

2005 Interpretation Exam – Natal Interpretation
Written by Trish Regal

Question 1

Samantha: born 30 March 1984 at 10:35am Wollongong, NSW
Her Ascendant is approximately 4 degrees Gemini.

Samantha comes to you six months after breaking up with her boyfriend of 3 years. They have a young daughter who he sees spasmodically and this is creating difficulties. Her relationship with her own family has always been turbulent and she does not want to recreate this now. She admits to not being blameless in the current break up and would like a second chance. Using **the natal chart only**, discuss Samantha's relationship needs and how parental conditioning may affect this.

‘...let there be spaces in your togetherness.
Love one another, but make not a bond of love’¹

‘...the study of parents on the birth chart is a complex matter...
the keywords fail us...it is impossible to be literal’²

That parental conditions effects one's relationships in later life, and that issues within relationships are usually based upon one childhood experience of one's parent's, is now widely known and accepted.

That Samantha can acknowledge her own part in her relationship break-down, and is actively seeking to better know herself and to heal her past, demonstrates a positive expression of her Cardinal Aries Sun with all its initiative and self-assured confidence. But what does make Samantha tick, how were her emotional needs initially met, and what effect is this going to have on Samantha's relationships and life as a consequence? Let's start with a 'nutshell' look at her emotional needs.

First, though, it needs to be noted that Samantha is oriented to being easily influenced by others (high mutability), and may, in all likelihood, feel quite ungrounded and insecure about having her needs met (low earth; Taurus 12th house). For this reason, she may be more profoundly affected by her parental conditioning than she would ever consciously realise, with her extravert, no-nonsense, 'let's get on with it' Aries Sun. The way Samantha approaches life, and comes across to others, is as a curious and lively person (Gemini Asc.) As a child, we all have to learn to live with our parents in a way which

2005 Interpretation Exam – Natal Interpretation Written by Trish Regal

ensures our survival, and so our own inherent needs may often be sublimated for this reason. Most often, our own parents were no more self aware than we are and are unconscious of the effect of their actions upon our development - this dynamic has been going on since the dawn of time, being part of the human condition. How any of us view our parents is very much a subjective experience, and all parents need to be seen in this light. In this way one can be compassionate towards one's parents, realising that what one experienced is not descriptive of the actual person – for we are all equally complex, and no one can be fully described so easily!

Samantha wants to be expanded, developed and broadened in her relationships (Sagittarius, 7th). She wants to express herself, and stand in her own place of power, to assert her unique individuality (Uranus, 7th) and creativity (Neptune, 7th), but like most of us, she is projecting this onto others, not yet comfortable with this part of herself. To integrate these qualities, is for most of us, a life time process. She needs her values of mothering and belonging to be validated, with an emphasis on links to her past (Cancer, 2nd). These needs can be best met through mothering and providing emotional security for both herself and those she loves, and yet she needs to be so aware of her capacity to become the martyr, and bogged down in her sensitive watery emotional personality (Piscean Chart signature). By surrendering to this energy, in an attempt to merge back into the great unconscious she is denying her own need to become intuitive creative self (Aries Sun)

So, how did Samantha experience her parents? Let's look first to her father, and thus, what she learned about men, and about whether or not she has been able to 'own' and live comfortably with her own masculine principle or animus, ie. her Sun.

2005 Interpretation Exam – Natal Interpretation **Written by Trish Regal**

Samantha' experienced her father as unpredictable, erratic, eccentric and different (Sun trine Uranus). He needed space in his relationships, but wanted to take the lead & set the pace (Uranus, 7th). This was an energetic self-confident man who was probably exhausting to be around (Aries Sun square Jupiter); a natural leader who needed or got public recognition and acknowledgement (Sun, 10th). His sudden & unpredictable bursts of energy provided little stability in her life as a child. He was larger than life, most probably bossy and domineering much of the time, egotistical, self centred and may have quashed Samantha's natural joy of life (Sun square Jupiter). In contrast to this, he may have been quite sentimental, and liked being around women (Saturn trine Moon & Venus), although he did have a need to dominate, and to exert authority and power (Aries, Sun; Saturn in Scorpio). He may even have feared them in some way (Saturn/ Scorpio). Compared with Samantha's introvert Piscean Moon (mother), her father appears to be the dominant parent. So we have an overconfident, erratic, self involved, egotistical father, who, at the same time is inspiring, creative and exciting to be around (Sun/ Aries).

