

## 2020 Interpretation exam

### Section 2 - Question 1

**Meg: 24 December 1973, 8.00 pm, Gympie Australia**

**Ascendant close to 21 Cancer.**

Meg has come to see you because she has had challenges in forming long-term relationships in the past. Her history is that she has had three marriages - one which lasted for just a few years when she was in her early twenties; the second marriage in her early 30's lasted for a couple of years and then her last marriage at age 40, ended when her husband left her for a younger woman.

She has been engaging in the online-dating scene for a while now and although she is sexually active, finds it hard to form any long-lasting intimate bonds.

She also advises that she feels a lot of guilt for not providing her estranged parents with a grandchild and wonders if it is too late to conceive or adopt a child. She feels life is passing her by with not much fun or joy anymore.

*Discuss the astrological indications of her perceptions, and how she may turn these indications around, so that she can use these energies more positively in her life. Using your skills as a consultant Astrologer, how can you empower Meg to move forward with renewed optimism?*

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Saturn is sometimes regarded with fear and trepidation because people often tend to focus on its qualities of seriousness, limitation and inhibition instead of appreciating its more endearing attribute of keeping our feet placed firmly on the ground.

Through Saturn we learn how to make the most out of a little, we also learn limits and boundaries, how to achieve excellence, and how to be steadfast, and embrace discipline and commitment – all very admirable skills indeed.

I am inclined to agree with Thomas Moore, who in his book ‘The Planets Within’, writes:

“Saturn is not simply a troublesome planet to be avoided;

With perseverance and endurance, we may find in his dark, heavy, ambivalent moods a way through and beyond the shallowness of the present”.

With patience, which is a strong characteristic of Saturn, over time you will discover the reward of wisdom and maturity.

We all experience Saturn's trials at some point in our lives, but those with a strong or difficult natal representation may wear the energy as an outer skin, accepting the responsibilities and limitations that come along with it without question. The key to successfully working with the harder natal aspects of Saturn against our personal planets is to experience its 'vale' of soul-making'<sup>1</sup> ability, do the hard work that is required, and at the same time try to maintain a balance of positivity and optimism to avoid being engulfed by the dark clouds of gloom and seriousness that are often synonymous with saturnine personalities.

It would surely be sad to feel life is passing you by, with fun and joy nowhere to be found. Perhaps in some instances, the struggle of living out Saturn's shadow energy has indeed burdened the soul and drained the fun and joy from living.

I have consulted with one such lady recently called Meg, who has strong Saturn energy in her natal signature and an abundance of the earth and air elements that possibly haven't always been effectively balanced in her life.

Because Saturn makes a hard aspect to her Moon which rules her Cancer ascendant, she appears to have at times inadvertently allowed an overshadowing of her emotional expression, which has challenged her ability to form lasting long term relationships.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.starself.com/nl\\_archive/newsletter30.html](http://www.starself.com/nl_archive/newsletter30.html) (quote on Thomas Moore and citation for the term 'vale of soul making')

At age 47 she is childless and has experienced 3 failed marriages. She struggles to connect with people on a more intimate level, and is estranged from her parents, towards whom she feels guilt for not having given them any grandchildren.

Without the support of a loving partner or family it is no surprise that Meg might be feeling alienated, and in a life devoid of joy. She has asked me how to remedy this situation.

In this essay I will attempt to show the astrological indicators to Meg's perception that life is passing her by.

To understand her experiences around motherhood and bonding I'll look into the condition of her 5<sup>th</sup> house of children and love affairs, 7<sup>th</sup> house of committed relationships, and the aspects associated with her Moon. By utilizing my skills as a consultant astrologer, I hope to empower her towards engaging in a joyful and guilt free life with renewed optimism.

As an astrologer one can see how Saturn's energy in Meg's natal chart has made its mark on her personality in several different ways, including a shadow side to some of her configurations, suggesting childhood complexes and an internal struggle.

She has Cancer rising, with its ruling planet the Moon in its detriment in Capricorn, applying to conjunct the Sun in the 6<sup>th</sup> house. This duo forms an out of sign conjunction with the North Node and Mercury in Sagittarius – and they all oppose Saturn in the 12<sup>th</sup>, also in its detriment in Cancer.

There is also a cardinal T-Square with Pluto in Libra in the 3<sup>rd</sup> house connected to these oppositions.

This combination of aspects and the predominance of Cardinal energy in her chart, most likely affords Meg a large measure of motivation and a predilection towards achievement, but can encourage a tendency for self-centredness or lack of objectivity.

The natal sign, house and condition of the ascendant ruler is vital in setting the stage for the way we approach life, and with Moon in Capricorn the native would display the seriousness and organisational structure of Saturn. Meg's feeling nature or Moon, is doubly infused with Saturn energy because of the opposition, and I would imagine her self-sufficiency at times could portray her personality as being a bit 'dry' or distant.

