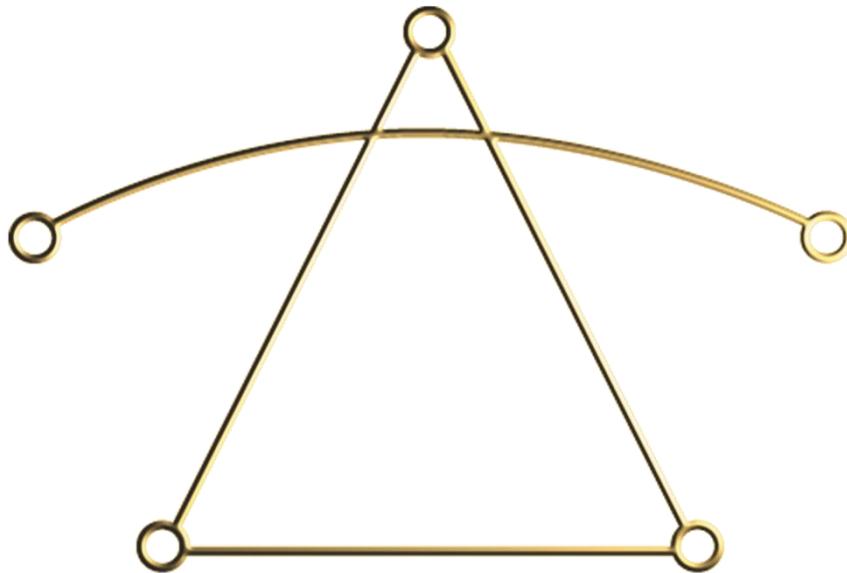


KINDRED SPIRITS REPORT

A Solar Writer Report for

Oprah Winfrey

Written by Stephanie Johnson



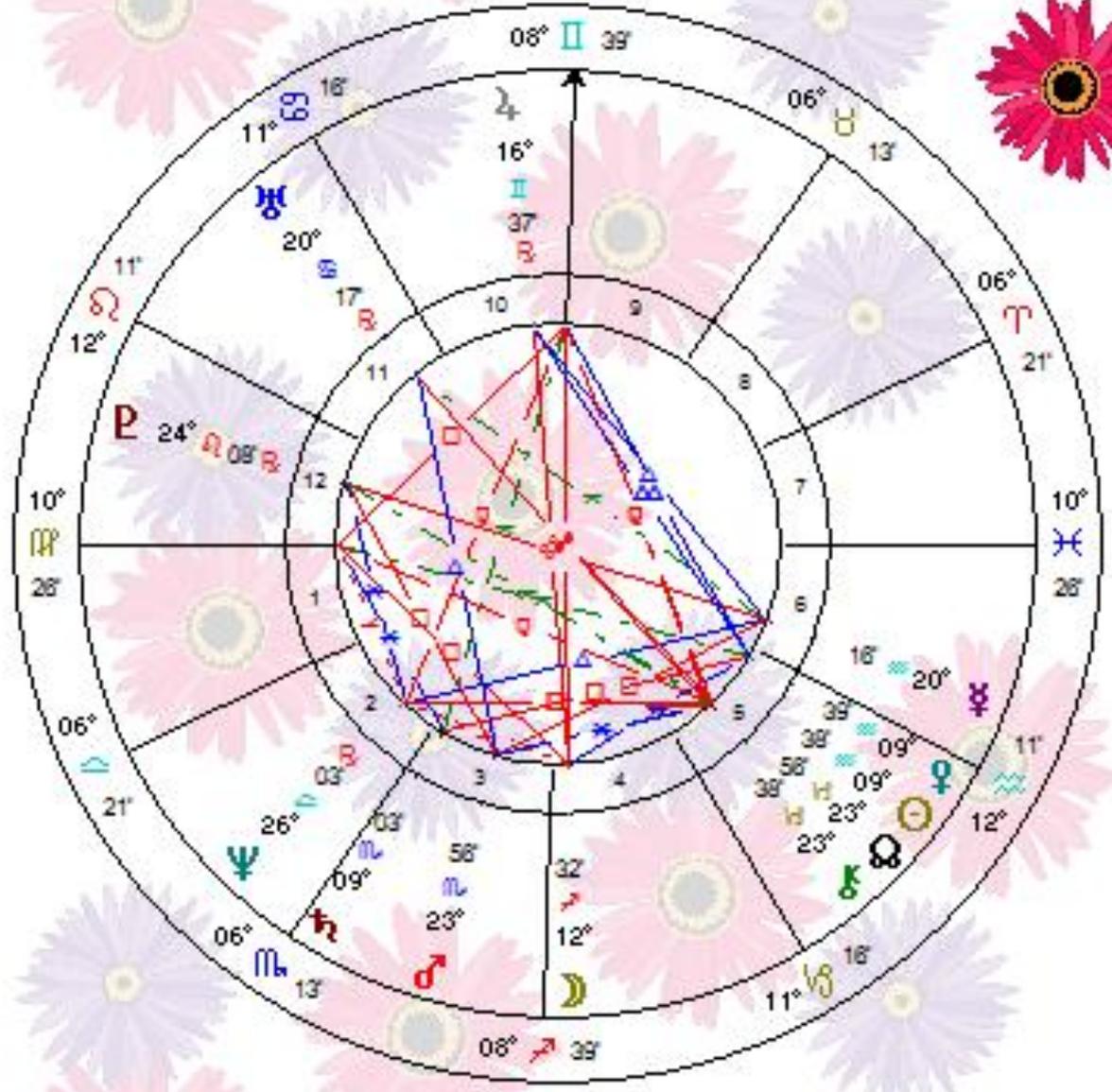
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Oprah Winfrey
Natal Chart
 29 Jan 1954, Fri
 7:51 pm +6:00
 Kosciusko, Mississippi
 33°N03'27" 089°W35'15"



