon, which is 21 Leo, whose Omega symbol is “On top of a mesa, a lake of pure, deep blue.” That's what he needs to empower himself, to get up on that mesa above it all and find that pure lake of awareness that reflects the sky. The Chandra Symbol for this dame degree is “A holly bush covered with berries. It is in the snow.” In the dead and cold of life the holly bush thrives and bears fruit. Holly is used in the Bach system of flower remedies to alleviate anger. Rather than the bush being angry at the harshness of its environment it flourishes and offers comfort and joy in the midst of bleakness. The Azoth symbol for this same degree is “Runners flexing and warming up their legs.” Legs are a symbol of the power to move and to act, and Alastor has and needs to cultivate this power.

The Omega Symbol for Alastor's Mercury (28 degrees Taurus) is “A Man channeling a set of degree symbols.” Alastor's mind has about it a completeness of approach to reality, for the 360 degree symbols signify completeness, and the fact that he is channeling his own set signifies a highly individualistic way of thinking about things and interpreting experience. The 28th frequency of any sign is a difficult one, requiring constant refinement and constant re-attuning to

one's center in the process of perfecting itself. It can't take shortcuts or make things easier, for it bears with itself an imperative to be absolutely thorough. This thoroughness, is, of course, symbolized by the channeling of a whole *complete set* of degree symbols.

The Chandra Symbol for this same degree (28 Taurus) is “A man making candles out of beeswax.” Here we see Alastor discovering ways of fostering and spreading spiritual light. Beeswax burns longer and more steadily than other types of wax. This degree serves all that is eternal and beyond time – wisdom as a manifestation of spiritual light – and through the symbol of candle making serves that manifestation of spiritual light as he assists it in bring harmony into the material world. This degree feels fulfillment when it finds a meaningful goal to focus on and to which it can steadily and faithfully apply its talents.

The Azoth Symbol for 28 Taurus is “A ritual gathering to celebrate the completion of a gigantic labyrinth.” This signifies an acknowledgment and honoring of the complexities of life, and the affirming that all paths are part of the one great path. Remember that true labyrinths, unlike mazes, have only one path to their center. A labyrinth is kind of the opposite of the shortest distance between two points – it maximizes rather than minimizes the length of a journey. Why would one want to take such a circuitous route? The answer is so that no aspects of the self will be missed or left out – the complete territory of consciousness will be covered.

Neptune in Alastor's chart gains great power from being in such close opposition to his Star of Destiny, Mercury. The Omega symbol for Neptune (28 Scorpio) is “A man who speaks only in meter and rhyme.” Try as he might, Alastor cannot be prosaic. His communication seeks to be forever poetical. No matter how intellectual he seems to be he is at heart a mystic and an artist.

The Pleiadian Symbol for this degree (28 Scorpio) is “A man sleeping in a forest wakes to the distant fanfare of fairy trumpets.” Neptune is the planet of subtlety and intuition, and so Alastor through his inner vision can readily tune into the devic and elemental kingdoms.

The Chandra Symbol for this degree is “A building: the only part of it left is the cornerstone.” The starkness and simplicity of this symbol is in strange juxtaposition to the fairy trumpets and the man speaking only in meter and rhyme which are other symbols for this same degree. What are we to make of this? It feels to me like the cornerstone is like the seed of the building, that even when the building is destroyed, either by time or human effort there is still this seed left, and if one can tune in to the seed one might envision the whole building. I think Alastor's intuition (Neptune) works from clues and fragments which he can in his imagination reconstruct whole worlds.

The Azoth Symbol for this same degree is “A man learning how a vast library is organized.” Alastor has the ability to see deeply into structure, and can see into the great complexities and subtleties of the structure of the universe. The Mercury/Neptune opposition falls on the Sun/Mars and Jupiter/Saturn midpoints. He is impelled to express this subtlety of communication in an aggressively and constructively (Mars) purposeful (Sun) way that can be very patient, persistent, and morally motivated (Jupiter/Saturn midpoint).

It's curious to have Neptune in the 12th house, for the 12th house rules all that is hidden,

and Neptune is the planet of psychic insight and the intuition. It feels to me that Alastor senses everywhere around him in all aspects of life subtle underlying forces that influence and affect everything. Any planet in the 12th house can be a source of oppression, but as one grows in consciousness that same planet can become one of one's greatest powers. Alastor, therefore, can or might be plagued in many ways by his own sensitivity, but the more he accepts it, honors it and is willing to learn from it the more it leads him into the vastness of all the layers and levels of experience outside the physical realm.