All this serious and dutiful energy is securely stamped into her nature and played out mostly across a 6<sup>th</sup> house arena of work, service and routine, which shows her life focus, and likely how she identifies with the world.

She would need to feel like her daily routine was functioning smoothly in order to be emotionally secure, but might be so focused on work and routine that she forgets how to enjoy spontaneity and the simple blessings that life has to offer.<sup>2</sup>

Further unification of the Moon-Saturn theme in her chart is that they are in each other's signs, putting them in mutual reception and escalating their bond to the power and meaning of a conjunction. This encourages an interchange between her internal psychological or subconscious 12<sup>th</sup> house affairs, where Saturn is in its joy (but it's not necessarily a very joyful experience for Meg...) and her 6<sup>th</sup> house external, material world - where she experiences life in an orderly, functional manner, and distributes herself through service.

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<sup>2</sup> Chart Interpretation Handbook – Tracy Marks, P95 and p102

This would give any deep Moon-Saturn-Pluto, or Sun-Saturn-Pluto childhood complexes around lack of emotional input from her parents, free reign to play out across the environment of both houses. Saturn in the 12<sup>th</sup> is traditionally associated with karma, fear and anxieties, making it likely for fears and anxieties from the 12<sup>th</sup> to be projected into her daily environment in the 6<sup>th</sup>, which at times might even affect her health. (Sun and Moon symbolise mother and father and are nataly afflicted by Saturn and Pluto) (Saturn can also symbolise father, his distance is noted by its 12<sup>th</sup> house placement)

Meg's inability to share intimacy in her day to day environment and marriage is probably driven by ghosts from her childhood associated with fear of emotional attachment or family confinement. (Saturn Cancer 12)

A second clue to the origin of her emotional inhibitions is that Venus, the planet of love and human connection, is in 7 in Aquarius. With Saturn, the traditional ruler of Aquarius and ruler of the Capricorn 7<sup>th</sup> house cusp being in the 12<sup>th</sup> house of seclusion, she might have the desire to connect with others (Venus in 7) but experiences feelings of discomfort when it comes to sharing intimate feelings with them. (Venus in Aquarius and Saturn in 12)

She may well have an overall caring nature, but one that bears the deep Saturn sub-tone of limitation with regards to intimate emotional connection. (Saturn in Cancer 12) (Moon-Saturn opposition) (Saturn rules the 7<sup>th</sup> house cusp of Capricorn, and co-rules Aquarius – Venus's sign)

Unfortunately with her cardinal T-square, there can also be an inappropriate expression of intense Pluto energy, because the T-square configuration is naturally out of balance due to its focal planet (Pluto) receiving stress from both squares.

Tracy Marks tells us that it's generally like a three legged table, which would put a lot of pressure on Meg's Pluto and third house matters such as, amongst other things, her communication style, and thinking processes.<sup>3</sup>

Meg may be an intense or over bearing communicator for example and seek to balance this tendency in the 9<sup>th</sup> house of philosophy, which is the opposite house to where Pluto is. This axis into the 9<sup>th</sup> house is the escape route to relieve Pluto's tension from the two squares.

Deep convictions and fundamental values reside in the 9th, and I imagine Meg may have at times used this as a platform in her marriage on which to intensely assert her personal view points, specifically with regards to the relationship, and the balance of energy within it. (Pluto in Libra) The square from Saturn to Pluto would reinforce her verbal intensity with stubbornness.

I'm picking that this propensity for verbal tyranny, coupled with a lack of emotional intimacy, would have played its part in the break-down of her previous relationships. She may have experienced her childhood family home to be filled with power struggles and intensity, and that may be one of the inner templates that she has with regards to defending herself in her own relationships. (Pluto rules Scorpio on the cusp of 4<sup>th</sup> house of home and family)

Both Saturn and the Moon are associated with the vertical axis or parental axis as it is known (natural chart – Capricorn 10<sup>th</sup> cusp and Cancer 4<sup>th</sup> cusp) and both planets are also connected to archetypes of the unconscious, and of behaviour patterns that are developed through time. Meg's parents are represented by this contact, and not in the kindest of ways.

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<sup>3</sup> Art of Chart Interpretation – Tracy Marks, Pages 40 through 43

The Pluto square to Meg's Sun and Moon suggests a deep psychological scar in her consciousness that involves early childhood conditioning from her parents.

Moon-Saturn oppositions such as Meg's often show a wound or mother complex'.<sup>4</sup> One of the things that the Moon in a natal chart describes, is our early home life and the perception that we have of our mother, as does our Sun with regards to how we perceive our father.