INTRODUCTION

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

– L M Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Kindred Spirits and Soulmates

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

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

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

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

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

IN THE BEGINNING IS FAMILY



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

Lunar Legacies

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

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

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

If your earliest experiences have not been life-enhancing then you may need to change some of your innate relationship expectations and patterns. Modern psychologists would emphasise the need “to re-parent” this part of yourself in adult relationships. The Moon can help in this process by indicating the ways in which you can find solace and comfort in the depths of yourself. It is important to

recognise your own needs, so you are not subconsciously expecting your friends and partners to fulfill them. Unmet needs can contribute to feeling dependent and hinder your ability to enjoy true intimacy. The idiosyncrasies, habits and routines you bring into relationships are a function of the Moon. Ironically destiny challenges you in your adult relationships to find healthy ways to nurture your personal needs. Therefore it is of prime importance to come to know your Moon as intimately and as respectfully as you can.

The Moon is in Sagittarius

Your Moon is in Sagittarius, which is the final Fire sign in the Zodiac. When you are born with your Moon in the Element of Fire this suggests that curiosity and playfulness are entwined. In other words you are more inclined to attach when you feel that there is freedom and adventure. You were happiest as a child when outdoors, playing team sports, accompanying your family on adventures, leaping into the unknown, or indoors reading story books connected to ancient history, religion and philosophy. As a child your inner image of feeling loved and cared for would be when you felt free enough to be curious and inquisitive. You recoil at the sense of feeling bound or hemmed in and were probably born humming the tune 'Don't Fence Me In'. But just because you enjoy freedom, wide-open spaces and foreign soil does not mean you do not recognise the value of attachments. You need these attachments to be flexible and moveable. As a youngster you might have conjured up images of walking the Great Wall of China, climbing Mount Everest, travelling through space or swimming in the Mediterranean. In whatever way you visualised your need for freedom, you probably were in touch with your instinct to venture beyond the borders of your family and cultural heritage. Therefore in an adult context you need to honour your inner need for wider horizons and broader beliefs.

You are aware of life's possibilities and focus on the future. Sometimes you are more concerned about the future than the present and herein lie some of your relationship dilemmas. Sometimes it feels uncanny that the right relationship comes along at the wrong time. It may be that you are torn between the road not travelled and the possibility of an intimate relationship. Perhaps the potential partner has other commitments that take them away. Either way you are sometimes left wondering where the future and the present intersect, if at all. In adult relationships you are often called on to make that difficult choice between future possibilities and present circumstances. How long can you keep others waiting while you follow your dreams? When younger your choice might have been what was possible; later it might not be as simple as that. You need spontaneity and freedom and are more relaxed and able to connect to others when the situation is natural and uncluttered. You are able to be close to others when you feel unconstrained and able to be impromptu. However when there are routines, responsibilities, rules and constraints your instinct is to run - and run fast! Therefore in adult relationships you may feel cornered when you are asked to commit. Yet it seems that the pattern that always arises in your relationship is the need to decide where you need to be. Based solely on your Moon in Sagittarius you probably want to live overseas! So how do you accommodate that in a relationship?

The Element of Fire does not easily accommodate negativity and with your Moon in Sagittarius one of your emotional needs is optimism and faith. Negativity and despair can leave you feeling depressed. In a relationship you are likely to bolt when negativity surfaces. You respond by affirming life; however, this is not always helpful or supportive. Your positive and upbeat attitudes can often mask your own negative feelings and despair. When the pain of living, grief, loss or depression seeps into your relationship you often feel the need to flee. In adult relationships, your learning curve is to try and stay present and honest. You often feel the need to dip into your philosophical and ethical tool bag to solve the situation when just accepting your true feelings is all that is needed. Emotions

and beliefs can clash and through a relationship you learn to accept your feelings, even though your natural instinct might be to philosophise or conceptualise them. In adulthood you learn that relationships are part of life's adventure and certainly a constant learning opportunity. You feel nurtured when your close companions unconditionally support you in your quests wherever they may lead.

