

Exceptional Essay by Lisa Armstrong-Cook

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Note: Tabs and attachments submitted by the author with this essay have not been included here.

2005 DYNAMIC EXAMINATION - QUESTION 4

Roselle was born on 22 February 1953 at 9.53 am in Ipswich – Queensland.

Her Ascendant is close to 29 degrees Aries. She has Aries Rising, so Mars is her Chart Ruler. Discuss the significance of her Mars Return in June 2005 as well as the impact of Transiting Mars going retrograde in her chart between August 2005 and February 2006. Using major aspects, define the times between August 2005 to end of February 2006, when she will be most driven to achieve her personal goals or alternatively when she may experience tension, anger, frustration and a lack of energy because of obstacles. Also discuss the ways of how Roselle can channel her Mars energy into positive constructive outcomes over this period.

NA = Natal Chart

MR = Mars return

TRM = Transiting Mars

Placidus House system used.

1° orbs used transit & return to natal.)

Mars represents our strength of will & desire to conquer. It is our stamina, perseverance, self-preservation, energy, anger, drive, assertion & aggression. Mars expresses our capacity to take charge of our lives, & is also our childlike & naïve self that screams ‘what about me?’.

Natal chart. Roselle has Aries on the Ascendant (ASC). The sign on the ASC colours how we view our world & how we respond to, & cope with, it. It is our ‘public’ face. The ASC’s planetary ruler becomes the Lord of the Chart, as it will become the means by which we act out our world view. This makes Mars a prominent feature of her chart. How she engages with the world & how she appears to the world, is governed by where & how Mars is placed in the chart, & the aspects made to it.

NA Mars is in Aries - in his rulership, or dignity. Mars is at home here & should function at full potential – in control, enthusiastic, energetic &, on the negative side, sometimes aggressive & pushy. Mars is in the 12th house & Aries is on the cusp so Mars is also in charge of this house. However, this is not a comfortable house for Mars. Planets here operate at a ‘sub-conscious’ level, where things such as feelings are buried deep within the psyche. The energies of the planets in the house are contained & not able to openly be expressed. This can mean that anger, desire, enthusiasm can be very hidden, & can suddenly burst from no-where. Howard Sasportas says on Mars in the 12th that:

“Mars is at his most manic and inconsistent in the 12th house. Sometimes...he is out there in full gear for all to see; at other times he is nowhere in sight. And if this isn’t enough to confuse you, he reappears now and again behind different masks.”

(The Twelve Houses, page 225)

Roselle may find it difficult to express herself assertively. Strong feelings & desires may be hidden, or she may have flashes of them. She may feel a sense of dissatisfaction without really knowing why & feels unable to act on it. Because Mars rules her ASC, this is how she both sees the world & the world sees her, with excellent potential to be a go-getter but without a great deal of drive or self-motivation.

Mars is squared by Uranus – planet of freedom, independence, restlessness & unexpected change. Uranus is a transpersonal, or collective planet, & the energies Mars receives from Uranus are from a very deep place in the psyche. With Mars being in a deep, unconscious house, Roselle could receive unconscious ‘flashes’ of energy, sudden eruptions, perhaps, of anger or aggression. She may have episodes of feeling very impatient or nervous, or excited, periods of very decisive action & hyperactivity. Uranus squares Mars from the 3rd house of communication, so perhaps Roselle sometimes feels the urge to suddenly speak out. It is also related to siblings, so there may be a level of

unpredictability in her relations with brothers & sisters. Roselle's 'active' function is, for the most part, hidden away inside her – is remote (12th) & she may feel restless & unfocused, with occasional, possibly confusing, flashes of temper, erratic behaviour, & startling insights.

Every 23.5 months or so, Mars returns to its natal sign position. This signifies a time to refuel our energy & redefine our goals & sense of purpose. We review our Mars function to determine whether it is working for us, how to use our energy best, & where we might experience drive in our life. With the Return, we can look to see what area of our life is being activated. The aspects being made by other planets to Mars in the Return chart help to define whether the period will be easy or difficult, which areas of our psyche (other planets) will be helpful, & the unconscious motivations for what is going on.

MR Chart: Mars returned to its natal position on 27 June 2005 & the energies expressed in this chart will be in 'force' until 29 May 2007, when the next MR is due. Mars has returned to Roselle's 2nd house, so this is the area which will be the main focus of her energies for this period. The traditional associations with the 2nd house are values, money, possessions & resources. This can be translated as what constitutes our personal security - what makes us feel safe, such as money, adhering to a set of values, & material possessions. The next two years means a focus on consolidating or improving her sense of security, perhaps through looking for more highly paid work, or perhaps reassessing her values. Perhaps the values which have held her in good stead for the last 52 years of her life are no longer beneficial, & she is ready to shed old personal resources which are no longer helpful.