Our relationship with our mother is the first human outreach that we experience as children and it sets our inner expectation which conditions what we tend to gravitate towards in later intimate relationships.<sup>5</sup> (Sun-Moon opposition to Saturn) (6)

Experiences of childhood would have been structured and defined along saturnine lines, with both parents perceived by her as task masters. From an early age Meg would have intrinsically understood the call to discipline and her childhood might have presented little opportunity for spontaneity or emotional expression, which has contributed towards her inhibition with regards to sharing of emotional intimacy. Deep down Meg may have a soul loneliness that yearns to receive love and acceptance from a family, where there may only be structure, judgement and formality. This judgement probably generates guilt when she does not comply with their wishes – for example by not providing them with a grandchild. (Saturn Cancer 12 opposite Moon)

The early home circumstances are vital in the way that we form our own traditions and become caring nurturing adults ourselves.

All this would impact Meg's perception of what might be expected of her in motherhood and marriage. With 6<sup>th</sup> house emphasis on work and duty she may have wanted to work on her

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<sup>4</sup> Saturn – A new look at an old Devil, Liz Greene P98

<sup>5</sup> The Luminaries, Liz Greene and Howard Sasportas P55

career and wait for a better time to have children. A 5<sup>th</sup> house Neptune could render her a victim to deceptive idealistic images of the perfect romance or the perfect time to have children – which may never actually come about.

I'm sure it was especially difficult for her to foster maternal feelings with the fears and restrictions that she felt when remembering her own childhood family dynamics.

I would speak to her about her childhood and ask her to relate her impression of her parents to me so that I can help her reframe some of her childhood experiences in a more positive light.

For example I might ask her to consider the fact that even if her relationship with her parents has lacked emotional content, her life is in her own hands and with a little help in learning how to bond more intimately she is able to become more emotionally receptive.

She could also consider the resilience and organisational skills that she has most likely learned from her parents, and how this has helped her in her career. With her Sun in Capricorn in 6, she would be naturally practical and have good business and administrative skills. Meg can probably recognise that things worth pursuing are achieved through hard work.

She has her North node in Sagittarius in 6, which amongst other things encourages her to grow through her daily work routine in an ethical, optimistic and easy going way with a future direction that should include realistic outreach towards a higher vision.

Being born slightly before the new Moon, Meg's Moon is applying to conjunct the Sun in what Dane Rudhya calls a Balsamic Moon personality. She is an 'old soul' and inherently wise, but with 'knowing' often comes the challenge of not succumbing to depression or pessimism, but fixing your sights instead on a cause that is greater than yourself. Meg needs



to focus on being cheerful and light, and remember to take time out in seclusion to rest so that she can reconnect with her inspirational source. <sup>6</sup>

I would counsel Meg with regards to the guilt and self-doubt that can come from her 12<sup>th</sup> house Saturn placement. She did after all make an adult decision about what was right for her concerning having children at the time and she need not feel guilt or second guess herself about that. It's time to embrace the choices that she has made which have still left her with many options to nurture children if she so desires.

The abundance of tenacity and endurance that the Pluto square affords her 6<sup>th</sup> house Sun-Moon conjunction would be of great benefit to achieving her goals. She could focus on this positivity instead of the restrictive or shadow energies, which would help her to release her guilt and become independent from the need to please her parents. (Sun in Capricorn – 6 – Balsamic Moon lunation personality, Moon applying to Sun) (Pluto square Sun-Moon) Psychoanalysis as an ongoing counselling option would also be helpful in working through old traumas, and assisting her to heal the parts of her emotional self that feel as though they were neglected in childhood. (Moon square Pluto)

Having a baby at age 47 may no longer be a reality but being of service by fostering a child or working with orphans might be a wonderful way of using the positive attributes of her 6<sup>th</sup> house Sun, Moon and North Node.

Jupiter the ruler of her 5<sup>th</sup> house of children is in 7 - house of others, and conjunct Venus - in the humanitarian orientated sign of Aquarius. This could suggest an outreach to children via an organisation. (Saturn rules 7 and is found in 12, in the caring sign of Cancer – 12 is house

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<sup>6</sup> The Art of Chart Interpretation, Tracy Marks, P48 and 49

of institutions) It would bring love and joy back into her life and give her a sense of purpose in allowing her Venus to connect to its Aquarian brotherhood-of-man nature.