Both Mercury and Neptune are on the Sun/Mars midpoint. His communicating (Mercury) is imbued with a purposeful (Sun) constructiveness (Mars). He has a desire to speak (Mercury) constructively (Mars) of what is most important and meaningful (Sun). He has the ability to work hard (Mars) towards goals (Sun) which express his ideals (Neptune).

The only square in his chart is between Mars and Pluto, so the greatest challenge of his life is to harness his intense and passionate obsessiveness and direct it in constructive ways. He has the urge to DO things, and can be an extremely hard worker. He is looking for breakthroughs, desiring to expand his capacities and abilities – to outdo himself. When meeting any obstruction he will do anything to overcome it. This could intimidate other people, though the Neptune helps to prevent this through imbuing him with great gentleness and sensitivity, and the Sagittarian ascendant comes across as quite friendly, even though rather aggressively so, since Mars is in the first house.

Saturn in the 5th house reveals possibly a fear of expressing the self, a fear of taking risks, and a great seriousness surrounding the act of creating. It also signifies a lot of deep soul searching concerning the questions “Where can I find my deepest joy? What is truly fun for me, truly gratifying? and “How can I express the profundity of my own depths?”

One potential pathology of Saturn in 5th is the inability to allow oneself to have fun, and a feeling that there is a lack of gratification and satisfaction in life. As the 5th house signifies children it also signifies anything which one gives birth to through creative action. If Alastor were to have children he would take them very seriously, and have a tendency to always wonder if he were doing the right thing by them. On a more superficial outward level it would mean more of a likelihood to have children later in life, or maybe to have few children, as well as being more likely to engage in creative endeavors the older he gets, for maturing, to him, means coming into a fullness of self-expression.

Saturn is in the 30th degree of Aries and is in a tight quincunx to the Moon which is only 54 minutes off being exact. The 30th degree of any sign is difficult, for it is truly cosmic, and signifies the completion of the sign's energy in which it's found. 30 Aries then means complete exploration, encountering new realms at every turn – every moment in life experienced as a new beginning. The Omega symbol for this degree is “A crown which causes one to levitate.” Of course if we can experience each moment in life as a new beginning we in a sense overcome the heaviness and gravity of the past which holds us down, hence the image of levitation in this degree.

Alastor has the ability to empower himself with this magic crown, which can empower

him to rise above everything where he can look down and view the complete territory surrounding him all the way to the horizon. Remember, though, that the planet he has in this degree is Saturn, and so this is something that is tending to come slowly and gradually in his life – it is something that he experiences always as a lack and a yearning which he strives to move toward. This is what is wanting to happen – this is the natural outcome of his destiny. This is his deepest wisdom (Saturn). Somehow he knows this, but can he place the crown on his own head? Can he allow himself to be thus empowered?

The Azoth Symbol for 30 Aries is “A sage concocts a powerful elixir which heals people suffering from a plague.” On our first meeting Alastor told me that he had made elixirs for each one of the seven planets. Also, there is an eerie resemblance between this symbol and the whole process of homeopathy. In fact Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy identified energetic plagues, which he referred to as miasms, and for which he developed homeopathic remedies. Saturn as being the planet of wisdom shows that it is herein that Alastor's wisdom lies, and this is emphasized by the fact that Saturn is found in the fifth house, which signifies creativity and experimentation.

Alastor MUST experiment. Saturn will patiently and relentlessly goad him to do so, and his experiments may have a very cautious or organized quality, for these are traits of Saturn. And as he experiments he might fail again and again, as most experimenters do, but may triumph again and again as well. He must allow himself to levitate above the whole thought form of failure. Since his experimenting is genuine and true, how can he fail? Each failure is the triumph of a learning experience.

The Pleiadian Symbol for this same degree of Saturn is “White birds swimming on a pond seem to glow in the twilight.” The white birds are souls – spirits. The darkness brings forth their light by contrast. Alastor sees spirits in the darkness, sees their souls glowing. Aries is the sign of taking action, and the 30th degree of Aries means taking any and every action needed, seeing a thousand paths and allowing one's own path to shift and change as each new moment calls for it and inspires one to do so.