Feeling Secure in an Insecure World

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

Jupiter is Opposite The Moon

When the planet Jupiter combines with the Moon you have a strong urge to explore beyond your family circle, possibly outside your culture as well. You need to feel safe on foreign soil.

Within your family of origin you explore and question family members' attitudes and beliefs. It is also possible than one or both of your parents were born overseas, are from a different culture or a multi-cultural, religious or bilingual family, or may have lived or been schooled abroad. Whether this is literally so in your case, psychologically this aspect's essence stresses your cross-cultural needs. Religious and cultural beliefs, academic and innovative education, human values, and hope and optimism in the future play a large role in your security and attachment. How this was accomplished in the family of origin influences the degree of safety you feel in the world. In an adult context this suggests that you might discover the mystery of intimacy when in foreign territory.

If you felt secure in a family atmosphere that prized tolerance, open-mindedness, education and cross-cultural experiences, then you are likely to experience a sense of belonging as well as independence. Encouraged to think beyond the square and accept all cultures and religions, you could develop your natural capacity to explore appropriate ways to extend experience beyond the family circle. You mature confident in your own beliefs and have hope for the future. You are liberal, far-reaching and expansive. You need to be encouraged to find the foreign in the familiar, to spice up your meals and open the mind.

If prejudice, dogma, inflexible beliefs and rigid cultural attitudes polluted your family atmosphere, then the consent to form personal opinions and beliefs was compromised. This would leave you feeling uncertain about your own beliefs or opinions. If your ability to adventure outside the safety zone of the family is impaired, you might have developed a sense of entitlement which keeps you aloof from being involved in exploring differences. When confined by inflexible attitudes you feel unsupported in your vision and human values. This aspect suggests you may have been encouraged to mistrust what is foreign, be apprehensive of the outside world or fear the future. If your family encouraged you to hang onto its limited religious and cultural way of thinking, your hope for the future becomes compromised. With this combination the family values may have been short sighted. However in an adult context it is imperative that belonging or intimacy is forged in a wide-open space that encourages tolerance, exploration and differences.

Your kindred spirits will encourage your natural visions of faraway places, your excitement of foreign landscapes and help you dream the dream of adventure into higher realms. You intimately need to explore beyond the boundaries of your home and homeland, meaning your destiny might be to take

root on foreign soil or explore other religions, beliefs and values. Your soulmates will help you to spread your wings and find your sense of where you belong.

Home is Where We Start From

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

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

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

The Moon is in the 4th House

With the Moon in your 4th House your emotional security and your sense of belonging was considerably shaped by your family of origin. A strong link to your family develops because you need their support, guidance and nurturing to feel safe. Of course this is a human need, but for your need to belong and feel attached is highlighted by this placement in your Horoscope. With a positive attachment to your family, you are able to leave the nest and return on your own terms. However if your family experience was fractured and unsettled, then you have a more difficult time separating and becoming independent. Your ability to develop a sense of independence may have been compromised by others' needs, your parent/s' dependence upon you or undertones and moods that remained unspoken in your family.

You have a sixth sense about what others need. You first experienced this in your family. It might not be something that you are conscious of, but you innately respond to what is in the atmosphere, sensitive to emotional undertones, jarring vibrations or darkened moods. This is not an intellectual knowing; rather it is a gut knowing. The emotional climate in the environment is absorbed by you, often settling in the stomach or solar plexus. Without conscious knowledge of this pattern you might be responding to everyone else's needs rather than your own, unaware of what it is that you need because of the unfulfilled needs of those around you. When this occurs you feel out of sorts, alone, unsupported, as if no one really understands. Establishing a clear sense of self when it comes to your feelings is difficult for you, but it is a necessity. Hopefully you have an emotionally mature mother and family to help you feel supported and separate enough to know what you need. But if you grew up in a volatile or dysfunctional environment you probably took responsibility for some of the stress, leaving you feeling insecure and unloved. In this environment you feel that to be loved you need to

take care of others and put their needs first. Love becomes dependent rather than unconditional. Therefore it is always wise in later years to reflect on the extent to which you care for others at the expense of your own needs. Your tenancy to bond, merge, be symbiotic is great for nurturing a child, but not necessarily supportive in developing friendships and relationships.

