

Federation of Australian Astrologers

Examination 2020

Relationships & Specialist
Techniques

Student Number
202209

Section 1 Question 1
Relationships: Antonio and Sara



Sara & Antonio

Sara: August 16, 1981, 2:53 am, Kogarah, NSW. ASC close to 22 Gemini

Antonio: January 21, 1966, 11:53 pm, San Fernando, SPAIN. ASC close to 7 Libra

Sara and Antonio who live in Kiama, NSW have been married for five years and have a one-year-old daughter. Antonio has two children, now in their twenties, from his first marriage. The step-siblings get on well and are sometimes called upon to babysit. Sara had quite a turbulent childhood, with a dominant mother who often displayed bullying and erratic behaviour.

Antonio, whose parents immigrated to Australia when he was quite young, comes from a traditional family with strong customs and beliefs. They love each other deeply and generally get on very well, enjoying each other's company and sharing a passion for dance and music. Problems arise though when they are not on the same page. Small arguments, often over trivial events can suddenly become full-blown battles leaving both shattered. Then there is withdrawal, a lack of or criticising communication, with nothing accomplished or solved.

They are both desperate to find better ways of dealing with their conflicts not only for their relationship but also for the benefit of their daughter.

Using the natal charts, Synastry and the Midpoint or Derived Ascendant Composite chart, what insights can you give this couple, as to their individual strengths and weaknesses, gained from the planetary themes in their charts? How does this knowledge help raise their understanding of the defence mechanisms in play and how may they avoid, adjust or help each other overcome these patterns and achieve a more rewarding future together?

Introduction:

Astrology can be incredibly useful in offering insight into the dynamics happening in a relationship as well as looking at ways to bring out the highest potential between two people. Every relationship has its unique strengths and challenges along with an avenue towards some solutions to bring about more harmony and understanding. The creative outcome of a relationship, the beautiful gift of a child, brings a whole new set of gifts and challenges for a couple to live with as they grow into a family. Having children often brings up the dynamics of our own childhood and relationship to our parents. This is a poignant time to address some of our inherited instinctual programming and to expand these old patterns towards their highest expression, a journey that has incredible inner rewards. This essay will explore the main astrological themes, celebrate their strengths and explore beneficial options regarding their challenges. It will address Sara and Antonio's individual charts, look at some of the important interactions between their charts with synastry, and finally explore the shared meaning of the composite.

Main themes in the charts:

Both Antonio and Sara have a strong air emphasis in their charts denoting a high intelligence and an ability to be objective. They have an adventurous spirit and are able to have a lot of fun together (mutual ♃ ♂ Ascendant, C ♀/Ψ in ♎, A's ♃ apex planet and most elevated, S's ♃ ♂ IC). Creativity is very prominent with a strong 5th house/Leo emphasis, Neptune and Venus (A's ♀ ♂ ☾ and ☽), part of Grand trine. S's ♀ focal planet of a minor grand trine with ♃ and ♁) There is a great need for freedom and a variety of experiences within the relationship balanced with a need for emotional intelligence and a stable home life (Composite ☽ in ♋, ♁ in ♏/11th house, ♀ in ♎, ♂ IC). Ideas and communication are

important to both people's sense of self (☉ ☌ ☿, 3rd/ 4th house emphasis). Both charts have aspects between Mars and Neptune/Pluto which can either manifest as confusion and aggression or the highest potential as a very primal, visceral expression of their energy that is also creative and inspired by a connection to 'the all.'

Individual charts:

Sara:

Sara has a very fiery chart with Mars in the 1st house, ☿ MC and a Leonine focus (☉ ☌ ♋ in ♏) This gives her a passionate nature and a generous warmth while at the same time can contribute to a bit of a short fuse. She shines her light which can bring joy and levity to the relationship. Neptune on the descendant is at the focal point of a Yod as well as a Kite pattern in the chart. Her relationship is highly important to her as the descendant/Neptune is such a strong focus. Neptune on the descendant suggests a tendency to idealise her romantic partner, it could also manifest in misunderstandings due to having unrealistic expectations of others or not seeing a person or situation for what or who they really are.

Sara has Gemini Ascendant with Mercury, ruler of the chart conjunct the Sun. This is strongly placed, giving her the potential to communicate well. Although Sun/Mercury is quite challenged being part of the Grand Cross, this may contribute to difficulties with communication.