The 30th degree of any sign has a tendency to be willing to become whatever the situation needs, to be able to be anything to anyone. It has a feeling of having no place to go, for we may see it as already having arrived, or as having the ability to be everywhere at once. It's very strange to me to think of the 30th degree of Aries, for Aries rules exploration, and so the 30th degree of Aries says, “there is nothing to explore, for exploring implies going somewhere other than where one is. There is nothing to explore for we have already found it all – it is all right here with us – we have found everything. We only need to realize it.”

The square between Mars and Pluto, when harnessed and cleared of karma will manifest thus: The intensity (Pluto) of his understanding (9th house) shining through the force (Mars) of his personality (1st house). The desire here is to act in a way that will transform, and action will be always wanting to outdo itself until a breakthrough is achieved.

It seems to me that the Achilles Heel of this chart is the Moon conjunct the South Node, both in Virgo 30. The South Node is considered a point of danger, and so, for him the Moon can

be dangerous. But how? How is the Moon dangerous, and what can he do to render her non-dangerous, that is, befriend her?

The Moon is tremendously yin – very vulnerable and impressionable. Probably Alastor's greatest need is to be constantly aware of what is going on within himself emotionally, to honor, love and nurture all of his emotions, no matter what they are. He needs to be aware of what emotionally FEEDS him, and then to SEEK THAT FOOD. He needs to stay away from people who will try to suck him dry, for he so readily takes on the role of being a MOTHER. He feels deeply for others, and so can have a hard time saying NO to their needs. He is at the mercy of all he represses, so it is extremely important for him in this lifetime to clean out his subconscious and emotional body, to clear it of any and all repressions. To render the Moon harmless requires the constant washing of it, it needs to be flooded with clear water to wash away all stagnations. He needs to be continually renewing himself.

The Moon is also the planet of habits, and so the wrong habits can be deadly to him, whereas the instilling of healthy, life-supporting habits is extremely important. He needs to gently and lovingly work with his own emotions without repressing them. Repression will only create rebellion in his subconscious which will then backfire on him in subtle and maybe not-so-subtle self-defeating ways. So the trick is to love and honor his Moon – his emotions – without allowing them to flood him and thereby create chaos.

I have decided that a good keyword for the quincunx is “everywhere.” This word aptly expresses the diffuse nature of the quincunx. The quincunx's energy has a feeling of being everywhere, and of therefore affecting everything. For Alastor there may be lurking sorrows, fears and frustrations (Saturn/Moon) everywhere. He feels the sorrow of the world. He needs to work diligently to not let this weigh him down or create emotional stagnation in him.

Ellias Lonsdale corresponds the quincunx to the third house and says it signifies a talent which one needs to use to serve the environment. I have a Sun/Jupiter quincunx. I mention this because the Sun is the polar opposite planet of the Moon and Jupiter is the polar opposite planet of Saturn. Therefore my Sun/Jupiter quincunx is the polar opposite of Alastor's Moon/Saturn quincunx. The talent I use to serve the environment is the ability to expand (Jupiter) awareness and meaning (Sun). Alastor has a talent for focusing (Saturn) feeling (Moon), that is, tuning others into exactly and pointedly what it is they are feeling, or, to put it another way, taking them to the deepest level of their feelings. He takes their feelings seriously and by doing so encourages them to take their own feelings seriously as well. He tunes into the dark and sad and heavy vibrations of the feelings of others, and by doing so can release them, redeem them. He feels dark, sad feelings that are everywhere, embedded subtly and sometimes not so subtly in everything. They can be highly elusive. He has a genius for being able to uncover them and to see their true nature, and by doing so, heal them. Oh so luckily and wonderfully he has that Sagittarius ascendant which rises so easily above such heavy, dark murk.

The Moon/Saturn phase degree is Leo 30. This means that the distance between Moon and Saturn in his chart is from 149 – 150 degrees, which corresponds in the zodiac to the last degree of Leo. The Azoth symbol for this degree is “Fairies as tiny as mayflies dance in the sun's rays.” This symbol speaks of the denizens of the elemental realms. The Sun is awareness, or the

light of consciousness. Alastor needs to enlist the help of these elementals to continually purify and heal the environment around him. This idea is supported by the Chandra symbol of that same degree, which is “A woman sprinkling rose water in the four corners of a room.” The room here is symbolic of the space in which we dwell, and roses are a symbol of love. Love is what will always heal those dark, heavy emotional frequencies as it seeps into a and loosens up sadness, anger and fear.

