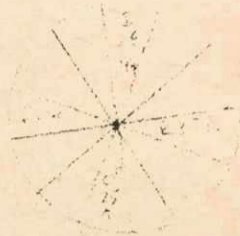


A Paganistic View of the Universe

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native as an over-estimation of his/her energy level, resulting in restlessness and irritability. The Uranian square, say, in Third House, may provide the release for this frustration with angry letters or graffiti (Third House of communication and short distance travelling) or reckless driving (perhaps even professional racing).

The hardest of the three square aspects, however, is the Grand Cross. The energies here neither run in circles nor find an outlet but are suspended within the Cross. The Grand Cross is two sets of oppositions in signs 90 degrees apart (♃ 1 ♋ opposition ♎ 2 ♏ opposition ♌ 26 ♍ is a Grand Cross)



This aspect indicates severe problems and setbacks throughout the native's life. Using this example, we begin with Venus opposition Pluto where we find a deep and unsettled love life, "a predisposition for getting involved in intense emotional and sexual relationships which can be demoralising." According to Sakosian and Acker's **An Astrologer's Handbook**, and then a Moon opposition Mars indicating "a volatile and emotional nature." Put the two together, without a resolution anywhere in sight and we have serious troubles. Solutions will hopefully come from another area of the chart.

Trines are generally considered the nicest aspects to have, in a way. Trines are the 'gifts' I mentioned before, problems we have already mastered in our other lives and are easily dealt with in the present life. A trine is two or more planets 120 degrees apart (♃ 2 ♎ is a trine, ♃ 2 ♎ and ♀ 1 ♋ is not) and deals more in luck than anything else in the chart. This is the aspect which allows you to sit back and rest on your laurels — stimulation must come from elsewhere. Example: Moon trine Uranus will instill in the native a sparkling, bubbly imagination, a quick wit, but without motivation these qualities can easily remain unchanneled. Mercury trine Neptune may become, in the native, an active speaker on behalf of the rights of other people, someone who can communicate clearly to others peace or altruism. But without motivation these thoughts may never find themselves spoken.

The Grand Trine, which connects three or more planets in three single trines (♃ 2 ♎ and ♌ 5 ♍ and ♎ 28 ♏) is one of the most outstanding 'rewards' an individual may possess. Not only does it gather the planetary energies together into a more cohesive unit, but coupled usually with an opposition to one of the trined planets, it electrifies that magic triangle to make for a powerful personality in the native.

Like the Grand Square, the energies in the Grand Trine also run in a circle but unlike the Grand Square, they can be released through an opposing planet. In this case, it will be ♃ 27 ♎ providing opposition to ♎ 28 ♏.

The Grand Trine example indicates a deeply emotional (Pluto trine Moon), but restrained (♃ trine Saturn), introverted individual. The situation created by Mars ignites the volatile temperament of the Arien Moon, spurring the native to action and offsetting the usual complacency found in the Grand Trines.



The Natal Chart, which we have so far been discussing, presents the basis for the native's primary motivations. Although this chart is made for the time of birth, many

of the habits guiding the native through his/her childhood remain the same throughout life. However, there are means of ascertaining the native's passing fancies by transits, and his/her general evolution through progressions.

The planets are in constant motion around the Sun, although even that luminary seems to move from the earth's point of view. This movement is called transitory. The Natal Chart may be compared to the daily events coming into contact with the native, making him/her act/react to them.

In effect, that is exactly what happens. Transiting planets, coming into contact with the natal planetary positions, especially through conjunctions and oppositions, are able to create differing moods and feelings as well as sometimes foretell minor events such as unexpected gifts or accidents. It is not the planets creating these events, but the native's frame of mind.

Planets orbit at different rates, from the Moon whose earthly orbit is 28 days, to Pluto whose solar orbit is approximately 248 earth years. This means the effects felt by transiting planets as they aspect those of the Natal Chart may last from minutes to months. Example: Moon conjunct Sun, a conjunction which occurs in everyone's chart once a month and lasts for approximately two hours, may cause short-term introversion or anxiety. Long term aspects would be Pluto conjuncting the Sun — an aspect which could last up to two years causing inner turmoil, growth and/or destruction in the individual, a reshaping of his/her values — a feat which cannot be accomplished in mere days.

The other 'road to the future' lies in 'progressions'. Progressions are a little more complicated than transits but cannot be pinpointed as precisely. These are calculated by adding to the date of birth one day for each year lived by the native (say the native is born April 1, 1960 and is now 22. The planets for April 22, 1960 will be used as the progressions). The positions and aspects of the planets will change more drastically as the native grows older and so, hopefully, will the personality change, as opposed to remaining stagnant.