Sara's Mars is in Cancer, showing that she likes men who have a nurturing quality. This is reflected as Antonio's stellium involving the ♃ in the 4th house, shows a focus on home and nurturing, he also has ♄ MC.

Antonio:

Antonio may be quite amiable with a Libra ascendant, part of a Grand Trine involving Venus in the 4th/5th which is conjunct ☾ and ♃. The Grand Trine, along with the Cradle formation (half Grand Sextile) may give him an ability to smooth troubled waters through charm, wit and good communication practices (♃ ♀) He has a strong nurturing side to his personality (♄ MC, 4th house ♃). A large focus on Aquarius may give him the ability to hold an objective viewpoint and to think outside the box, although this may also give him a strong desire for personal freedom. Its really important that he has a lot of autonomy and independence so that he doesn't feel trapped.

He has a lot of passion in his love life as well as creativity, and affinity for the feminine and children (♂ 5th, ♀ ♀ 5th cusp). This, along with a strong Jupiter shows his capacity to see the brighter side of life as well as being able to have a broad perspective. (♃ 9th). Jupiter is the apex of a T-Square and Yod as well as the handle for the bucket-shape and the most elevated planet. He channels most of his planets from the personal, lower hemisphere into his personal belief structures and a grand search for meaning, possibly acted on in local community (♃ in ♀) This is echoed as this theme of combining the broad and the local knowledge continues (♃ ♀ 9th cusp ♀)

Antonio is attracted to a fiery partner with lots of drive and spark (♂ 5th) this is reflected in Sara's chart (♂ 1st, ♃ MC)

Points of growth:

Sara's strong fire with a 1st house Mars and Aries MC could make her quite a force of nature and she may well have a real need to maintain her independence and autonomy. In fact there is a planetary pattern known as a trapezoid consisting of two interacting Yods, with Neptune and Mars as focal points respectively. This points to an uncomfortable tension between the urge to merge with another or transcendence (Ψ) and the need to carve her own path in life ($\♂$). This strong Mars could point to the possibility of Sara displacing her feelings of frustration with the possible exhaustion of motherhood onto her partner, especially as her child is only one year old. This could be alleviated through calling on Antonio's children to give her some time out from her child so that she can have some time to focus on her own goals or simply having time at the beach to let off steam.

Having such a strong Jupiter (apex T-square and Yod) as well as a focus on Aquarius, Antonio may have such a need for freedom or adventure that he has a tendency for wanting greener pastures, rather than fully appreciating the small details of domesticity. This emphasis on Jupiter could also manifest as taking the moral high-ground or being the eternal optimist who may skip over important details. The opposition of Pluto/Uranus and Chiron/Saturn squaring Jupiter reflects that Antonio came 'from a traditional family with strong customs and beliefs' and may also point to a source of some of their conflicts as the T-Square could suggest some rigidity in his thinking. Sara's Neptune is placed at a point (22 degrees Sagittarius) providing an antidote to his T-square as well as the catalyst that sets off his Yod towards following his soul's path. Her Neptune here may ease and dissolve some of the crystallised belief structures that Antonio has brought with him from his youth, although it could be experienced as evasion and confusion until a higher fusion of the energies may be reached. She may be able to show him an even broader

perspective, allowing him to integrate the Neptunian transcendence, forming part of the base of his Yod.

Having said that, the strength of Sara's Neptune may show a tendency towards denial or escapism, especially regarding the relationship. (S Ψ \circ S Descendant) Antonio's Jupiter being conjunct Sara's Ascendant may help provide levity and laughter to their connection, and assist Sara in coping with the realities of life. Although, as Stephen Arroyo states: "Any close aspect of Neptune with a personal planet or ascendant indicates the possibility of coming to an immediate realisation of the spiritual dimension of experience and the oneness of all creation"¹

You could say that the relationship itself could be her spiritual practice as the highest possibilities of this placement may be to bring unconditional love and her own spiritual development into all of her relationships. Additionally, Sara could sublimate a tendency for denial within the relationship into a spiritual practice, artistic endeavours or altruistic pursuits for those less fortunate. Such a strong placement of Neptune as well as a strong Chiron would suggest that spending regular time in nature would prove highly beneficial. Having such a strong Neptune could make Sara a 'highly sensitive person' as described by Dr. Elaine Aaron, in which case she would require regular time out. This could also alleviate any excess energy from her strong Mars by walking or swimming at the beach. The ocean being ruled by Neptune and the perfect outlet for the Mars/Neptune quincunx. Its sometimes easy for people to not make time to go to the beach especially when they live near it. So it might be beneficial to remind Sara and Antonio of the benefits of the beach such as stress reduction and increased physical activity, although these things seem quite obvious, it might help them to prioritise beach time into their schedules if they can.³

