

**Advanced Exam 2008:
Question 5 - The ASTEROIDS**

Damien Rocks

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QUESTION: *The awakening of new aspects of feminine expression in our society have equally affected men as they have women.* The addition of Black Moon Lilith and the four Asteroids: Ceres, Juno, Pallas Athene and Vesta have in recent times added the archetypal feminine principle to chart synthesis and delineation.

Discuss these additions in the chart of a male client: 'Simon' born on 6th April 1949 at 10.20 pm, Noosaville, Queensland. Ascendant close to 4 degrees Capricorn.

ANSWER:

The re-emergence of the archetypal feminine principle has brought new, life-giving blood to the practice of contemporary astrology. Since Eleanor Bach published the first asteroid ephemeris in 1973, contemporary astrologers have had new tools to describe shifts in the collective consciousness as well as new dimensions of personal experience. These shifts, encompassing new perspectives on gender, relationship and sexuality, are part of an emerging paradigm in Western cultures that is radically transforming the scope of social possibilities. The asteroids and Black Moon Lilith, symbolizing the return -or revaluing- of feminine modes of consciousness, allow astrologers to talk about this shift. Tess Cullen has said that "Today the asteroids represent the re-emergence and restoration of powerful feminine archetypes to the consciousness of humanity"¹ Placing them in the nativity tells us much about how an individual may respond to these influences.

Yet the asteroids also function in an equally useful, less gendered, way by describing the tangible influence of change in a technological age. Demetra George believes that the asteroids provide contemporary astrological theory with a way to describe the rapid rate of change instigated by the information revolution and the new possibilities this is bringing forth. "Today's revolution..... is that of information....the consideration of the asteroids, all of them, can lead astrologers to developing a language that will keep up and address in very specific ways, the manner in which the information explosion is impacting and forever changing the evolving psyche of humanity for individuals and the world"² By applying these frameworks to the traditional natal chart, we are able to extract specific information describing the complexity of contemporary societies. The chart in question illustrates this point beautifully.

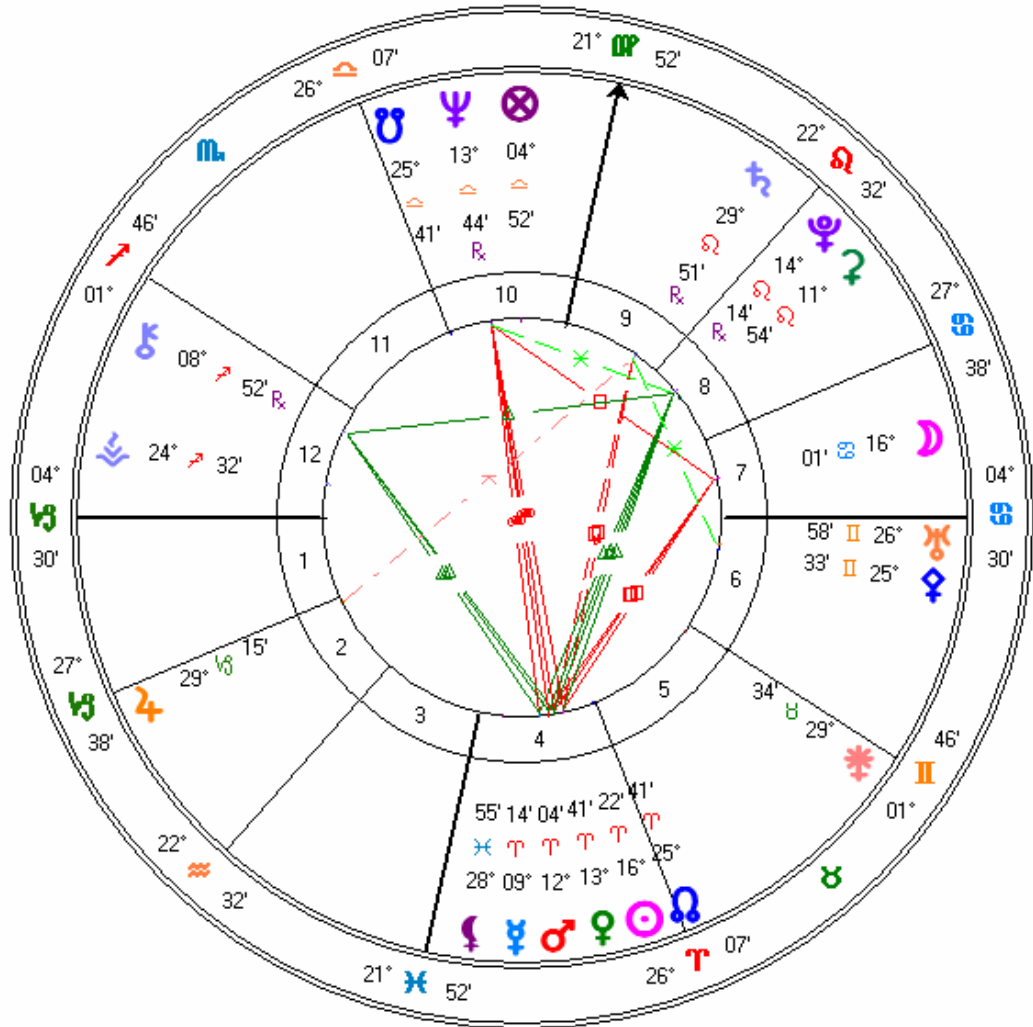
¹ Cullen, Tess, 'The Asteroids- Witches, Goddesses and Wise Women', from article <http://www.tesscullen.com/Articles/Goddess2005.pdf>, 2005, accessed 9/5/2008