What helps greatly to keep him from being engulfed by these dark, heavy, elusive feelings is his Jupiter/Pluto conjunction, which imbues him with an obsessive and relentless optimism. His Jupiter, though, is conjunct the South Node, and the Moon as well. This means that at best he has the ability to engage others in a rich and generous way. At worst it means that he needs to beware of trying too hard. He may feel like he never does enough – like he has to always be doing more. This is a Jupiter trait and in his chart it has its roots in past lives, as shown by Jupiter's conjunction with the South Node, which is the primary significator for past lives.

And so it seems highly important to look at the placement of his North Node, which will show the spiritual direction he needs to take in this lifetime. The North Node is in his 3rd house, and is within a degree of the Nadir of the chart. I get really irritated with astrologers who say that since a planet or point is conjunct the Nadir one should go ahead and read it in the Nadir's house, which is the 4th. Bullshit! The North Node is IN THE THIRD HOUSE, and it matters not that it is only a hair away from the next house – it's still IN THE THIRD HOUSE. So the spiritual direction he needs to take in this lifetime is toward communication. Yes, Alastor, WRITE. And SPEAK as well. Communicate. Apply what you know to the everyday world around you, for this is what the third house wants. The fact that the North Node is in the very last degree of your third house means that you do this in a very complicated, sophisticated, variable way, a way involving thousands, even millions of threads of communication. You have learned so much in past lives, as shown by the South Node in the 9th house. Now in this lifetime you are to apply it, in all sorts of ways.

With the North Node in the last degree of Pisces he is learning in the lifetime to give in to the flow, to let go of his lesser self's need to control so that his greater self can move with complete freedom with the currents of change and transformation for which it deeply yearns. The Azoth symbol for this degree is “An object of great beauty unearthed.” He is striving to be the archaeologist of himself, unearthing precious artifacts of beauty and power which can be used as healing talismans.

South Node in Virgo cautions him to beware of the stultifying and stagnating potentials of perfectionism, and of losing himself in a quagmire of analysis and details. Virgo tries to perfect – this is what he is moving away from. Pisces, which he is moving toward, merges with reality as it is in total acceptance, and by doing so transforms it.

Ellias Lonsdale ascribes the bi-quintile to the first house. Alastor has a Saturn/Pluto bi-quintile. I have not applied these aspect ascriptions to houses very much, but I trust Ellias. And so I shall say that if he is right, the Saturn/Pluto biquintile means that Alastor is a very serious person, a profoundly serious person, and that he is acutely aware of the limitations and

restrictions that his identity places on his reality. He is looking to find a way to ultimately transcend these limitations, to go beyond them. He may also suffer from deep inhibitions, which plague him, and which serve the purpose of growing him into his power.

At the time of this writing Alastor's Progressed Lunar Phase is 26, which is also Mercury ruled, and will go into Phase 27 within 3 to 4 months. He entered this phase about 9 months ago – which would be February of 2012. Phase 26 vibrates with the planet Mercury and with the 12th house, and so Alastor is now in a time of looking deeply into all that is hidden within himself, and is in the process of strengthening his communication with his own intuition. On the positive time this can be a very enriching time for him, during which all sorts of inner treasures are discovered. On the difficult side there can be so much being revealed to him at this time that it can be a really challenge to process and make sense of it.

The Chandra Symbol for Alastor's Sun (9 Taurus) is “A talkative woman with tape over her mouth.” This degree is very much about the need to take action. The Omega Symbol for this degree is “Bats streaming out of a cave at dusk.” This signifies the spontaneous emerging of energies which have been sleeping in the unconscious. Alastor's Sun is in the 5th house, and is conjunct Saturn. His vitality, his sense of meaning and purpose in life (Sun) comes from creating, from experimenting, and from play (5th house). Of course Saturn dominates the 5th house because it is the closest planet to the cusp. This can cause the process of creation to be slow and careful, and can also cause it to be frustrating. As Saturn blooms the older one gets there is likely to be a lot more creativity expressed later in life. Alastor is suspicious of any superficial manifestation of confidence based in the outer material world – this is a characteristic of the Sun/Saturn conjunction. He seeks true, deep and spiritual confidence. The Sun is all about the meaning of things. Saturn conjunct the Sun disallows any and all surface meaning and strive always for depth of meaning.