Leading on from Neptune, Antonio's Pluto Uranus conjunction in the 12th house can point to a potential for suppression of these energies and therefore projection. It's possible that someone who experienced quite a strict religious background may repress the primal nature of Pluto and the subversive Uranian energies in their own nature. This conjunction also connects with Sara's chart through a conjunction with her Venus in her 3rd house of communication.

Sara's Venus may be providing Antonio with an avenue to access these subconscious energies. This placement can be very challenging as it can be experienced as both overpowering and destabilising to her love nature, especially when left in the unconscious as it can also be projected onto her. Yet once this connection can be recognised and developed, Antonio may be able to access a vast reservoir of untapped energy and inspiration. Being in Sara's 3rd house, for Antonio to communicate about his deeper, darker aspects (12th house) in a safe and supportive way can be a true path to much deeper intimacy in their relationship². By doing this, a lot of the unconscious baggage is lifted and is less likely to be triggered in every day matters through petty arguments. Sara's Pluto is in her 4th house, being at the base of the chart and representing the unconscious, can equally manifest in a similar way. Alternatively, techniques such as dream work, journaling or Jungian 'active imagination' can be incredibly effective in accessing our shadow sides. And since Sara and Antonio have such a strong air and Mercury/Gemini/3rd house emphasis, writing and talking through the symbolism they discover would be very suitable for them.

The conflicts and difficulty communicating experienced by this couple are recognised in their charts as difficult aspects to Mars, including Pluto and Neptune as well as difficult aspects with Mercury, these patterns are found throughout the natal, synastry and

composite charts. This couple would benefit greatly from learning some communication or conflict resolution techniques. There is a wealth of information around these topics and the intelligence of these two, coupled with their creativity and curiosity would give them wonderful skills in these areas.

One of the primary indicators of a successful relationship in synastry is a favourable aspect between the rulers of both charts as well as between the rulers of the North Nodes. Antonio's Mercury in Capricorn in his 4th house (also conjunct Sun and Moon) is trine Sara's Venus. The rulers of their North Nodes are the Sun and Mercury, they are mutually quincunx each other in their synastry charts and conjunct in the composite. The quincunx is not unfavourable, and having a contact between these planets shows the potential for communication and understanding. Although they tend to have a lot of conflict, these aspects will mitigate a lot of the tension and provide the ability for them to develop a shared approach more easily.

At the same time, Sara's Saturn, along with Jupiter, is conjunct Antonio's Ascendant. Saturn balances the erratic patterns of Uranus and can add the necessary glue of stability and steadfastness in a relationship. Having said that, Antonio may feel a certain heaviness of responsibility from Sara, which is lightened by their respective Jupiter on each others Ascendants. If Sara can have an awareness of how her Saturn affects Antonio, she may be able to focus on being more encouraging and assisting with offering flexible structures to help him bring ideas and goals into reality rather than falling into the criticism that can be common with Saturn. This planet of commitment forms several trines from Sara's chart to Antonio's including Sun, Moon, Venus and North Node. It looks like Sara is able to provide a solid basis for their connection while Antonio's Saturn also trines Sara's Mars.

Antonio's Sun and Moon are trine Jupiter and Saturn as well as being conjunct the South Node, giving that feeling of connectedness and familiarity. While Sara's Sun and Moon are trine and sextile Antonio's Jupiter.

Mercury aspects generally point to the potential for communication in a relationship which is extremely important in assisting couples to be able to work through any issues. A particular area of concern could be that both have Mars opposite the others Mercury. This is also reflected in the composite chart. A lot of their conflicts may happen where tempers rise too quickly to be able to sort through any particular issues. This is where their potential for spiritual development may prove useful as they may be able to employ some mindfulness along with some communication skills, perhaps learning to see their communication through the eyes of a dancer so that they could employ some strategies with certain steps where each takes turns listening to the other and reflecting back before responding.