Perhaps her suppressed 12th house Mars no longer works for her & she now wishes to activate her Mars in a way which will help her develop a sense of place in the world. The 2nd house is about our self-worth & self-esteem & is a succedent house, which is about stabilizing energy. Roselle now has the ability to become centered & focused. The potential to assert her will & engage in self-preservation is

now stronger - courage, assertiveness & initiative take precedence & allow her to get out into life & get what she wants.

Mars forms part of a pattern called a t-square. Linda Reid describes the t-square as;

“...highly motivating, creating difficulties which may be challenging to the individual but which he strives to overcome and turn to good account”

(Astrology Step by Step, page 95).

The cardinal t-square, of which this is one, tends to be the one which rises to, & embraces the challenges being set. It can create a lot of stress, & usually into the area opposed the squaring planet. In Roselle' chart, this is the Sun, placed in the 5th so projecting into the 11th. The opposing planet is Jupiter in the 8th.

So Mars is in the 2nd, ready & willing to get what Roselle wants to help her feel secure in the world. The 8th house is about our experiences of the other – their resources, values & finances. This creates a polarisation, in that Roselle needs to be aware that her sudden drive to attain resources may come into conflict with (oppose) the resources & values of others. However, I interpret the Jupiter/Mars aspect in the MR as a challenge to Roselle to be bold (Mars) & have the courage of her convictions (Jupiter) to help her through the changes she will be making & that help will be found through the resources of a benefic other (Jupiter/8th) – perhaps her partner will encourage her emotionally & provide assistance financially in her endeavours. I also see the optimistic & exuberant energy of Jupiter reaching out towards Mars, helping Roselle strive towards her goals.

Both Jupiter & Mars are squaring the MR Sun in Cancer/5th. Natally, Roselle's Sun is in Pisces/11th, opposite the 5th. Both NA & MR Suns are in water signs, & the MR Sun is opposite NA Sun. Cancer is the cardinal water sign & I interpret this as a way for Roselle to 'kick start' her mutable NA Sun into

action. The MR Sun is receiving energy from Mars & Jupiter & reaching out to energise her NA Sun. So I see a 'reawakening' of her Martian energy which will help her to motivate & actualize the potential of her NA Sun. The MR Sun is in its natural home – the 5th house. The developmental theme here is one of self-realisation, embracing the creative self & experiencing life - independently & spontaneously.

These energies push out towards her NA Sun, allowing it to achieve its potential. Her NA Sun seeks to develop social goals, hopes & wishes (11th). Roselle's NA Sun in Pisces may not have had the drive to achieve her goals & dreams. Her NA Sun & NA Mars are not in aspect, & with Mars tucked away in the hidden 12th house, Roselle's ability to access her drive to live out her 11th house potentials are hampered. So the benefits of the MR become clear – by now being able to access her Mars energy, Roselle can better actualise the potentials of her NA Sun's soul purpose.

However, the positive energies displayed by the MR are only an initialising force. The Chart gives Roselle a Martian surge towards establishing her sense of security in the world in either a financial or personal sense, & that surge then helping her towards achieving her soul purpose (Sun). However, the energy of Mars does fluctuate throughout the year as it heads on its journey to the next Return as it turns 'retrograde' during this period. At this time the Mars energy seems to internalise & lose its momentum. So throughout the period, Roselle will experience peaks & troughs in energy. Understanding these periods will help Roselle work with the energy & channel it a constructive way.

Tab C is a time map of the major transits Mars will be making during the period August 2005 until the end of February 2006. As Mars makes contacts with planets in Roselle's charts, they will be energised & brought to life, although much depends upon the aspect being made. At times Roselle may be filled with optimism & energy. At other times anger & conflict. In addition, Mars goes retrograde during this period – from 2 October until 9 December (shaded). During this period, Mars will 'backtrack' over

aspects. Roselle should use this time to take a step back to ensure that what she is trying to achieve is right for her. Any attempts to move forward with plans during the retrograde phase will most likely result in obstacles & frustrations. Even otherwise positive transits experienced during this period will be felt on a more internal level, rather than on an external one.

Because of the retrograde period, Mars may 'hit' a spot three times as it moves over, back & over again when it turns direct. This generally means that there is a significant lesson to learn from the transit. Bernadette Brady likens the three passes to the observing phase, then the learning phase & then the assimilation of the lesson (*Predictive Astrology: The Eagle and the Lark, p80*). The retrograde phase, then, is when we acknowledge that some part of us is changing, & we need to accept that before we move on & get on with it.

TRM is in the 1st house during this entire period, until late Feb when it moves into the 2nd. The 1st house is about how we project ourselves into the environment. With Roselle being driven to get out into life & secure her resources, she will be seen by others as being in a very active period in her life. Recalling that natively she has Aries on the ASC, I think a lot of people will be looking at her & going "About time!" Some, however, may not like the change.