Samantha herself is emotional, blowing things out of proportion (Jupiter sextile Moon) in her relationships. She needs to be aware, that she too, has the tendency to exaggerate her responses and to react explosively, but that she is also possessed of good old common sense and practicality – but is she even aware of this (Moon, unconscious)? She, too, has a great need for space in her relationships, and the need to express her own individuality and uniqueness (Sun trine Uranus/ 7th).

At this stage in her life I would suspect Samantha's experience of men is that they are in control, giving her boundaries which may or may not restrict her. At 20yrs of age she may lack the confidence to act as an independent woman. She does, however, have the potential to develop a passionate, intense, ambitious, and goal oriented approach to service oriented work (Mars/ Saturn, 6th). This can be

2005 Interpretation Exam – Natal Interpretation **Written by Trish Regal**

emotionally rewarding and help to validate her (Saturn trine Venus in 10th). Samantha needs to become aware that she has a tendency, when confronted or when feeling emotionally vulnerable (Jupiter sextile Moon) to react explosively (Sun square Jupiter). A habit (Moon) she has learned in her childhood, from both parents, as we shall see.

Samantha's experience of her mother appears to be equally chaotic as her experience of father. How very confusing for Samantha the child to be receiving such mixed signals. On the one hand her mother appears to be sensitive, intuitive and caring (Moon/ Pisces); a prominent person of service, in the community or professionally, who perhaps sacrificed her own needs for the ambitions of Samantha's father (Venus/Moon conjunct MC). Samantha, has, to some extent idealized her mother (Pisces), and may view her as an unreachable role model. However, it would appear that her mother is a person who is possibly confused over her role her as mother & nurturer (Moon), as opposed to being a woman (Venus) (conjunction). Pisces here further confuses the issue. Samantha's mother, like her father, was also experienced as erratic and unpredictable in relationships (Moon square Uranus in 7th). She may not have been emotionally available for her children, making Samantha feel isolated and perhaps even abandoned by her mother (Moon trine Saturn, Uranus). Again, like her father, Samantha's mother was highly emotionally, and tended to blow things out of proportion (Moon conjunct Jupiter), at the same time, being quite serious and intense (Moon trine Saturn). She was most likely bad tempered, erratic and explosive when her authority was questioned (sextile Jupiter, square Uranus, trine Saturn). Due to the experience of her parents, we can see that Samantha may be uncomfortable in relationships (Moon/ Venus square Uranus 7th). So far in her life, Samantha's experience of them has been of restriction and domination, and unpredictable erratic behaviours. Samantha is quite damaged in this area of life, not to mention idealistic (Neptune, 7th). Samantha's approach to life is also erratic and perhaps even

2005 Interpretation Exam – Natal Interpretation Written by Trish Regal

superficial, and self centred (Gemini Asc. & Mercury in Aries). So we can see that her experience of her parent's is perhaps seated in her own orientation to life.

For Samantha security is a safe 'home' or base (Cancer 2nd house). She needs a sense of self worth and to nurture/ feel nurtured, loved and safe. Samantha values belonging to, and being part of and building a family. She has an emotional need to initiate (Cancer) and achieve these values, and to provide the stable loving home life she probably feels she has so far not experienced in her own life. She is seeking to establish as a base, a sense of belonging and place of nurturing (Cancer, 2nd).

However, Samantha is uncomfortable with her need for bodily and sensual comforts (Taurus, 12th). She may well feel that to 'indulge' oneself is a weakness, and despise this in others. In many ways, it is Samantha's denying and blocking of her feminine drive (anima) that is her undoing. She would be quite unconscious of her own femininity (Venus conjunct Moon), and is denying it and repressing it (Taurus, 12th). She is playing the role her mother has primed her to, becoming, in many ways, a surrogate husband for her mother. That this is at the expense of Samantha's ability to develop needs to be examined in greater and more detailed light, as and if Samantha is willing to do this.