They also both have Mars in a difficult aspect to Pluto in their natal charts as well as in the composite chart, which can be quite explosive if unexamined. Once conscious of this energy, they can channel it into a laser-like focus in achieving shared goals. Interestingly, their inter-aspects show harmonious aspects between Mars and Pluto, which would support this ability. The true potential of the passionate and intense Mars/Pluto is having great courage and the ability to break new ground in whatever they pursue. They can also deeply examine the root of their desires in order to establish true priorities in life. It's great that they both have such a strong interest in music and dance as that would be a perfect outlet for Mars energy. They may explore some tribal dance techniques or communication and relating for couples involving a more visceral awareness, rather than a simply intellectual stance. A dance technique that they might enjoy could be "Five Rhythms" by

Gabrielle Roth, ⁴ this is designed to be very personally transformative and is a form of spiritual practice. (Mars/Neptune quincunx which are apex planets in a 'trapezoid pattern' in composite chart.) "Five Rhythms" involves taking the participant through 5 stages of spiritual process and can resemble harmonics and astrological aspects, because this couple has so many chart patterns all expressing different harmonics, it could be a great outlet for them as a regular practice. Dance could be used as a form of communication between two people, especially as a couple there are so many layers of expression apart from the purely intellectual and verbal. Considering that Sara and Antonio both have a passion for dance and music, this may be a perfect way for them to sublimate the huge resource of energy of Mars/Pluto that if misdirected can turn destructive.

Composite chart:

The shared goals of the relationship can be shown through the Midheaven and the North Node as well as Mars in the composite chart. The Midheaven in this instance is in Taurus, which rules dance and as a Venusian sign also rules music. The basic nature of Taurus offers a lot of stability and security, connection to the earth and enjoying the five senses of our physical bodies, Mars is also in Taurus, showing that their shared desires are in harmony with the overall goals of the relationship. The North Node in emotional Cancer in the 11th house, shows a need to connect with a greater vision whilst also learning emotional intelligence and, in alignment with Taurus, a stable and loving home life. With the Moon, the North Node ruler, being on the descendant in Aquarius, echoing a strong emotional connection that is also very progressive home open to a lot of different people and cultures and interested in contributing to the bigger picture in life. They also both have Moon in Aquarius in their natal charts

With Jupiter on the Ascendant in Leo, they are able to generate a lot of joy together, which alleviates a lot of other issues between them. This is echoed in both having Jupiter on each others ascendant in their synastry charts.

As is often the case, the same 'trapezoid' planetary pattern from Sara's natal chart can be also found in the composite chart. The same issues are then expressed through the relationship: an uncomfortable tension between the urge to merge with another or transcendence (Ψ) and the need to carve one's own path in life ($\♂$). This could also be expressed as a need for constant readjustment due to confusion about their shared goals, but ultimately Neptune gives Mars that spiritual or creative flavour which can both be expressed in the music and dance that Sara and Antonio love so much.

Conclusion:

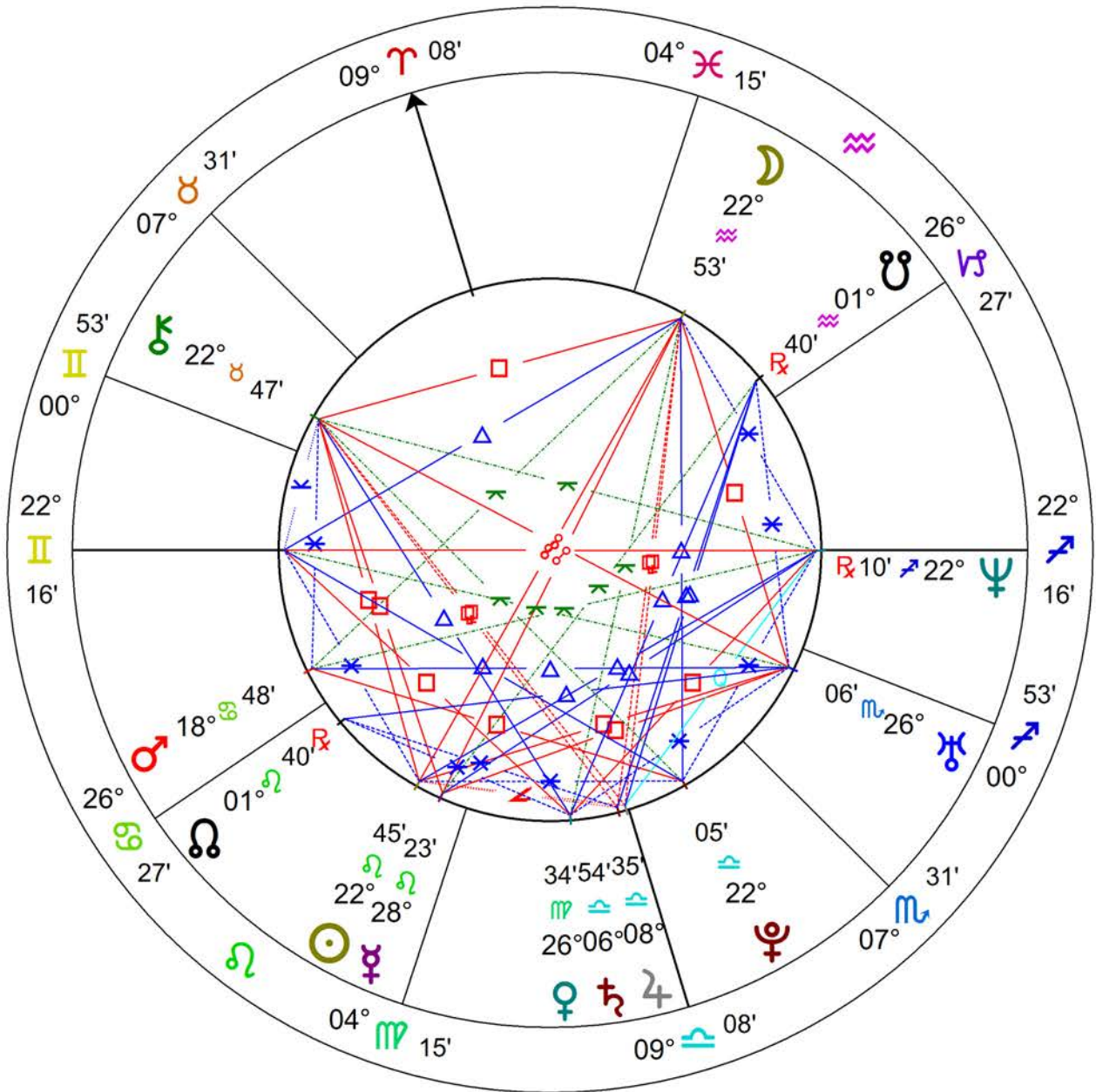
What can sometimes seem as an impossible hurdle in a relationship that cannot be overcome can sometimes prove to be a great blessing as it may teach us new ways of connecting with much greater depth, intimacy and shared joy than ever imagined. This is the promise that can be found if we just care to look at the heavens for some gems of insight and inspiration shining their light on fabulous new pathways of hope towards a much brighter future together.

References:

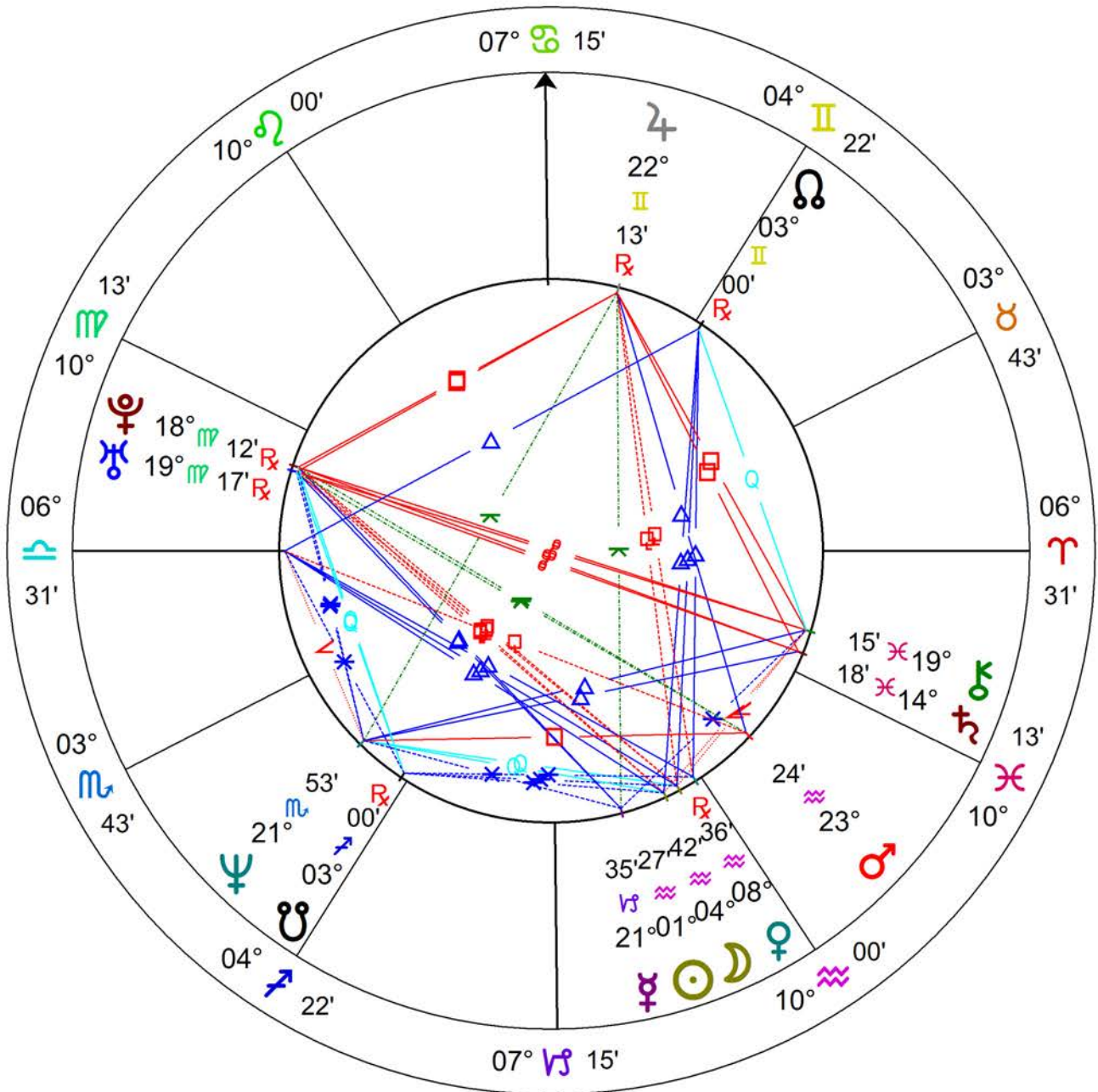
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- 4. <https://www.5rhythms.com/gabrielle-roths-5rhythms/>

Sara
Female Chart
 16 Aug 1981
 2:53 am AEST -10:00
 Kogarah, Australia
 33°S58' 151°E08'
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

202209



Antonio
Male Chart
21 Jan 1966
11:53 pm CET -1:00
San Fernando, Spain
36°N28' 006°W12'
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node



Inner Wheel

Sara

Female Chart

16 Aug 1981

2:53 am AEST -10:00

Kogarah, Australia

33°S58' 151°E08'