The energy kicks off in late August with TRM square the North Node. The North Node indicates that which we are trying to achieve in life & NA North Node is in Roselle's 10th house of public recognition, with the South Node in the 4th house of family & home. Hajo Banzhaf & Anna Haebler describe this placement as:

"Conflict between professional career, public obligations, as well as domestic life and the family and searching one's own heart."

(Key Words for Astrology, page 191).

With the square comes tension, so the Mars energy causes stress to this area. With this being the first contact with this point, Roselle will be observing a tension between her drive to achieve in this life & her family obligations.

About a week later, TRM conjuncts NA Jupiter/1st. The conjunction fuses the energies of the respective planets, & Roselle will start to notice increased exuberance, confidence & optimism as well as expanded (Jupiter) physical energy (1st). This is also a great time for starting to take risks, such as gambling or making deals, as Jupiter is considered to be lucky. There could be a tendency to overdo it & be overconfident.

At the same time TRM sextiles NA Uranus/3rd. Although the sextile is usually seen as creating opportunities, in this instance it will create opportunities for restlessness, impatience & annoyance at restrictions (Uranus). It will not be overt – just unsettling & unpredictable (Uranus) & possibly in the area of siblings, short journeys or communications (3rd) which could result in events which affect her social standing or public recognition (10th). It also triggers the NA Mars/Uranus square, bringing about further frustrations.

Early September brings positive energies in the form of a sextile to NA Mercury/11th & trine to Chiron/9th. The transit is good for all kinds of mental (Mercury) & social (11th) activity. It's also a good time to make short trips (Mercury) especially those which give her an outlet for her Mars energy. It's a time for establishing contacts (11th) with people for recreational or creative (5th) activities as well. The sextile brings opportunities, & Roselle should be alert to any that come her way. The trine to Chiron is an indicator that Roselle starts to realise that this period is about healing (Chiron). Through taking appropriate action (Mars) Roselle may commence healing (Chiron) by broadening her horizons (9th).

A potentially distressing period begins mid Sept when TRM squares NA Pluto/4th. Roselle may begin to observe an intense urge to take action (Mars) & achieve transformation (Pluto). This may mean that the work Roselle is undergoing in asserting her herself (Mars/1st) will cause some major transformative process in the home or family (4th) echoing the TRM square NA North Node/South Node discussed above. Perhaps Roselle will assert herself more in her family, & develop a more powerful role in the home. Perhaps her 2nd house Mars Return has put her in a stronger financial position in the family, giving her more influence in this area of her life. This could cause major transformation in her relationship with her family.

Fortunately, Roselle gets a break from this period of observable & intense activity, struggle, frustration & healing. During October, November and the first part of December (shaded area on time map), Mars goes retrograde & its energy goes into a kind of remission. This will affect all of the aspects mentioned, & it will be a time to slow down & absorb what is going on & assimilate it all into her psyche. The various frustrations, impatience, confidence & urges will still be there, but will be felt more internally rather than expressed outwardly. Roselle should use this time to continue progress towards her goals behind the scenes, rather than openly. This will work particularly well with the Mars/Pluto transit, as it will give her some breathing space to work through whatever family issues arose from the first pass of the transit, preparing her for the final pass in January.

Mars goes direct in mid December, & Roselle will see a resurgence of its energies again in early January, when it again starts to make its final aspects – beginning with the Nodal square. Again, conflict arises between career expectations & family obligations, setting the scene for a final possible confrontation in late January. In between times, Mars will again be making positive aspects to Jupiter, Chiron & Mercury, giving Roselle plenty of energy for the period ahead. The square with Uranus will again bring about some frustrations, but she will have begun to experience these back in August and they should no longer be a big issue for her. By the third transit of Mars to Chiron she should have a

deep understanding of the healing message she is being given & focusing on this will give her the boost she needs to continue on her path. At the end of the month, a final power surge & struggle emerges between Mars/Pluto. By this stage, Roselle should have absorbed the lessons of the past few months, & any issues should be easily dealt with & incorporated into her life.

With all frustrations, struggles & obstacles now out of the way, in February Mars can glide into the 2nd house, coincidentally home of her SP Mars! With her new found confidence & improved self-esteem, discovered during her TRM period, Roselle can now activate her SP Mars & drive towards achieving her 2nd house goal of developing her security – whether it be in terms of making money, acquiring material possessions or changing her values.

In closing, Roselle may ask how she will cope with all of these massive changes going on around her. In answer, I would direct her back to her Natal Chart. Mars is in the 12th house – the house of solitude & tranquility, peace & spirituality. I would suggest to Roselle that she ensures that she has regular time to herself – to still the erratic Martian forces & give herself time to think. In solitude, she can focus her powers & channel them wisely. The retrograde period in October & November 2005 will try & force her to do this. She should take heed of the energies & take time out if she doesn't want to burn out.

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