Home is important both literally and metaphorically as an image of belonging. Country too. Therefore your natural state suggests you love to be nestled in your home, active in the community and even may wave the flag on the national holiday. In a perfect world you want everyone to come to your house as you have a heart that opens wide to let people in. You are loyal and devoted. But big hearts also hurt big and over time this may have affected the way you love. In an adult context remember your task to provide enough emotional containment and boundaries to protect your sensitivity; be selective about who you invite into that private and sacred space you call home. Your home is the reflection of your inner life and security. When you are unsettled in yourself you are unsettled in the home and many of your great life changes will go hand in hand with an important move.

While you do not need to learn to love you do need to learn who you can love. You also need support and encouragement in your closely-knit circles. Remaining conscious of this helps ward off the instinct to care for others when there is nothing in it for you. Common sense dictates you do have to leave home at some point and that may be difficult emotionally and psychologically. Being habitual change does not come easily. But on an emotional level you will return home time and time again, recreating the habitat that is most familiar to you. You want to bring your friends home; you might even bring your work into your home. And from home to home you carry those transitional objects that have become dear to you. Stuffed toys, childhood photos, greeting cards are all-important mementoes of your past. It is natural to collect memorabilia from your life and give it an honoured place in your home.

Your kindred spirits will nurture you just as much as you nurture them. There's nothing like dinner parties with your closet friends or intimate gatherings to bring it back home to you just how important the image of family is. Family is belonging. Whoever is in your orbit feels like family so just be more select about who that might be. You couldn't choose your family but you can be choosy about those you share your adult life with. Making a nest is important and in your adult life home plays a major role in your relationships.

PRIMARY RELATIONSHIPS

Our Early Soulmates

Siblings, Cousins, Neighbours, Playmates and School Chums



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

The Third House

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

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

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

Following are some illustrations of your 3rd House energies which may help you reflect on your earliest relationships, especially those with siblings, cousins, neighbourhood chums, schoolmates,

sports buddies and friends.

3rd House Cusp is in Scorpio

The Water Sign Scorpio on your 3rd House Cusp suggests that honesty, integrity, passion and intimacy are primary qualities of relationship that are important to you and are experienced in some way with your siblings and early friends.

You are likely to have experienced a potent combination of intimacy and intensity in early relationships. This implies a deep and soulful connection is experienced when you feel engaged with another. However, whether the bond is woven together by filaments of love or hate, it is the intensity of your primary bonds that underpins your relational pattern. How were you initiated into partnerships in your youth? The passions of bonding might have been tested early in your friendship and with your sisters and brothers drawing out the depth of your feelings.

There are many ways this image may reveal itself but all will carry the same archetypal expression of intimacy. Ironically intimacy is the profoundly internal experience with oneself; hence this suggests that you learned about your inner self through primary relationship that pushed you back onto yourself. You can only be in relationship with others to the extent that you are relationship with yourself. Therefore through early relationships you learned the feelings that accompany love, whether these were the bright side of the spectrum such as joy, tenderness and trust or the dark side such as resentment, jealousy and betrayal. In the mix you also experience the issues of power and control, but perhaps these are your initial feelings of your own power or powerlessness, your own control or helplessness that emerge when you feel vulnerable in relationship. Therefore you learn early to be discriminate about who you can and cannot engage with on an in-depth level.

You also learned early about your receptivity and ability to sense what lurked underneath the surface of relationship. There may have been a secret that your siblings kept from you or a family secret that was inappropriately kept by the siblings. At some point truth beckons and integrity calls. This astrological statement seems to demand an intimate honesty in your early relationships which might have felt impossible, yet was ultimately necessary. The secret might be your own inner need to be honest about your feelings of loss or grief. In your intimate adult relationship it might be interesting to consider how your sibling, your partner's sibling or the ghost of the sibling could influence the present relationship. Your kindred spirits are your intimate friends who are aware of your deepest needs, who are honest and trustworthy and who, at the end of the day, will meet you and are there for you in any crisis.

Mars is in the 3rd House

Mars symbolises a brother, the warrior, the competitor, and when in the third these images may be brought into consciousness through siblings or childhood friends. Mars here illustrates the theme of sibling rivalry, which when identified and honoured can be directed into conscious striving and determination

Aggression is a natural part of relating, and with Mars in your 3rd House you might have first encountered conflict in relationship in your own home with a sibling, cousin, or playmate. When you are living in such close proximity to a partner, yet still developing an identity, it must remind you of the old adage 'familiarity breeds contempt'. You learnt to defend and stand your ground in early relationships. From an early age you might have had to assert your identity and will against other playmates in the environment and your aggressive and survival instincts may have been brought out through bullying, taunting or goading. Your first experience of aggression may have been with a

sibling, learning to juggle what you want with your need to be in a relationship. Hence, early on you might have learned about how to get what you want with others.