Geocentric

Tropical

Placidus

True Node

Outer Wheel

Antonio

Male Chart

21 Jan 1966

11:53 pm CET -1:00

San Fernando, Spain

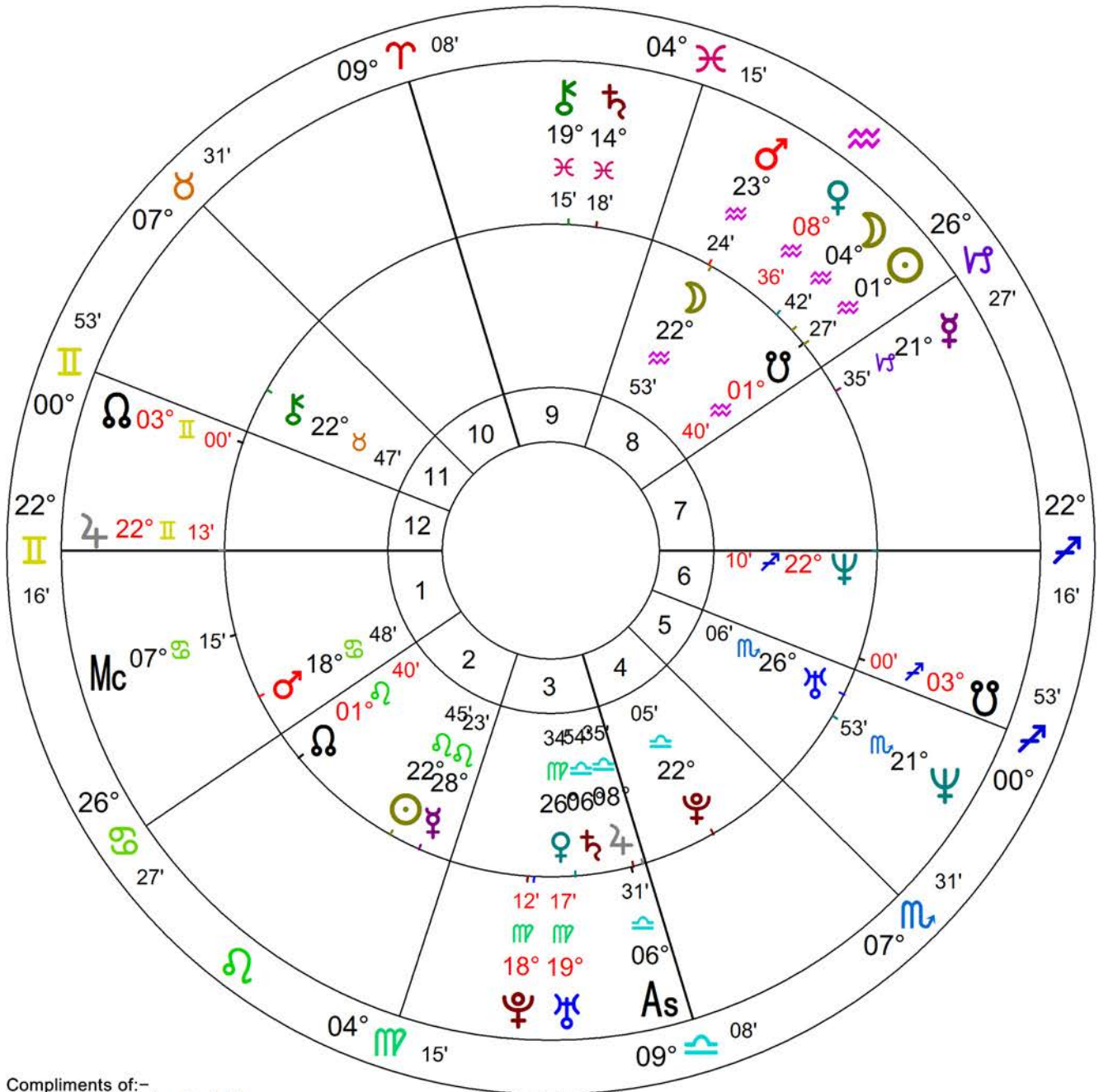
36°N28' 006°W12'

