

Question 9

Suzanne was born at 12:50 pm on 13th July 1972 in Armidale, NSW. Her Ascendant is about 18 degrees Scorpio. She has been living with her partner Gary for nearly 10 years and they have two children. Mainly for the children's sake, they have decided to get formally married. Knowing that you have been doing Astrology for some time, Suzanne asks you to "find the perfect day to get married". Using your knowledge of Electional astrology, speculate on the timing for such an occasion. Find the day you think would be most suitable, explaining your working and the choices you are making.

Electional Astrology is a classical astrological tool used in choosing a suitable time for commencing any honestly conceived and reasonable project of endeavour. Its use can be traced back as far back as 500BC (March & McEvers, 1998). Over the past few hundred years, there have been some fundamental changes to this old technique, particularly with the discovery of, Neptune, Uranus and more recently Pluto. With the discovery of these planets, sign rulerships have changed. Further, descriptions as good/bad or positive/negative are still used, but have often been replaced with such terms as active/passive or yin/yang etc. Planets are less being considered benefic or malefic as they once were, rather recognised more and more for the distinctive archetypal energy they add to a chart, which in some situations can be supportive, or in others challenging.

Electional Astrology can be used for the timing of a myriad of purposes. Some examples are: buying a house, buying a car, getting married, going on holidays, moving house or starting a business. The possibilities are endless.

In the application of Electional Astrology to a timing question, there are many general rules for creating Election Charts. Also, dependant upon the event type for which a chart is created, some of these general rules are modified to suit the type of event. For example, the application of rules differ between creating an election chart for a marriage compared to a chart for commencing a law suit.

For the purposes of this document, as we are conducting an Electional analysis of the most appropriate date for Suzanne to get married, I shall only outline the specific rules for the creation of an Electional Marriage chart. Further, for the sake of simplicity and the establishing of some realistic parameters with which to conduct the analysis, I will assume that Suzanne comes to see me in early May 2004. She expresses a desire to be married sometime between July and December 2004, on either a Saturday or Sunday with a daytime wedding when most guests are able to attend. Once armed with an appropriate date, she will then approach the Wedding and Reception venues to make a booking.

The narrowing of timeframes, days and dates, greatly assists the astrologer in reducing research time spent identifying dates/times which are outside of the possible timeframes and which are really of no use to the couple.

At this time, it is also worth mentioning that there will probably never be a 'perfect' chart for the timing of an event. An Astrologer's role is to minimise, as far as possible, the major risks from all the options given by the querent.

Firstly, when starting something new, we want the Moon to be New and waxing in strength. We also want the Moon to be in a good sign for whatever action we are considering. The moon also needs to be in good condition, which means that it should be making applying aspects that signify the conditions we want to come to pass, while at the same making sure there are no squares and oppositions.

Another priority would be to keep planets seen as challenging to relationships out of the angles, eg. Saturn and Uranus. Cardinal rising signs are best for new ventures and things go better if the sun, moon, Jupiter and Venus are above the horizon when we start something new.

As discussed previously, there are general rules for creating Electional Charts for marriage. According to March (1998, pp. 139-140), these rules include:

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- There should be no squares to the moon, and it should not be void-of-course.
- A Waxing Moon is better than a waning moon, and at least 12 Hours after a New Moon should have elapsed.
- Fixed signs rising are best for a long term relationship. Next best are the Cardinal signs, especially Libra (relationship oriented), Capricorn (success) and Cancer (Nurturing). Aries and mutable signs can indicate short lives situations.
- The Moon and Sun should be in harmonious aspect as they represent the Bride and Groom.
- A relationship usually works well when the ruler of the Ascendant (1st House) and Descendant (7th) are in harmonious aspect to each other, as they also represent the bride and groom.
- Sun, Moon, Jupiter and Venus should be above the horizon if possible (or as many as possible).
- The following planets should be in Harmonious aspect:
 - Venus (woman) and Mars (man)
 - Venus (love/partnership) and Ascendant/Descendant (the couple)
 - Jupiter (luck and growth) and the Ascendant/Descendant (the couple)
 - Moon (feelings) and Venus (harmony)
- Avoid Moon in Scorpio (it's fall) as secrecy and possessiveness are indicated. Also avoid Capricorn. Libra Moon is a beneficial placement.
- Sun or Moon approaching square or opposition to Uranus may indicate a separation when the aspect comes exact.
- Retrograde Venus should be avoided in a marriage chart. As this only occurs about 40 days every two years, it should be easy to avoid.
- If possible, make Jupiter to be in Sextile or Trine with Venus

