

2008 Interpretation Exam – Relationship Astrology Essay

Question 2 by Tina Mews

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Please print the relevant charts that accompany this essay.

Relationship Astrology

Question 2:

Wayne: born 8.15 pm, 5 June 1963, Maidstone, England.

His Ascendant is close to 5 degrees Sagittarius.

Tracey: born 11.16 am, 11 January, Penrith, New South Wales.

Her Ascendant is close to 25 degrees Pisces.

Wayne and Tracey reside in Penrith NSW and have been married for 11 years. They have three children and are considering having another baby. Their relationship has been a turbulent one yet they are determined to make things work and create a healthy environment for their children. They have come to you seeking an improved awareness of the dynamics of their relationship and how better to facilitate a greater understanding of each others needs, so that they can enjoy a more settled life together.

Using any recognized form of synastry and the composite chart explain how you would guide Wayne and Tracey to deal with their current problems and to enable them to be more mutually supportive?

ESSAY ANSWER

Introduction:

Relationship Astrology requires a sequence of delineation techniques. I firstly will look at each chart separately, finding the most important themes around the Moon, because they reveal a person's needs and subconscious conditioning. Then I will examine Wayne and Tracey's relating styles by investigating the position of Venus and Mars and their interaction as well as the Ascendant-Descendant Axis and their rulers. This will allow me to gain an understanding of Wayne and Tracey's innate expectations in regards to relationships and their instinctual patterns that may or may not support the success of a marriage.

I will continue with placing the two charts around each other and will explore the most important aspects between the two horoscopes to gain a clearer insight into the relationship dynamics. My aim is to identify areas in the couple's life, where certain buttons are pressed, where instant support is found and where there are areas of improvement.

I then will conclude with using a Composite chart created for their place of residence (Penrith), using derived cusps.

Before I even start looking at any charts, I notice already two significant factors. Firstly, Wayne is about 14 years older than Tracey, and he is born in England. Tracey married very young and has just passed her first Saturn return. So, I can expect to find themes around generational and cultural differences.

Tracey's story:

Tracey is a Pisces rising with Virgo on the 7th house cusp. In her relationships she is looking for somebody who has a practical approach to life, a partner who is skillful and can advise her. Alan Oken states: "There is the urge to find in the other the perfection which is lacking in oneself...(and) relationships are challenged as the ideal comes face-to-face with the real. The Pisces Ascendant runs away from the harsh reality of life-and the partner's all too human personality!" ('Houses of the Horoscope', 1999, p. 119). The all-time natural ruler of the 7th house, Venus, is found in Pisces in the 12th house, indicating that in her relationships she will look for avenues to withdraw, when reality is too harsh. It also tells me that she can be very compassionate and might suffer in her relationships.

The ruler of the Descendant is Mercury who is found in Capricorn in the 10th house. Tracey is looking for a messenger, somebody who provides intellectual advice and counsel, who is older and more mature (Capricorn, 10th house). The ruler of the 7th is conjoined Mars in Capricorn, her significator for the 'inner man' or animus. Her Sun is also found in Capricorn, in the 10th house and Saturn, the dispositor of all three and natural ruler of the 10th house is found in Leo in the 5th, the domicile of romantic relationships. This is a very strong indication that Tracey is looking for the older man, the father figure who is mature, provides her with security, and has some social standing. Venus and Mars are in an exact sextile, telling me that she is very charming and affectionate and it is easy for her attract relationships and friends; she enjoys an exciting social life (Mini-trine with Venus, Mercury, Mars and Uranus). However, her field of personal relationships is afflicted, because her Sun, Mercury and Mars are in square to Pluto in the 7th house, indicating that there will be issues around power especially in her marriage. She is attracted to strong men but is afraid to confront them. Instead she will withdraw and suffer, because Venus is found in her 12th house in Pisces and Venus rules Pluto. I also wonder, if she owns her 10th house Sun, Mercury, Mars conjunction. This would be important to explore.

Her Moon is in the 7th house, in Virgo and conjoining the Descendant. Tracey is very responsive to her partner's needs. Her Moon is part of a Grand Earth Trine, together with Jupiter (co-ruler of her Ascendant) and the Sun, bestowing her with easiness in attracting material abundance and security. On the other hand, she will be quite conservative and might be self-indulgent. She has many planets in earth signs (instinctual and sensual), and lacks in air. Communicating her thoughts clearly is a challenge, which is further signified by Mercury retrograde.

Neptune, the main ruler of her Ascendant is in the 9th house, in a trine to Saturn, confirming that she likes to be in a relationship with a man who is older and her teacher (9th house).

Unconsciously, she might also want to be the saviour of her partner (Pisces rising, Venus in Pisces).

Wayne's story:

Wayne is a Gemini Sun, he compensates for Tracey's lack in air planets. He is a Sagittarius rising, a born teacher and philosopher, but he also needs freedom. He looks for somebody who is intellectual stimulating, since Gemini is on the Descendant. Alan Oken states: "Relationships prosper with Gemini on the cusp when there is a strong mental base, clear communication, and room for independent activities" ('Houses of the Horoscope', 1999, p. 117). I wonder how much independence Tracey and Wayne allow each other in their relationship and how well they can communicate with each other.

