

The following essay was written by Tina Mews of NSW for the 2008 FAA Dynamic Exam. It must be remembered that there are many different styles of academic writing and Astrological analysis. The essays selected represent different styles of essay construction and are not purported by the Exam Board to be perfect in all respects (eg. word length, grammar, syntax and astrological synthesis). They can however be used as a guide by potential candidates to gain a basic understanding of what FAA Examiners are looking for in essays.

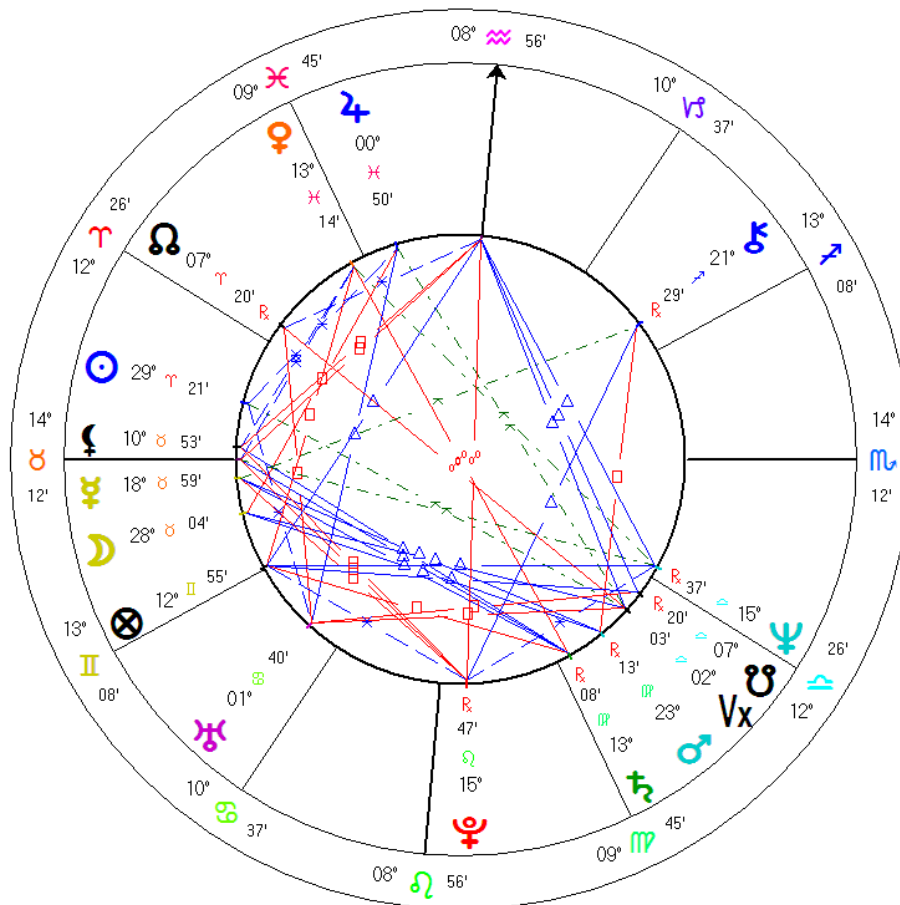
**Question 1:**

Birth Data: William 20<sup>th</sup> April 1950 Singapore Asc: Approx 14 Taurus

The passage of planets in transit triggering a natal horoscope may be likened to a developmental experience as the transits year after year offer a process of interweaving growth leading to synthesis of the different “components” of the psyche and their potential.

Incorporating the concept stated above offer insight and guidance to William with regard to his ‘story’ during 2007, 2008 and 2009 using the transits of Saturn, Uranus and Pluto. You may include Eclipses during this period where relevant. William has recently ended a significant relationship and is having trouble moving on emotionally. How does this experience fit in with this larger scenario?

**William**  
**Male Chart (2)**  
 Apr 20 1950  
 7:30 am JT -7:30  
 Singapore, SING  
 01°N17° 103°E51'  
*Geocentric*  
*Tropical*  
*Placidus*  
*True Node*



**Answer:**

The very first lines in Howard Sasportas book "The Gods of Change" (1989) read as following:

"The ancient science of astrology, founded on the correlation between celestial movements and terrestrial events, recognizes the universe as an indivisible whole in which all parts are interconnected".