In light of Samantha's Sun, Samantha's childhood home (Virgo IC) was probably a chaotic place of harsh criticism, tight control, and many fights (Mercury Aries quincunx Mars; opposition Pluto; trine Neptune). Due to this Samantha most probably is looking to her own adult home life as needing to be ordered, 'perfect' or in process of becoming perfect, and organised. It would appear that Samantha's mother took on the role of victim/ martyr, deferring to the more dominant and powerful male, but who resented doing this (Moon/ Venus in Pisces square Uranus)* So this 4th house is probably representative of her father (Mercury ruler of house) Mercury and Sun (Father) both in Aries, but this is

2005 Interpretation Exam – Natal Interpretation Written by Trish Regal

tenuous and astrologers agree to disagree on which parent is indicated by 4th/ 10th house. Sasportas⁴ reveals that he sometimes applies both houses to each parent, gaining information relevant to both, arguing that this approach is flexible as these houses form a polarity with a way of one changing into the other. The Piscean MC is conjuncted by both Venus and Moon (both mother), indicating that mother is ruled here, although again, Samantha's Sun is situated in the 10th – again, an ambiguity which Sasportas' approach seems to embrace and allow us to see the polarity of this axis in relation to family background and experience. Neptune in the 7th further reveals that Samantha too, like her mother, may be sacrificing her sensitive, creative and spiritual side, or escaping into romantic or deluded fantasies about what relationships could be like. Certainly a theme Samantha is playing out in her life is one of 'service v sacrifice'⁵ which is very much observed in Neptune/ Uranus placing in the 7th, and again, in Samantha's natal Balsamic Lunar Phase which is described by Liz Greene⁶ as having '... a melancholy, sacrificial, almost weary quality....', so in advising Samantha, I would be watchful for any tendency to escape into this very Piscean tendency to martyrdom, and susceptibility to be so easily influenced by others as already seen in her mutable approach to life.

Samantha's experience of both parents is very similar. There is an experience of both as highly individual and creative, but erratic, unpredictable and not to be challenged. She has had a chaotic unstable childhood and is firmly seated in reactive behaviour, acting or speaking before thinking. She has a deep sense of personal wounding and is struggling to find her own sense of self.

That she acknowledges her own part in the break-up is indicative of her Balsamic Moon phase and the willingness to work with her own inadequacies to overcome them. By becoming aware of how she has been programmed by her experience of her parents, and of her own similar qualities, she is well equipped to work on her problems, but it will be a hard task, given such a fiery, flighty nature (Aries

2005 Interpretation Exam – Natal Interpretation Written by Trish Regal

Sun & Mercury, Gemini Asc.). Attempts to draw her consciousness to her own impatience and need to keep moving (Aries Sun and its aspects to Jupiter, Uranus), will help, as well as her capacity to ground her reactions in something solid and practical (Jupiter in Capricorn). Samantha needs to know that she has fears around being controlled and contained, and that she is acting these out on those around her. She has a need for space and individuality in her relationships (Uranus in 7th) and the tendency to romanticise her relationships and use them as some form of escape (Neptune in 7th). She can learn though, that her relationships are transformative for her, need not be tumultuous, and that by utilising the strengths of her potential (natal chart), she can become self-aware. Whether or not the relationship with her boyfriend can be salvaged is another question. She can, however, become more aware of herself as mother, by realising her own parental conditioning and changing her own reactive nature. In the past, her parent's have not been receptive to her doing this, as it trampled on their needs.

Samantha has a deeply unconscious wound to sense of self (Chiron, 12th conjunct Asc). She has difficulty feeling a sense of self or separateness, (also Moon/ Venus in Pisces), which describes so eloquently how she has experienced this wound through her experience of mother^{*}. There is a whole sub-personality operating here, which is fundamental to Samantha's understanding of herself. The dynamic here (Yod), at one level is another expression of her tendency to sacrifice self (also Pisces Moon/ MC) for the ideal (Venus Pisces) of relationship

** Liz Greene, in "Relating" states that a 10th house Sun '..implies that the mother may be possessed by a drive for power, conscious or unconscious, and that she may seek to live out her masculine side through her child.'*³