He has Pluto, Jupiter, South Node, Moon, and Uranus all in conjunction, which creates the following 10 conjunctions: Pluto/Jupiter, Pluto/South Node, Pluto/Moon, Pluto/Uranus Jupiter/South Node, Jupiter/Moon, Jupiter/Uranus, South Node/Moon, South Node/Uranus and Moon/Uranus.

The beginning astrology student always sees something like this as a big ball of knotted yarn, a kind of glommed up wad, and wonders, what's the most important one? It's easy and simple to determine this: it's the one that's closest (!) which is **Moon/Uranus**. Alastor, generally speaking doesn't feel many of the normal things that people are “supposed” to feel, or if he does he's not so interested in them. He feels STRANGE things, UNUSUAL things (Uranus). He has UNUSUAL insights. His insights come to him like little flashes of lightning (Uranus) out of nowhere. He may experience suddenly changing (Uranus) moods (Moon). Its because he's so attuned to the mood atmosphere around himself and around the people who he comes in contact with. And there are a LOT of change and flux and layering going on in all of that (Jupiter's in the mix, Jupiter ruling abundance, excess even). And his feelings are INTENSE (Pluto's in the mix as well). And for his own personal security (Moon) he NEEDS, he MUST HAVE FREEDOM (Uranus). His is maybe the jittery consciousness of a dragonfly, but it doesn't necessarily mean he's nervous. Dragonflies aren't nervous – that's just the way they are. With Uranus in his 10th house he is meant to take an unusual and highly individualized approach to his

profession – maybe even to create controversy within it. Homeopathy is considered by the world a strange profession anyway, but even at that Alastor's own approach to homeopathy wants to be highly original and unique. (Planetary elixirs? My guess is that many conservative homeopaths would have a problem relating to that). But maybe his own innate uniqueness makes him feel vulnerable. I would strongly advise him to stay away from straight laced, narrow-minded conservative people. He needs to be around people who really and truly appreciate his own unique genius. He has told me he yearns to find his “family.” Oh yes, this is most certainly what he needs, as shown most blatantly by North Node conjuncting the 4th house cusp, the fourth house being the house of family.

The astrologer Marc Jones says that Taurus is the most eccentric sign of the zodiac anyway, and Alastor has not only Sun in Taurus, but Mercury – his Star of Destiny – in Taurus. So his whole way of thinking is naturally eccentric, original, and unique. What he has to offer the world is a good deal out of the ordinary.

I wish to add here that my own Sun is less than a degree ahead of his Mercury, so they are in tight conjunction. One of the major purposes I'm to serve in his life is to make him more and more conscious (Sun) of his Star of Destiny, and hence of his own importance.

His Chiron is on his Venus/Node midpoint. Here is what I say about that in my book on midpoints: “Your vibration helps others to appreciate the way they are connected to everything, and also to connect in a more loving and relaxed way. You help them to appreciate the value of their past connections, as well as to appreciate what they most need for their own personal growth.”

Let's get back to this question of North Node conjuncting the Nadir. Even though I said that one MUST read the North Node as being in the 3rd house – because IT IS – it is *obviously strongly affecting the Nadir as well*. This means that where he is needing to head in this lifetime (North Node) is toward taking an increasingly personal, intimate approach to life, and to develop close intimate relationships with others – he needs to build himself a FAMILY, and numbers here do not matter, only the quality of the intimacy is important. If his family consists of only one other person, but that person makes him feel loved, accepted and grounded, that's all he needs.

And with South Node conjuncting his Midheaven he should beware of putting too much stock in his own reputation, or what the world at large thinks of him – such things don't matter so much. He is not here this time to impress the world at large, or gain it's approval. That's not to say that he won't, but rather that this is a thing of the past – something he's already done in former lives. He's here to develop intimacy, meaning a deep, private rapport with clients, with friends, and with those souls he considers part of his own soul family. When he concentrates on those connections he is protected. When he gets too much into the public and who does or does not think he's an authority or has credibility, or is doing his work in the “right” way, he's in danger. It just doesn't matter in this lifetime. He needs to take in the validation for what he is doing that will come from those who TRULY SEE what he's doing, and who will love and appreciate it. In other words, be as eccentric as you are and if the world criticizes or foams at the mouth about it, that's their problem. Go into hiding if you need to, but whatever you do don't allow their biases to rain on your festival.