Astrology is based on the perception of interconnectedness, gaining understanding of the web of life that intelligently interweaves the macrocosmos with the microcosmos, the collective with the personal – 'as above so below'. Thus, astrology teaches that everybody is governed by the same forces and cycles of unfolding energy patterns (A. Oken's *Complete Astrology*, 2006).

The master weavers are the planets themselves, whom the ancient called the 'Gods'. Their movements around the cosmos create archetypal energy fields, but the relationships to each other are never the same again. The sky is ever-changing. Therefore William carries the same collective archetypal material as everybody else, but it will be expressed individually, mirrored in his own special birth chart, which constellates the blueprint of his soul's (= psyche) potential. The transits cycles of the outer planets including Saturn, Chiron, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto trigger the process of his developmental growth, as they pass over sensitive points in his natal chart.

In this essay I will only study the transits of Saturn, Uranus and Pluto for the period from 2007 to 2009.

**Pluto transits:**

Pluto transits signify a time of radical transformation which is a necessary part of everybody's evolution, bringing about regeneration after times of destruction and break-down. This process often takes place in power struggles with others, which eventually will change a person's ego-identity. Pluto is the master of the underworld, and rules those places in William's psyche that are hidden and suppressed, because they are experienced as dark, primitive and destructive – the realm of the shadow. In William's chart Pluto is transiting his own domicile, the 8<sup>th</sup> house. Without being totally conscious about it, William has for the last seven years searched for the deeper truth and the meaning of his existence (8<sup>th</sup> house cusp in Sagittarius). Developments in his life have forced him to deal with issues around power, sexuality, joint ventures, as well as divorce and settlement procedures which are all associated with the 8<sup>th</sup> house and by nature can trigger a lot of negative emotions. Old hurts and aspects of himself that have become rigid are challenged to be released and transformed in order for renewed growth to occur.

Pluto transits are known for unburying early childhood complexes. Williams natal Pluto is found in Leo in the 4<sup>th</sup> house, another deep feeling placement in the chart and signifying that the shadow of the parents looms large in William's psyche. William's feeling nature is hidden deeply and finding it will be like peeling an onion, layer upon layer has to be removed to get to the core. In the process a lot of infantile rage may be recovered. In his natal chart, Pluto is in square to his Taurus Ascendant and Mercury, signifying that buried issues around stability and material security will carry an above average importance alongside with constant worries and doubts about self-worth. He most likely compensates by working hard and attempting to accumulate possessions, which might give him a feeling of being in control of his home-life and of himself, including his bottled up emotions. One of the drivers underneath could be an old unacknowledged fear of survival. Therefore it would be very

healing for William at this stage of his life to explore complexes stemming from early childhood experiences. Working with Pluto effectively requires the inner work of shadow redemption which ultimately leads to empowerment of the self.

Pluto is in trine to his natal Sun in Aries since the beginning of 2008. This is a good time for regeneration and rebuilding after having survived difficult times. His Sun is of fiery nature, but is in exile in the 12<sup>th</sup> house. It is not easy for William to be upfront and to have clear boundaries. It is helpful to find out how he deals with anger. Is he assertive or more a strategist? What is his truth? How does his particular way of applying power work for him, in his relationships? This is a fortunate time to work with these issues, since Pluto will remain in orbit to the Sun during most of the year. Holding onto the past is not a particular Aries trait. Aries likes the battlefield, takes on the challenge and then moves on. Becoming himself will bring about a new ability to let go more readily. His future lies in individuating his Sun in Aries.

Pluto was in quincunx to the Moon in Taurus in the first half of last year. This quite possibly characterizes the moment in time when emotional dissatisfaction was growing stronger and the relationship finally died. Decisions were made to move into different directions, with not only psycho-emotional consequences but also most likely financial ones, which must have had an unsettling effect on William. Possessions mean security, nourishment, comfort for somebody with Taurus Ascendant, Moon and Mercury in Taurus. He might have been forced to let go of material goods, even his home, which he will experience as painful, maybe the end of a joint business (Pluto transit to Jupiter in the 10<sup>th</sup> while at the same time opposing Uranus in the 2<sup>nd</sup>). He might be still in the process of sorting things out. However, more changes are on the way because Pluto will be opposing Uranus in transit all through 2009. This is not to be a superficial time in his life. Outworn, conservative, rigid and self-protective attitudes have to be identified and will have to be transformed. At the same token, once he releases what needs to go, he will feel lighter and relieved. His entire world-view is in the process of changing (Uranus ruling MC). And last not least William has always carried the seed for this revolutionising process in his own psyche: since in his natal chart Uranus, the force field of liberation and change is adequately positioned in his 2<sup>nd</sup> house, naturally associated with the sign of security orientated Taurus!