Vivian Robson takes a more classical view of the Electional Rules for marriage. He suggests:

- The ascendant, its ruler, the sun and the planet from which the moon last separated are signifiers of the man
- The seventh house, it's ruler, Venus and the planet to which the Moon next applies are the signifiers of the woman
- The tenth house, it's ruler and occupants and planets aspecting the cusp or the ruler denote things that will happen between the couple, good or bad
- The fourth house, its ruler and occupants, and planets aspecting the cusp or ruler, denote the event and end of the marriage.
- The Moon should be increasing in light (waxing), past the first quarter and not in conjunction with a malefic in the ascendant.
- Venus should not be cadent, combust (within 8 degrees 30 minutes (but not within 17 minutes)) of the Sun., retrograde, in fall, detriment of afflicted by malefics.
- If possible, ensure Jupiter is in sextile or trine to Venus, or Venus in reception with Jupiter

When considering an appropriate time for Marriage, it is important to consider what actually constitutes the 'the event' that we are seeking a timing for. For marriage, it can be considered that the marriage starts with the first "I do" and conditions need to be right for this time, notwithstanding that the ceremony may have started some time prior.

Commencing the Search

Given the now voluminous criteria that needs to be satisfied to find the 'perfect day', we now need to put our search into some form of structured proceedings.

Firstly, we can use an Astrological Program such as 'Solar Fire' to identify dates when the Moon is waxing, Void-of-Course, via combusta, and in favourable signs for Marriage. Using this tool

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and a calendar to assist in identifying a date for Suzanne's preference for a weekend wedding, I firstly:

- Identified all the weekend dates between 1 July and 31 December 2004.
- Identified the weekend dates that fell between a waxing 1st Quarter and Full moon (as per Robson's guidelines)
- Removed dates during which the Moon was 'Void of Course' or 'via combusta' during daylight hours.
- From the remaining dates I identified dates when the Moon was in cardinal or fixed signs. 24/25 July (Libra – Cardinal) and 28/29 August (Aquarius – Fixed) were identified.
- For these dates, squares to the Moon were checked and found that:
 - On 24 and 25 July, the moon squared Saturn and Sun respectively. These days were discounted.
 - On 28/29 August, Venus was conjunct Saturn. Both days discounted as Saturn conjunct Venus is considered to bring challenging of malefic issues to the bride and to love. Marion March (1998) suggests discounting all aspects to Saturn including conjunctions as it can bring limitations, delays and misunderstandings, feelings of neglect and sadness when aspects become exact.
- Notwithstanding the discounting of 28/29 August due to Saturn conjunct Venus, they were also discounted because of a combination of:
 - Either Moon or Venus were below the horizon at same time
 - No harmonious contact between Mars and Venus
 - No harmonious contact between Sun and Moon
 - Uranus in angular house (4th) between approx 9am and 11am
 - Saturn in Angular House (7th) between approx 12pm and 2pm
 - Sun in opposition to Uranus

As I wasn't satisfied with the above wedding date choices provided by the search limitations of the lunation cycle range between a 1st Quarter to Full moon occurring on weekends, I extended my search to include the portion of the lunation cycle between a New Moon (+ 12 hours) to First Quarter Moon. This still provided for a waxing moon with more alternatives.

Similar to my previous methodology, I:

- Identified and discounted the dates when the Moon was Void-of-Course and Via Combusta.
- Identified dates when the Moon was in Cardinal or Fixed Signs. These were:
 - 17 July – Moon in Cancer
 - 18 July – Moon in Leo
 - 19 September – Moon in Scorpio
 - 16 October – Moon in Scorpio
 - 17 October – Moon in Scorpio (Void-of-Course from 02:00 to 06:00 Hrs)
 - 13 November – Moon in Scorpio (via Combusta between 12:00 & 13:30 hrs)
 - 14 November – Moon in Scorpio
- Checked for hard aspects to the Moon and aspects by planets seen as challenging for marriage, and I discounted the following dates:
 - 17 July – Saturn conjunct Moon and Sun
 - 19 September – Moon Separating Square Venus (considered to remain square until it leaves sign)
 - 16 October – Moon Squares Neptune, Sun and Moon square Asc (10.30am to 2pm)