Mars also constellates the sexual instincts, and these too may be tested out with the sibling in various ways. Sexual and gender curiosity is brought out in your relations with playmates and siblings who may have wanted to test their sexual or physical virility with each other. Since the sibling system may be where you first experienced aggression, competition, sexual or angry feelings, how these responses were consciously managed impact on your adult relationships. Unresolved sexual or hostile feelings towards the sibling will certainly be constellated in your adult relationships. For a woman, this suggests that a brother image is part of your internal masculine realm. Therefore if you have a brother, he would be an early and appropriate hook for the externalisation of your competitive and driven feelings. Your siblings and early peer groups are an important training ground for taming the aggressive and sexual instincts.

You may have learnt at a young age how to make room in your environment for both your personal and independent needs as well as being in relationship. You have learnt much in the laboratory of childhood and it is your kindred spirits who recognise your vitality and entrepreneurial skills.

Saturn is in the 3rd House

When Saturn is in the 3rd House, the themes of authority, duty and responsibility might have first become conscious in our relationships with sibling/s and early schoolmates. In my practice I have consistently witnessed the placement of Saturn in the 3rd House with only and eldest children who feel they have been placed in positions of control and responsibility too early. There are many reasons for this; a common theme, however, was the sibling who filled a void left by an irresponsible parent. This placement might also suggest wide age spacing between sibs, feeling as if you have grown up virtually as an only child, or for some other reason you might not feel a part of the sibling system. If you are an only child, this placement talks of the world of equals being overshadowed by the world of the adult. For an eldest child, it suggests you were responsible for your younger siblings, setting the example of upholding parental law, often while your younger brothers or sisters are breaking the rules. You could have experienced difficulty sharing or delegating as a result of your sibling experiences. Issues around the division of labour may have caused resentment, as you may have felt you had a greater share of the chores than the others did or felt more dutiful than the others did. Whatever the birth order, Saturn confers a sense of the lawmaker upon you, leaving you feeling that you are obliged to discipline or direct your siblings. There could also be a tussle for the top position in the sibling system, feeling a need for the parent's approval. However this approval might come at the expense of having a close and equal relationship with your other siblings.

Another manifestation of this position could be the feeling of rejection by your sibs or feeling completely alone and separate from them. You may feel the need to become self-reliant and not have to depend upon the siblings for support, encouragement or comradeship. It may become imperative to detach, withdraw or take care of yourself on your own, contributing to an isolationist tendency. This pattern could be the foundation of feeling self-reliant in your adult relationships and not easily able to depend upon others for support.

In adult years, Saturn in the 3rd House could also be demanding, as you might again feel it is your responsibility to bring the siblings together. Issues around family gatherings, rituals or special occasions polarise the siblings once again into their childhood roles leaving you feeling that you must direct or control the gathering. One of the greatest tests with your siblings in later life may be the concerns about responsibility and decision making for an elderly parent. With Saturn here, you learn

to be responsible, but not at the expense of our own individuality. It is in the sibling system that you first learn how to delegate, discern and let go of control in appropriate ways. Learning to differentiate who is responsible and set the appropriate boundaries becomes an important lesson for your Saturn in the third. Your kindred spirits encourage you to become your own boss and an author of your own life.

Being Kind to our Kin

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

Mars is Square Mercury

This planetary combination suggests that independence, competition and adventure may have been motifs in your earlier relationships. This may have set the stage for how you might deal with rivalry later in life. A model of a champion or someone to emulate is what you might seek in your relationships and this would have first become evident with a sibling. On one hand, this suggests an image of a supportive and encouraging brother figure; on the other, it could point to a bullying and dominating sibling. What it perhaps implies is that your early peer relationships taught you to deal with rivalry, competition and aggression. Whether power is expressed in an aggressive or encouraging manner, your sibling experiences stressed initiation, independence and the pursuit of individual goals. And these motifs become apparent in later relationships.

Pluto is Opposite Mercury

Pluto's domain is the nether world and its aspect to Mercury suggests that early sibling and peer relationships may expose this world to you. On one hand this might represent sharing a deep and indelible bond with your sibling, a close relationship of intimacy and trust. However, the other polarity might have brought you into contact with feelings of betrayal and emotional control in an earlier relationship. From an early age you were aware of profound and deeply felt layers of relationship. Sharing resources with others may have been an important issue when younger. When these resources were not exchanged equally, an explosive situation may have ignited. Secrets are part of Pluto's territory, and in aspect to Mercury these secrets might have contributed to an early pattern of communicating the truth about your deepest feelings. Privacy is important but this may be confused with holding back the truth. In your early relationships you first encountered the powerful impact of your feelings on the way you trust, your level of honesty and how you communicate this with others. You have a powerful influence through the way you disclose your feelings. There is a razor's edge between being therapeutic and sarcastic, mending and cutting. Early on you learnt you could be manipulative or brutally honest, as you could see below the surface of things and understand situations on a deeper level. Intimacy and depth of connection with others hinges on your capacity to be true to yourself and how you make this truth known. Your kindred spirits appreciate your honesty and integrity and your powerful ways of thinking that help them understand the truth of their situation. What you know is only fearful to those who don't want to know the truth; therefore your true soulmates are truth seekers who desire the deep connection forged through honesty and integrity. Trust is the key that unlocks the deeper layers of your being in relationship.