### **Saturn transits**

Simultaneously to Pluto's transits Saturn, the force field of realism and time, has his role to play in William's life who has reached his second Saturn return in September 2008 – a major developmental stage which is associated with the aging process on the physical level. Saturn represents limitations and restrictions, which when confronted will over time turn into well earned achievements. Erin Sullivan calls Saturn the 'midwife of insight' (*Saturn in Transit*, 2000). Soon Saturn will be in trine with his natal Mercury. William will see clearly which structures in his life work and which do not. It will be important not to feel depressed about the past, which is often a by-product of Saturn transits. Nit-picking and worrying about unimportant details are the flaws of Saturn in Virgo.

In 2007 Saturn was stationary and in square to Mercury, triggering the already discussed natal Mercury/Pluto square. At that time self-doubts and security issues were creating conflict and crisis in his life. He might have overworked, unable to discuss his real feelings and insecurities in fear of losing control. William's work ethic is one of the areas worth exploring. As already mentioned before, Taurus rising needs stability and financial security, however to which extent is very much a personal decision. He might be obsessed with making money (Mercury in Taurus square Pluto in fixed signs), with the consequence of spending too much time in the company, never knowing, when

'to leave good enough alone' (Venus in Pisces in the 11<sup>th</sup> and Venus ruling 6<sup>th</sup> house cusp of work). On the other hand he might spend a lot of time looking after the needs of others to the point of self-sacrifice, because Venus in Pisces is the chart ruler. Jupiter is also found in Pisces in the 10<sup>th</sup> house. He will support those who he regards as being in need. Learning to say no and making clear boundaries is not an easy task for William. Natal Saturn is also exactly in opposition to natal Venus. Work, money and relationships have been a major axis of learning in his life. William has experienced disappointments through partnerships which were lacking in heart connection and were based on financial security, which then did not work out at all. He has dealt with this issue very recently, when transiting Saturn was in opposition to his natal Venus in September 2008. The lesson entailed is about correct sharing, giving and taking, finding balance between commitments to work and time for relaxation and play, giving to others and giving to himself. However, there is another edge to the Venus in Pisces/Saturn in Virgo opposition: early on in his life William might have set up the pattern in his psyche of 'loosing out in love'. Driven by an unconscious belief that he is 'not good enough' or 'undeserving' he might attract partners who will leave him and who carry a lot of unconscious 'baggage' themselves (Venus square Chiron), thus reinforcing and keeping in place the initial mold!

As already mentioned before, this period in his life demands of him to cut back to the bare essentials on all levels. It is not an exuberant time, things are coming to an end. His energy is low. The healing and rebuilding process cannot be hurried along. In September 2009 Saturn on his journey through William's house 5<sup>th</sup> house of self-expression, creativity and the domicile of the playful 'inner child' will meet up with Mars, the archetype for motivation, drive, action, sexuality as well as anger and aggression. William might gain insight about how his own restrictions have curbed his vitality and creativity, how the 'internalised critical father' (Saturn in Virgo retrograde) has been telling the frustrated 'inner child' (Mars in Virgo retrograde) that he cannot go out and play before he has done his duty and work! If William is vigilant and courageous, he will have the opportunity to master assertive self-expression without any fear of retribution by owning up to the 'inner father'. With cooperation of the synchronized Uranus transits (that will be explored later on in this essay) to the same point of the chart William might be inspired to release long held pent-up emotions in a more direct way. It has always been difficult for William to stand up for himself. His Mars energy is more likely expressed in a passive-aggressive way, meaning that his partners might play out his Mars energy for him (Scorpio on the descendant).