Our example will be an individual born December 10, a Sagittarius now 20 years old. The date his/her progressions will be calculated for is December 30 (10 plus 20). This means the natal Sun has changed signs, from 16 Sagittarius to 6 Capricorn and the native has gone from a Sagittarian viewpoint to a Capricornian one. This is the case for most of the planets in the chart, which will also be changing in the aspects they make to one another. Perhaps even more important, however, are the House placements they progress to, showing a change in focus in the areas of life the native deems important. Where once, perhaps, the native concentrated on learning and shaping his/her concepts (Ninth House), the emphasis may now be on putting this knowledge into practise and propelling him/herself along in the business world.

Lastly, there are two other, similar, forms of chart interpretation, and these involve comparing charts (natal, transiting, or progressed) to discern how two or more people will get along. These are most frequently set up for people planning to go into business together, families, friends, or lovers. The methods are called synastry and composites.

Synastry is easy. It takes two (or more) Natal Charts and compares the aspects made by the planets in both natives' charts, cross-comparing them. Business partners could not do better than to find one's Mars conjunct the other's Jupiter (money!) in the Seventh House (partnership), or any good aspect to Venus, which will ensure friendship and financial profit. Bad aspects, such as one's Uranus square the other's Sun, however, may find the two business people going their separate ways in a few months time because they can no longer get along with each other, or bad aspects to Jupiter may indicate disastrous investing policies leading to ruin.

A couple in love would do well if one's Sun were in the same sign (conjunct) as the other's Moon, a combination of the Yin and Yang or masculine/feminine principles, the conscious will and the subconscious emotions combined in harmony.

Chart comparisons can also often tell why people are suddenly attracted or repulsed by another, or what holds a couple together when they are so obviously mismatched. Saturn has a lot to do with this and, being the planet of karma, it makes the pairings all the more interesting. Saturn is called the teacher and when it makes contact with a planet in someone's else's chart, it means both sides will learn from the relationship, will be forced to learn from it, and may not be able to break away from it until the lesson is learned, whether it be love, communication, asserting the will, the emotions, etc. The lessons are not usually easy but as Saturn instills a feeling of responsibility in both parties, they are bound to serve their term. Composites are midpoints. Midpoints are used much in

astrology to find a midway energy between two planets. When two or more charts are compared in this way each planet is taken separately into consideration. For example, both chart's Suns are calculated, then the Moons, the Mercurys, etc.

The Sun of Chart A is 13 which transforms into 43, as we are working in '30's' again. Chart B's Sun is 25 or 98. The two numbers are added together, coming to 141, which calculates into 21, the fifth sign of the Zodiac. The first thing this composite chart tells you is the energies of the two people are binding together to form a leonine quality and the relationship will be one of lighthearted fun, generosity and pride. This mode of calculation will be used for the rest of the planets to find the emotional quality (Moon), the communication (Mercury), the love and social life (Venus), etc. The aspects are treated similarly to those of the Natal Chart, the one difference being they are modified to take into consideration two people molding themselves into one relationship. Whereas in a Natal Chart the Sun conjunct Venus meant physical beauty and charm, in a composite chart it denotes a deep and abiding friendship. Sun conjunct Moon once meant inner harmony for the individual, it now reveals a deep understanding of each other and is the sign of marriage, formally or informally.



It is not the way of the metaphysical astrologer to force their beliefs onto others because genuine evolution can only be initiated from within by the native himself. We cannot say definitely to what ends this patch will lead, only that which I have speculated of at the beginning of the article. But, in not knowing, we strive to learn, and in learning — learning our quirks and shortcomings and trying to improve ourselves in our interactions with this world and its energies — we make the world just a little bit better — as one grain of sand in a long stretch of beach it is not for us to say we are so insignificant we do not matter, but rather, we are doing our best, and the potential for goodness on this beach is so incredibly vast.

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|----------|---------------|
| ♈ Aries | ♎ Libra |
| ♉ Taurus | ♏ Scorpio |
| ♊ Gemini | ♐ Sagittarius |
| ♋ Cancer | ♑ Capricorn |
| ♌ Leo | ♒ Aquarius |
| ♍ Virgo | ♓ Pisces |

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| ☉ Sun | ♃ Jupiter |
| ☾ Moon | ♄ Saturn |
| ☿ Mercury | ♅ Uranus |
| ♀ Venus | ♆ Neptune |
| ♂ Mars | ♇ Pluto |



LIBRA



SCORPIO



SAGITTARIUS



CAPRICORN



AQUARIUS



PISCES