2005 Interpretation Exam – Natal Interpretation Written by Trish Regal

(Neptunian delusion), in order to transform herself through her children or her creativity. Samantha's difficulties with her partner may also have its origins in this unconscious wounding, manifesting, in communication problems (Mercury quincunx Mars), although it is far more complex than that. That Samantha herself is thoughtless in what she says, especially to her friends (Mercury, Aries, 11th) is very apparent. Samantha has experienced first hand, her father (Aries Sun – does she have brothers? Aries, Mercury) speaking without thinking, cutting her sensitive Piscean Moon to the core. Having learned this behaviour from her father (Mars ruling Sun) from whom she first experienced it, she may now 'cut to the core' the men in her life!

Samantha is attracted to men who are deep, intense and passionate (Mars, Scorpio). They also need to be outgoing, optimistic and energetic like herself, with a tendency to being hasty and painstakingly honest (Mars conjunct Sagittarius Des). As Samantha has so many of these traits herself (Aries Sun & Mercury, Sun square Jupiter and trine Uranus), one can see that she is probably projecting her own animus onto her partner, just as her mother most likely projected *her* animus onto her daughter, or other children. By denying her own forthright, energetic and creative nature (7th house) Samantha is projecting & avoiding responsibility for a major part of herself and needs to work through, accept and integrate these qualities. Only then will she be able to truly work on relationship issues.⁺

Summary

One needs to question if Samantha is looking for a 2nd chance' to merely assuage her security fears in order to feel safe. It may be that the relationship is either past being fixed, or is not the real concern. If Samantha can overcome her personal wounding, and develop as a person in her own right, she may find that she has 'outgrown' her boyfriend, and is ready to move on in life, further developing her own

2005 Interpretation Exam – Natal Interpretation Written by Trish Regal

personality. If she chooses to do this, she will come to realise that her daughter can only benefit from a mother who is able to stand in her own power, and who is willing to co-parent her, but not necessarily as a ‘martyr/ victim’, just for the sake of her daughter. This may be precisely what her daughter does not need. If Samantha, in working with her natal chart, can come to the realisation that this is precisely what her mother did, Samantha will not be ‘fated’ to repeat the process, but empowered to break the cycle.

** It is extremely difficult and, I feel, pointless to try to determine which, or even if one complex causes the other – what one has to work with is the fact that Samantha is wounded, and whether that caused her to experience her mother in this light, or whether her experience of mother has caused the wound is immaterial. That said, if I were working with Samantha, I would be very clear on this point.*

+ Interestingly, Mars is 3° 17' off the exact Midpoint between Neptune/ Pluto. Ebertin² delineates this as “A lack of energy, the misfortune as being used as a tool for other people’s interests.... “ While Munkase⁸ says ‘...added compulsion to use violence to achieve your dreams; hostility emphasized by any imminent destructive or punishing activity’. Hand⁹ states he only use a 1 degree orb for midpoints, but only talking to Samantha will reveal if this is relevant in her case. It would be interesting to investigate, and seems to highlight a possible source of self destructive behaviour being based upon her

2005 Interpretation Exam – Natal Interpretation Written by Trish Regal

injured animus, and a need to heal these 'father' issues. Only then will Samantha be able to move forward in her relationship problems with her boyfriend. As Mars here is ruled by Pluto, I feel this is quite relevant especially as Mars opposes Chiron in the 12th. It almost seems that Samantha will invoke reactions in the men in her everyday life (Mars / Saturn in Scorpio in 6th) which then pulls her into the transformations of Plutonian realms, and subsequently the dynamics of the double Yod formation on her chart, of which Chiron and her Ascendant are the apex.

References

- 1 Kahlil Gibran. The Prophet.
- 2 Liz Greene. Relating, p. 211.
- 3 Liz Greene. Relating, p.205,
- 4 Sasportas, Howard. The luminaries p.161-162.
- 5 Course Notes
- 6 Liz Greene. The luminaries, p. 209.
- 7 Reinhold Ebertin. The combination of stellar influences.
- 8 Michael Munkasey. Midpoints : unleashing the power of the planets
- 9 Hand, Robert. Horoscope symbols

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2005 Interpretation Exam – Natal Interpretation
Written by Trish Regal

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Course Notes