Now here's a highly interesting and juicy one: the Moon's node sits only 1 MINUTE away from the Moon/Uranus conjunction. You have to remember that so-called midpoints are actually MIDLINES – that is, there are actually two midpoints between any two planets, and those midpoints are always in exact opposition, in other words, they form a LINE. And then, of course, when the North Node aspects any midpoint, the South Node will do so as well. So this Moon/Uranus conjunction he has is something he brought in with him in this lifetime, and something which he's learning to use in a new way. In short, we might say that there is a very big contrast in him between the negative potential of the Moon/Uranus conjunction versus the positive potential of that conjunction. What I get from this is that possibly in past lives he felt alienated – different – and that maybe his reaction to this feeling was to retreat from the world. In this lifetime he needs to just let his emotions, feelings and instincts flow forth freely from him and not allow people's reactions to them to inhibit him.

The ruler of his 12th house, which is Mars, is in his first house. So his relationship to his intuition (12th house) depends on his identity. That is, if he can clear away any dysfunction concerning how he sees himself, it will maximize his access to the clarity of his own intuition.

Let us look for a moment at the Degree on Alastor's ascendant: it's 13 Sagittarius. The Omega symbol for this degree is a highly curious one: “Sitting for her portrait, Mona Lisa feels as if millions of people are watching her.” What I get from this is a seemingly ordinary situation – a rich Italian lady sitting for her portrait – feeling that this seemingly ordinary act has deep and far reaching ramifications. Did Mona Lisa have any inkling that she would become one of the world's most famous women? That she would touch millions of people just through the simple act of sitting for her portrait? This symbol signifies that we are far more connected than we know, connected to everything, connected to times far into the future and places far flung from our current location. Alastor has within him a deep and constant feeling that somehow his simplest acts have tremendous import and that they have the power of creating far more connections than he can ever be consciously aware of. Also, Mona Lisa SITS – she does nothing, she doesn't have to, to be centered in a nexus of meaning and power. She's known for her mysterious smile. Alastor has the power to make others aware of mystery through the simple exposure to his personality. This is at once grand and ecstatic inwardly as it is plain and simple outwardly. The Pleadian Symbol for this degree is “A past life appears suddenly with crystal clarity.” In this symbol we find sudden and surprising intrusions from the past that have the power to enrich and enhance the meaning of the moment.

I think that as ascending signs go Sagittarius is probably one of the best to have, since Sagittarius is transcendent in nature and the ascendant signifies one's identity. Sagittarius ascendant has the ability to wear its identity lightly, and with joy. Sagittarius ascendant places Gemini, the most helpful sign of the zodiac on the 7th house cusp, the 7th house being how we relate to the world around us. I hear some of you wondering what might be a difficult sign to have on the ascendant. I think the hardest is Virgo, for playing the role of servant tends to always put one in danger of being taken advantage of. Scorpio ascending isn't so easy either, as it gives people the uncomfortable sense of not ever really knowing you. But these are asides. Back to Alastor. . .

The Chandra Symbol for his 13 Sagittarius ascendant is “An embalmer at work on a mummy.” I wish to quote from my own book, “The Circular Temple” concerning this image: “Just as Leonardo DaVinci preserved the face of the Mona Lisa for all time, the embalmer does the same with the corpse on which he works. These are ways of holding on to the past by recording it, or meticulously preserving it. Death creates the illusion of complete isolation, and yet in the Omega Symbol of this degree Mona Lisa feels a connection with millions of people. This degree signifies the deep connectedness that is always there between each and every one of us, and always waiting to be seen and experienced beneath the illusion of death and separateness.”

Whenever we wish to know more about the ascendant we can always look at the planet which rules it and see what house and sign it falls in. In Alastor's case the ruler of the ascendant is Jupiter, which falls in the 27th degree of Virgo in the 9th house. The Azoth Symbol for this degree is “Transparent fish swimming in a sea of vivid blue.” Fish are symbols of *understanding*. Here the understanding is so clear as to be transparent as they dwell in the sea of the collective unconscious. So Alastor's identity is bolstered and reinforced by his understanding (Marc Jones' keyword for the 9th house), and by an enthusiasm (Jupiter) to use that understanding to work and to solve problems (Virgo).

