

# **FAA 2017 Interpretation Exam**

**Student: 217102**

## **Section One**

### **Question 1**

**Mars in Capricorn is found at the apex of a t-square in the tenth house and is square to Saturn, Uranus and Pluto. How may this effect the expression of this woman's Mars; and more importantly, how could she empower herself here?**



When two opposing planets each square a third planet, they form a t-square, which can cause tension, pressure and release. In Ms Libra's natal chart, a t-square exists between her professional reputation (Mars 10<sup>th</sup> house), relationships (Uranus 7<sup>th</sup> house) and self-image (Ascendant Chiron). Issues of control (Saturn 1<sup>st</sup> House) and power (Pluto 7<sup>th</sup> House) are also relevant. While Ms Libra's ability to express her needs (Mars) will be effected by this configuration, her natal chart also indicates that she can empower herself here.

Astrological symbolism is informed by myth. In Roman times, Mars was a 'nature-god, protecting crops and herds, warding off pests, storms and droughts'<sup>1</sup>; he also guarded the people, defeating enemies in battle and keeping the community safe. Hence, Mars denotes the positive, masculine/animus impulse to defend, express or assert. As a personal planet, Mars signifies how we get what we want in life. However, in the Greek myth of Ares (Mars), this energy was 'uncontrolled and easily provoked'<sup>2</sup>, similarly, when Mars is blocked, people can become angry, aggressive and violent, or, if the pressure is too great, they may be too fearful to act or assert themselves.

I imagine it would have been quite scary for Ms Libra to express her needs as a child growing up in what she perceived as a controlled and restrictive family environment (Saturn 1<sup>st</sup> House). Her healing nature (Pisces Ascendant conjunct Chiron) was possibly wounded or suppressed by the dominant paradigm (Capricorn Mars) and this is probably where the power issues started (Pluto opposite Chiron). Ms Libra's sensitivity to nit-picking criticism (Pisces opposite Virgo) may have silenced her had she not possessed ambition, personal determination and a need for success (Capricorn Mars). Exalted in Capricorn, Mars is likely

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<sup>1</sup> Mayo, J. 1979, p. 24

<sup>2</sup> Tompkins, S. 2006, p. 139

to drive Ms Libra to seek and ‘maintain high status’<sup>3</sup> and, although taking responsibility may be stressful for her Piscean Ascendant, her strong desire for success is likely to endow her with an astute business sense and, hopefully, a dry, cheeky sense of humour—Capricorn is a horned god, like playful/lusty Pan—that up-stages her reticent shyness (Saturn 1<sup>st</sup> House).

Despite a tough beginning (Saturn 1<sup>st</sup> House), Ms Libra is a born organiser (Capricorn Mars) who likes to have authority over a task (Capricorn) and is suited to leadership roles (10<sup>th</sup> House). Mars square Saturn in Aries could make her restless to go it alone, however ancient astrology maintains that Saturn is in Fall in Aries, which means the planet’s influence is ‘imprisoned’<sup>4</sup>. Mars and Saturn are in mutual reception, with Mars being exalted, and it is reasoned that ‘desire and ambition (Mars) will rule over the Saturnian principle of caution and reserve’<sup>5</sup>. This suggests that Ms Libra will learn to take calculated risks, apply her purposeful, pioneering energy (Aries) constructively and view restrictions as challenges rather than impediments.

With Mars square Uranus, there could be sudden shifts in focus/direction and a tendency to be irritated by imperfection (Virgo). This could show as compulsive revision and rechecking to produce the perfect innovation and a unique style. Ms Libra’s personal relationships will play an important role in her empowerment journey (Uranus conjunct Pluto 7<sup>th</sup> House) and provide an outlet for her to express subconscious drives (Pluto) that have healing power (Pluto opposite Chiron). Ms Libra may be critical and want control but as she learns to share power and apply her acuity to diagnose, analyse and heal in relationships, her

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<sup>3</sup> Houlding, D. 2013, p. 57

<sup>4</sup> Gettings, F. 1985, p. 189

<sup>5</sup> Sakoian & Acker 1973, p. 237

confidence to express herself in the outer world will increase (Uranus Pluto 7<sup>th</sup> house). She is blessed with a healing meridian (Virgo opposite Pisces) complete with psychic energy (Pisces Chiron) and purifying power (Virgo Pluto). As she fills her life with positive influences, she will overcome her difficult beginnings and assert her innovative energy (Uranus square Mars).

Mars square Pluto is very wide, but suggests hidden power or shadow practices (compulsions). This energy urges Ms Libra to push herself to attain the highest possible outcome in any task she takes on. Her reluctance to submit substandard work is characteristic of the Uranus Pluto in Virgo generation<sup>6</sup>. This compelling configuration might be dangerous if not for the softening influence of Pisces (Ascendant Chiron), which enables Ms Libra to reach for higher goals like empathy, kindness and compassion.

As well as being involved in the t-square, Mars is also expressed with diplomacy and the ability to find creative solutions to conflict (Capricorn Mars sextile Libra Sun). These relational skills help Ms Libra in one-on-one situations, bringing ease and flow (Libra Sun sextile Virgo Jupiter). Other positive influences include an applying Mars Jupiter trine in the earth modality, which falls between the sixth (cadent) house, representing refinement and perfection of resources and skills, and the tenth (angular) house, related to productivity and assured 'success in career' with definitive, concrete results<sup>7</sup>. A dissociate grand trine (Mars, Jupiter, North Node) suggests that harnessing this energy will be central to Ms Libra's core destiny and the Mars energy in this configuration empowers Ms Libra to grow (Jupiter) her identity (North Node) and achieve her goals (Mars).

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<sup>6</sup> Cunningham, D. 2014, p. 11

<sup>7</sup> Sasportas, H. 2007, p. 101

The first impression of this natal Mars Apex t-square suggested issues with self-expression for Ms Libra, however closer examination revealed that commensurate planetary influences supported her empowerment. There are strong indicators that Ms Libra will develop assertiveness skills (Pluto opposite Ascendant), achieve business acumen (Mars square Saturn) and create healthy relationships (Uranus opposite Chiron) in which she can express her needs with tact (Mars sextile Sun), individuality (Mars trine Aries North Node) and vision (Mars trine Jupiter).

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