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- 13/14 October – Moon squares Uranus (considered in square until Moon leaves sign)

The removal of these dates, left two possibilities. These being 18th July and 17th October, 2004. Assessment of these two dates indicated:

18 July 2004.

- Previous New Moon occurred 21:23 Hrs on 17 July. Waxing moon 12 hours old @ 09:23 Hours
- No past squares from the Moon to any other planet whilst in current sign.
- Moon is in Leo (Supportive for strong and well matched couples)
- Moon, Sun, Jupiter and Venus all elevated above the Horizon from 9.30am to 2pm
- Moon not Void of Course
- Jupiter sextile the Ascendant 12:04 to 12:45 hrs
- Rising sign (Scorpio) is Fixed sign (Longevity) from 11:30hrs
- Venus in direct motion (not retrograde)
- Harmonious Aspect (Sextile) between Mars (Male) and Venus (Female)
- Moon and Sun Conjunct (union of man/woman), although in separating aspect.
- Moon and Sun conjunct the MC (11:30 hrs to 13:15 approx)
- Saturn (delays) in Cadent House after 11:28Hrs (not Angular where greatest challenging impact possible)
- Uranus in Succedent House, moving into Angular House (challenging) from 12:44Hrs.
- Sun in wide 8 degree conjunction to Saturn

17 October 2004.

- Moon in Scorpio and forms square to Uranus.
- Moon, Sun, Jupiter and Venus all elevated above the Horizon.
- Moon not Void of Course
- Jupiter trine Ascendant 11:15 to 12:35 hrs
- Capricorn Rising from 09:15 to 11:15 and Asc/Dsc rulers (Saturn/Moon) in harmonious trine aspect.
- Sun and Mercury square Saturn
- Saturn in Angular 7th House from 09:00 to 11:15 Hrs.
- Venus in direct motion (not retrograde)
- No Aspects between Mars (Male) and Venus (Female)
- No aspects between Sun (groom) and Moon (Bride)

Given my assessment of both these possible dates, it is my opinion that the Sunday the 18th July is more promising than Sunday the 17th October, 2004 for Suzanne to get married. I also recommend that between the times of 11.30am and 12:44pm on the 18th July is best for her to take her Wedding vows. My reasons for this timing is:

- Jupiter sextile the Ascendant from 12:04pm
- Fixed rising sign (Scorpio) for relationship longevity present during that time
- Uranus and Saturn are out of Angular Houses (Uranus moves into 4th House from 12:50 hrs)
- Moon and Sun are conjunct the MC.
- Jupiter, sun, moon and Venus are all elevated.

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- Sun and Moon in harmonious aspect (conjunction)
- Mars and Venus in harmony (sextile)

Whilst this date is not 'perfect' in all the circumstances, it is in my opinion, the most harmonious and suggestive of maximum success and longevity of the relationship of all the dates within the criteria provided.

Before finally signing off on my recommendation for this date however, it is imperative that I conduct an examination of the compatibility between Suzanne's radical chart and the Election Chart for the 18th July. This is important as two people may leave on a journey together (using the same election chart), but may have totally different experiences whilst away. The difference may well be in their radical charts. Unfortunately I cannot conduct a similar examination of Gary's radical chart as his birth data is unavailable.

The comparison between the Electional Chart and Suzanne's Radical chart shows many favourable combinations for her. These Electional to Radical combinations include:

- Moon conjunct Mars
- Moon conjunct MC
- Sun conjunct MC
- Sun conjunct sun
- Mercury conjunct Sun
- Mercury conjunct Mercury
- Conjunct Mercury
- Venus Sextile Venus
- Venus sextile Moon
- Venus sextile Mercury
- Venus sextile Mars
- Jupiter sextile Sun

It can be seen that this appears to indeed be a favourable time for her to enter such a important partnership as marriage. That being said, it is my view that the most important theme underlying this whole principle is that ANY relationship can work provided the two individuals are committed enough to each other and to the relationship. A less-than-perfect wedding chart will not make or break a relationship.

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