KINDRED SPIRITS

Friends, Acquaintances and Colleagues



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

- Aristotle

The Eleventh House

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

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

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

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

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

11th House Cusp is in Cancer

The 11th House represents your community, the groups you encounter and belong to outside the family: groups that you belong to because of your interests, your passions and your professional affiliations. In this House are kin, not bound by blood, but by a similar spirit of interest. Eleventh House experiences include your first class photo, your circle of friends, Girl Guides and Boy Scout experiences, the school council; groups where you were part of the community without other family members.

But this House also describes your friends and kindred spirits who share your hopes and wishes and contribute to making your world the ideal place in which to live. With Cancer on the Cusp of the 11th House, your friends are like family. You are drawn to others who are sympathetic and caring and who you feel protective of. Your kindred spirits are your clan and you are most likely to meet them in groups that are family-based, children-focused or through like-minded colleagues and workers.

Wherever Cancer is placed on the wheel of the Horoscope represents the area where your caring concerns are expressed, as the Moon is the ruler of this domain. Therefore this suggests that you are prone to nurturing and protecting your friends, which is admirable, but this may leave you feeling your own needs are not met. You are instinctively in touch with your friends' needs and can immediately be there when they need a helping hand, a strong shoulder or a refuge. But sometimes this might not be helpful and you might be caught in an old pattern of providing for others at the expense of yourself. You will recognise this when you become hurt at the lack of reciprocation with friends when you are in need. Best to wait until they seek your help before you follow your instinct to be helpful.

Have you noticed that you instinctively make your groups into a family? You have a great need to belong to the group and therefore this means you often end up caring for others in the group. This statement does suggest the propensity to either become mother or baby of the group; however, your task is to belong to the group not taking on the sole parenting role!

You have a sense about others and you are usually right. It's a gut feeling and you need to honour that. However another gut feeling you might experience is 'butterflies in the stomach' as you are also shy and anxious about meeting new groups of people. Remember that you bring warmth and personal openness to your encounters. You don't need a large social circle, just a small intimate handful of friends is all you need to feel you belong; that special feeling you need. You kindred spirits will support you and make you feel safe without demanding that you take care of them. It is this smattering of friends that touches your soul

Uranus is in the 11th House

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

While kinship with others is important your Uranus in the 11th suggests you can also act out

rebelliously within a group. If the group is too static, traditional or stuck in a rut you become the revolutionary that disrupts the status quo. Therefore this placement can also suggest that you might feel separate from the group, the outsider, the black sheep, the 'strange one'. Therefore your creative role in the group is the one who catalyses the group into change. You are the one who brings in another point of view, perhaps out of left field. You might shock and awaken the group and its leaders out of its complacency, propelling the group into a new and liberated direction. As the agent of change it might be important to reflect on differentiating between the compulsion to change the system for change sake and the authentic need for revolution. With this placement you are able to sustain many different friendships. All become a part of the whole and it is necessary for you to cultivate different relationships and nourish the differing parts of yourself that are brought out in exchanges with others.

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

SOUL AND RELATIONSHIP

Intimate Friends and Committed Partners



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

The Seventh House

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

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

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

Our partners are companions, kindred spirits and intimate others. But human nature inclines towards moulding our partners with the clay of our own unresolved patterns and complexes. The

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

7th House Cusp is in Pisces

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

Your Ascendant is Virgo; therefore the Water Sign Pisces is on your 7th House Cusp is the sign Pisces.

The Water Element brings a depth of feeling and love to the area of relationships. Water flows towards the mysterious and mystical side of relationship, and you may be unable to articulate what pulls you towards another or the impulse that drives you away. You might idealise others who inhabit the sphere of relationships, whether they are siblings, friends or associates. But it is more likely you are emotionally idealistic about partners, drawn to the creative and spiritual sides of another. Aroused by empathy and compassion for another, you may find yourself drawn to unrealistic relationships.