The ruler of his 7th house is also Mercury and in this case, Mercury is found in Taurus in the 6th house, conjoining Venus, linking his relationship dynamic with the image of the 'inner woman' or anima. Natural and natal rulers of the 7th are conjoined, telling me that he needs to be able to communicate with his partner and that he is a dutiful worker and provider. However, his Moon in Scorpio is closely opposing the Venus Mercury conjunction and is making a T-square to Saturn in Aquarius in the 2nd house. This reveals that the image of the inner partner is heavily afflicted and most likely he will project a lot of his unresolved mother issues onto his partner. He might carry a deep fear of women and have problems with intimacy.

Subconsciously, Wayne believes that he cannot get his needs fulfilled in personal relationships. He tends to overburden himself with responsibilities and duties (Saturn square Moon). He has a lot of control issues, especially around sex, money and the expression of love. His mother was controlling and possessive towards him (afflicted Moon in Scorpio) and he needs to learn how to express his feelings safely and lovingly (Saturn square Venus). There is a coldness in his way of relating, which will lead to difficulties in his marriage. He might even come from a broken home (Moon square Uranus/Mars) and harbours still a lot of resentments, which he might not be aware of (Scorpio Moon in the 12th), but which can erupt, whenever they are triggered (square to Uranus/Mars). And to add to the drama, he also is a Sun square Pluto person!

Mars square the Moon is not an easy aspect to deal with, especially when topped up by Uranus. Wayne can be highly defensive and people, especially close family members can 'rub him the wrong way' easily. He might have been drawn into this relationship because of his sexual needs (Mars combust Uranus and Conjoint Pluto and Aries on the 5th house cusp). It started as a great love affair with lots of fun (9th house Mars etc and Leo on the cusp). I wonder, how much time Wayne and Tracey set aside for being playful and adventurous with each other. Both of them have lots of planets in Earth and both lack personal fire planets. Material security needs weigh out idealism and vision. In this respect their energies are too similar. Wayne's Sun is in the 7th house: he is looking for somebody who is complementary to himself!

Chart comparison:

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It is quite fascinating to see that Tracey's Sun is exactly conjoined Wayne's South Node in the 2nd house, opposite his Vertex conjoint with the North Node in the 8th house. This is a highly significant relationship. It appears as if Wayne has drawn Tracey into his life. They have a karmic connection and they felt instantly familiar with each other.

Their Moons are in an exact sextile, which provides Wayne and Tracey with an instant emotional bond and instinctual understanding. This aspect helps immensely in maintaining harmony and trust between them. Wayne's Venus/Mercury conjunction in Taurus in the 6th house is fitting neatly into Tracey's Grand Earth Trine, conjoining her Jupiter very closely and making a trine to her Sun and Moon. Wayne enjoys being the provider and is serving her material and security needs. There is a sense of generosity, optimism and abundance in this connection. At the same time Tracey's Jupiter in Taurus is in opposition to his Moon in Scorpio and squaring his Saturn. Her Jupiter energy becomes part of his fixed T-square. So, there will be a lot of intensity in their relationship especially around sex and money, with a tendency to go too far at times, with Tracey being the 'risk-taker' (Solarfire), because she brings in her Jupiter energy, while Wayne will take on a more conservative, moderate approach (square Saturn).

Tracey has a tendency towards material overindulgence and might expect in this regard a lot of Wayne (Pisces rising and Neptune in Sagittarius; her natal Neptune/Saturn trine). When she does not get what she wants, she might punish him with emotional coldness (her Saturn square her Uranus in Scorpio in the 8th house). She received a lot of support and nurturing from her parents (Grand Trine with Sun, Moon and Jupiter who is the other ruler of her Ascendant) and expects Wayne to fulfill her dreams, which is expressed by her Neptune in exact opposition to his Sun. He fears that he ultimately will fail her. So, both of them have to learn to set realistic goals together and work on a joint vision which allows both partners to grow. Both of them are lucky enough to have harmonious Sun/Jupiter contacts in their natal charts. They have the ability to be generous with each other and can support one another towards self-development and self-fulfillment.

Wayne's Jupiter is in his 4th house indicating that he enjoys being generous towards his family. However, his Jupiter is square Tracey's stellium in Capricorn and directly opposing her Pluto, thus constellating a t-square formation, which indicates stress, battles for power and confrontation in particular around the issue how to present the relationship in the wider social context. Tracey likes more a social life and public exposure (10th house Capricorn), while Wayne favors more a private life (4th house Jupiter, Moon in the 12th). There are battles around beliefs and principles. Tracey is restless at home (Gemini at the IC). Instead of having another baby it would be important for Tracey to give birth to herself and take responsibility for her own needs, which she has to assess clearly and thoroughly (Moon in Virgo, ruled by Mercury in Capricorn in the 10th). It would be important to take charge of her Capricorn identity and start climbing the social ladder through her own efforts (Sun/Pluto). Wayne's Pluto is in trine to her Mercury in the 10th. He challenges her way of viewing the world (Solarfire). He can be her teacher who assists her to overcome her fears and limitations (his Jupiter trine her Saturn).