² George, Demetra, 'Toward a Theory of Asteroid Significance' in The Asteroid Name Encyclopedia, Jacob Schwartz, Llewellyn Publications, St Paul, Minnesota, 1995, pvii

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Simon
Natal Chart (67)
6 Apr 1949
10:20 pm AEST -10:00
Noosaville, Australia
26°S24' 153°E04'
Geocentric
Tropical
Flacidian
True Node



Using the ten-planet view of traditional natal astrology, two key themes emerge from Simon's chart- a stellium in Aries in his fourth natal house, and an exact applying square between the Sun in Aries and the Moon in Cancer. The chart is highly Cardinal, and allowing for a wide orb between the elevated Neptune in Libra and his Capricorn Ascendant, is structured around a Grand Cardinal Cross. Themes of worldly results (Capricorn), family (Cancer), self-determination (Aries) and compromise through relationship (Libra) are likely to figure prominently. The close stellium in Aries in the fourth alerts us to the fact that we are dealing with a man who is likely to be highly motivated by home and family life. He is likely to be very assertive (Aries) in making sure that the needs of his family (4th) are met. This familial emphasis is greatly amplified by the presence of the Moon, dignified in Cancer, in his 7th house. We get a sense here of an ambitious (Capricorn rising), energetic (Aries) and security conscious (Cancer Capricorn) man who will be deeply invested in traditional family values, and perhaps traditional relationship roles. Yet the square between the Sun and Moon implies that significant difficulties may arise for Simon in the sphere of partnership. His Moon in the 7th house describes an individual with powerful needs for emotional security through partnership and family life, yet the difficult square from his Aries Sun suggests he and his partner may experience very different ideas around how this security will play out. Maggie Kerr has found that those with a 7th house Moon are usually involved in some kind of significant relationship, where themes of co-dependency and projection will need to be played out³. The inherent tension implied by the Sun/Moon square suggests that at some point in Simon's life, he is likely to have had to overcome

³ Kerr, Maggie, *Universal Astrology Work Book 4, The Planets in the Houses and Signs*, pp 54-56.

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significant conflict within the domain of the domestic sphere, which is accented by the 4th/7th house square. We get a sense here that the happy family system desired by this Cardinal character may not come so easily after all. Another important piece of information is carried by the house positions of the nodal axis. With his Aries North Node joining the stellium of planets in the 4th, there is a sense here that part of the evolutionary journey for Simon would be to leave behind his need to manifest results in the external world of business and career (South Node 10th) and find innovative ways to express himself through home and family life (Aries North Node 4th).

Already, this planetary picture is quite revealing. The key themes in his life are likely to centre upon family dynamics, with a challenge (square) around balancing personal intention (Aries) through negotiation (Libra, 7th themes) in order to maintain long-lasting relationships. What is more, Simon's Venus in the 4th is found in an exact opposition to his 10th house Neptune. Both are tightly square his Moon, suggesting an idealization of the feminine Other (likely to be his wife) and perhaps also the social and domestic roles (4th/10th axis) that his 'ideal' partner should play. Discussing potential domestic conflict (afflicted Moon in 7th) based upon different ideas around work/home roles is likely to be very revealing.