Your inclination is to bring sympathy, empathy and concern to the sphere of relationship. Often these feelings may not be reciprocated leaving you feeling unsupported emotionally. You have an ability to feel your partner’s feelings and are often able to serve their needs and to care for their insecurities. This is admirable; however, within the arena of equal relationship it tends to obliterate emotional separateness and can foster enmeshment, leaving you feeling dependant and unmet.

You enter any relationship with a sense of deep connection, moved by your need to be in love with the other. Astrologically this suggests a confusion of boundaries, so when it is important to separate or be alone, it may be difficult. When it is important to be there, the person may be unavailable. The flow of water fuses and merges with what it encounters and therefore is not always comfortable within this sphere of separateness. However the transformational power of water is discovered and celebrated through its multi-layered relationships with equal others.

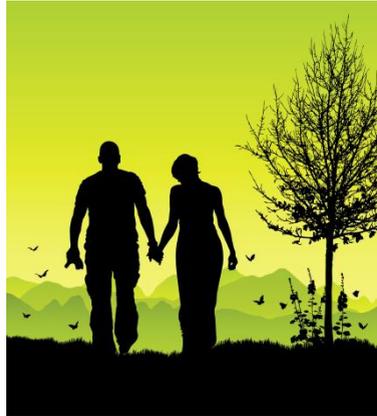
What you are first attracted to in others is their sensitivity and poetry, the gentle way they approach life and their compassion and concern for other living creatures. While you may attract these qualities in your quest for equal relationship, you may also attract the shadow of these qualities. The dreamy, creative genius you admire may also be confused, lack direction and unable to cope with life’s constant demands. What you first considered to be intuitive is now idealistic and what you told your friends was great imagination now seems to be escapism. But through light and shadow Pisces on the 7th draws you into a relationship that helps you to discover your own spirituality and magic. Your own quest for the sublime as well as your creativity will become better known to you through the seasons of your relationship and the influence of your partner.

Qualities you admire and are attracted to in your partner are their imaginative faculties that take you beyond the veil of an ordinary life. You love their intuitive function that picks up on how you are

feeling, their sensitivity to your moods, their gentle touch when you are feeling blue and their great ability to let things happen, to go with the flow. And it is these very qualities that a partner helps you find in yourself. So don't be surprised when your kindred spirits and soulmates have significant astrological placements in Pisces and have that creative and magical touch in what they do.

PLEASURE, PASSION AND LOVE

The Joys of Venus and Mars



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

Venus and Mars

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

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

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

Mars is passion and desire. Whether spiritual, physical, intellectual or emotional Mars symbolises how you express your desires, frustrations and energy. In terms of relationship it suggests how you assert yourself, deal with conflict and make your desires transparent. Your Mars sign describes how you might express yourself; go after what you want and how you may deal with anger in

relationship. In essence it is a symbol of how your life force naturally seeks expression.

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

Venus is in Aquarius

Rocket Scientist seeks Alien for companionship

This advertisement in the personal column of your local paper would get your attention. On a lighter note it appeals to you, as there is a grain of truth in it. Even though you can be fairly conservative, you are drawn towards the quirky and the unusual, especially in relationships. It helps you feel that you are not really obligated when you are involved with free spirits. Freedom is important to you and you value your own time and space. So much so perhaps your ex's have complained about your lack of commitment, or being too cool and distant.

Well it's true that you might feel smothered in close relationships. You want a relationship but not all the time. You have heard your partners complain about your sudden engagement then an abrupt disengagement. You approach but when they respond you avoid. Many Venus in Aquarius people have explained it this way. "*When I am on the other side of the world I am madly in love and can't wait to be with my partner, but as I approach home and them I begin to panic. I can't breathe and feel like fleeing. What is going on?*" This is the fated dilemma of wanting to be close and non-committal at the same time, an impossible match. So it is best to take responsibility for taking your own space, doing your own thing and finding enough time to satisfy your interests. Then you don't need to push others away to get space. When there's enough space within you don't panic and are wonderfully friendly, open and companionable.

You value your independence and friendship. But friendships and intimate relationships do not necessarily have the same expectations. Friends can support your adventures and escapades, but intimate others might feel that you are not spending enough time with them. You often confuse friendship and relationship and still expect your ex's to be friends even after a bitter break up. So relating usually brings a learning curve of emotional intensity. At first you disengage from it. Next you try and avoid it. But soon you learn that darker emotions pass and they pass quicker when you engage them not separate from them. Irony is you often are unwittingly attracted to emotionally intense others. You don't see it coming beneath that breezy welcoming personality! Equality, openness and truthfulness are guiding principles for you in relationship and your humanitarian and considerate character draw soulmates who share your worldview and human values. Remind yourself to take your own space, not expect others to provide that for you.

Mars is in Scorpio

How you assert yourself in your relationship and take the courage to be your own person is the domain of the Planet Mars. In watery Sign of Scorpio passions smolder and desires are felt intensely.