Their sexual union is very strong and intense. Wayne's Mars, Uranus, Pluto conjunction is opposing her Venus and trining her Mars. This brings about a lot of sexual magnetism, even though it needs some aligning. Mars/Pluto is very explosive but also very creative. It is energy, which needs to be harvested and directed in to 'a mutually satisfying project' (Solarfire).

Together they can be either highly constructive or destructive. They have to make their conscious choice.

Wayne's Pluto opposite Tracey's Venus indicates that she feels easily challenged and overwhelmed by his energy. He confronts her to come out of her comfort zone (her Venus in Pisces in the 12th) and to become more active (sextile to 10th house Capricorn planets), in order to own her own Sun. They both are Sun/Pluto people, and I am aware of their potential volatile relating style. They will need to extend their personal relationship field into the collective and serve the world around them, in order to contain and transform these high voltage energies positively (Mars/Uranus/Pluto, or Sun/Pluto).

The question of working towards a mutual goal that is bigger than their relationship or their family will bring in a lot of healing. In Wayne's chart Venus rules the 10th and 11th house cusp, which certainly supports the aim of a mutual goal and objectives. In Tracey's chart Sagittarius is on the MC, so she relates as well to the open sky and freedom theme. However, the danger is that for Wayne the mutual goal might be reduced to making money (Venus in Taurus in the 6th), while for Tracey it could mean just freedom in consumerism and overindulgence (Jupiter in Taurus in the 2nd, and part of earth trine).

It would be interesting to find out from both of them, what they envisage for their future relationship. The Composite chart will give me a better understanding about the character of their marriage.

Composite Chart:

The composite chart reveals a very polarized relationship field. The chart has a sea saw pattern, which indicates that the relationship is out of balance. We find the Sun in Aries in the second house of money, values and personal resources in a Stellium with Chiron and Venus. Venus is already in the 3rd house of networks and communication. Now, the Sun/Chiron conjunction is opposite Uranus in Libra and opposite Pluto in Virgo, both in the 8th house, which rules the process of transformation besides sex, power, shared resources and values. Pluto is strongly placed in the 8th, because he is the natural and in this case also natal ruler of this house. Robert Hand states about the 2nd house Sun in opposition to Pluto that 'disagreements over values maybe a major source of conflict within the relationship' (Robert Hand, 'Planets in Composite', 1975, p.73). This can involve money and property management.

The Uranus opposition to the Sun from the 8th to the 2nd might indicate that there can be a lot of upset through joint resources and sudden changes. Robert Hand calls this aspect 'unpredictable' (ibid, p. 106). Uranus rules the Ascendant in Aquarius: Wayne and Tracey are challenged to create a new archetype of relationship, which is unconventional and gives both partners enough space to individuate. Otherwise the partnership might not last (Uranus in the 8th). Within their relationship they both need to recover and develop their own identities (Sun in Aries) and support each other in becoming their own selves (Sun/Chiron).

The Moon is in the 9th house in Libra and conjoining Mars in Scorpio. Jupiter is in the 3rd in Taurus, in opposition. The 3rd house/9th house axis is great for learning, communication, travel

and expansion. Maybe they met while traveling or through studies. They can have a lot of fun together, when they do have a common goal (9th house), when they allow themselves their need for freedom and expansion and lots of activity (Mars in the 9th)

Saturn is in the 4th house signifies problems in emotional relating but also the endurance within the partnership. There is a strong sense of duty and responsibility towards the family, but also a lack of emotional warmth. Saturn is exactly squaring the Ascendant, which reveals that Tracey and Wayne can alienate each other and that it is difficult for them to work together cooperatively (ibid, p. 297). Because of their differences in age (Saturn) and cultural backgrounds it is hard for them to understand each other. Saturn in sextile to Mercury confirms that they have a tendency to think in traditional and conservative ways, which might cause problems with their underlying needs for individuation (Uranus; Aquarius rising) and freedom (Moon/Jupiter; 9th house). To increase commitments by having another child will not solve the issue. Rather a new understanding has to be birthed by being honest with each other and letting go of unrealistic dreams (Venus in 3rd sesquiquadrate Neptune in the 10th).

Neptune in the 10th house indicates that it is important for them to find a unified spiritual field to achieve a greater understanding of themselves and their partnership. What is their vision for the future? What is the purpose of their relationship? What relationship do they agree on to create together? What are the resentments, which need to be surrendered? Can they accept to disagree on certain issues and still be friends? And, last not least: how can they create greater intimacy and enhance their ways to communicate? The greatest challenge will be overcoming the ongoing power struggles within the relationship and fostering compassion and empathy instead.

Conclusion:

Wayne and Tracey are facing a lot of challenges in their relationships. It will be essential for them to learn new ways of understanding and respecting each other as individuals. Furthermore, they will need to learn how to balance duties and responsibility with joint activities that provide meaning, fun and opportunities for growth.

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