There is a Mars trine to Meg's Moon that has the tightest orb in her natal signature at only 8 minutes of arc, and it is the relieving factor to the cardinal T square, and part of a Mystic Rectangle configuration across the 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> houses. This is an opportunity for Meg to use the activating energy of Mars, and the inventive energy of Uranus to break the karmic bonds and shadow energy of Saturn in the 12<sup>th</sup> and replace it with more visionary or intellectual expression. (3-9 axis of learning)

Perhaps it's a good idea for Meg to take up a course of study, or get involved with a philosophy that interests her. Overseas travel might be another area of life to widen her perspectives so that she no longer feels like life is passing her by. (Moon-North Node trine Mars in 9) (Mars opposite Uranus between 3 and 9 – learnings and teachings) (Saturn-South Node sextile Mars)

My overall thoughts for Meg are that she should stick to what she does best and what her nodes are suggesting her path forward to be. Her strengths lie in 6<sup>th</sup> house work and service matters, and spending time with children in an environment where she feels like she is making a difference would nurture her soul and help her to heal from her own childhood wounds so that she can learn how to connect on a deeper level with loved ones.

**Word Count - 2732**

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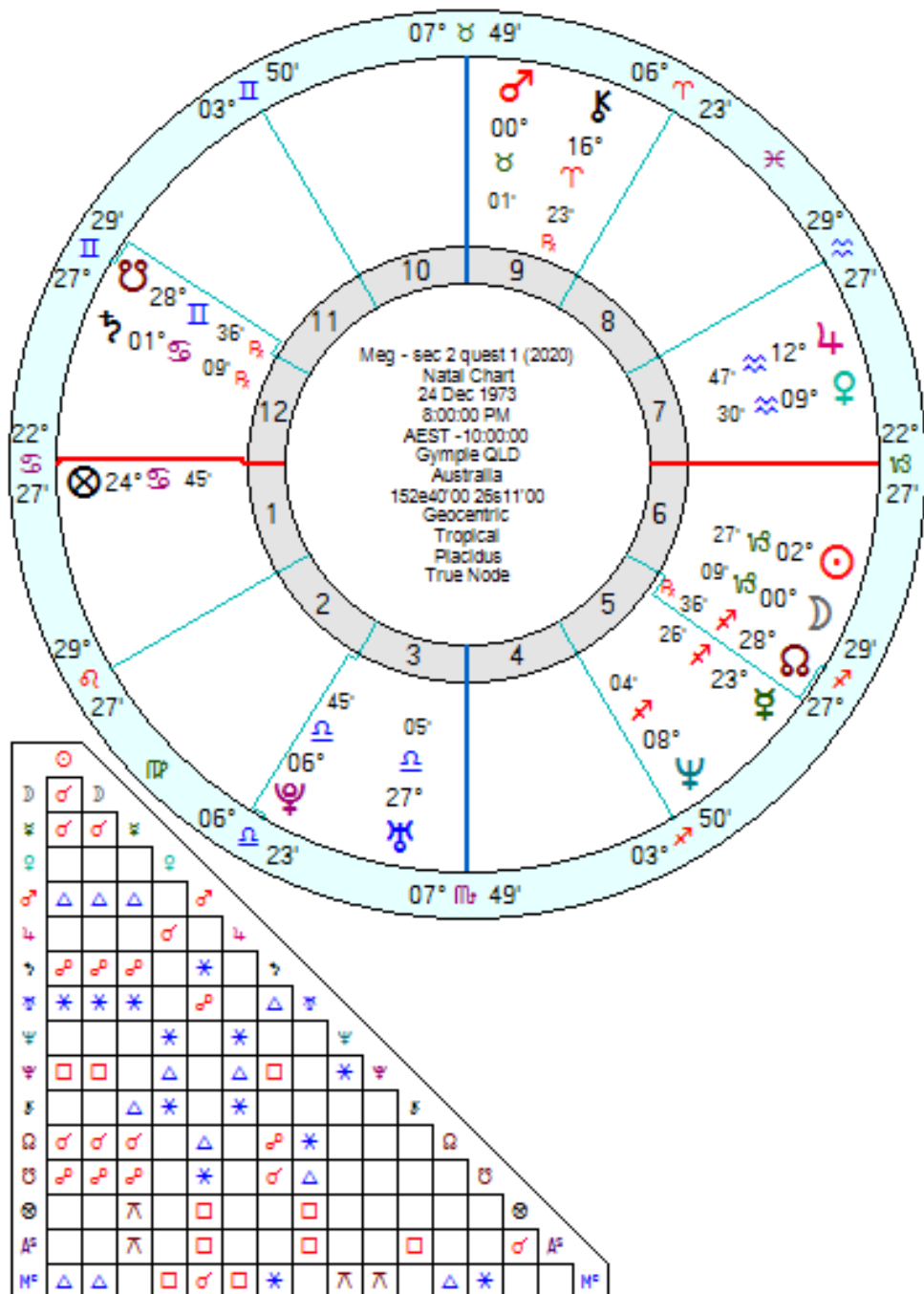
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### Appendix A



**Candidate number 202105**