His pleasing Venusian personality is sensitive, sensible, artistic, romantic and maybe even spiritual inclined, valuing comfort, peacefulness and pleasure. Mars energy seems to be disowned: the Sun in Aries is submerged in the waters of the 12<sup>th</sup> house, while Mars is retrograde, in Virgo and in a wide conjunction with Saturn! Roughness, boldness and strong fiery expressions are not favoured by his more feminine appearing character. However, his North Node is in Aries, and signifies that it is William's path of becoming himself to develop the nature of his will in order to fully realize the fiery, courageous, autonomous, independent, self-projecting and visionary potential of his sun sign. So the process to realize his essence includes freeing himself from the restrictions of the ancestral father –ultimately an Arien quest - by bringing home the 'Golden Fleece' of his self-learnt wisdom through digesting and integrating the adventures of his life. In the process he becomes a wise old man, an elder himself, freed of a lot of excess baggage – the story of a second Saturn return!

### **Uranus transits**

While Pluto transits work very strongly on an emotional-psychological level, Saturn transits carry physical consequences. Uranus transits bring in new dynamics, a fresh wind, while creating a force field of unpredictability that allows for new opportunities to happen. Uranus is the archetype that

supports us in breaking the mould. In William's story, Uranus is transiting his 11<sup>th</sup> house, which is associated with groups and friend, hopes and aspirations. It is a great time for William to develop new objectives for this later part of his life. Astrologically speaking, on his evolutionary journey he has reached 'mature age' and he can allow himself to reduce his responsibilities and social obligations. If he chooses, the pressure will be off or at least reduced and he may be able to arrange his life differently over the years to come. It is as if Uranus has disrupted William's existence to make sure that he reforms and simplifies his life just in time for Saturn's return!

In February 2007 Uranus passed for the third time his natal Venus/Saturn opposition. This was the moment when he intuitively knew that his relationship had to end, when structures in his life did not correspond any more to his true being and developed identity. Uranus is the cosmic liberator and brings in the need to break with outdated belief systems and old habits. If his relationship was built on false beliefs, it naturally had to die now, in order to make room for new growth. Interestingly the lunar eclipse in early March fell exactly on his natal Saturn on 13 degree of Virgo opposing Venus in Pisces, which will have raised a feeling of fatedness for William. Bernadette Brady associates this eclipse with 'long-term worries that suddenly come to the surface (*Predictive Astrology*, 199, p.321). Tracy Marks describes eclipses as Uranian in nature and states: " Under their influence, Pandora's box may be opened; whatever emotional and psychic facets of ourselves we have ignored may explode into consciousness and demand our attention.." (*The Astrology of Self-Discovery*, 1985, p. 64). February/March 2007 was the time of no return, the inauguration of a new era in William's life. Tension and stress in the relationship and at work would have reached their peak. It was the moment where ties were finally cut.

As already mentioned, natal Saturn is in the 5<sup>th</sup> house of creativity. The Uranus transit together with the lunar eclipse will have brought to William's attention that he has to free his creative nature and refocus his life by pursuing more self-nurturing activities. This process entails the rediscovery of his personal truth, his personal will, to strengthen and empower his individuality as to then creatively contribute to the collective in a renewed and inspired way.

On his journey through the 11<sup>th</sup> house, Uranus will still meet up in opposition with natal Mars. Uranus will make three passes in March and October 2009 and the last one in January 2010. William can expect to be challenged, maybe by new groups of people or strong inner impulses that are more synchronized with his expanded consciousness. He will feel stirred towards new projects, while Saturn as the teacher will remind him of his limitations and restrictions and will ask him to integrate his latest experiences in the process of building new structures. Finding the right balance between those powerful energy fields will be William's task all through 2009. He will have to tackle the difficult task how to marry new ideas (Uranus) with proven methods (Saturn), allowing himself to be creative while keeping in good contact with his outer and inner realities.

### Conclusion:

William on his evolutionary journey has reached the threshold of maturity, by entering his second Saturn return. Simultaneously he has experienced profound developmental growth processes, as Saturn, Uranus and Pluto have been greatly influencing and sensitizing key areas in his natal chart. Each planetary energy has performed their particular archetypal dance while it has been and will be William's learning and growth experience to synthesize newly recovered aspects of his psyche into a more coherent whole. William's process at this stage in his life involves to fully realize the potential of his Sun sign by owning his creative will, which will counterbalance emotional stagnation and allows him to shift towards greater fulfillment in his life.

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