Geocentric

Tropical

Placidus

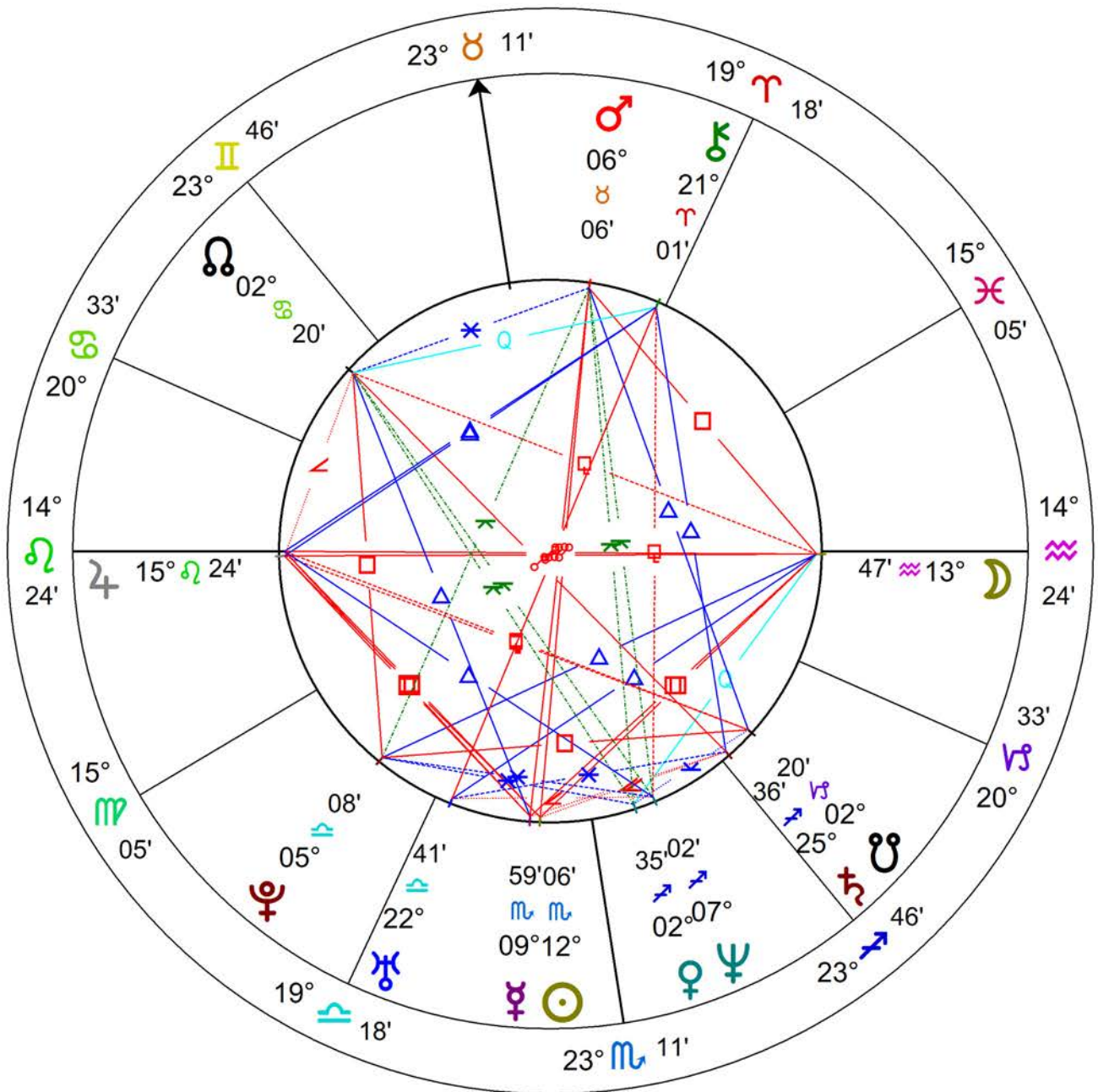
True Node



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Antonio – Natal
Sara – Natal
Composite – Midpoints
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

202209



Sara
Female Chart
 16 Aug 1981
 2:53 am AEST -10:00
 Kogarah, Australia
 33°S58' 151°E08'
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

202209

Aspect Grid

	☾	☀	♁	♂	♂	♃	♄	♅	♆	♇	♈	♉	♊	♋	♌	♍	♎	♏	♐	♑	♒	♓	♈	♉
☾																								
☀	☿ 0S08																							
♁	♁ 5A30	♂ 5S38																						
♂	♂ 3A40																							
♂	♂ 4S05																							
♃	♃ 0A42	♃ 0A50																						
♄	♄ 0S58	♄ 0S50						♂ 1S40																
♅	♅ 3A12	♅ 3A21	♅ 2S17	♅ 0S28	♅ 7A17																			
♆	♆ 0S42	♆ 0S34	♆ 6S13	♆ 4S23	♆ 3A22	♆ 1A34																		
♇	♇ 0S48	♇ 0S39			♇ 3A16									♇ 0A05										
♈	♈ 0S06	♈ 0A02	♈ 5S36	♈ 3S47	♈ 3A58	♈ 0S48	♈ 0A52	♈ 3A19	♈ 0S36	♈ 0A41														
♉				♉ 5A06			♉ 5S14	♉ 5A34																
♊			♊ 3A16	♊ 5A06		♊ 6S55	♊ 5S14	♊ 5A34																
♋	♋ 0A36	♋ 0A28		♋ 4A17					♋ 3A49	♋ 0S06	♋ 0S11	♋ 0A30												
♌	♌ 1S14	♌ 1S22					♌ 0S32	♌ 2S13	♌ 1A58					♌ 1S20	♌ 7S27						♌ 1A08			