I always like to look at the Point of Bad Luck in a chart. This point is double the distance of the Part of Fortune from the Ascendant. That puts Alastor's Point of Bad Luck at 22 Virgo – right on top of his Pluto! Pluto rules power, transformation, and breakthrough. It can also rule sheer pressure – the meeting of resistance. In terms of human psychology it rules obsessiveness. Alastor needs to find ways of releasing the stress that obsessiveness can create. If he is obsessed with anything, it's with UNDERSTANDING (9th house). It feels like what might be signified here is that there are big transformations to come about in his lifetime, but where the bad luck comes in is the having to wait for them, and then to be frustrated by desperately wanting to understand what is going on but not being able to for a time.

Pluto, of course, is the planet of power, and as such can cause a person to feel empowered, or powerless. Alastor is learning, though the facilitation of the point of Bad Luck, to accept both his true spiritual power and his feelings of powerlessness – which are only temporary and are there to teach him something important.

Let's now take a look at Alastor's planetary departments. He has two of them activated: Venus and Mars, which is the department of EFFICIENCY is activated by a trine, meaning that when he does anything he likes it to progress in an even, grounded and organized way. Uranus and Neptune, which constitutes the department of SIGNIFICANCE is activated by a sextile. This signifies a person who is a facilitator of social progress.

The departments of EFFICIENCY and SIGNIFICANCE both being activated means that Alastor is at his best when he can take an impersonal approach to circumstances. He might, sometimes, seem cold, distant, or aloof, but this mindset might aid him in focusing on what he is doing, and help to insulate him against negative criticism, censure, or any kind of chaos or static that might disrupt someone else, who, if involved in the same circumstances did not have this setup in their chart. In short, he has the ability to deal with life in a kind of impersonal, cosmic way that lets

spiritual energies come through without placing his personality in the way of them. Actualizing this ability would also prevent the danger of the South Node/Moon conjunction that can make him feel like mothering everyone and therefore allowing himself to be vulnerable to their every impulse.

I have not so far mentioned any of the asteroids in Alastor's chart. Three of the four major asteroids are connected to planets in his chart. The one that makes the closest aspect is Ceres square Sun. Ceres is the asteroid of false nurturing, and squaring Alastor's sun it means, in the highest sense, that Alastor has the ability to see the manner in which people falsely nurture their ego, through getting superficial accolades from society and the world at large. He has the ability to find true and real ways to nurture the ego (his own and others) and the sense of true meaning and purpose in life. He may, though, suffer himself from issues of not feeling validated by the world and all the standards it adopts to judge people as being worthy. He needs to beware of falling prey to the superficial criteria of others. A part of him may crave this kind of false validation, but through this craving he moves toward becoming more and more aware of what is truly important in life, as opposed to what the world deems as being important.

His Mercury is conjunct Vesta by five degrees. This makes his mind extremely detail oriented – something necessary for a homeopath, but at worst it can make him feel swamped by a chaotic mosaic of details in which he could get lost, and which, if he allows it to overwhelm him, can make him feel timid, unsure, and uncertain. Vesta is encouraging him to spiritualize his mind, which will then cause all this myriad details to find their most harmonious relationship to each other. He may also be somewhat timid about communicating, because he wants to do it right and thoroughly. But if he sees himself as a spiritual channel who is communicating the light, once again all fine points of inconsequence fall away in the presence of this divine light.

Note that the degree of Vesta, 3 Gemini, has as its Omega symbol the image of “an invisible man wandering in the night.” This seems to say that if he were to get entangled in fragmentation and chaotic complexity it would have the effect of making him invisible to the world. The Chandra symbol for this same degree is “A dense thicket of brambles surrounding a magic castle.” He must not allow his impulse to be unreasonably thorough or perfectionistic to isolate him from the world so that people are unable to find and/or visit his magic castle. Remember, though, that the positive Vesta signifies faithfulness to the spiritual fire. The Azoth symbol for this same degree is “A visionary lies in a dark room as she waits for signs and messages.” When Alastor plays the keeper of the divine fire, this is what it looks like. Certainly if his chart shows anything it shows that he is a vehicle, a vessel, a channel for cosmic wisdom.