If we then place the asteroids within this broad picture, certain specific details come to light that reveal more about Simon's situation, and how a deeper connection to the feminine expression of his own consciousness may help him to resolve the potential conflict implied by the natal chart. Simon has Ceres in Leo in close trine to his Aries planets. This underscores his need to nurture others and experience the intimacy of family life (Ceres 8th). He is likely to be a warm and affectionate father-figure. (Sun-Ceres) Yet Ceres is applying to a conjunction with Pluto. Demetra George believes this can be a prime signifier for painful lessons occurring around loss and separation, usually around shared resources or children. She says "individuals who have strong Ceres-Pluto aspects will often experience lifelong lessons concerning the sharing of children. These people will commonly find themselves in the midst of ugly custody struggles as each parent battles to maintain control of the child"⁴ We might then wonder if his Sun/Moon square led to a broken home? Learning to share resources and responsibilities (8th) may ameliorate the potential conflict.

Deeply ingrained conditioning around 'appropriate' social roles for men and women are likely to have had a profound impact on Simon's worldview. His Capricorn Ascendant suggests that he is likely to follow a conventional path, and so may believe that a man's place is in the office, and a woman's is at home. With a 7th house Cancer Moon, he is likely to seek a nurturing partner who embodies domesticity, but this may not suit the intentions of his partner! This would allow for convention (Capricorn) perhaps at the cost of contentment (Sun-Moon square) Yet the positions of Black Moon Lilith in his 4th, Juno in Taurus in his 5th and his powerfully aspected Ceres trining his Aries planets in the 4th describe a man who would be more than suited to staying home and devoting his energies to family life. The 4th house North Node only underscores this. Simon may balk here, for his security oriented, conventional Capricorn Ascendant, working together with social conditioning, may incline him to feel that he must strive in the external world to establish his family's security. His conflict here is likely to be significant, and will involve a process of letting go. Lilith in his 4th describes this perfectly. As one writer has said 'the placement of Black Moon Lilith shows the area of our lives where we can be inspired to find a completely new or alternative way to express & define the personal empowerment emanating from our feminine nature.'⁵

Interestingly he has Juno, signifier of meaningful relationships, trine to Jupiter but square Saturn. This Juno-Jupiter contact shows the potential for equality within partnerships based upon shared philosophies; whereas Juno square Saturn suggests that limiting belief systems may undermine and fracture one's relationships⁶. As Saturn rules his chart, this planet may hold sway, but if Simon were able to integrate the potential for domestic harmony described by these feminine archetypes he may be able

⁴ George, Demetra, and Bloch, Douglas, *Asteroid Goddesses, the Mythology, Psychology and Astrology of the Re-emerging Feminine*, Ibis Press, York Beach ME, 2003, p55.

⁵ From <http://universaldivinefeminine.tribe.net/thread/c0662f1f-5023-4bdc-84e5-31364b14f03f>

⁶ George, *Asteroid*, p.181

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to avoid much pain and suffering. Furthermore, he carries a conjunction of Pallas and Uranus in his 6th house, describing an “original and intuitive mind that is especially creative”⁷, and may have great ability in matters of science and technology. The placement in the 6th implies practicality and structure, as well as describes something that Simon can easily integrate into his everyday life. Here the asteroids point to a very modern phenomenon- Pallas conjunct Uranus and trine/sextile the nodal axis implies that Simon could easily do well operating a technological (Uranus) based business from home (4th house North Node), where he could balance his need to manifest results (Capricorn) with his love of family life. Uranus rules his 2nd house, implying that he will make money from his technological skills. His 4th house Mercury rules his MC, further describing an individual who is ideally suited to a home-based enterprise.

The asteroids allow us to see the potential that is available to us through the integration of both feminine and masculine archetypes. They add a specific dimension of information that is highly useful in describing the complexities of modern life. Had Simon been able to utilize this knowledge in his life experience, he may have been able to divert the often debilitating outcomes of a Sun/Moon square. Much will depend on how he has responded to the re-emergence of the feminine within contemporary society.

Word Count 1562

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⁷ George, Asteroid, p.155