But don't worry. They are well concealed and few would know when you are dealing with pain or feeling elated. You are intensely private and contain your feelings. Some say you might hide your feelings; those in close proximity to you sometimes report you are withdrawn or unavailable. And sometimes you need to be, as you are acutely engaged in what you do and need to restore the emotional wellspring that is your lifeline. You need time to be with yourself and process your feelings or you feel overwhelmed by others.

You offer a high degree of emotional integrity and honesty in your relationships and demand loyalty in return. So when you are deeply involved with another, you expect this depth of engagement in return. You want to share on the most intimate levels. And when you become emotionally or sexually engaged, the waters aren't tepid, they're hot! However you often expect others to have your depth of understanding and intuitively to know what you need without really revealing anything. Be aware that not everyone has this silent understanding or is able to read subtitles like you can. There is a time when you are unable to be emotionally controlled and that's when you feel you've been double-crossed. Emotional and sexual engagement equals trust. To you close relationship is sacrosanct. So beware if you are the betrayer.

Mars is in its ruling sign, so it soars to the heights and scours the depths of Scorpio. Powerful love but intense anger. It's been said that people with the Planet Mars in Scorpio don't get angry, they just gets even, referring to this placement's propensity for revenge when trust is broken. But for someone who can be so steamy, you can also be like ice. When you're hurt or feel duped you send out smoke signals, actually more like icicles, which everyone can sense because you're cold and untouchable. But not everyone knows why. Well you love deeply; therefore you're going to hurt deeply. And often the hurting has to pass before you can even account for what happened.

Some are good at beginnings, some at middles; you're good (well sometimes not so good) at endings. When it's over, it's done. No more chances. You've grieved, you've railed, you've cried and now it's time to move on. And you do. When you emotionally commit to a relationship you are there 100%, offering a treasure chest of love and resource which you are willing to share. But it is not a one-way street and you expect return from your investment. Hence invest wisely in relationship. When you do your kindred spirits are trustworthy lifelong companions. You bring an integrity and transforming quality to relationship and expect to find your passion and trust respected and returned.

CROSSING PATHS

Close Encounters with Kindred Spirits



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

The Nodes

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

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

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

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

The North Node is in the 5th House

Close your eyes. Take a deep breath and then ask yourself the question “*what attributes attract me to others?*” Laughter? Fun? Innocence? Enthusiasm? Confidence? Creativity? Drama? Romance? Expressiveness? Play? Ah, yes, play. Taking the risk to express yourself and be playful is liberating. But you need a friend to take these risks with, someone you can bounce ideas off of and who can return your serve. And luckily for you, your kindred spirits are found in these places as well – they are your mates in the playground, the amusement park, the theatre, the concert hall or the sports stadium. Your challenge is to participate, not sit on the sidelines and let them do all the grandstanding. Be part of the team, not distant from it, or like Narcissus you may hear only the faint echoes of your own voice.

Your North Node is in the 5th House of your birth chart with the opposite pole of the South Node in the 11th House. This suggests that you might be susceptible to getting bogged down in group endeavours which may lure you away from your own personal creativity. Or you might be eclipsed by others in the group who take your spotlight and shine it on themselves. Destiny supports the development of your own unique, original designs and suggests that when you find the courage to be self motivated the voice of the community will encourage you. Then you find the circles that applaud your individuality. Kindred spirits share your creative flair and passion and no doubt you might first encounter them through mutual and shared interests. But lasting bonds are created when others are able to value and admire your uniqueness.

Your pathway emphasises personal self-expression and creativity, encouraging you to learn new creative art forms and skills. When you liberate yourself from being concerned about what others’ think or feel your playfulness will emerge. Children bring out the best in you because they are able to immediately contact your inner child and the joy of life. And that’s the litmus test for kindred spirits – can you play with them, do they make you laugh and do you feel better just being with them. Kindred spirits make you better about who you are. Draw upon your own experiences as a child, what it felt like being a child or just consider your own vulnerabilities, then you will be inspired.

But you also need to front up with your spontaneity, creativity and optimism in order to feel fulfilled in relationship. Some people have said you are aloof and unavailable. And you might come across that way when you are stuck in the need for acceptance or approval. Irony is you have a huge approval rating. To feel the best you can feel you need to get involved with your creative self. Whether this is focused on the theatre, the creative arts, production, entertainment, sports, children etc. you belong in the spotlight. It might not feel comfortable but nonetheless it is where you need to head. When you let yourself be stimulated by innovative and novel ideas, you will find community support. As you move away from being self conscious toward becoming self expressive a clan of colleagues and a family of friends awaits. So too does that special companion.

CONCLUSION

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

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

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

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