Venus in his chart is in square to Pallas. This can mean a fear of love, a fear of loving, and/or a fear of being loved. He has the urge to go deeply and profoundly into whatever he loves, be it a person, or an image in his mind. Through delving into love he confronts fear on all levels so that he can be redeemed by love's healing power. Pallas, the asteroid of fear, is in 14 Capricorn, whose Azoth Symbol is “The star Sirius rises in the east.” 14 is the Kabbalistic number of Scorpio, and so the 14th degree of Capricorn is the Scorpionic manifestation of Capricorn. Scorpio is power, and Capricorn is authority. This may mean that Alastor has a fear of the power of his own authority, maybe a fear of playing the role of an authority. Pallas in his 2nd house means that most definitely his fears surround what he has. The way to heal Pallas is to

always look deeper. He needs to look deeply into what he does have, his talents, his resources, his feelings about money and having and owning material possessions. The Omega symbol for this same degree is “A woman restoring an ancient textile.” Alastor is the restorer of the ancient fabric of being – he is the reweaver of an ancient mystical fabric of truth. With ruler of his 2nd house in 5th his talents (2nd house) must be expressed and experimented with.

Lonsdale says that Alastor's Pallas in 2nd house means that he has to give up security and control fetishes. He may think that to have anything in the world he has to go along with the world's value system, but this is false. As he realizes how much more expanded his own values are from the world around them he is then able to offer the world his true gifts.

Venus itself stands in this most beautiful degree 11 Aries, whose Omega Symbol is “A hospital for birds.” Birds signify the freedom of the spirit, and through this degree he loves and appreciates (Venus) the need to heal the spirit. In all relationships, but especially in those of a romantic nature he is in need of a challenge (Aries), and needs also to be with someone who gives him a feeling of freshness, constant renewal, and new beginnings (Aries).

His Venus squares his Saturn/Pluto midpoint. To quote from my midpoint book this signifies the potential for “extreme frustrations felt in love. A love of very deep, transformative connections with other people. A love of anything which is profoundly spiritual. To feel utterly and totally unloved, which can push one toward transformative spiritual experiences and a realization of the power of divine love.” The feeling involved here may be not so much that of being unloved as it is the acute awareness of the limits of other peoples' ability to feel and express love. Also, though, he would have the power to make them aware of this, and ultimately to grow beyond it. It certainly signifies that he is in no way looking for superficial, surface, or easy relationships.

I have not yet spoken of the meaning of Neptune in Alastor's 12th house. Ellias says the danger of this placement is that of taking on the worst of what everybody is busy denying. By diving deep into inner realities Alastor automatically shatters illusions, which could cause him to become a scapegoat for those people who are afraid of having their illusions shattered. He has so much to give to other people, but what he has to give can be threatening to others, for it assails the tight little boxes they have built for themselves to live in. He cannot, though, back off from this experience of diving into immensely deep waters, for it is his dharma to regenerate the world, kick, scream and dig in its heals as it might in the process.

One of the most neglected techniques of astrology is looking at the 9th harmonic, which, in classical Vedic astrology shows our destiny – where we are headed. It is said that the 9th harmonic is to the natal chart as the fruit is to the tree. Alastor's 9th harmonic has **7 planets in mutable signs!** He is learning in this lifetime to be extremely flexible and mutable – to mold himself to situations as needed, to be friendly, helpful, supportive, and to use his vast resources of cleverness to find ways to do what he needs to do. His 9th harmonic Mars is in the exact same degree as my natal Mars, meaning that my action and aggressiveness has the ability to pull his own initiative and desire to create out of him. His 9th harmonic has four planets in Virgo, meaning that he is meant to work hard, to perfect and refine all that he's doing, and to serve the world through his industriousness. The 9th harmonic Sun is in Pisces, so he is turning into a

Pisces – one who is accepting, understanding, and who heals through his sympathetic rapport with others.

I wish to end this analysis by reminding the student that a chart never and in no way shows the evolution of an individual – it can't. What it shows is the pattern of energies that their soul has woven around itself in this incarnation. Having met Alastor, though only twice, I sense he has a great ability to actualize these most cosmic forces at work in his chart. It is to always be kept in mind by the student, though, that a seemingly sensitive and sublime chart may belong to a person who is a very young soul, and so one who only responds in limited fashion to his or her potentials, or a soul who is mired in a morass of negative karmas that prevents his or her actualization of the chart's sublimity. I believe, though, in the case of Alastor we are seeing a highly advanced soul having chosen to take on the mantle of a most fertile and transformative chart. Fortunately for our planet there are a rather large number of such healers who have incarnated at this time. It is my sincerest wish that this interpretation inspires Alastor to be himself more and more, which will inevitably be a great boon to the world.

